



VERSANT POWER
ASTRONOMY CENTER
and the Maynard Jordan Planetarium

Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society Conference 2022

**“Dome Visualization and Climate Change”
Wed-Sat, May 18 – 21, 2022**

Hosted by the Versant Power Astronomy Center at the University of Maine

Dear MAPS Member,

Versant Power Astronomy Center & Jordan Planetarium would like to invite you, MAPS friends and colleagues, to join us from May 18 – 21, 2022 here in beautiful Orono, Maine for the 2022 conference. The gathering is a great time for MAPS Members to re-connect, brainstorm ideas for education programming, and share with each other the wonderful things that we are doing in our domes! This year will be very special as we gather in-person for the first time since 2018.

Since 1954, the Jordan Planetarium has served inspiring visitors to explore the universe and our home planet Earth. Being part of the University of Maine connects us to numerous resources including our internationally recognized Climate Change Institute (<https://climatechange.umaine.edu/>).

The theme of this year’s conference is one of professional development as we dive into “Dome Visualization and Climate Change.” We all use visualization to share science, arts, culture and more in our domes. As part of our time together we will dive into open-source tools such as **OpenSpace and World Wide Telescope**, explore best practices in visualization, and get updates on resources from NASA available for our community. Planetariums, both large and small, allow us to explore the universe, and part of that is our home planet Earth. Climate Change is affecting our world and our own backyards in unprecedented ways. As planetarians we have unique capabilities to inform our communities and strive to preserve our planet. Working with our Climate Change Institute we plan to provide tools and resources which can be shared with your planetarium audiences. We encourage our workshops, lessons, papers, posters, and panels to celebrate the multidisciplinary approach we all take to fulfill the missions of our various organizations.

We hope that, in addition to attending our conference, you will consider submitting a proposal to present a talk, lesson, workshop, poster, or panel discussion. Attendees also can choose to earn one Continuing Education credit from the University of Maine. To do so,

participants will need to submit a 2-page report to the MAPS Board. More details available on the last page of this document.

Continuing a long-standing MAPS tradition, our annual banquet will be highlighted by the Margaret Noble Address. This year's address will be given by Steve Fentress from Strasenburgh Planetarium/Rochester Museum & Science Center.

Saturday we will finish our conference with a visit to the **Maine Mineral and Gem Museum** in Bethel, Maine (<https://mainemineralmuseum.org/>). This new facility has one of the largest collections of meteorites in the United States, including the largest piece of Mars on Earth, several lunar meteorites, and ones from Vesta and other asteroids. Participants will have a unique chance to handle these meteorites in a special presentation there. As Bethel is south of Orono, one may choose to depart from the museum directly or travel back to Orono if flying out of Bangor. We expect to be back in Orono by 3 or 3:30pm for planning purposes.



We are pleased to announce that, with the generous support of numerous sponsors, we will be able to maintain the low registration costs from past MAPS conferences. The full registration is \$195 if paid by March 15, and you can register by mail or online through the MAPS website (www.mapsplanetarium.org). We hope to see you all here in Orono at the end of May!

Shawn Laatsch, Director & Your MAPS Executive Board
Versant Power Astronomy Center & Jordan Planetarium
University of Maine
Conference Host

Host Facility:



The Versant Power Astronomy Center at the University of Maine is home to the Jordan Planetarium, a 10 meter dome with 52 seats housing a Sky-Skan/SSIA digital 4K dome, with ChromaCove cove lighting and digital 5.1 audio. This facility opened in October of 2014 and was a replacement for the original Jordan Planetarium which was in operation in Wingate Hall from 1954 to 2013.

Today, the facility includes a multi-purpose room, a 20" PlaneWave research observatory, and the 8" historic Alvin Clark refractor observatory. The planetarium offers regular public programs on Friday evenings and Sunday afternoons year-round along with numerous special programs. Additionally, it serves k-12 schools and is the site of UMaine's astronomy labs during the academic year.

COVID Protocols: Per University of Maine policy all visitors must wear a mask covering the nose and mouth while inside buildings on campus. Additionally MAPS will be utilizing CrowdPass for vaccine verification or for providing a negative COVID test 24 hours prior to the conference. Details will be shared for CrowdPass in the near future.

