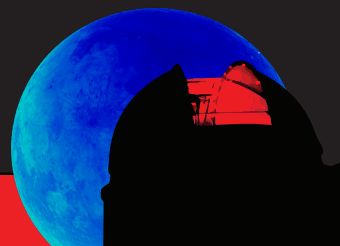


THE BLUE MOON OBSERVER

FEBRUARY 2024
Volume 26, Number 2



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.

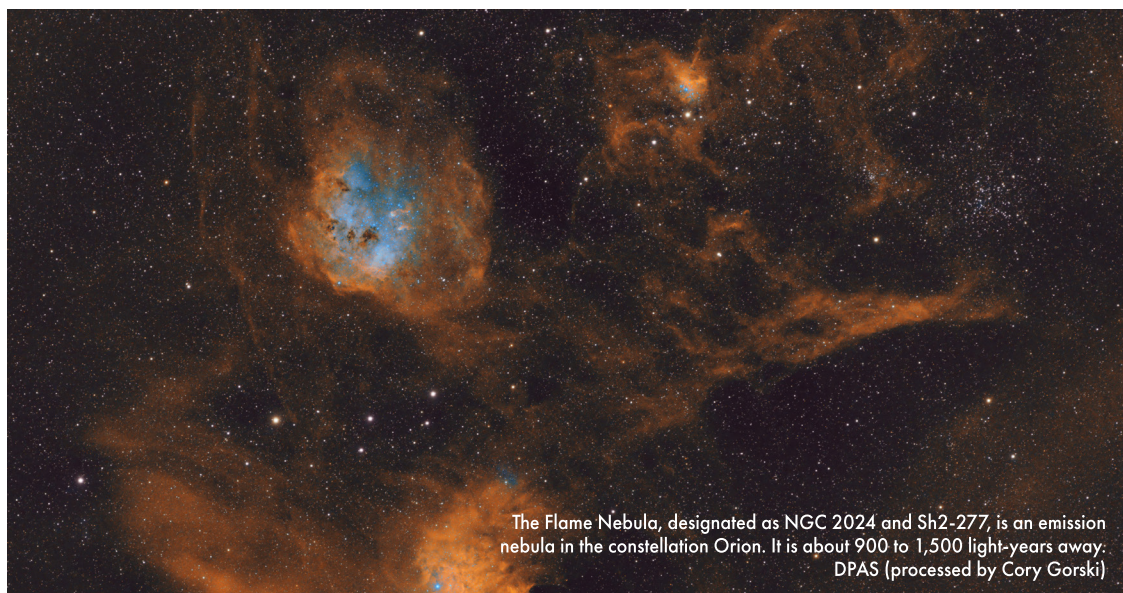
DPAS operates and maintains the Stonecipher Astronomy Center and the Leif Everson Observatory, which is equipped with a PlaneWave Instruments 17 inch f/6.8 Corrected Dall-Kirkham Astrograph telescope on a L-500 mount for astrophotography and research. On a portable mount is a 102mm refractor with a hydrogen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



The Flame Nebula, designated as NGC 2024 and Sh2-277, is an emission nebula in the constellation Orion. It is about 900 to 1,500 light-years away. DPAS (processed by Cory Gorski)

MONTHLY MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 7:00 PM

PROGRAM:

Amateur Astrophotography

Tom Minahan will present a short demonstration: "How to make a projection viewer for eclipses".

The feature lecture will be "Amateur Astrophotography"

DPAS Member Cory Gorski will describe the delights, intricacies, and challenges of astrophotography, featuring numerous images captured with a modest setup in a Sturgeon Bay backyard.

Free and open to the public.

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

VIEWING NIGHT FEBRUARY 10

**starting at
7:00 PM**

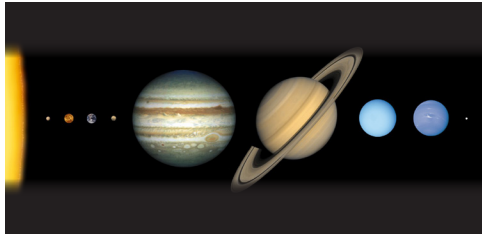
Weather permitting, the observatory will be open and viewing opportunities will be offered outside. Whatever the weather, our special Valentine-themed Planetarium show, "Love in the Sky" will be offered in the Stonecipher Astronomy Center.

Free and open to the public.

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



OUTREACH IN JANUARY



JANUARY 5

Saturday Science at Crossroads—Planet Sizes



JANUARY 9

CANCELED: Annual DPAS Dinner



JANUARY 10

Sevastopol School Class Trip

Students from Sevastopol School learned about Comets from the Comet Chef.

JANUARY 13

CANCELED: Science Saturday at Crossroads—Comet Chef

CANCELED: Viewing Night

**"So many things I would have done,
But clouds got in the way"**

JONI MITCHELL,
from her song "Both Sides Now"

January weather was hardly conducive to astronomical activities. But while we had to cancel our annual dinner and viewing night and, alas, no pop-up Open Dome Nights popped up, we did receive the good news that we were awarded a grant from the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium for a project we are calling "Inspiring with Images."

So, the DPAS Board has been busy planning outreach events, many of which will involve preparations for the upcoming Solar Eclipse on April 8. Understand that we will not see a total eclipse, but 86% of the sun will be covered, so it will be impressive. To prepare the community for this (hopefully) memorable event, DPAS, with funds from this grant, will be presenting a number of Pre-eclipse programs. And, to help us "inspire with images" we now are able to create a special internship this summer.

