

# THE BLUE MOON OBSERVER

OCTOBER 2024  
Volume 26, Number 10



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.



Stonecipher Astronomy Center,  
Astronomy Campus,  
Leif Everson Observatory,  
and Star Garden  
PO Box 331  
2200 Utah Street  
Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235



NGC6979 (Pinckering's Triangle) located in the Veil Nebula DPAS (processed by Amanda Austin)

## MONTHLY MEETING OCTOBER 8, 7:00 PM

### MONTHLY MEETING & PROGRAM: Agriculture and Astronomy Wisconsin Science Festival Event

Agriculture is the theme of the Wisconsin Science Festival this year. During this spooky time of year, we must admit that early on it was "astrology" but the development of agriculture was made possible by the learned men who studied the stars. This year, DPAS opens the Door County celebration of agriculture by exploring the agriculture/astronomy connection through history. Visitors are encouraged!



Free and open to the public.  
Meet at the Stonecipher Astronomy Center  
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay

## VIEWING NIGHT OCTOBER 5

DPAS Viewing Nights begin with Planetarium shows at 7:00. Lasting about 30, the shows are repeated throughout the evening whether or not the sky is clear. As soon as (IF!) stars become visible, the viewing night shifts to the Observatory and outdoors for night sky viewing.

Free and open to the public.

Astronomy Campus  
2200 Utah St.  
Sturgeon Bay

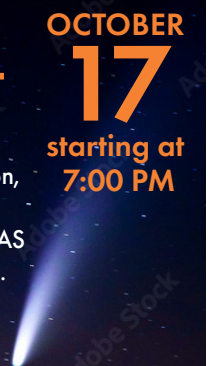


## COMET FLYBY VIEWING NIGHT OCTOBER 17

CLEAR SKY ONLY  
If the sky is clear near the horizon, we will view C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS). Check DPAS Facebook page for confirmation.

Free and open to the public.

Astronomy Campus  
2200 Utah St.  
Sturgeon Bay



## OUTREACH IN SEPTEMBER



### SEPTEMBER 7

#### September Viewing Night

A nice crowd joined us for another great planetarium show.

### SEPTEMBER 10

#### September DPAS Meeting

Tom Minnahan presented a unique lecture featuring Shakespeare.



