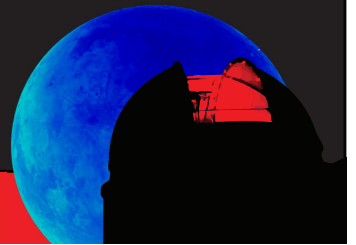


# THE BLUE MOON OBSERVER

JUNE 2023  
Volume 25, Number 6



DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

*Promoting the science and public education of astronomy, encouraging observational participation in astronomy, and providing outreach at the Leif Everson Observatory.*



The Door Peninsula Astronomical Society is a local club and a chapter of the Astronomical League.

DPAS operates and maintains the Stonecipher Astronomy Center and the Leif Everson Observatory, which is equipped with a PlaneWave Instruments 17 inch f/6.8 Corrected Dall-Kirkham Astrograph telescope on a L-500 mount for astrophotography and research. On a portable mount is a 102mm refractor with a hydrogen alpha filter for studying details of activity on the sun.

DPAS also owns and operates a portable planetarium with a state-of-the-art computer projection system which is used on cloudy nights, for daytime activities, and for public outreach in local schools and libraries.



**Ray and Ruthie Stonecipher Astronomy Center,  
Leif Everson Observatory,  
and Star Garden**

PO Box 331  
2022 Utah Street  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



Intern Amanda Austin captured this image of the Pelican Nebula in Cygnus using our telescope. With help from Wes Grimes, she processed the image using PixInsight software.



## MONTHLY MEETING

**JUNE 14, 7:00 PM**

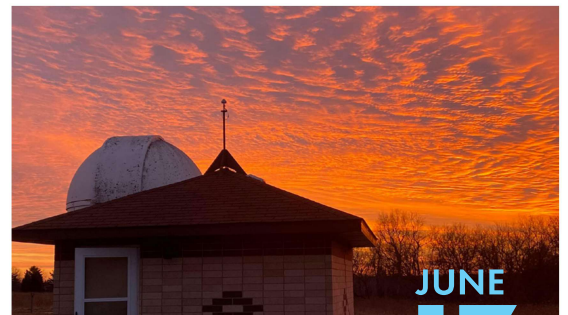
**PROGRAM:**

### **Auroras "What makes the Sky Glow"**

Recent solar activity has resulted in Auroras, a.k.a. Northern Lights, which have been visible in Door County. DPAS President will explain what actually causes the phenomenal light shows. Visitors are welcome. If the sky is clear, the meeting will end in a bonus Viewing Night.

**Free and open to the public.**

**Meet at the Stonecipher Astronomy Center  
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay**



**JUNE  
17**

**VIEWING NIGHT** starting at 9:15 PM

Take a nap after the Crossroads Trail Run. Viewing Night fun starts at dusk, which in June means about 9:15 pm. Members of DPAS will be outside helping folks explore the beautiful night skies. If the sky is too cloudy to open the observatory dome, planetarium shows will be offered in the Stonecipher Center.

**Astronomy Campus  
2200 Utah St.  
Sturgeon Bay**

## OUTREACH IN MAY



### MAY 9

#### Monthly Meeting

Coggin Heeringa presented the program "Define Constellations."



### MAY 20

#### Viewing Night

In spite of smoke haze, both the telescope and naked-eye viewers observed the International Space Station pass over the Door Peninsula.



### MAY 22

#### Planetarium on Tour

Approximately 50 students from Southern Door High School experienced a special planetarium show created and presented by Tim and Amanda Austin.

**PLUS...THREE OPEN DOME NIGHTS IN MAY.**

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

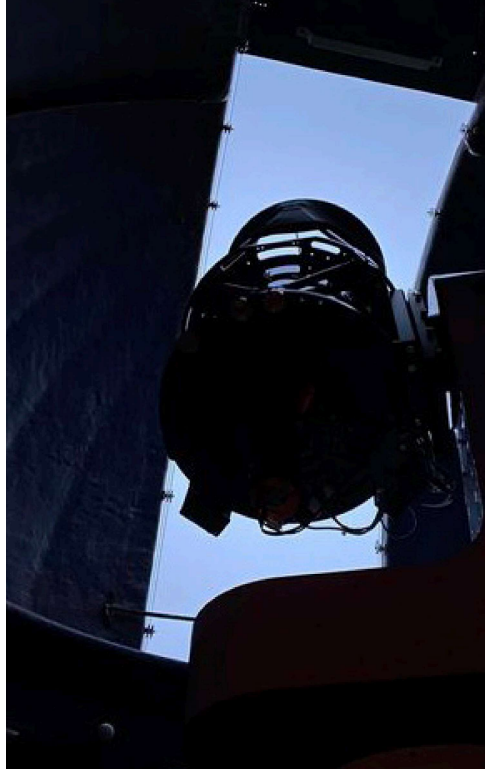
Following the model of the late Dr. Ray Stonesciper, Coggin Heeringa began the lecture "Define Constellations" by asking the membership to do just that. To nobody's surprise, Dr. Beck answered almost word for word with the International Astronomical Union's definition "Constellations are simply our Earth-based interpretation of two-dimensional star patterns on the celestial sphere, composed of stars of different brightnesses and at wildly differing distances from Earth." To the IAU, the 88 constellations create boundaries for regions in the sky.