If you know of a young person who would benefit from a DPAS internship, please encourage them to contact us.

SUMMER INTERN POSITION AVAILABLE

Thanks to our Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium project, "Inspiring with Images", we are in the position to hire a young person, preferably one with a passion for astronomy, as a Media Specialist. This person would create video and still images, design posts for Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok, and assist with public contact and presentations during programs at the Stonecipher Astronomy Center.

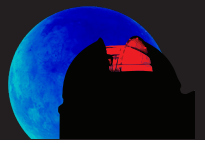


FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Coggin Heeringa at coggin_heeringa@yahoo.com

JANUARY 31

Tim and Jenny presented a planetarium show at Holy Cross School.





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



The new year has been a challenge for viewing the night sky. There has been an abundance of clouds, and I am afraid I must take much of the blame for this condition. I purchased a new 12-inch Sky-Watcher Collapsible Dobsonian SynScan Telescope. As soon as I opened the box, the clouds escaped, and you saw the rest. I am truly sorry.

All kidding aside, cloudy skies do not affect DPAS to the level they used to. Our viewing nights still go on regardless of the weather conditions. We have our planetarium up and running at every viewing night and the skies are always clear in the dome.

This year we are hopeful that we can get more members to participate in our viewing nights by bringing their scopes to share with others. If you have a scope but are not sure how to use it, please bring it to one of our viewing nights and we will have people there to assist in getting you started. In addition to viewing through telescopes, you can learn about the night sky with a guided tour from our members using our new green lasers. Eventually the skies will clear, and we will be able to look skyward once again. Until then, please come out and check out all we have to offer regardless of what mother nature throws at us.

Dave Lenius

President, Door Peninsula Astronomical Society



Orion M42. This is a mosaic of 3 images stitched together. This is an easy and hard object to image. Easy since it's very bright, and hard....because it's very bright. There are the 4 stars in the center that light up the whole area and takes some clever imaging and blending long and short exposures to get a lot of the nebula dark and bright areas. DPAS (processed by Amanda Austin)



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MEMBER AT LARGE

Coggin Heeringa
SCHOOL COORDINATOR, EDITOR

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.

DOOR PENINSULA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

- ☐ **Lunar Level \$30**
- ☐ **Planetary Level \$50**
- ☐ **Asteroid Level \$100**
- ☐ **Comet Level \$250**
- ☐ **Nebula Level \$500**
- ☐ **Galaxy Level \$750**
- ☐ **Supernova Level \$1000**

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

Please print to complete:

ADULTS' NAME (S)

CHILDREN'S NAME (S)

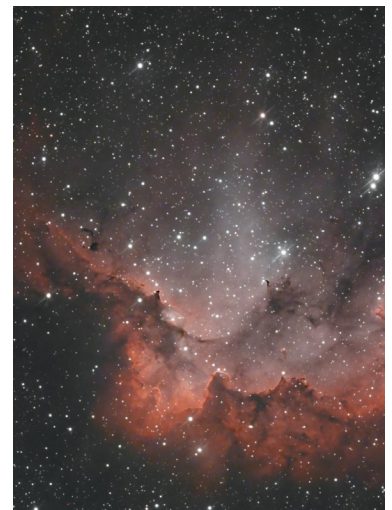
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STATE

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EMAIL (REQUIRED TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTER)



Wizard Nebula, DPAS
(processed by Tom Gwilym)

Learn and get ready for the next solar eclipse on April 8, 2024

PrEclipse

EDUCATION SERIES

Door County Learning in Retirement

www.nwtc.edu/LIR

Door County Learning in Retirement is dedicated to facilitating quality, lifelong learning in an open, ongoing forum for older adults in Northeastern Wisconsin. DCLIR classes are peer-led and intended to be informational and for the enjoyment of the participants.

Spring memberships are \$50. Members register for as many classes as they wish. Classes are open to registered members only.

Thursday, February 22, 1 pm DPAS—What are we all about?

Stonecipher Astronomy Center
2200 Utah St., Sturgeon Bay

Monday, March 18, 1 pm Astronomy for Grandparents

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

Wednesday, April 3, 1 pm Introduction to the Eclipse

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

Crossroads at Big Creek

www.crossroadsatbigcreek

Saturday, April 6, 2 pm Science Saturday—PrEclipse

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

Door County Library Programs

The Door County Libraries are offering programs called "Prepare for the Solar Eclipse". Learn about eclipses and how to view them safely. A limited number of viewing glasses will be available for participants to take home to use on the day of the eclipse.

Prepare for the Solar Eclipse

Wednesday February 14, 2 pm

Forestville Library

123 S Forestville Ave., Forestville

Tuesday March 5, 11 am

Fish Creek Library

4097 WI-42, Fish Creek

Wednesday March 6, 3:15 pm

Boys and Girls Club

55 S 3rd Ave., Sturgeon Bay

Wednesday March 6, 4 pm

Sturgeon Bay Library

107 S 4th Ave., Sturgeon Bay

Wednesday March 13, 10:30 am

Sister Bay Library

2323 Mill Rd., Sister Bay

Wednesday March 20, 1:30 pm

Bailey's Harbor Library

2392 County F, Baileys Harbor

Wednesday March 20, 3:45 pm

Boys and Girls Club

55 S 3rd Ave., Sturgeon Bay

Thursday March 21, 12 pm

Egg Harbor Library

7845 Church St., Egg Harbor, WI



These programs are made possible with a grant from the
Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium