

WFA Astronomy Program 10/20/2023

Program format:

1. **7:00 - 7:30 PM** will be a 30 minute presentation by Bill Funcheon and members of the NJAA - New Jersey Astronomical Association in High Bridge NJ. (See names below). This will cover an introduction and high-level discussion of Astronomy and telescopes.
2. **7:30 PM:** Attendees will be invited to look through the high quality telescopes that will be set up for participant viewing of the South/Southwestern night sky and see the 1st quarter moon and Saturn, with additional targets of Andromeda Galaxy, Ring Nebula, M15 and Jupiter, which rises 8:30 PM. As an added bonus, the Orionid meteor shower peaks on the night of 10/21-10/22, presenting the possibility of seeing meteors, as well.

General information about the program:

- The program date is 10/20/23. Sunset is 6:10 pm. Arrive between 6:15-6:30 pm to get settled. The formal program starts @ 7 pm and will end by 9 pm.
- If the 10/20 sky is obscured by rain or clouds, the rain date is Sunday 10/22 at 7 pm. A message will be posted on the landing page of the WFA website wfafnj.org by 4 pm on 10/20 to let the public know if the program is on for 10/20 or delayed until 10/22.
- The program is free to the public but online registration is required. Adult participants limited to 75. See wfafnj.org/events to register.
- The program will be led by Bill Funcheon and his peers Wayne Petko, Martin Winters, Steve Levitt, Dave Nelson and Mike Kibbe. All are New Jersey Astronomical Association members, where most team members are Qualified Observers. NJAA is located in High Bridge NJ and at <https://www.njaa.org/>
- Prior to attending, participants should download the **Skyview** app onto their phones, which can be used by everyone during the presentation. Additionally, **The Singularity By Vionis** app can be used by those wishing to participate in the astrophotography being presented by Steve Levitt. This app needs to be downloaded in-advance as well. Both apps are free.
- This event is not handicap accessible.
- Dogs are not permitted.
- Children are welcome but YOU must watch them.
- Program location will be in the grassy oval between the Children's Garden and the Community Garden parking lot. The parking lot to the Community Garden will be closed to cars from 5 pm on this day.
- Light emittance affects your night vision, so:
 - Parking will be up near the office and the silos. Enter the arboretum parking area near the office using parking lights only. Follow the signs.
 - You can use a flashlight to walk to the program area, but keep it pointed down and don't shine it at anyone. You will be asked to shut them off at 6:45 pm, 15 minutes before the program starts, so your eyes can adapt to

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the darkness. Do not use a flashlight during the stargazing portion of the program.

- Cell phones usage should be limited to accessing the astronomy apps previously downloaded and referred to during the program.
- Bring a chair or blanket for seating.
- This is an arboretum and insects are still around in October. Apply insect repellent or tick spray before you come, so you don't cause breathing issues for someone else or impact the telescopes.
- We are on a large open plain, and the weather in late October can be very cold and windy. Dress for the weather. We recommended that you dress for 20 degrees colder than actual temperature.
- Telescopes that will be present for your viewing include:
 - Wayne Petko's 6" F4 wide field for stunning visual views.
 - Dave Nelson's 8" Newtonian on an equatorial mount for high power views.
 - Martin Winters' Redcat 71 mm Astrophotography setup to allow people to view Astrophotography in real-time.
 - Steve Levitt's Stellina automated 80 mm telescope with a downloadable phone app to allow people to view Astrophotography in real-time.
 - Mike Kibbe's high powered 8" Celestron SCT telescope.