### SEPTEMBER 14

#### Crossroads Saturday Science: Observe the Moon Day at Crossroads

Participants made moon models and participated in experiments and demonstrations

#### International Observe the Moon Night at Astronomy Campus

A hazy but successful Moon night viewing with live streaming

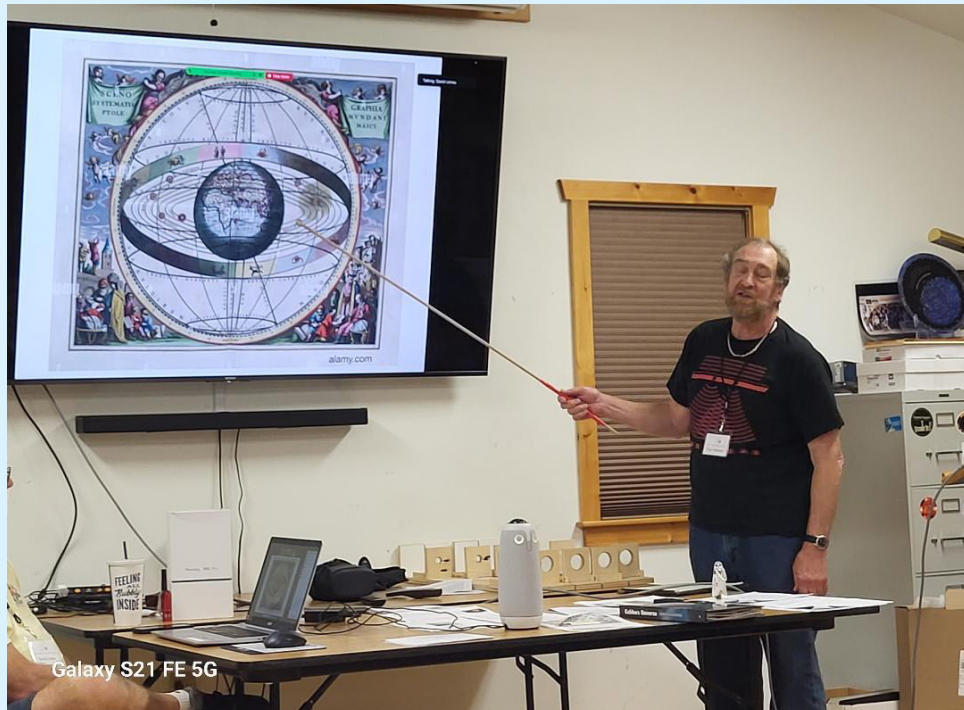


### SEPTEMBER 27

#### Sunrise Fifth Grade Astronomy Day

Seventy students and their teachers enjoyed an Astronomy Day, complete with a planetarium show, observatory tour, solar viewing, and lessons on planet sizes, sundials, and comets at the Collins Learning Center and the Astronomy Campus.

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



### Lecture:

## “Shakespeare and Astronomy”

Me thinks our own Court Astronomer Thomas Minahan knew a great deal about the revolutionary advances in astronomy which occurred during Elizabethan times. But was the Bard aware of evolving science? Using quotes from famous plays, Tom made the case that Shakespeare knew a great deal about the science of his time.



A very 'low tech' view of the eclipse. Held my iPhone to my Dobsonian scope eyepiece. Not too bad! By Tom Gwilym



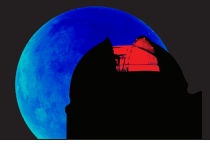
## THANK YOU

### Erich, Jason, and the crew at Marine Travelift

One of the motors that rotates the observatory dome broke days before our September Viewing Night. Thank you to the staff at Marine Travelift for their assistance for fixing the part. We are so grateful for their help and expertise.

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Two comets, two moons, solar flares and auroras!! The October sky will be filled with unscheduled wonders. Follow the DPAS Facebook page for announcements of Celestial Wonders!



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

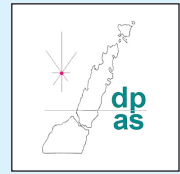


I am happy to announce that the first annual DPAS Calendar is now available. It is the product of the many late hours spent in the Observatory collecting data and then processing the images by our volunteers. Not long ago a project like this would have only existed on our wish list. The benefits of the upgrades to our equipment can be seen in vivid color on this calendar. The calendar includes the phases of the moon as well as the upcoming dates for our monthly meetings and viewing nights. I am truly impressed with the outcome and encourage you to purchase a copy. They can be picked up in person at our events or my office during business hours. The price is \$20 per calendar and if you need a copy mailed we can send as many as will fit in an express mail envelope for an additional \$10.

We also have been invited to once again participate in the astronomy art show at Ladybug Gallery in Algoma. The show will run for the month of October and I encourage you to go check out the incredible images that the various astronomers have on display.

The board has been contemplating making some changes to the Blue Moon Observer. We would like to consider changing the publication from a monthly to quarterly schedule. All of the important notifications would continue to be sent via email. This change would take a little pressure off of the already overworked board members. Please let us know your thoughts, or better yet, let us know how you would be willing to volunteer your services at one of our many events.

