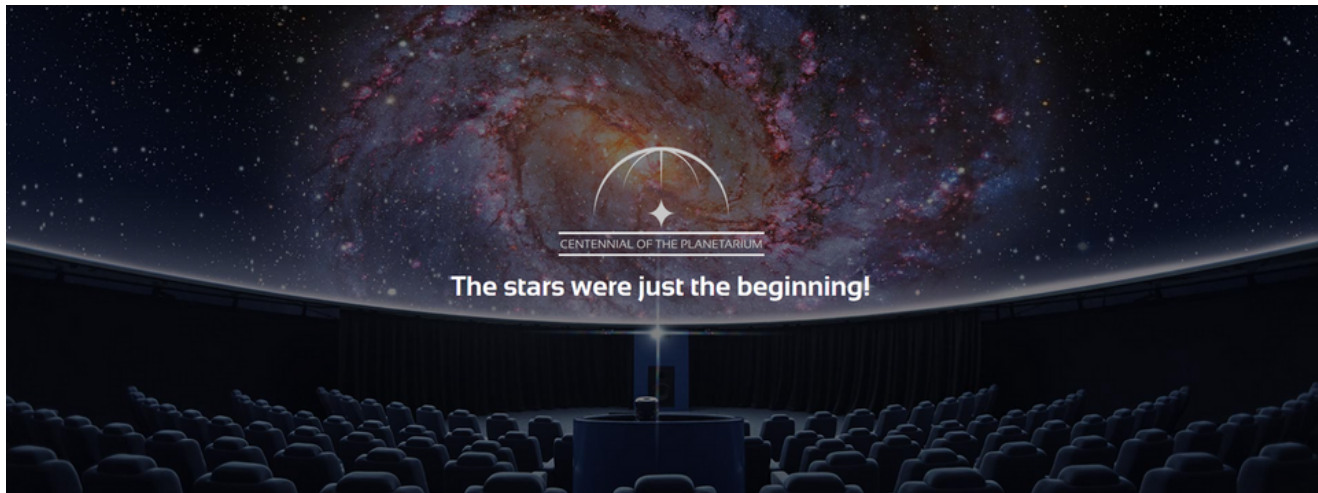




CONSTELLATION

The newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society



The BIG story...

The stars were just the beginning!

On October 21, 2023, the celebration of the Centennial of the Planetarium will officially begin! The Centennial, sponsored by the Society of German-speaking Planetariums (GDP) and the International Planetarium Society (IPS), will be a worldwide celebration of 100 years of inspiring visitors to look up!

The event's [website](#) has a wealth of information about their launch event, projects and contests, resources for planetariums, and all sorts of ways that we can all be involved in the festivities. To get just a glimpse of all that we have to celebrate and to be proud of, read on to see what's new in the MAPS region...

IN THIS ISSUE:

**MORE INFO ABOUT
THE CENTENNIAL**

**STORIES FROM THE
MAPS REGION**

**YOUR VOTE
MATTERS!**

**MAPS MEMBERS @
LIPS 2023**

**NEWS FROM MAPS
COMMITTEES**

“Our MAPS Community”

President’s Message by Noreen Grice

Hello to all MAPS Planetarians!
Happy autumnal equinox!

It was great to see many of you in-person at the “Stars for All” summer conference in Kingsport, TN. Now that fall has come (what happened to summer?!), it’s time to refocus and reconnect with our planetarium community.

The word community has many different meanings; A quick Internet search brought me to a website about a book entitled, [The Art of Relevance](#). The book’s author, Nina Simon, describes a community as...

“A group of people who share something in common... the shared attributes of the people in it and/or by the strength of the connections among them. A community is made of people who are alike in some way and who feel some sense of belonging or interpersonal connection.”

Community is relevant. People who work in or with planetariums are unique. We get excited about exciting other people in learning. We don’t mind repeating the same topic day after day because we like igniting people’s imaginations. And we think that no other place can be as amazing as a dome full of stars with an audience of enthused learners. We make learning and opening one’s eyes and mind to the wonders of the universe very relevant, and we invite people to join in our community of learning.

Our MAPS community covers a wide geographical range. It began with one state, grew to cover areas from Maine to Georgia and west to the Great Lakes, and now covers a significant part of the United States.

By the time you are reading this, you should have received (or soon will!) a membership form to update your contact information. On the form you will also see that we are asking you to select an affinity group that best describes where you fit into the planetarium community. The affinity groups are:

- **Mobile Dome Users**
- **Museum and Nature Center Planetariums**
- **K-12 Planetariums**
- **College and University Planetariums**
- **Planetarium/Astronomy Education Consultants**
- **Unaffiliated Planetarium Educators**

As a member of an affinity group, you will have the opportunity to meet online with others who share the relevance of your educational environment. Together you can learn, grow, and network with like-minded planetarians.

If you are a student or volunteer in a planetarium, please select a group that best describes where you currently teach. If you are retired, we appreciate you joining one of these groups and serving as a mentor to others who can benefit from your experience.

“Our MAPS Community”

President’s Message by Noreen Grice (continued from previous page)

Everyone - please take a moment and fill out the [membership form](#) when you receive it.

Typically, MAPS holds one in-person meeting each year. For this year (2023), we joined with planetarium colleagues from across the country, and met together in Kingsport, TN. Next year, in celebration of the Centennial of the Planetarium, the International Planetarium Society will be hosting a conference in Germany. We know that many people will want to go to that meeting, and the cost in terms of travel funds and time may prohibit you from traveling to other large meetings in 2024. And also, there’s THAT total solar eclipse in April! So, rather than host one large annual meeting for 2024, we are planning for smaller 1-2 day regional MAPS meetings. The Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport Museum (Mystic, CT) will host a MAPS regional meeting on Sept. 12-13, 2024. We are looking for 1 -2 other MAPS planetariums to host a 1-2 day conference, and we have a small grant to help with the costs! Tony Kilgore, MAPS President-Elect and Chair of our Program Committee, is happy to talk to all potential 2024 hosts.

On the topic of meetings, we learned something very valuable during the Covid-19 shutdown. Many of us gathered by our computers for weekly online sessions through the Dome Dialogues because we wanted to, and we needed to, feel connected in an uncertain time. And many people can feel generally disconnected between conferences.

So, we are going to start something new! We will be scheduling several virtual “all MAPS member” virtual meetings during the year where we can share updates among our members, news from the Executive Committee, and talk about whatever you’d like. You have elected all the officers and Board members, and we are here to serve you, the membership. So, join us for our mid-autumn virtual meeting. We’ll send out an invite soon – that’s another reason to fill out your membership form, so we can find you!

Thank you for being part of the MAPS Community, and I’ll see you soon at our virtual autumn MAPS meeting!

Sincerely,

Noreen Grice, President
Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society



P.S. - This photo is from the planetarium at Central Connecticut State University, new MAPS members!

MAPS Executive Committee

OFFICERS:

President - Noreen Grice
 You Can Do Astronomy
 New Britain, CT

President-Elect - Tony Kilgore
 Irene V. Hylton Planetarium
 Woodbridge, VA

Past President - Brian Koehler
 Treworgy Planetarium
 Mystic, CT

Treasurer - Mike Francis
 Stars Science Theater
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Secretary - Amie Gallagher
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Patty Seaton
 Howard B. Owens Science Center
 Lanham, MD

The Constellation is the newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society (MAPS). It is published four times a year near the equinoxes and solstices. To submit an article or ad, please contact us at publications@mapsplanetarium.org.

Connect with MAPS!



Stay connected year-round by joining, liking, and/or following MAPS on our various social media platforms.