Directions to the Versant Power Astronomy Center:

<https://astro.umaine.edu/about/contactdirections/>

Versant Power Astronomy Center

University of Maine
167 Rangeley Road
Orono, ME 04401
Phone: (207) 581-1341

Conference Hotel:



Black Bear Inn and Conference Center

4 Godfrey Drive

Orono, ME 04473

Phone (207) 866-7120

<https://blackbearinnoronono.com/>

General Information:

Black Bear Inn and Conference Center is offering MAPS participants room rates of \$99 plus tax a night from May 17 to 22. When making reservations, mention use the code **MAPS** for our group rate. **April 15, 2022** is the deadline for reservations to receive the conference rate.

The Black Bear Inn & Conference Center is conveniently located off Interstate 95 in central Maine near the University of Maine. Their attractive rooms feature king or queen beds, cable television, and an array of in-room amenities. All guests enjoy a complimentary continental breakfast each morning in the Black Bear Cafe, so please be sure to enjoy.

Black Bear Inn is the perfect headquarters for day trips to Camden, Acadia National Park and the beautiful Bar Harbor region. For outstanding accommodations in the heart of the University of Maine's Black Bear Territory, come experience the hospitality of the Black Bear Inn & Conference Center!

Participate and Contribute:

There are four ways to participate in and contribute to the 2022 MAPS Conference:

Paper Talks are scheduled in 15-minute time slots. Talks allow the short presentation of any topic that lends itself to publication as a research or topical article. Presenters should allow time at the end for questions, and they may have hand-outs for the general group. These talks can involve a PowerPoint presentation, video and/or use of planetarium equipment and are sometimes presented as a **planetarium mini-lesson**.

Poster Presentations are displayed for most of the conference with time scheduled for authors to present material to interested delegates. Some subjects are better presented with posters or display boards, hand-outs, and one-to-one conversation.

Workshops are longer, 45 and 90 minute engaging sessions, scheduled concurrent with other workshops, when small groups explore specific subjects together with a leader. Workshops engage participants interactively and can include make-and-take activities, introductions to tools and methods, or explorations of specific topics and problem solving in planetarium development and operation. Vendor-conducted workshops are an option for sponsors in accord with sponsor guidelines.

Panel Discussions allow a delegate to organize several people to serve on a panel to address complex topics. Panel discussions are presented to the entire conference body and will entirely fit within a 30 minute time slot. Submit proposals only after confirming the members who will sit on the panel.

Feel free to address any **questions** about the proposal of a presentation or the process to the MAPS Program Committee Chair at noreen@youcandoastronomy.com

Presenters are encouraged to submit their "Proposals to Present" online at: <https://bit.ly/MAPS2022>. In addition, a form for proposals will be available on the MAPS website for downloading and submission.

Please note that a 2-3 paragraph summary of your presentation must be sent electronically to the program committee by the start of the conference. This can be sent to planetarium@maine.edu

Conference attire:

During mid-May, Orono Maine typically sees daytime temperatures (F) in the mid-60s (up to 70) during the day, dropping down to the low-50s in the evening. Meeting spaces will be climate-controlled. Conference attire is generally workday or casual. Many choose semi-formal / coat-and-tie dress for the banquet on Friday night.

Contacts and Important Deadlines:

Registration due by March 15, 2022

Online (using PayPal):

www.mapsplanetarium.org

**Register Online today!
It's quick, it's easy!**

Mail:

Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society
Attn: Mike Francis
2143 Commonwealth Avenue
Auburndale, MA 02466

**If registering by mail, please be sure to
send your forms to Mike's attention.**

Proposals to Present: due by March 15, 2022

Please submit these with your conference registration.

THREE ways to submit a Proposal to Present:

Submit your proposal online at: <https://bit.ly/MAPS2022>

*Or download the "Proposal to Present" form at www.mapsplanetarium.org, fill it out scan it,
and send it to planetarium@maine.edu*

Reserve hotel rooms by: April 15, 2022

***Remember to ask for the MAPS rate*

Black Bear Inn and Conference Center

4 Godfrey Drive
Orono, ME 04473
Phone (207) 866-7120
<https://blackbearinnoronono.com/>

Mailing and Shipping Address for Conference Host:

Versant Power Astronomy Center

University of Maine
167 Rangeley Road
Orono, ME 04401
Attn: Shawn Laatsch

The 2022 Margaret Noble Address

“Fresh courage glimmers from planets” – by Steve Fentress



The title comes from a poem by Joy Harjo. Each of us receives some inheritance, tangible or intangible, and leaves some legacy. Along the way there may be sharp turns, intentional reversals, or tedious, drill-like progress. What is there to hold on to? We can count on the majestic vastness of nature, our sense of wonder, and our capacity to conceive ideals.