Heeringa went on to explain that there are many definitions ranging from a "celestial game of dot to dot" to "a group of stars named after objects, animals, people and myths from ancient times which are used by astronomers today to name stars and meteor showers." Additionally, there are "asterisms", star patterns such as "The Big Dipper", "The Teapot" and the "Summer Triangle" which are widely recognized by laypeople and the amateur astronomy community.

Whatever the definition, constellations are useful signposts, so at our monthly Viewing Nights and during our planetarium shows, DPAS members will use the constellations to help our visitors explore the night sky.

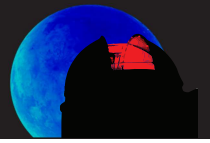
## OPEN DOME NIGHTS BECOME A REALITY



People often ask when DPAS will open the Observatory to the public. Until now, the answer was "on our monthly viewing nights." But more than once in a blue moon, the sky is clear and our team of DPAS telescope-pilots are available so we can open the dome. When? Follow Door Peninsula Astronomical Society. When the stars and weather conditions align, we will post OPEN DOME NIGHTS at Dusk. (We don't want to announce too early: The clouds might find out)

**OPEN DOME NIGHTS are FREE and open to the public.**





# SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

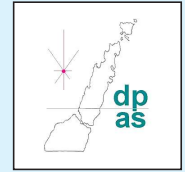


According to DPAS, each of these students will receive \$10,000 scholarship paid over four years if they maintain their grades and continue in one of the STEM disciplines. DPAS President Dave Lenius explained that the selection committee members (Thank you,

Committee!) were unaware of the names or schools of the applicants and that awards were based on merit, so "it's kind of cool that one student from each of the mainland Door County School Districts was honored."

DPAS Scholarships are underwritten with a designated bequest from Dr. Ray Stonecipher.

- Christiana Braun**  
STURGEON BAY
- Thelonious Goode**  
GIBRALTAR
- Atlee Manson**  
SEVASTOPOL
- Laura Zittlow**  
SOUTHERN DOOR



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Coggin Heeringa**  
SCHOOL COORDINATOR, EDITOR
- Dennis Sundin**  
MEMBER AT LARGE

**Ray Stonecipher**  
IN SPIRIT

The business of the DPAS is largely conducted at the Board meetings to leave the general meetings open for programs. Members of DPAS are invited to attend Board meetings.



M63 Sunflower Galaxy

**BIENVENUE EN LOUISIANE! (WELCOME TO LOUISIANA!)**  
Join us for this unique and exciting amateur astronomy gathering!

**ALCON 2023**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**

- ★ David Eicher—writer, editor-in-chief of *Astronomy Magazine*
- ★ Fred Espenak—co-author of *Totality: The Great American Eclipses of 2017 and 2024*
- ★ David Levy—author, comet hunter

**FIELD TRIPS**

- ★ Irene Pennington Planetarium
- ★ LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) Livingston\*
- ★ Louisiana State University Physics & Astronomy
- ★ Highland Road Park Observatory

\*Spaces are limited for this trip!

**SPEAKERS** ★ Pranvera Hyseni ★ Guy Consolmagno ★ Dan Davis ★ And many more!

Brought to Baton Rouge by the **Baton Rouge Astronomical Society**

★★ Registration is now open! Check [alcon2023.org](http://alcon2023.org) ★★

**DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please print to complete:

ADULTS' NAME (S)

CHILDRENS' NAME (S)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL (REQUIRED TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER)

**Family** \$25 per year

**Student** \$5 per year

I (we) wish to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_ to help underwrite operation costs of the Society.

**Mail payment to: DPAS, PO Box 331, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**



Image of M109 (below the bowl of the Big Dipper). A live stack of 22 images at 2 minute exposures. Just some more quick processing done on the raw saved stack of images, and it comes out pretty nice.



**FREE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

# JUNE ASTRONOMY

**LEIF EVERSON OBSERVATORY & ASTRONOMY CAMPUS 2200 UTAH ST., STURGEON BAY**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 10 2:00 PM**

## ASTRONOMY FOR KIDS



In collaboration with Crossroads at Big Creek, DPAS will offer a Kid's Program. Intern Amanda Austin will present a special family- friendly planetarium show and weather permitting, DPAS Outreach Chair Tom Minahan will offer solar viewing and a hands-on lesson on telescopes.

**FREE. LEARNERS OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME.**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14 7:00 PM**

## DPAS JUNE MEETING



**PROGRAM:**

### Auroras—What Make the Sky Glow

Presented by Dave Lenius

(If the sky is clear, Viewing to Follow.)

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17 9:15 PM**

## JUNE VIEWING NIGHT

The fun starts at dusk—and in June, that means after 9:15 pm



**PLUS—BONUS!**

## OPEN DOME NIGHTS



On evenings when the clouds, smoke and haze all dissipate and DPAS volunteers are available, spontaneous Viewing Nights will be offered.

Follow the Door Peninsula Astronomical Society Facebook Page.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE AT DUSK.**



## DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Meetings of the Society are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Stonecipher Astronomy Center. 2200 Utah Street in Sturgeon Bay

**WWW.DOORASTRONOMY.ORG**