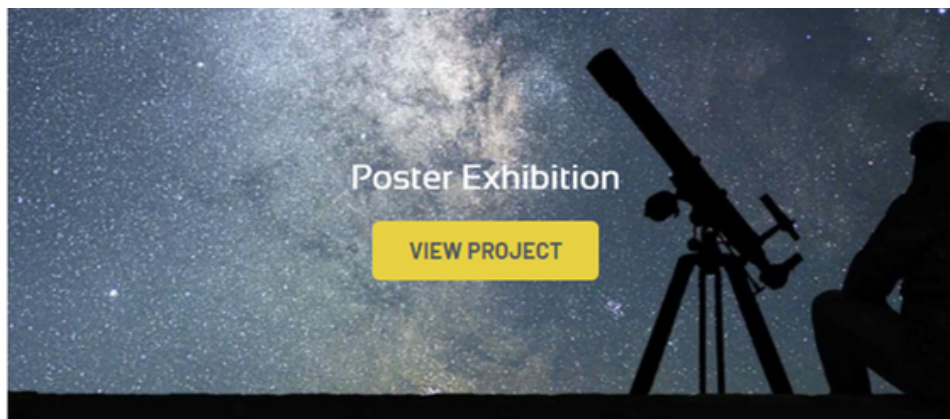
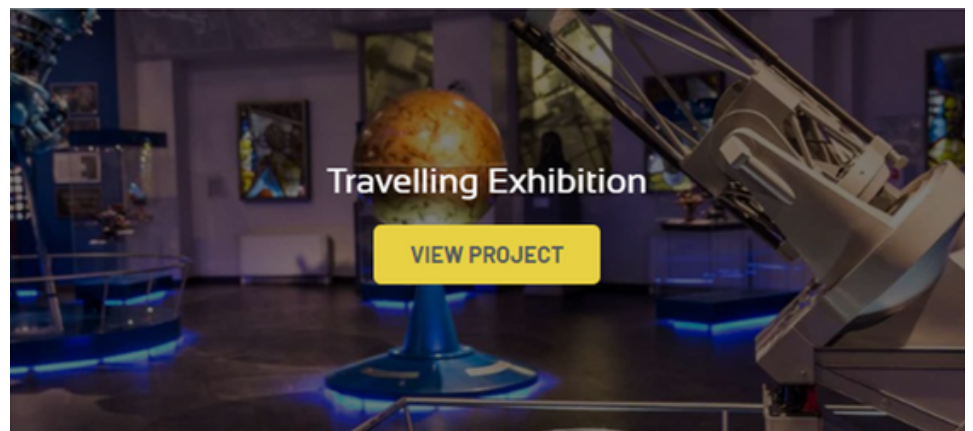
More about the Centennial of the Planetarium

There are so many ways that we can all get involved in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the opening of the first planetarium! Below are just some of the projects that are available for our participation and engagement. You can click on any of the images on the next two pages to see more information about that particular project.



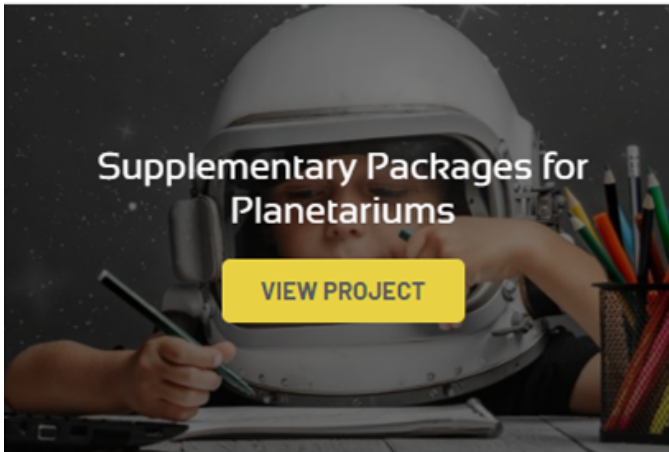
Information about the recent discussion and decision to adopt the date of May 7 as the International Day of the Planetarium, beginning in 2024.

Information about a planned traveling exhibition that will visit Germany, Austria, and Switzerland in 2024, perhaps with the hopes that others around the world might be inspired to create their own?

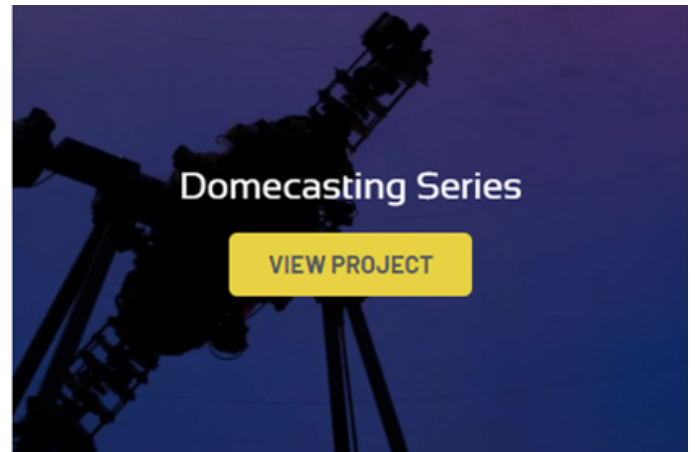


Information about a 20-frame poster exhibition that is available to download (in eight different languages) for anyone who wishes to print and display.

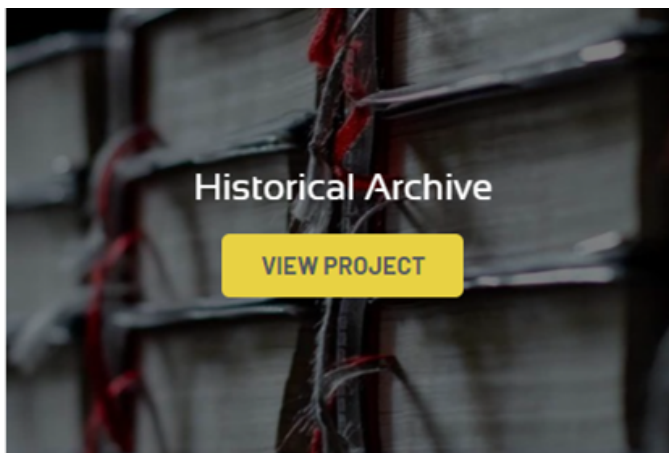
More about the Centennial of the Planetarium



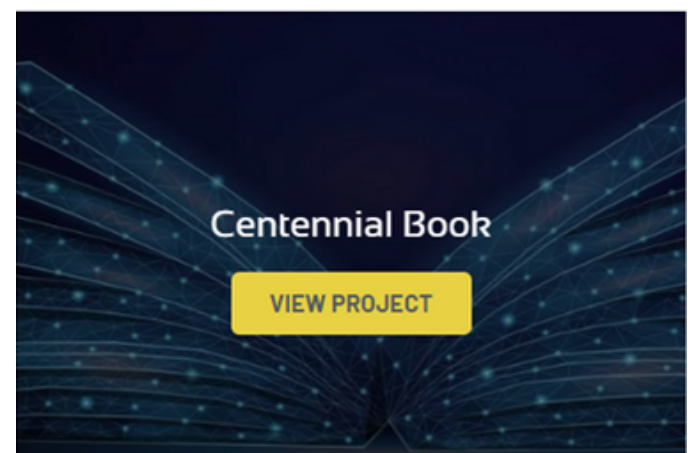
Information about packages available for purchase by planetariums, containing activity materials for students, digital assets, floor stickers, flags, and a fulldome movie.



Information about 360-degree streaming presentations for domes. This page will eventually include dates and technical details about how to participate.



Information about plans to create a detailed interactive archive to present the history of the planetarium from multiple perspectives.



