

Remarkable Rochester

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Starting at Cobbs Hill



Carolyn Merchant, the latest Remarkable Rochesterian. (Photo: Provided)

Carolyn Merchant, the internationally known writer on science who is this week's Remarkable Rochesterian, was a star student at Monroe High School in Rochester in the 1950s.

In 1954, Merchant was one of two high students from the Rochester area to be among the 10 finalists in the prestigious Westinghouse National Science Talent Search.



CAROLYN MERCHANT
... Microbe Hunter

Merchant was selected on the basis of her isolation of nine microscopic forms of animal life in the pond at Cobbs Hills. "(She) began the study after she learned from the University of Rochester that no one ever had attempted the work," wrote the *Democrat and Chronicle*.

The other Talent Search finalist from the Rochester area who was Marcian E. Hoff Jr. of Churchville-Chili High School. Like Merchant, he went on to greatness. More about him at a later date

Remarkable Rochesterians

Let's add the name of this scientist to the list of Remarkable Rochesterians that can be found at rochester.nydatabases.com:

Carolyn Merchant (1936-): The author of the influential study, "The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution" (1980), as well as other books and numerous articles, she grew up in Rochester and was a finalist in 1954 in the Westinghouse National Science Talent Search during her senior year at Monroe High School. She went on to receive her undergraduate degree from Vassar College and advanced degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She taught at the University of San Francisco before going in 1986 to the University of California-Berkeley, where she is a professor of environmental history, philosophy and the history of science. She has been a Fulbright senior scholar, a Guggenheim fellow and the president of the American Society for Environmental History.

On Remarkable Rochester

Retired Senior Editor Jim Memmott reflects on what makes Rochester distinctively Rochester, its history, its habits, its people. Since 2010, he has also been compiling a list of Remarkable Rochesterians. Contact him at: (585) 278-8012 or jmemmott@DemocratandChronicle.com or Remarkable Rochester, Box 274, Geneseo, NY 14454.

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