



CONSTELLATION

Spring 2023

UPDATE: “Stars for All” US planetarium conference June 20-24, 2023

Dear Fellow members of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society:

At this time of the year, our MAPS organization would normally be preparing to host a regional planetarium conference. However, 2023 is a very special year! All seven of the regional groups in the United States are coming together again for one exciting **US conference**. We will gather together from June 20-24, 2023 at Bays Mountain Park & Planetarium, a 3,750-acre nature preserve nestled in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains, in Kingsport, Tennessee. This will be a wonderful opportunity for you to reconnect with colleagues from the MAPS region and also form new connections and friendships with colleagues from across the country and beyond!



Here are some important conference details:

REGISTRATION:

Conference registration is now open. Attendance for this national conference is limited to 350 people, so you should make your plans now to register. Registration will be closed on June 5 at 11:59 p.m. EDT, two weeks prior to the start of conference. Sorry, there will not be any day passes, walk-in registration, or “visits.”

Several preconference workshops, including a Mini-LIPS, will take place on Tuesday, June 20. You must sign up in advance to attend any workshop. For information on pre-conference workshops and to register for the conference, please go to: <https://www.sepadomes.org/2023-conference-kingsport-tn/>

CONFERENCE HOTEL:

The conference hotel is the MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center (1901 Meadowview Parkway, Kingsport, TN). The MeadowView is a four-star member of the Marriott Hotel group and is the closest hotel to Bays Mountain. The resort offers free parking and free in-room WiFi for Marriot members. (WiFi will be provided to all delegates and vendors in all of the meeting spaces and throughout the conference.) This hotel is expected to sell out.

(Continued on page 3)

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CONSTELLATION

The Constellation is the newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society (MAPS). It is published four times a year near the equinoxes and solstices. For more information about MAPS, see: mapsplanetarium.org.

To submit an article or ad, please contact Noreen Grice at ngrice5456@aol.com

President's Message

Happy Spring, MAPS family!

I hope that everyone is off to an enjoyable start to 2023. As the days get longer and the weather warms up, I find myself looking forward to all that spring has to offer. As Orion and Taurus get lower in the west, and as Leo climbs in the east, we can head outside, and leave behind the hand-warmers and wool caps for a change!

With the "Stars for All" U.S. Conference just a short time away, I am looking forward to the time when we can gather together and catch up. I know Adam Thanz has been working very hard on this conference, and I would imagine that news and updates are going to start to roll in rapid-fire very soon.

This may be my final President's Message to you all, as by the next time our *Constellation* newsletter comes out, I will likely have transitioned into my new role as Past-President. Many thanks to all who participated in our recent election season – those who nominated colleagues, those who accepted nominations to run, and all of you who exercised your right to vote and to choose the leaders of this great organization. On June 1, we can all look forward to Amie Gallagher and Mike Francis continuing their roles as MAPS Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Noreen Grice will take on the role of President, and we will welcome Tony Kilgore to the Executive Committee as he begins his time as our President-Elect.

It has been an honor to serve as the President of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society for the past two years. Having the chance to stand at the helm of this organization, while watching planetariums across our region emerge from a global pandemic as strong as ever, has been an inspiring and rewarding experience for me! I wish you all a happy and healthy spring season, and I hope to see you all in June in Tennessee!

Brian Koehler
MAPS President

A call for nominations for the MAPS Board of Directors will be coming later this year. Please think about running for a position on the MAPS Board!

“Stars for All” Conference June 20-24, 2023

(Continued from page 1)

CONFERENCE HOTEL RATE:

The conference organizers have secured a special conference hotel rate of \$126 USD + tax per night for up to 4 occupancy. This rate is good anytime between June 14-28, so you can arrive at the resort days before the conference and/or stay at the conference rate for days after the conference ends. **The last date to book a room at the MeadowView at the special conference rate is June 5, 2023.** After that date, the rate becomes \$146.79/night for any rooms that are still available. It is recommended that you book your room soon to avoid disappointment.



You can book your room online at: <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1674232555475&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

If you are unable to secure a room at the MeadowView, there are five other hotels within a quarter mile.

TRANSPORTATION:

The closest airport to the conference is the Tri-Cities (TRI) airport, located between Bristol, Kingsport and Johnson City, Tennessee. It is a 30-minute drive to the conference hotel. American Airlines and Delta Airlines fly into this airport with connections from Charlotte NC, Dallas/Fort Worth TX and Atlanta, GA.

The MeadowView Resort offers ground transportation shuttle service to/from the airport for a modest fee. Please contact the MeadowView for information on airport transportation: (423) 578-6600.

According to the airport website, taxi services are not currently located at the airport but can be called to the airport. Other options include UBER and Lyft as well as renting a car. Here is an informational link from the **Tri-Cities airport on their ground transportation and rental car options:**
<https://triflight.com/passenger-services-2/car-rental/>

During the conference, all ground transportation between conference venues will be provided.

Be sure to check the conference homepage for updates on this unique event:

<https://www.sepadomes.org/2023-conference-kingsport-tn/>

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Kingsport TN in June!
Noreen Grice (MAPS President-Elect through May, President (starting in June))

It's also time to consider proposals to host the 2024 MAPS conference. Keep in mind that MAPS holds conferences every year, usually in the spring, from Wednesday evening through Saturday noon. Holidays are normally avoided. The 2024 conference will happen after the 2024 solar eclipse, so you'll be refreshed and eager to see your planetarium colleagues!

If you've never hosted a conference, we can provide helpful guidance. Please visit the Prospective Conference Host and Annual Meeting Guidelines links (below) for more details.

<http://www.mapsplanetarium.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/MAPS-Host-Proposal-Guide-final.pdf>
<http://www.mapsplanetarium.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/MAPS-Conference-Guidelines-2012.pdf>

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From the Elections Committee

The election for the MAPS officer positions of President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer took place in January with the following results:

Anthony (Tony) Kilgore was elected to the position of President-elect
 Amie Gallagher was re-elected to the position of Secretary
 Mike Francis was re-elected to the position of Treasurer

Congratulations to Tony, Amie, and Mike! Their new terms will start at the 'Stars for All' Conference in June and will run 2023 – 2025. Thank you to all candidates who ran in this election and to all who voted.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Elections for the three Director positions on the **Executive Committee** will take place in January 2024. It is never too early to consider running for one of these positions or to nominate a fellow MAPS member! All nominations and seconds of the nominations are due to the Elections Committee Chair by November 1st in writing or by email. Members may self-nominate for any positions. Please contact the Elections Chair or anyone on the Executive Committee if you have any questions about any of the positions or about elections in general.



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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership renewal time!

Just a reminder that membership goes from January 1 to December 31. If you're planning to attend "Stars for All" at Bays Mountain, you need to have a current membership to register. Still need to renew?

Go to <https://mapsplanetarium.org/> and click on the "Membership" button on the upper left side of your screen.

From there use the Buy Now link. Don't know if you've already renewed? Drop an email to the MAPS Treasurer at: mfrancis@mikefrancis.com.



The special ESA/Hubble Space Telescope Word Bank provides insightful explanations of various astronomical concepts and objects in simple language.

This resource was developed to be an informative and educative resource for students, parents, educators, communicators, and the general public alike.

Each of the words featured in this unique glossary is accompanied by a simple definition and an explanation of various astronomical concepts and objects in simple and accessible language. These descriptions also provide context and connections to Hubble's relevance and contributions to the respective areas or objects of research.

Visit the Hubble Word bank:
<http://ow.ly/jXOn50NygNB>

A poster for a total solar eclipse. The top half shows a total solar eclipse with the sun's corona visible against a dark sky. The bottom half shows the Earth from space. A red diagonal banner across the top right contains the text "¡DISPONIBLE EN ESPAÑOL! (AVAILABLE IN SPANISH)". The Bays Mountain Productions logo is in the top right corner. The word "TOTALITY" is written in large, glowing white letters across the center. At the bottom, it says "EXPLORE THE WONDER OF ECLIPSES" and provides the website "WWW.BAYSMOUNTAIN.COM/PLANETARIUM-PRODUCTIONS". A QR code is in the bottom left corner.

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Book Reviews

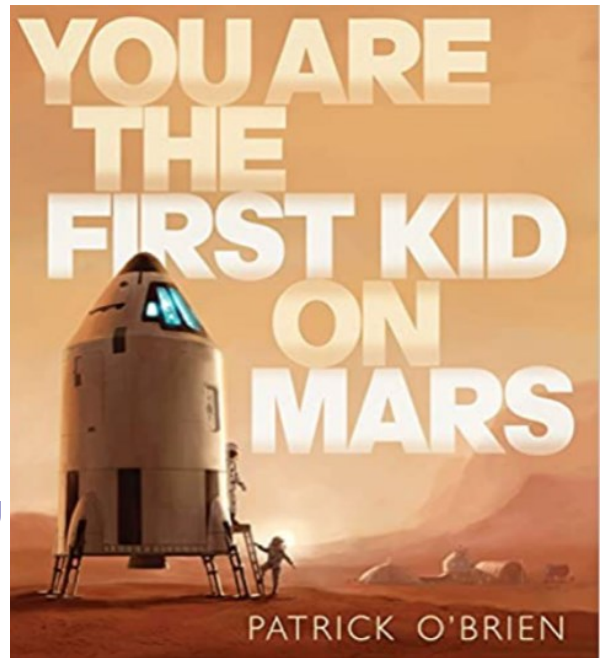
By Francine Jackson

You Are the First Kid on Mars by Patrick O'Brien

This travelogue documents a young boy's first trip off the Earth. He begins by going up a space elevator, toward the space station, on which is docked the rocket to Mars. He then settles in for a several month trip, watching as Mars gets larger and larger through the craft's windows.

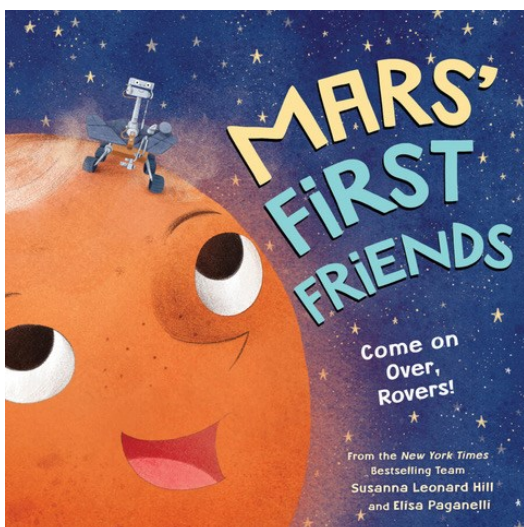
On reaching Mars, he then must remember to put on his space suit, as conditions on the planet don't allow him to travel without it. Once outside, he walks to the habitat, where he will live for several months. It houses laboratories, greenhouses, engineering rooms, and small bedrooms, one of which will be his during his stay.

He sees all sorts of robots, doing the work of people unable to easily travel on Mars: collecting samples, building extra housing, even allowing tours of the fascinating terrain, such as the largest mountain in the solar system, and the biggest canyon. And, then, after six months on Mars, it's time for him to return home, with memories of an incredible adventure.



With just a couple missed edits (Mars is the closest “outer” planet, Venus is the closest, and the planet *rotates* in 24 ½ hours, not *revolves*), this book is a very good introduction to the hoped-for future travels off Earth and on to our planetary neighbor. It is hoped this “trip” could soon become a reality. Could a reader of this book become that person?

BIBLIO: 2009 G.P. Putnam's Sons
Juvenile, \$16.99
Grades 3 – 9



Mars' First Friends by Susanna Leonard Hill Illustrated by Elisa Paganelli

Mars is lonely, and needs a friend. He goes first to the Sun, then tries to have the other planets play with him. But, then, he gets not one, but two playmates. Where do they come from?

This book is a lovely story of the solar system as an introduction for the youngest reader. Mars just wants to play, but for various reasons, the other planets just don't have time for him. But, then, he suddenly finds himself with two gifts from the other planets, two spacecraft that are just

(Continued on page 8)

Book Reviews By Francine Jackson

(Continued from page 7)

what he needed. They left Earth, and their interest and curiosity with their new home makes Mars very happy, especially as he dreams of possibly more “pets” coming his way.

Mars' First Friends is a delightful story of a tiny planet that only wants to make friends and interact with the other members of the solar system. However, the author seems to forget that Mars already has friends with him: two moons, Deimos and Phobos, that, although they are very small, are always with him.

As an introduction to our planetary members, this book is a nice way to show how different each planet is: Very hot Venus, beautifully ringed Saturn, and Earth, with its never-ending set of humans. Even dwarf planet Pluto is acknowledged, giving all the major objects that orbit the Sun a look into their differences. For the young audience it is written for, this is a good first look into our planetary neighborhood.

BIBLIO: 2020, Sourcebooks
Juvenile, \$17.99
Ages 4 and up



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The advertisement features a dark, starry space background with nebulae. At the top, the text "Astronomical Animation Library" and "Star Shows & More" is written in a white, cursive font. Below this, two movie posters are displayed. The left poster, titled "The Alien Who Stole Christmas", shows a green alien with large eyes and antennae in the foreground, with a night scene of a house and a full moon in the background. The right poster, titled "FIREFALL", depicts a spiral galaxy with a bright red star at its center, surrounded by various celestial bodies like planets and asteroids. Several film strips with different astronomical images are scattered around the posters. At the bottom center, there is a logo consisting of three circular icons (a red planet, a blue planet, and a white planet) with arrows pointing to the right. To the right of the logo, the website "GEOGRAPHICSIMAGING.COM" and email "geographicsimaging@gmail.com" are listed in white text.

The MAPS Publications Committee needs you!

Calling all planetarians who are also writers, reporters, graphic designers, and social media influencers!

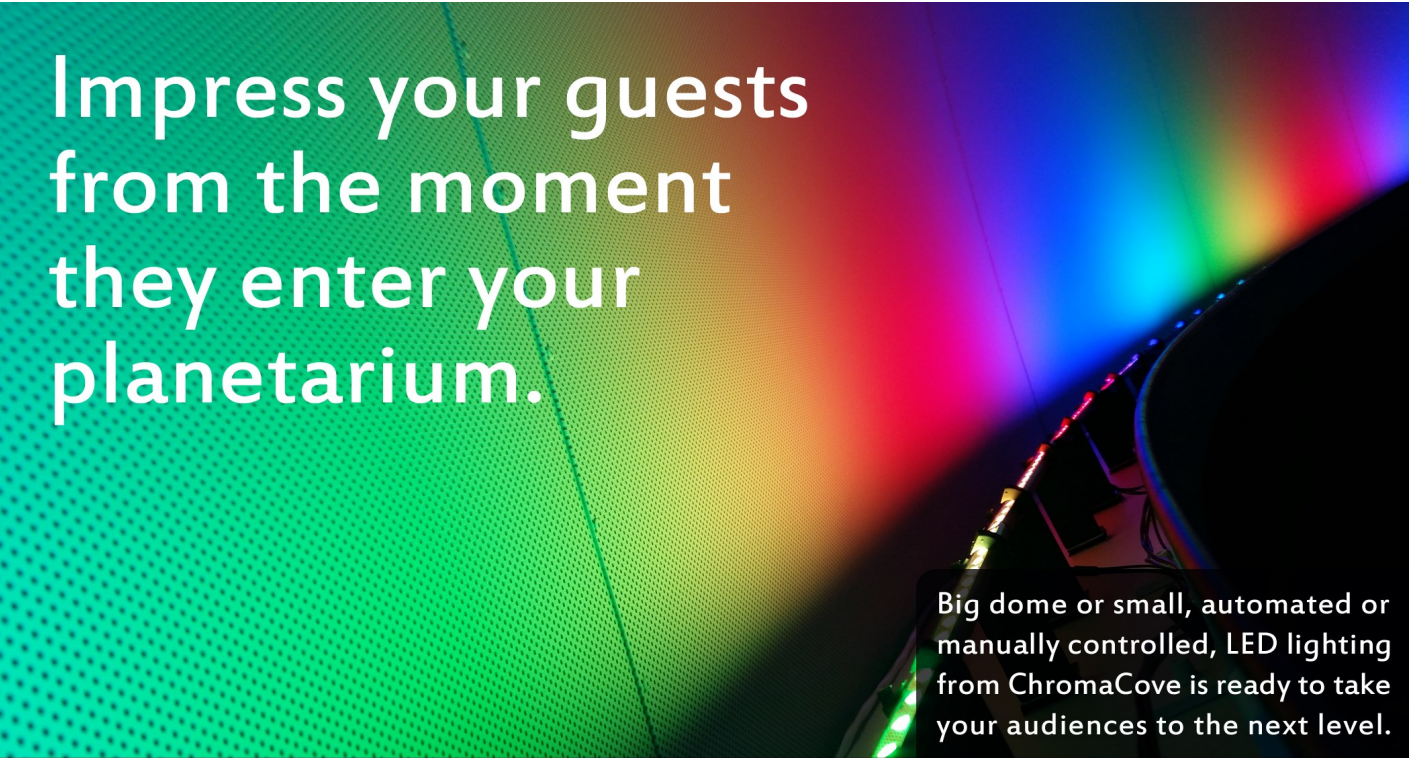
Would you like to work with colleagues and gain a great experience while serving our organization? Why not join a MAPS committee!

For 30 years, Kevin Conod has tirelessly edited *The Constellation* newsletter. We appreciate his efforts and we thank him for his amazing to service to our organization. Bravo Kevin!

We now invite MAPS members to join the new Publications Committee. We need people who are interested and have skills in writing, reporting, editing, and graphic design to create a new version of *The Constellation* and also help us to reach new members through social media. This is a great opportunity to gain and document experiences in the communication and marketing fields.

Please email me and/or come and see me at the conference with your interest!

Noreen Grice - MAPS President (starting on June 1)
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Registration Deadline Extended: Fulldome Shorts Contest

The registration deadline for Fulldome Shorts Contest has been extended to August 1, 2023. Your project does not have to be completed for this date, but it must be registered by then. The submission deadline is September 1, 2023.

The fulldome format allows the creation of unique immersive video artworks. What would be more fitting to celebrate the Centennial than such artistic fulldome video shorts? Thus we encourage fulldome creators, video artists, and the whole planetarium community to get creative and develop a short fulldome clip that relates to the Centennial theme! The best submissions will be chosen by an IPS jury, and will be featured during the opening ceremony in October 2023.

Centennial Art & Design Contest

To celebrate the Centennial, we're encouraging the creation of digital artwork revolving around the Centennial theme: The Stars Were Just the Beginning. We're looking for one or more posters in two categories for the anniversary:

1. Anniversary Poster: promoting the anniversary and related activities
2. Artistic Poster: Exhibitions in planetariums and other suitable locations

The competition is open to designers and creative artists in all countries, so we encourage you to share this to your community and planetarium visitors.

Both contests are coordinated by Volkmar Schorcht. Learn more about the contest at the Planetarium 100 website:

<https://planetarium100.org/centennial-projects/fulldome-shorts-contest/call-for-entries-register-for-our-fulldome-shorts-contest-now/>

<https://planetarium100.org/centennial-projects/design-contest/call-for-entries-enter-our-artdesign-contest-now/>

The website also has information about the wide number of exciting projects being developed for the Centennial, several of which include cash prizes. Now is the perfect time to get involved!

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<https://www.lwl-planetarium-muenster.de/>

GOTO INC celebrates the reopening of the LWL Museum of Natural History and Planetarium held on July 1st, 2022. We thank the Museum for their careful consideration and for selecting our Orpheus projector for the next chapter of their ongoing story. GOTO achieves better Astronomy visualization through technological innovation and we know this will make for a great partnership with the planetarium.



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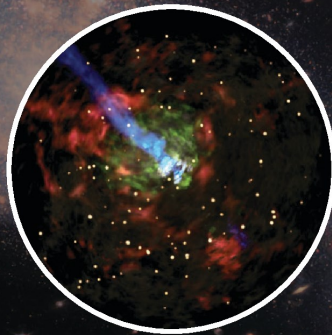
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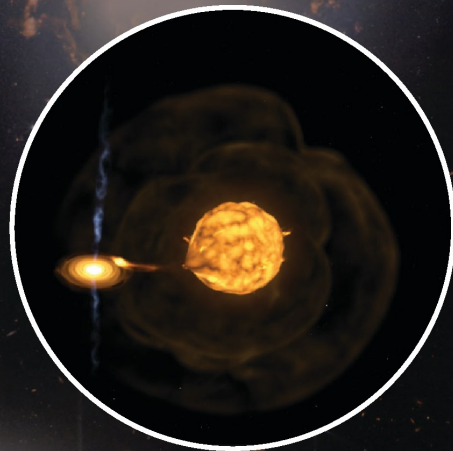
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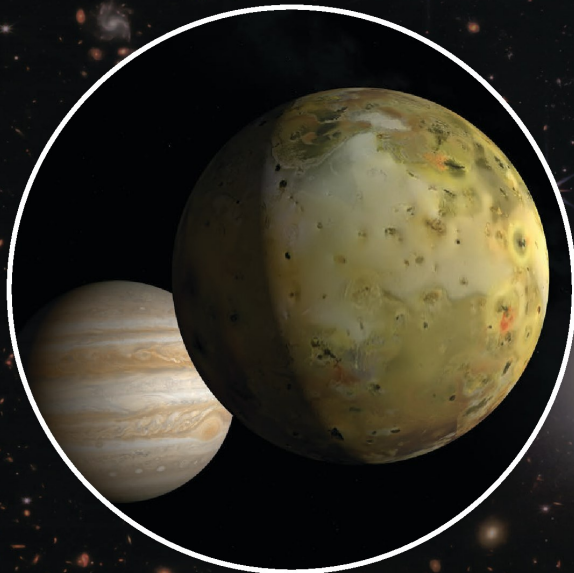
The curriculum contains four volumes of astronomy lessons for a total of 8, hour long, classes and 60, 20-30 minute, lessons serving a variety of grade levels. The lessons cover a wide gamut of subjects and gives educators a new library of slides, animations, and scene files to convey both straightforward and complex subjects in their own shows.