Clear Skies,  
Dave Lenius



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MEMBER AT LARGE

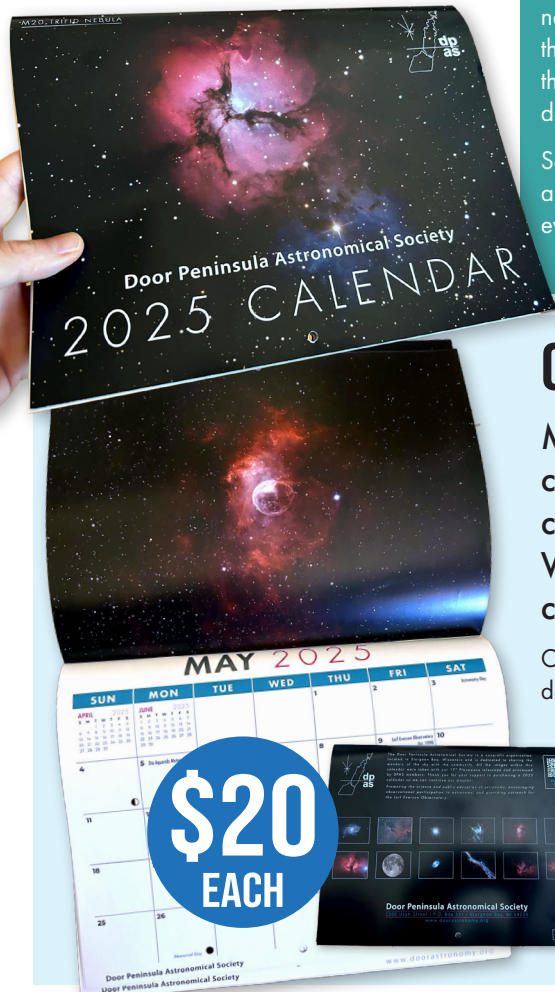
**Coggin Heeringa**  
SCHOOL COORDINATOR, EDITOR

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.

## BECOME A DPAS MEMBER

As a DPAS member, enjoy a subscription to our newsletter, the Blue Moon Observer, membership in the Astronomical League and their monthly publication the Reflector, and join Door County's community of dedicated amateur astronomers.

Scan the code to download a membership form or come to one of our events to get one in person.



## CALENDARS FOR SALE

Millions of years in the making as we collected ancient photons from the corners of our galaxy and beyond. We are proud to present our first calendar available for purchase.

Our small dedicated group of sometimes sleep deprived DPAS astronomers spent many nights collecting the data to process into amazing images.

Our 2025 calendar is a different variation of the typical Door County calendar. No curvy road, Cave Point or Steel bridge at sunset but a view from our other natural tourist attraction—our night skies!

## THREE WAYS TO BUY:

### 1. Purchase calendars at any DPAS event

Pay using PayPal, cash or check.

### 2. PayPal with local pickup

Scan the code to the right. Pick up at our events or at President Dave's office downtown (Mon-Thursday up to 4pm)



LOCAL PICKUP

### 3. PayPal with USPS \$10 Flat Rate Shipping

Scan the code to the right.

Want more than one shipped? Purchase one with the \$10 shipping and others as "local pickup". We can probably ship about 5 in a flat rate USPS envelope.



USPS SHIPPING

# OCTOBER ASTRONOMY



**FREE**  
**OPEN TO**  
**THE PUBLIC**

Saturday **OCTOBER 5** 7:00 PM

## October Viewing Night

Planetarium shows begin at 7:00 and are repeated about every 30 minutes. Observatory and small telescope viewing will begin as soon as stars are visible.

Stonecipher Astronomy Center  
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay

Tuesday **OCTOBER 8** 7:00 PM

## DPAS Monthly Meeting

Wisconsin Science Festival Event:  
*Astronomy and Agriculture*

The lecture will explore the connection of astronomy and agriculture.

Stonecipher Astronomy Center  
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay



Thursday **OCTOBER 17** 7:00 PM

## Comet Flyby Viewing Night

The comet survived its journey around the Sun, so if the skies are clear, we will open the observatory to view C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) as it returns to the Oort Cloud in its 80,000 year orbit.

Stonecipher Astronomy Center  
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay

Monday **OCTOBER 14** 2:00 PM

## Crossroads Science Saturday Comet Chef

Geared for kids, but learners of all ages are welcome for a video, followed by creating a model comet (using dry ice) to explain what a comet is and how it behaves.

Collins Learning Center, Crossroads at Big Creek  
2041 Michigan St., Sturgeon Bay

## AURORA WATCH

TO BE ANNOUNCED

Follow DPAS on Facebook. If the auroras are likely, we will post!!

Stonecipher Astronomy Center  
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay



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](http://WWW.DOORASTRONOMY.ORG)