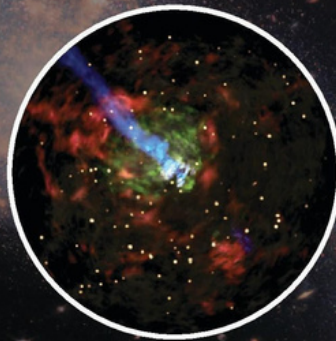
A special book titled "100 Years in 100 Objects"

The full list of projects can be found at:
<https://planetarium100.org/centennial-projects/>

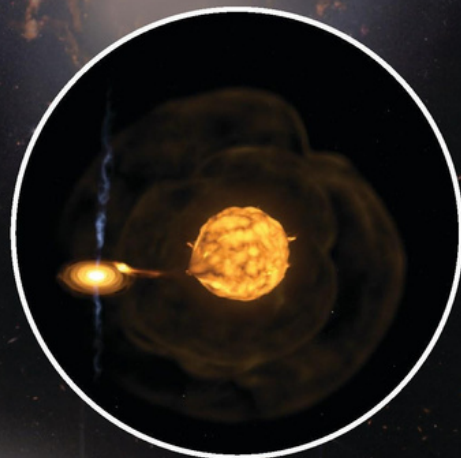
DIGISTAR 7

THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF LESSONS IN THE DIGISTAR FULLDOME CURRICULUM IS HERE!

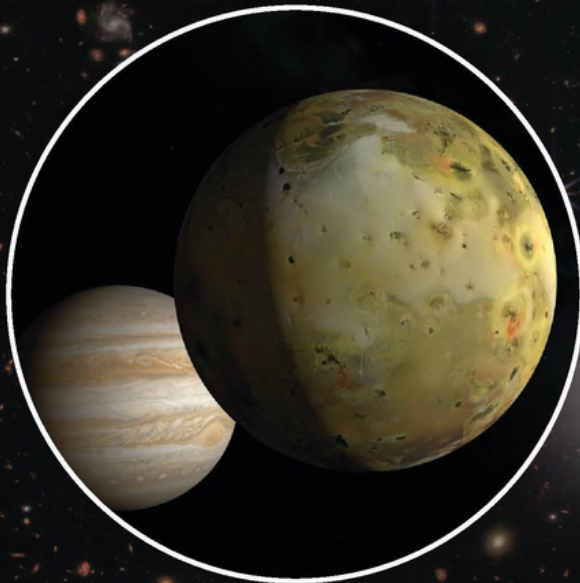
The curriculum contains four volumes of astronomy lessons for a total of 8, hour long, classes and 60, 20-30 minute, lessons serving a variety of grade levels. The lessons cover a wide gamut of subjects and gives educators a new library of slides, animations, and scene files to convey both straightforward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



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Stories from the MAPS Region

Upgrade at Paterson P-TECH High School, NJ

by Dr. Carlos Miranda and JT Towne

Over the past months, our 36-foot diameter planetarium, which serves the entire District, has been undergoing a major transformation.

The planetarium was constructed, along with the school building (formerly called PANTHER Academy), in 2011. Gary Swangin was the planetarium director until he retired. Last year, Dr. Carlos Miranda was named Director of the planetarium and started work with the school district in January, 2023. About the same time, the Paterson School District contracted with J.T. Towne of Omnidirectional Consulting, as well as their original building architects, and the team began planning the upgrade/renovation to the theater.

Farewell to the Zeiss Star Projector

First and foremost, we must address the bittersweet decision we made to say goodbye to our trusted Zeiss star projector - a fixture in our planetarium for

many years. While it served faithfully, it was time to embrace the future and unlock additional visual potential. After careful consideration, the decision was made to enter into the digital age of planetarium technology, and donate the Zeiss ZKP to the Planetarium Projector Museum collection in CA.

A Complete Renovation

The P-Tech Planetarium will soon feature a 4K state-of-the-art Digistar7 full-dome projection system from Evans and Sutherland, new sound system, cove lighting, and a newly painted dome surface. The digital system will allow us to explore the cosmos like never before, providing breathtaking visuals and enhanced educational experiences for our visitors; it will help us bring the wonders of science and astronomy to life in ways we could only dream of with our previous equipment setup.

(story continues on next page)



Stories from the MAPS Region

Upgrade at Paterson P-TECH High School, NJ

(continued from previous page)

The District is committed to providing guests with a comfortable and immersive planetarium experience. That's why, alongside the digital upgrade, we're also renovating the entire dome theater. Our planetarium will boast brand-new, acoustically optimized flooring to ensure that every sound and vibration contributes to a top-notch auditory experience. New, plush, ergonomic seats will be added, designed for maximum comfort during extended stargazing sessions. Our new 5.1 sound system will help transport students to distant galaxies with crystal-clear audio, and two rows of cove lighting – ChromaCove RGB, as well as white, super-bright LED reading lights will allow us to set the perfect ambiance for teaching and shows.

Change can be challenging, but we firmly believe these upgrades will take our planetarium to new heights, offering a richer, more immersive experience for visitors of all ages.

Stay Tuned for the Grand Reopening!

We cannot wait to unveil the transformed P-Tech Planetarium and share the wonders of the universe once again, starting in 2024. In the meantime, Carlos is offering a portable planetarium “Road Show” service to local schools and groups, extending the reach to engage and educate a broader audience in the wonders of science. He also visited many planetariums in the area and attended his first planetarium conference this year – Stars for All in TN – where he enjoyed meeting many new colleagues.



Stories from the MAPS Region

Light Speaks

Book Review by Francine Jackson



This short, beautifully illustrated book should be in every library and home. Not only is each picture described in detail, it also makes the reader think about the reason each image was chosen.

The study of light is necessary to understand the concepts of what we see in the sky, and how the universe began. It can act as a comfort in the dark of night. It can also be a source of entertainment.

But, the author also speaks of “bad” light: the fury of a lightning storm; the “lies” sea turtles are given when attempting to take their first steps into the sea.

An unusual part of this book is that at its end, the author goes into an explanation of every page. She compares light with sound, and their differences in speed. She explains the need for light to research celestial mysteries. And, she states the sadness of losing many sea turtles because of misguided lighting.

In addition, there is a section on light pollution, and its effects on our appreciation of the sky, with a note on an organization working to decrease overlighting in today’s world.

As light is all around us, this book should be with you all, as an eye-opening look at how light does, indeed, speak to all of us.

Light Speaks

written by **Christine Layton**
illustrated by **Luciana Navarro Powell**

ISBN: 978-0884489245

2022, Tilbury House Publishers

Ages 6-10
\$18.95 USD

Stories from the MAPS Region

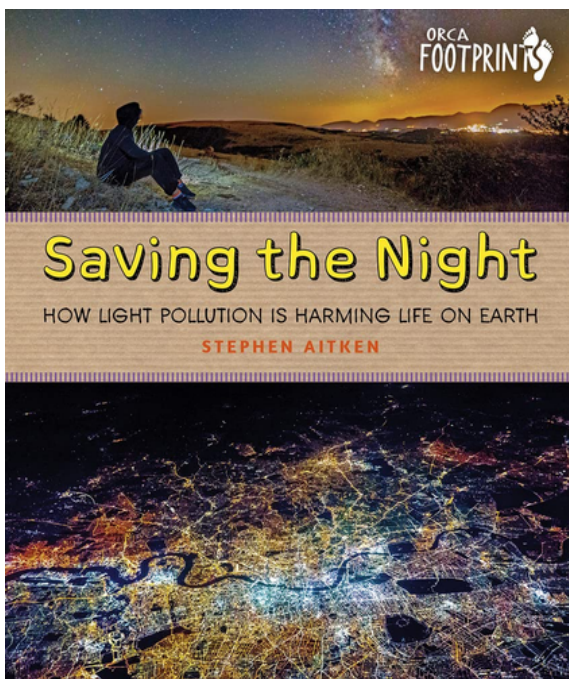
Saving the Night: How Light Pollution is Harming Life on Earth

Book Review by Francine Jackson

We always seem to be hearing that over-lighting is something only astronomers are interested in; however, other science disciplines are also realizing how having such night brightness as people seem to desire is harmful, not only to humans, but plants and animals as well.

We have learned that darkness is necessary for many animals in searching for food. Or, to look for a mate. Still others, like us, need a dark area to best have a restful sleep.

With too much light, many plants can't grow properly. Especially important is coral reefs, that depend on moonlight to be able to exist with many of the local plants and animals. Too much extra light lowers the health of coral, and the algae that live inside them.



Saving the Night

written by Stephen Aitken

ISBN: 978-1459831070

2023, Orca Book Publishers

Ages 8-12
\$21.95 USD

We often hear the plight of turtle hatchlings that must race to the water to survive; however, the major animal species that are being lost are migrating birds. They become confused by city lights, and often crash into lighted windows. It is believed over a billion birds are lost this way every season.

And, of course, as humans, we are meant to have several hours of darkness each day, but that often doesn't happen. The effects can be very harmful.

The author reminds us: "Don't be afraid of the dark." We, along with everything else on Earth, need it. This book gives us ways to love the night, and be a part of the movement to keep darkness with us. The author shows how to be a part of a darker movement, for the betterment of all. It is a beautiful eye opener.

Stories from the MAPS Region

Bright Sun and Pale Moon: A Tale from West Africa

adapted by Amy Friedman
shared here by April Whitt

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This is the second in a multi-part series of stories shared by April Whitt. April continues to share stories that she has collected over the years with all of us!

Long ago, in the earliest days of the world, Sun and Moon were the best of friends. They shared secrets as well as the sky. Sun shone all day long, bright and hot. Moon took over Sun's place at night. In those days, Moon glimmered and shimmered as brightly as Sun, and all the people praised them both.

But as time passed, Sun grew jealous of Moon. He wanted more power.

One day, Sun proposed that they both take a bath in Sky River, each with his own family.

"That sounds like a fine idea," Moon said, for in those days everything Sun proposed sounded good to Moon.

"We're set, then," Sun said. "I'll bathe upstream with my family. Just around that bend in Sky River. I'll go in first to test the water to make certain it's right for you."

"If you're around the bend, how will I know when you've begun to bathe?" Moon asked his friend.

"It's simple," Sun replied. "When you see the water steaming you'll know I've entered. I will heat the water. Then you and your family can get in and bathe."

"Excellent plan," said Moon, who went off to gather his family.

Meanwhile, Sun and his family set off. They journeyed around the bend and out of Moon's sight.

"Now," Sun said to his family, "cut dry branches from the sky trees." Sun's family gathered dry branches.

"Now light the branches," Sun commanded his family. The family set the branches on fire and fanned them until they blazed bright red."

"Now throw the burning branches into the river," Sun said. They tossed the branches into the water.

Around the bend, Moon watched the river. When he saw the water steaming, he smiled to himself.

"Family," he said, "soon it will be time to bathe." When Moon saw the water steaming, he stepped in. As he did, great clouds of steam billowed around him. When his family followed him into the water, the steam grew thicker still.

Stories from the MAPS Region

Bright Sun and Pale Moon: A Tale from West Africa

continued from previous page

Moon and his family bathed in comfort. They stepped from the river, clean and warm. But when Moon climbed on shore, he looked down and saw that he had grown pale. When he touched his belly, he felt all of his heat washing away. The boiling water had drained away Moon's heat.

Soon Sun appeared. Moon frowned when he saw that Sun was as bright and hot as ever. He was smiling broadly, and his heat was so strong that Moon could feel it burning his skin even from afar.

"I've tricked you!" Sun cried. "From this day on, I will shine more brightly than you, and I will be the only one who gives the people heat. They will praise only Sun!"

Moon realized that his friend had betrayed him. He was so hurt that he fumed and fussed, but he did not know what to say or do.

Some time passed. Each day Sun climbed into the sky and shone down on the land hotter than ever before. At night Moon slowly rose to take his place, casting his cool, soft light upon Earth.

Before long, the greater heat of Sun caused the grasses to wilt. Rain did not fall to ease the heat, and the cattle grew hungry. They began to die, and before

long, the people had little food to eat. A famine cursed the land.

Now Moon knew what he must do. So one day he said, "Sun, this famine will kill everyone in the end. I propose we end our own families' suffering by sending them to a land far away. I will go around the bend and prepare my family's boats. When you see their boats floating downstream, you will know they have begun their journey. It will be your turn to send your family away."

Sun agreed, for he knew the world could no longer contain so many people.

Moon and his family moved out of sight around the bend. They filled their boats with large white rocks and sent these downstream.

Round the bend, Sun ordered his family into their boats. When he saw the boats with white figures floating downstream, he pushed his family's boats from the shore. They floated away on the swift current.

Moments later, Moon returned to Sun, surrounded by his family. "I have had my revenge on you, Sun, for now you have sent your family away, but as you see, my family has remained with me, on shore.

Stories from the MAPS Region

Bright Sun and Pale Moon: A Tale from West Africa

continued from previous page

Sun was so sad that he hid his face from the world for many months. Rain began to fall, and soon the grasses grew once more. The famine ended.

At last Sun ended his mourning and climbed into the sky again. To this day, Sun shines in the day, but he is all alone. And it is true that Moon is pale and cool, but he is surrounded by his family, shining

and twinkling. We call Moon's family, "Stars."

Since that time, Moon and Sun have agreed never to play tricks on each other, for they learned that jealousy and revenge cause only destruction. Instead, they share the sky and shine down on the world, bringing warmth and light to all who live there.

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Stories from the MAPS Region



Amie Gallagher and Kevin Schindler at the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College wish you all a fantastic new school year!

The leaves are beginning to fall in New England...

At this time next year, you could be here!

Join us from September 12-13, 2024 for a MAPS Regional Meeting at the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, CT.

More details about the meeting will be provided in the Winter issue of the *Constellation*.



Stories from the MAPS Region

Earth Science for Venusians

by aeQRFH DGLKV

translated by Thomas Wm. Hamilton

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This is the second in a four-part series of science fiction stories written by Tom Hamilton. Please enjoy this satirical look at how Earth and its Moon might be viewed from a different vantage point in our solar system.

It is little more than a century since aiDRDG TRBR placed a rocket above our clouds and we learned our beloved Venus is just one of at least six worlds that go around the Sun. Unfortunately, these discoveries of new worlds are still widely misunderstood. Particularly shocking are the exorbitant claims made for the next world outward from the Sun, a truly strange and horrible place.

This world is almost the same size as our Venus, just 14 hrnqs larger. This may have misled people into thinking it is as nice a place to live as is our world. But regrettably this is not the case. Yes, its gravity is almost the same as ours. That is the last familiar or comfortable feature.

The planet's atmospheric pressure is less than 1/90th of our pressure. Our people would probably explode in such a near-vacuum. And that skimpy atmosphere lacks any breathable CO₂, so if people did not explode, they would quickly die from the poison gases actually found there, the nitrogen molecule, or a bare oxygen molecule lacking its companion carbon atom.

The planet does have clouds, although not as many as hid our sky until aiDRDG's invention. But while our clouds are made of life supporting H₂SO₄, on the third planet they are of the fatal molecule H₂O, used as a dangerous weapon for centuries until advancing civilization banned such things.

Because the third planet is further from the Sun than we are, it is cold. So cold, in fact, that the H₂O molecule sometimes is in solid form! And it never appears as a vapor the way it does here.

One of the oddities about the other planets is that they all rotate far faster than our world, and all do it in the opposite direction from ours. This gives them very short day-night cycles, and the planet we have been discussing is among the shortest. Biologists may speculate on the effect this could have on life-forms, but it seems likely to retard any evolution since they would lack the chance for needed rest periods.

(story continues on next page)

Stories from the MAPS Region

Earth Science for Venusians

continued from previous page

The final discouraging feature of that planet is that it has another, smaller planet with it. Its gravity produces unique waves in the atmosphere, and in the vast bodies of liquid H₂O covering much of the surface, assuring the poisonous fluid periodically covers much of the surface not permanently covered.

I regret to say that those hoping to see Venusians colonize this place are doomed to disappointment.

COMING SOON!

Keep an eye out in upcoming issues for further exploration of Earth Science as seen from other vantage points in our Solar System:


WINTER: "Earth Science for Martians"
SPRING: "Earth Science for Jovians"

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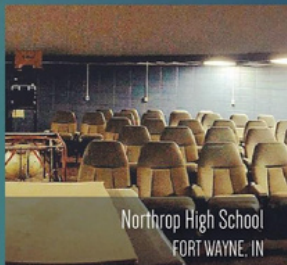


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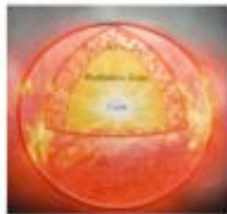
The Full Sun



Erupting Prominence



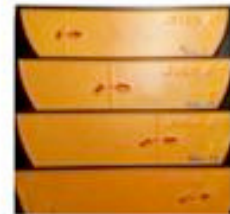
Full Sun with Sunspots



Interior Layers of Sun



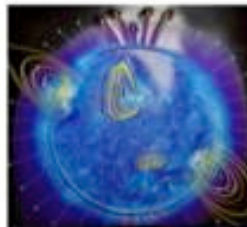
Prominence and Earth



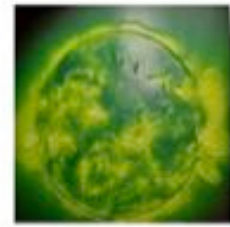
Motion of Sunspots



Earth - Sun Comparison



Magnetic Fields on Sun



Ultraviolet Sun

For more information, visit:
www.youcandoastronomy.com



Your Vote Matters!

MAPS is seeking your input on proposed amendments to the By-Laws of our organization

With acknowledgement to the MAPS Constitution Review Committee, The MAPS Executive Committee seeks your approval of the following proposed amendments to the MAPS By-Laws.

Ballots will be sent electronically to all active MAPS members on November 1, 2023. We ask all to vote either "FOR" or "AGAINST" each proposed amendment 1-6, summarized below. We ask that members vote either "FOR" or "AGAINST" a slate of amendments 7-12, also summarized below (these amendments are grouped together as they are all related to the proposed dissolution of the MAPS Audit Committee).

For each proposed change listed below, the relevant article written in the current MAPS By-Laws is listed first. The proposed amendment is listed second, with new words underlined and comments in italics. The rationale for the each change will be listed third.

AMENDMENT #1: Article III, Section 2

Current By-Law:

- The President shall be the Society's representative to the International Planetarium Society. If the President is unable to attend a council meeting of the IPS, the Past-President shall act as the Society's representative. If neither the President nor Past-President is able to attend a council meeting of the IPS, the President-Elect or a designee appointed by the President shall be the Society's representative.

Proposed By-Law:

- The President shall be the Society's representative and point of contact to the International Planetarium Society. *(all other language in this section deleted)*

Rationale for Change:

- New IPS governance structure eliminated IPS representatives and attendance at IPS Council Meetings. President is specified as point of contact instead.

AMENDMENT #2: Article III, Section 3

Current By-Law:

- The President, as executive officer of the Society, shall authorize all expenditures of the Society.

Proposed By-Law:

- The President, as executive officer of the Society, shall be advised of all expenditures of the Society, and their approval must be obtained for all expenditures in excess of \$500.

Rationale for Change:

- Bring into alignment with existing Section 9 [Section 9. The Treasurer must obtain approval of the President for any expenditure of more than \$500.00].

Your Vote Matters!

(continued from previous page)

AMENDMENT #3: Article III, Section 7

Current By-Law:

- The Secretary shall:
 - Keep an accurate record of the business proceedings of the Society and the Executive Committee.
 - Attend to the correspondence of the Society.

Proposed By-Law:

- The Secretary shall:
 - Keep an accurate record of the business proceedings of the Society and the Executive Committee.
 - Record minutes of Executive Committee and regular business meetings of the Society.
 - Provide a report of the minutes of the Executive Committee at the next meeting of the Executive Committee and provide the minutes of the last regular business meeting of the Society at the next regular business meeting of the Society.
 - Attend to the correspondence of the Society.

Rationale for Change:

- Specifying that minutes will be taken and when they will be reported.

AMENDMENT #4: Article IV, Section 3

Current By-Law:

- An audit as conducted by a Certified Public Accountant may be called for at any time by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Proposed By-Law:

- An audit as conducted by a Certified Public Accountant shall be conducted every other year.

Rationale for Change:

- Specifying review by a Certified Public Account on a set schedule.

AMENDMENT #5: Article IV, Section 6

Current By-Law:

- The Elections Committee shall have no less than three members, appointed by the President.

Proposed By-Law:

- The Elections Committee shall consist of a Chairperson appointed by the President and at least two other members appointed by the Chairperson. Members of the Elections Committee shall not be currently serving as officers or board members of the Society. The Elections Committee shall select a system for voting prior to November 30th and facilitate the election as outlined in Article V.

Rationale for Change:

- Specifying the committee structure and that the Elections Committee shall not be the same people that are serving as MAPS officers. Codifying the Elections Committee's duty to select a voting method and deadline.

Your Vote Matters!

(continued from previous page)

AMENDMENT #6: Article IV, Section 11

Current By-Law:

- The Editor of the CONSTELLATION shall be appointed by the President and act as Chairperson of the Publications Committee.

Proposed By-Law:

- The Chairperson of the Publications Committee shall be the editor of the CONSTELLATION.

Rationale for Change:

- Clarifying the role and order of appointment of the editor.

(NOTE: The amendments listed above will be voted upon individually, while the amendments listed below will be be voted upon as one group).

AMENDMENT #7: Article IV, Section 1

Current By-Law:

- Standing committees of the Society shall be: Audit, Awards, Constitution Review, Education, Elections, Historian/Archivist, Membership, Memorial, Program, Publications, and Website. Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President.

Proposed By-Law:

- Standing committees of the Society shall be: Awards, Constitution Review, Education, Elections, Historian/Archivist, Membership, Memorial, Program, Publications, and Website. Committee chairs shall be appointed by the President.

Rationale for Change:

- Elimination of the Audit Committee as a result of committee restructure and the additional need of a Certified Public Accountant for financial review.

AMENDMENT #8: Article IV, Section 2

Current By-Law:

- An audit of the financial books of the Society shall be conducted annually by the Audit Committee.

Proposed By-Law:

- *This section will be eliminated and duties brought into alignment with Article IV, Section 3. See amendment #4 above for details.*

Rationale for Change:

- Elimination of the Audit Committee as a result of committee restructure and the additional need of a Certified Public Accountant for financial review.

Your Vote Matters!

(continued from previous page)

AMENDMENT #9: Article V, Section 6A

Current By-Law:

- The Audit Committee shall act as tellers for the annual election.

Proposed By-Law:

- The Elections Committee shall act as tellers for the annual election.

Rationale for Change:

- Realigning duties of the committee.

AMENDMENT #10: Article V, Section 6B

Current By-Law:

- The Audit Committee shall stamp each ballot with a “date received.” Any ballot received after the deadline printed on the ballot will not be counted.

Proposed By-Law:

- The Elections Committee shall ensure that each ballot’s submission date is recorded. Any ballot received after the deadline printed on the ballot will not be counted.

Rationale for Change:

- Realigning duties of the committee and updating wording to allow for electronic voting and record keeping.

AMENDMENT #11: Article V, Section 6D

Current By-Law:

- Election results will be announced by the Audit Committee during the business meeting at the annual conference, and in the Spring Issue of the CONSTELLATION, and/or electronically.

Proposed By-Law:

- Election results will be announced by the Elections Committee during the business meeting at the annual conference, and in the Spring Issue of the CONSTELLATION, and/or electronically.

Rationale for Change:

- Realigning duties of the committee.

AMENDMENT #12: Article V, Section 7A

Current By-Law:

- All ballots must be saved by the Audit Committee through the annual meeting.

Proposed By-Law:

- All ballots must be saved by the Elections Committee through the annual meeting.

Rationale for Change:

- Realigning duties of the committee.

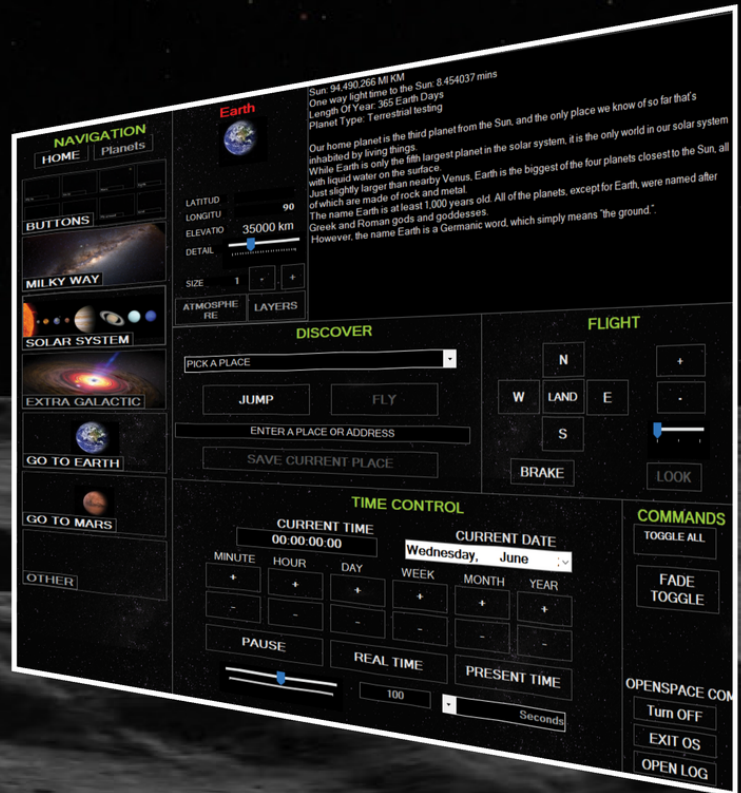
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PLANETARIUM

MAPS Members @ 2023 Live Interactive Planetarium Symposium

This year, the Live Interactive Planetarium Symposium gathered for a week in September at the Michigan Science Center in Detroit, MI. Paulette Epstein was the fantastic host, and several MAPS members were among the attendees of LIPS 2023.



James Bauman pays close attention to the “rules of the game” during an Improv Workshop.

Brian Koehler and Erin Bennett are thinking quickly on their feet during the Improv Workshop.



MAPS @ LIPS 2023



Susan Button providing thoughtful feedback after one of our exercises.

Erin Bennett and Connor Marti scanning a collection of vintage Astronomy postcards.



James Bauman, Susan Button, and others “working” through lunch!



MAPS @ LIPS 2023

Michael McConville, President of the International Planetarium Society, was all set to give us an update on what the IPS is working on. There was just one problem...



... nobody wanted to hear it! Actually, in fairness to Mike, there was a FIRE DRILL! Thankfully, the alarms eventually subsided and he was able to proceed.

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MAPS @ LIPS 2023

"This was my first LIPS and it was everything I had hoped it would be! The conference was packed with so many practical ideas that I can take back and start using immediately in my planetarium programs. It gave me that jolt of energy I needed as a new school year begins! Can't wait for next year!"

--- James Bauman



"After hearing lots of praise for the "Mini-LIPS" preceding *Stars for All*, I wanted to participate in the real thing... and I'm so glad I did! It was amazing to meet so many planetarians with similar programs and goals, and everyone was very welcoming to the many first-time attendees. Every presentation and discussion I participated in is directly applicable to what I do as the planetarium education coordinator at the Vanderbilt Planetarium, and I'm bursting with ideas on how to improve our existing programs and develop exciting new shows. I hope to attend many more LIPS conferences in the future!"

--- Erin Bennett



MAPS @ LIPS 2023

“I had a great time at LIPS! I love going to conferences where I can see a mix of new and familiar faces. I'm still full of new ideas from LIPS that I find myself blurting out in the office. I can't wait to share what I learned with my student employees and help improve all of our live programming.”

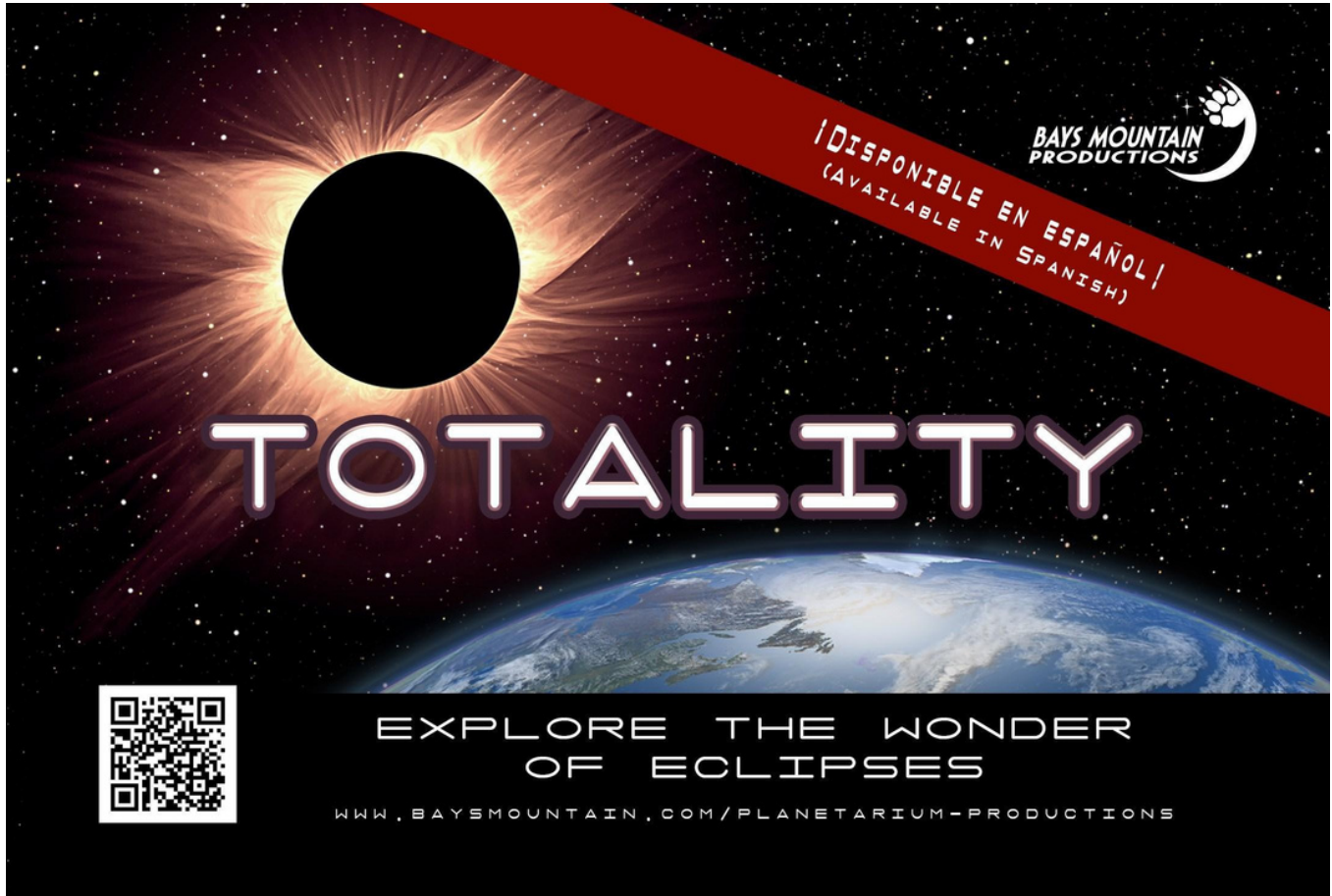
--- Connor Marti



I want to extend a sincere thank you to all of our LIPS 2023 participants. About half of our attendees were at their very first full LIPS, and new and veteran attendees alike jumped in with both feet. We had a large contingent of undergraduates at LIPS 2023 (more than 10 percent of the attendees were undergrads!), and it was wonderful seeing them engage in the discussions and activities. As always I learned something new during every session and had a great time doing so. I am continually humbled by the open and supportive nature of the LIPS community.