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PLANETARIUM NEWS

Ken Coles at Indiana University of Pennsylvania shared that construction is underway on the new, 11-meter planetarium. It replaces a 9-meter dome housing a venerable 55-year-old Spitz A3P. The new facility will have a two-projector Digistar 7 system and be used for teaching and public outreach programs starting at the beginning of 2024. The photo included here shows the enclosed structure as of last September.

(Photo credit: Ken Coles)



Francine Jackson has been recognized for 50 years of volunteerism for Brown University's Ladd Observatory. She studied astronomy at the University of Illinois before returning to Rhode Island. In addition to her volunteer work at Brown University, she has worked at the Maribelle Cormack Planetarium in Providence, the Hayden Planetarium in New York, URI Planetarium, the old Peninsula Nature and Science Center, Gen-gras Planetarium in West Hartford, the Seagrave Memorial Observatory (home to RI's amateur astronomy association), and Frosty Drew Observatory, as director. She is also a fellow of the International Planetarium Society, the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society, and the Great Lakes Planetarium Association.

Francine shared that she just wants to continue to introduce the public to the wonders of astronomy, even though her local sky is only great for planets and the brightest stars. "It would be my goal to hope to continue to teach astronomy for another 50 years."

(Photo credit: Jim Hendrickson)

John Meader was recognized as a finalist by the Natural Resources Council of Maine in the NRCM's People's Choice Award for Conservation Leadership for his work with Dark Sky Maine. John was one of the six finalists out of the 22 nominations. Said John of his nomination: "All pretty humbling stuff when you meet the other finalists. There are lots of great people in our state doing hard work to protect our environment in so many different ways, it was an honor to be among them and to be so recognized."



Buffalo getting ready for eclipse centerline excitement

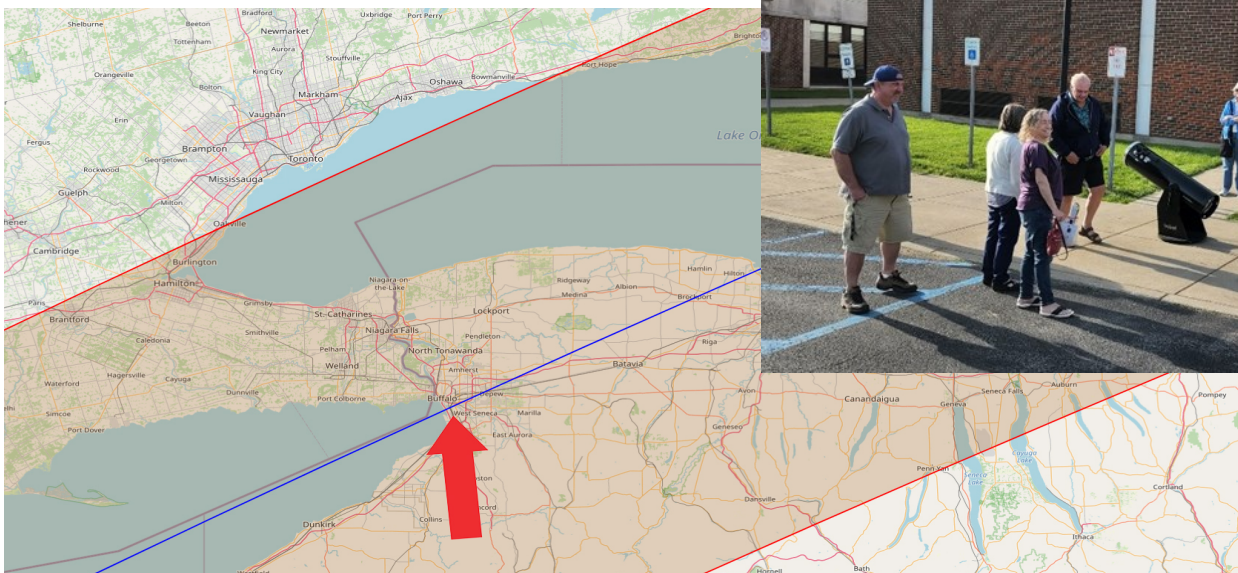
The centerline of the April 8, 2024 total solar eclipse goes right through downtown Buffalo, NY and the Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium is doing its best to get people ready for it. Director Mark Percy has been leading monthly meetings of the Buffalo Eclipse Consortium. Educators, museums, government representatives and tourism agencies have been joining the group and learning about how to make the most of this incredible opportunity. Check out <https://buffaloecclipse.org/> to learn more.