Steve Fentress is Director of the Rochester (NY) Museum & Science Center's Strasenburgh Planetarium, where he led the Planetarium's fiftieth-anniversary digital upgrade and renovation. Earlier influential experiences came from Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles Valley College Planetarium, JPL, studies in classical music at Cal State Northridge and Indiana University, and public radio at WFIU, Bloomington, Indiana. He has written articles for the Griffith Observer and [space.com](https://www.space.com), as well as his own book, *Sky to Space: Astronomy Beyond the Basics with Comparisons, Ratios, and Proportions*.

Guest Speakers

Carter Emmart - Director of Astrovisualization at the American Museum of Natural History



What is OpenSpace?

OpenSpace is a graphical visualization of the universe that shows a sum of its parts to produce a greater understanding of its layout, scale and behavior. It is a NASA supported open-source software, freely available combining observational data with simulations from astrophysics and flight dynamics of missions where available. New in OpenSpace are visualizations of the Sun-Earth interaction, the Webb Space Telescope operations, and embedding of Worldwide Telescope for zoom interaction of sky. Additionally the platform has a number of observational datasets which can be use to explore climate change.

Mark SubbaRao - Director of NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio



Science Visualization tools and resources from NASA

NASA's Scientific Visualization Studio (SVS) creates visualizations to communicate the story of NASA Science. Over its 30-year history the SVS has assembled the world's largest repository of scientific visualizations. This presentation will give an overview of the resources the SVS has available for planetarians. We will also explore the design considerations that go into the production of new content, and future directions for the studio.

Preliminary 2022 MAPS Conference Schedule

Wednesday, May 18

Morning	Mini-LIPS from 9am – 4pm
Late Afternoon	Hotel check-in & Conference registration
Evening	Planetarium 101 session Welcome Reception at Versant Power Astronomy Center & University of Maine

Thursday, May 19

Morning	Delegate talks, Vendor Hall time
Afternoon	Lunch with invited speaker Sascha Deri, Founder of <i>bluShift Aerospace</i> , Workshops, Vendor demonstrations, Poster presentations, Vendor Hall time
Evening	Dinner and Evening Activities at Challenger Learning Center of Maine Observing at Clark Observatory at University of Maine (weather permitting)

Friday, May 20

Morning	Vendor talks, Vendor Hall time, Vendor demonstrations
Afternoon	Lunch with invited speaker, MAPS Business Meeting Delegate talks, Group photo,
Evening	Cocktail Reception and Conference Banquet 2022 Margaret Noble Address by Steve Fentress

Saturday, May 21

Morning	Door Prizes, and Closing Remarks, Travel to Maine Mineral & Gem Museum
Afternoon	Maine Mineral & Gem Museum handling meteorites from Mars, Moon, Vesta, and others, plus tour of extensive mineral collections

Descriptions of invited speakers and other workshops will be posted on the MAPS website as information becomes available.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (CEU) from the University of Maine

Because this year's MAPS Conference takes place at on a university campus, we are able to offer delegates the opportunity to earn one CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT (CEU) from the University of Maine at no additional cost. The university defines continuing education as:

"A CEU is a way of measuring an individual's participation in a continuing education program (such as those offered by the Hutchinson Center). CEUs were established to verify that a person has completed the required program to get their professional certificates, which allows them to continue practicing. Professionals can use CEUs to improve skills and stay current with new technology, laws and requirements that may apply to their fields.

The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) is a nationally accepted uniform unit for measuring participation in applicable noncredit continuing education activities. CEU programs are generally designed for a specific audience and are often used for professional development in a particular industry or profession. The CEU permits individuals to participate in many different kinds of programs while accumulating a uniform record available for future reference.

By definition, one CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT is described as ten contact hours of participation in an organized continuing education activity under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction."

To earn one CONTINUING EDUCATION unit, you will be required to complete a 2 page written assignment where you will describe three new things you learned at the MAPS conference and how you will incorporate that learning into your planetarium teaching. We will provide instructions on submitting your assignment at the MAPS conference.