--- Karrie Berglund






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GOTO

Chiron III Hybrid brings majestic starry skies to two planetariums in Japan

Impressive realism at the Toyama Science Museum



The Toyama City Science Museum selected the cutting-edge GOTO Chiron III Hybrid to supplement their digital planetarium, last updated in 2009. The planetarium's mission is to inspire fascination in the audience with the impressive realism

of the images on the dome. The planetarium space is now open to the public with a much more realistic and beautiful starry sky to accompany the dynamic digital images.

Tadashi Hayashi, curator of the Toyama Prefectural Science Museum, said "CHIRONIII has made it possible to reproduce a beautiful starry sky that was difficult to visualize with a digital planetarium alone. We hope that many people will see it and deepen their interest in space. The dome theater provides a perfect place for enjoying detailed simulations. The museum has curators from various fields such as animals, plants, and insects, so I would like to use it as a place to explore multiple scientific topics in addition to astronomy."

In addition to the new equipment, the seating has been refreshed, including some new dual seats to increase visitor options. There is a large stage in front which can be used as a multi-purpose space or as a place to recline and be immersed in the starry sky.



One billion stars at "Dream 21", Osaka



"Dream 21", the Higashiosaka City Children's Culture and Sports Center, opened in 1991 as facility for children and has been loved by many citizens as a "children's plaza for science, culture, and sports". After 30 years of operation, it reopened on April 1, 2023 with a new hybrid planetarium that combines the GOTO Chiron III optical projector with Digistar 7 and two Sony GTZ380 projectors.

The new GOTO CHIRON III star projector that was delivered to Dream21 reproduces the Milky Way with 1 billion micro-stars, creating a more realistic, and beautiful, star filled sky. In addition, the Chiron III has a unique dimming function that allows control over the brilliance of stars that change depending on the season or weather, as well as the stars that begin to shine at twilight; all can now be reproduced more accurately and naturally than ever before.

The original seats have been replaced with wider reclining seats, and the theater's interior has been re-envisioned as a space where you can experience nature. A special sheet, designed to look like you are lying on the lawn, is also attracting attention and is a feature that children love!



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Committee Update: MEMBERSHIP

Committee Chair: Mike Francis

Many Moons ago, when I was a student at Fitchburg State College (University now), there was a planetarium just down the road, the [Alice B. Wallace Planetarium](#). It opened in 1970 and was named after the wife of George R. Wallace, Jr, the owner of Fitchburg Paper Company. I never went there while I was in college, I didn't know yet that I would become a planetarian. Years later, when I was a lecturer at the Charles Hayden Planetarium in Boston, one of my fellow workers, Bob Caron, got the position of director at the Wallace so I made my first visit. It's gone through several staff changes since then, but today it is closed.

You're probably wondering what this has to do with the membership committee. We've had numerous domes close over the years. Some have reopened, some torn down and some are just forgotten. The committee is hoping to collect information of what has happened to all the planetariums in the MAPS region. In those domes that have reopened, we may find planetarians who don't know about MAPS. We can recruit them as new members! For the domes that have been torn down, we can share the memory of their better days. And maybe, for those domes that have closed, we can help inspire their return to life.



To do this we need the help of all our members. If you know of a dome that has closed, been razed or hopefully reopened, please [let the committee know](#). We've added committee members to coordinate each state. Right now we have:

- Massachusetts = Mike Francis
- Connecticut = Noreen Grice
- New Jersey = Cara Muscio
- Virginia = Tony Kilgore

If you're not in one of those states, or even if you are, and would like to help with the Membership Committee, please contact me to get involved.

P.S. - We've also changed the data we collect on our membership information form, so we're asking everyone to take a couple of minutes to re-submit your information [HERE](#). When you get to the form it will say Application, but if you're reading this you're already a member. You can just fill it out anyway, so all our data is coming from the same place.

Committee Update: ELECTIONS

Committee Chair: Kevin Williams

Another change of seasons also sees a change on the Elections Committee – we have grown! Our committee now consists of:

Kevin Williams (Committee Chair)

Shawn Laatsch

Elliot Severn

JT Towne

We are again issuing a call for nominations for January's election for the three (3) Director positions on the Executive Committee. These positions are currently held by Lee Ann Hennig, Paul Krupinski, and Patty Seaton.

As outlined in the MAPS By-Laws, nominations or self-nominations and "seconds" are due to the Elections Committee by November 1. The Elections Committee then presents the slate of candidates to the Executive Committee by November 15.

Nominated candidates will be contacted by the Elections Committee Chair to provide biographies and pictures for inclusion in the December Constellation and on the MAPS website. Biographies and pictures must be provided no later than November 30th for inclusion.

The election will be held electronically in January with the results announced in early February. The Director terms will begin on June 1, 2024.

All MAPS members in good standing are eligible to run for these positions.

If you would like to nominate a colleague or self-nominate, or if you have any questions, please contact one of the members of the Elections Committee. Why not do it now before you forget?!

Committee Update: PROGRAM

Committee Chair: Tony Kilgore

The MAPS Program Committee needs YOU!

We are currently looking for two domes in our region who are willing to host 2024 MAPS Regional Meetings at their institution.

We anticipate that 2024 will have some large travel commitments for many of our members – the Total Solar Eclipse in April and the IPS Conference (Berlin) in July come to mind. We have decided to forgo a full MAPS Conference for next year, but are hoping to plan several Regional Meetings over the course of 2024.

Our first (and only, thus far) scheduled Regional Meeting will happen at the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, CT. Brian

Koehler and his team at the Treworgy Planetarium have planned a two-day gathering on September 12-13, 2024.

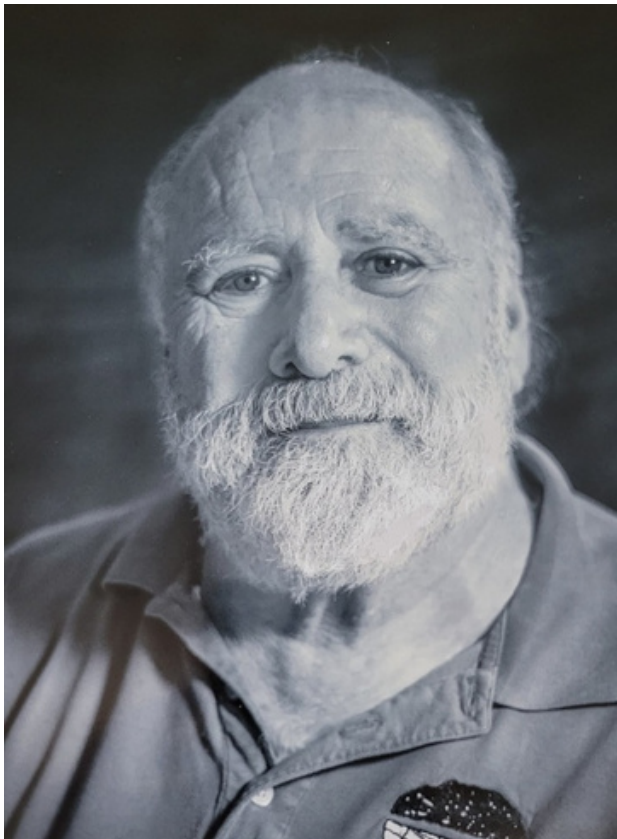
We hope that additional Regional Meetings will be scheduled at different locations on different dates. This will give MAPS members the opportunity to attend multiple Regional Meetings if their location and schedules permit them to do so. But before anyone can plan to attend multiple Regional Meetings next year, we need to HAVE multiple meetings to choose from!