Mark will be leading sessions of his “Solar Eclipse Deputy Training” through the spring and summer. The class teaches participants the safety guidelines and how to set up various observation techniques. Each participant gets to aim a telescope, look through each of the types of solar filters, and set up devices like the sun funnel and the Sun Spotter. Simulations of the eclipse in the planetarium show folks what to expect and how the day will unfold. As this eclipse will create a demand for experts far beyond anything in the past, Mark hopes to train as many deputies as possible so that Western New York will have a corps of volunteers available for the many events that will be taking place on E-day.

Some good news to share is that most schools in Western New York have decided to give students the day off, including the Williamsville Central School District. The WCSD has also committed to a large purchase of eclipse glasses. Mark is hoping to have community viewing events at all three WCSD high schools. Because the eclipse occurs during afternoon dismissal time from school, the day off means students won't be stuck on a school bus in the middle of a traffic jam during this once-in-a-lifetime event!

Eclipse Deputy Training at the Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium. The classes will be run repeatedly this summer. Photo by Mark Percy.



<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/resources/2867/interactive-map-2024-solar-eclipse-across-the-us/>

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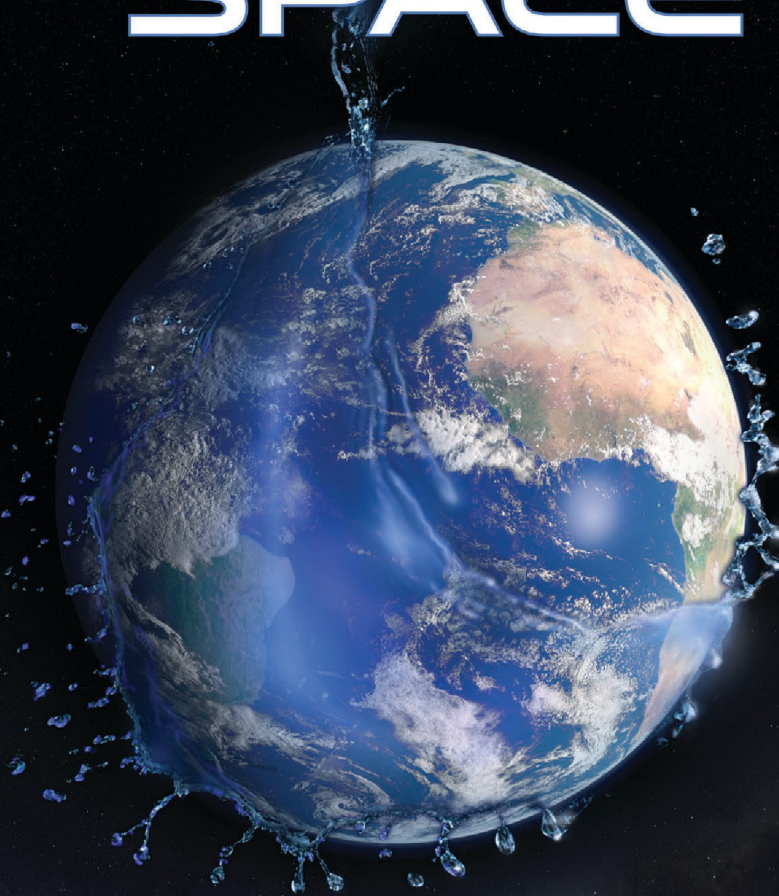
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