Please consider hosting a 2024 MAPS Regional Meeting, and please **contact Tony** if you are willing and interested.

Committee Update: MEMORIAL

Committee Chair: Paul Krupinski

THE MAPS Memorial Committee is saddened to hear and to share about the recent passing of two members of our Planetarium community.



Robert Nicholson

July 2, 1951 – August 6, 2023



Dale Smith

May 9, 1948 – September 10, 2023

Committee Update: MEMORIAL

Obituary for Robert Nicholson

Robert Neil Nicholson, 72, loving partner of Roberta Moyer of Alexandria, Virginia, left this world on the afternoon of August 6, 2023, after a courageous year-long battle with cancer. Bob was born on July 2, 1951, in Manhattan, New York to the late Doris (nee) Wallman and the late Arnold J. Nicholson. He is survived by his sister Jayne Sokolski. He was a loving father to his daughter Jesse Nicholson [Neil Phipps] and an adoring grandfather to Anthony Locke and Aubrey Phipps of Independence, Missouri.

Bob graduated from Queens College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Secondary Education and a Master of Arts in American History. He was a lifelong learner and took many additional courses, especially in the areas of Science and Technology.

Bob taught for more than forty years in the Alexandria City Public Schools. Although he began teaching social studies in the middle school, he became known as “the science guy.” He taught, coached, and mentored students and colleagues of all ages. Among his many other awards as an educator, Bob was named “Outstanding Earth Science Teacher” for the state of Virginia in 2003. Bob’s passion for space science led to his legacy at the Alexandria City Planetarium. One of the highlights of his life was being recognized as an astronaut at NASA Space Camp.

Active in retirement, Bob continued his

long history of making contributions to his community. He served as a volunteer at Mount Vernon hospital, even working through the pandemic at the vaccination clinic. Bob enjoyed providing hope and comfort to many people in need through love and humor. As an ordained minister, Bob officiated at many weddings, including his Goddaughter’s wedding. He was called on to use these gifts in his work at the hospital.

Throughout his life, Bob pursued his passion for exploring nature through road trips, camping, and hiking. In his early years, he led and inspired others to appreciate outdoor pursuits. He was an ardent supporter of National and State Parks, and he travelled to every state except Hawaii. He also expressed his adventurous nature with regular motorcycle rides.

Bob never sat still, but remained active with tools in his home workshop. He was a creator, fixer, and tinkerer. Whether it was for science teaching toys, a new yard ornament, or a significant home improvement project, Bob constantly honed his skills. Bob was an avid reader and could easily converse with anyone on any subject. He loved all types of music, including bluegrass, country, rock, and most famously the Grateful Dead. Dogs seemed to love Bob even more than he loved them; he was a true dog whisperer. Bob will be greatly missed by family, friends, and those he had yet to meet.

Committee Update: MEMORIAL

Obituary for Dale Smith

Dale W. Smith, 75, of Bowling Green, Ohio, passed away early on Sunday, September 10, 2023, as a result of complications of a stroke suffered in June. He was born May 9, 1948, and grew up in the small village of Ames, New York, son of George W. and Florence (Wessels) Smith, who predeceased him. He graduated from Canajoharie High School in 1966 as valedictorian of his class and was inducted into the school's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2018. He graduated from Colgate University in 1970 and earned his Ph.D. in astronomy in 1978 at the University of Washington, Seattle, with a dissertation on dust in the atmosphere of the planet Jupiter.

After serving brief terms on the faculties of Bellevue Community College, Western Washington University, and Colgate University, he came to Bowling Green State University in 1983, where he was serving as Professor of Physics and Astronomy and Planetarium Director through the time of his death. At the Planetarium, he delivered educational multimedia programs to the general public and to area school groups, and created many of these programs himself. He oversaw an extensive renovation of the Planetarium in 2013 and 2014 with the installation of a state-of-the-art fulldome video system. In 2016 he was named Professor of Service Excellence at BGSU.

He was active in professional planetarium

societies, and served as President of both the Great Lakes Planetarium Association (1990-1994) and the International Planetarium Society (1999-2000). In these organizations, he served as editor of annual conference proceedings and editor of a worldwide directory of planetariums, among other roles. He was given the highest award of each society: GLPA's Galileo Award and IPS's Service Award.

Dale enjoyed traveling and visited more than 60 countries and all US states, Canadian provinces, and states of Australia. In 2000-2001 he set foot on all seven continents in the span of one year. On his travels he took more than 200,000 photos, including both slides and digital images. Besides photography, his hobbies included collecting books and international and old US currency.

He was active in the First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, where he ran the sanctuary sound system for over thirty years and also served as church photographer.

At his request, there will be no services or public viewing. His ashes will be placed in the Ames, NY cemetery next to his parents. He is survived by numerous cousins and by many friends around the world.

A memorial service is being planned for a later date at the BGSU Planetarium.

Committee Update: HISTORY

Committee Chair: John Meader

The MAPS History and Archives is expanding from a committee of one (John Meader) to a small group which now includes Sam Storch and Steve Russo. We will be meeting virtually on Zoom to plan the path forward.

As the committee chair, I look forward to working with Sam and Steve on future

projects, as well as tapping into their vast knowledge of MAPS history as both are long-term members.

If others would like to get involved please drop me an [email](#) and I'll be glad to have you involved in our committee to both archive the past and keep the stories and tales of the past alive and relevant today.

Committee Update: AWARDS

Committee Chair: Kerri Kiker

It Is Always Award Season For MAPS!

While most people believe they should give more compliments, they often don't, mainly because they underestimate how well the compliment will be received or they think the recipient will feel uncomfortable with the interaction. But here is the thing... compliments, kind words, expressions of gratitude almost always brighten the recipient's day and makes them feel genuinely appreciated. In fact, scientists have found that being paid a compliment is mentally comparable to actually being paid. Gratitude creates an environment and an organization people want to belong to, and with all of the amazing members of MAPS I have met, I know you can help out by making some award nominations!

The Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society has four different types of awards available. You can find out all of the details about the

awards, nomination criteria, and find the nomination form under the awards tab on the website. Do you have a student or volunteer who has made themselves indispensable in your dome? Nominate them for an Award of Recognition! Have you or someone you know been an active MAPS member for seven straight years? Submit that name for the MAPS Fellow Award! How about a MAPS member who has gone above and beyond in the planetarium field? Let everyone know!!! Nominate them for a MAPS Exceptional Service Award. Last but not least, do you know someone who is an icon, legend, pillar of the planetarium community? Send in a Distinguished Service Award nomination.

There is never a bad time for a good word, award nominations are accepted all year-round. And we don't keep them a secret either!

All awards are announced at the annual conference. Take a moment to nominate a worthy member of the MAPS community today!

Committee Update: PUBLICATIONS

Committee Chair: Brian Koehler

On behalf of the MAPS Publications Committee, we hope that you are enjoying the new approach to our quarterly *Constellation* newsletter! We have been tinkering with different formats and styles, all with the goal of making a fun and comfortable read for everyone.

You might be wondering... what happened to all of the **GREEN** from the last issue?!? What's with all of the **BLUE** all of a sudden?!? We are actually drawing our inspiration from the MAPS logo...



The green we used for our summer issue was the exact shade of green from our logo. And yes, you guessed it... we are now trying out that very same blue from our logo here in the fall issue!

Upcoming Deadlines for submitting content for the *Constellation*:

WINTER 2023

Friday, December 1, 2023

SPRING 2024

Friday, March 1, 2024

SUMMER 2024

Friday, June 7, 2024

FALL 2024

Friday, September 6, 2024

WINTER 2024

Friday, December 6, 2024

This is just one example of the careful and deliberate choices we are making to craft a new publication for our great organization. In addition to content submissions, which are accepted year-round, we are also interested in any feedback you might have about our newsletter. Please send your comments and suggestions to publications@mapsplanetarium.org.

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