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THE PSF CELEBRATES 25 YEARS WITH THE DOUG FIREBAUGH OBSERVATORY GROUNDBREAKING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

What a fun and exciting year! This year the PSF turned 25 years old and within the first six months, we've opened the PSF Earth & Space Science Museum in Elizabeth, Illinois and hit a huge milestone for the Doug Firebaugh Observatory expansion project.



On Saturday, June 7th the Planetary Studies Foundation held the official groundbreaking and dedication ceremony for the new Doug Firebaugh Observatory in Freeport, Illinois. Previously named JETS Observatory, the observatory is located at the Park Hills Golf Course approximately 2 hours outside of Chicago and 45 minutes west of Rockford.

[Read more p. 6-7](#)

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2014

PSF EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE MUSEUM

111 N. MAIN STREET, ELIZABETH, IL 61028

BEGINS AT 1:00PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The second quarter of 2014 has been a very action-packed time for your Planetary Studies Foundation. Both the *1876 Banwarth House & Museum* and the *PSF Earth & Space Science Museum* are open and providing excellent programs. Having survived a most difficult winter, and after repairing the flood damage to the main floor, the *1876 Banwarth House & Museum* reopened on schedule in mid-January. Despite the fact that the basement area is still closed to the public, our staff continues to provide Saturday tours and unique programming on the upper levels. In addition to our regular staff at the Banwarth House, we depend upon dedicated volunteers to offer their unique talents with programs, workshops and facility maintenance. Among those members who we continually count on are: **Janis Myelle, Jim Paglin, Martha Purchis, Randy Shaw, and Isaac Steffes.**

Sadly in April, **Jim Paglin** died unexpectedly the day after Easter. For those of us who spent time with him that preceding Saturday we could not believe the news of his passing. The best way we can describe Jim is that he was a presence. He was always there to offer a helping hand, make suggestions, and share his sense of humor. In a way it is sad that we often take a person like Jim for granted until he is no longer there. Our staff at the *PSF Earth & Space Science Museum* on Main Street, Elizabeth have experienced this the most. It seems that Jim was always "dropping-in" on his way to or from coffee with friends or trips to the bank. It was very strange the first week after his passing not to see him coming through the door. Now a couple of months later we still feel his presence among us but sincerely miss his humor.



It is with great pleasure that I can report on the progress of our two PSF 25th Anniversary projects, the *PSF Earth & Space Science Museum* and the expansion of the *Doug Firebaugh (formerly JETS) Astronomical Observatory* in Freeport, Illinois. As previously reported in the winter 2014 issue of *PSF News*, the *Earth & Space Science Museum* opened in February and has seen a dramatic increase in visitors and membership participation over the last several months. In addition to our regular Saturday programs and special events, our museum hosts several community group events. The *Elizabeth Historical Society* holds their monthly meetings in the *Apollo Room* and the *River Ridge High School* history students presented their award-winning projects to over 80 family and friends in our *StarLab* multi-purpose room. Our Museum has quickly become a cultural focal point of the Elizabeth, Illinois community and we are also reaching out to the Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin tri-state area as well. In May, we resumed our monthly astronomy observing sessions at both the *Apple River Fort Historic Site* in Elizabeth and at the *Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory*. Thanks to the dedication of the *Firebaugh Observatory's* director, Jim Dole, and his staff, the 18" *Comba/Windolf* Dobsonian telescope is fully operational and once again providing magnificent views of the planets and deep space objects.

On June 7th, the PSF had the honor of participating in the renaming and dedication of the old *JETS Astronomical Observatory* to the new *Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory*. This is most appropriate since Doug is a retired Freeport High School science teacher and the founder of the old *JETS Observatory*. Over his long teaching career Doug has been an inspiration to an uncountable number of students through his devotion to teaching science and his love of astronomy. What a better way to honor this man than by placing his name on a facility that has introduced thousands of past visitors to the wonders of the heavens and to all those who will come in the future. I am also pleased to report that as of this date nearly 80% of the cost of this project has been raised and we are continuing to ask for support to meet the final dollar amount. The cost of this expansion project is being paid from PSF's dedicated observatory account and from current donations from the Freeport community. A thank you acknowledgement of those individuals, businesses and organizations will be noted in the Donors' Spotlight of this issue. Construction on the new addition to the *Firebaugh Observatory* has begun and let's keep our "fingers-crossed" for a Grand Opening event in late September. I encourage all our members and their friends to come out and see our new museum, enjoy the wonderful, dark nighttime sky of Jo Daviess and Stevenson Counties and to relax in a nice vacation setting right outside the Chicagoland area!

Paul P. Szipiera

DONORS' SPOTLIGHT

\$1,000-\$2,500

The Lancaster Family Foundation
Audrey and Albert Ratner

\$500 - \$999

David M. Lauerman
Diane & Paul Szipera

\$100-\$499

Paul A. Solarz
Village of Elizabeth

\$25-\$99

Michael Clifton
Anne Swan-Johnson
Frances Rosenthal
Marilyn Quas
Jane Yoder

SPECIAL PROJECT DONORS DOUG FIREBAUGH ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY (as of June 20, 2014)

In thanks for your support, the PSF would like to offer a one-year complimentary (appropriate) membership to the following people, businesses and organizations:

\$1,000 - \$2,000

Jim & Pamela Dole
Dolores K. Schnoes

\$500 - \$999

Doug Firebaugh
Michelle Firebaugh
Lawrence & Mary Lynn Luy
Kristen Warren

\$100 - \$499

Citizens State Bank
Jerome Clair
Mildred Dole
Hasken Construction, LLC
Freeport Lions Club
Midwest Commercial Bank
Donna Robertson
State Bank
Harriet Staufacher

\$25 - \$99

Roger & Michele Daws
James Frisbie
Robert & Sandra Johnson
Tim & Denise Johnson
Terence Steerod
Jim Stout

MEMBER'S CORNER

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL

Janet A. Moore
Karen Sirgany
Mary Stayner
Isaac Steffes

RENEWING MEMBERS

CONTRIBUTING

Michael & Sandra Zolensky

FAMILY

Don & Victoria Franz

INDIVIDUAL

Robert Dittmar
Nancy Heggem
Deborah Pauz
Marilyn Quas
Blaine Reed
Sharon Westenfelder

IN MEMORY OF PSF MEMBER, JIM PAGLIN



PSF lost one of our very active members this past April. Jim Paglin of Elizabeth, Illinois, passed away at the age of 75.

Jim joined the PSF family in August 2009 during our grand opening of the 1876 Banwarth House & Museum. He was impressed with the renovation, historical relevance and personal

story behind the Banwarth family.

Jim was also very involved with being a board member for Elizabeth Historical Society and the Elizabeth Area Chamber of Commerce. He loved history and volunteered as the Train Master at the Chicago Great Western Railway Depot in Elizabeth, explaining to children how miniature trains work. The Elizabeth Area Chamber of Commerce depended on Jim for his photographic skills and he was always willing to volunteer his numerous talents.

Jim was better known to PSF for his presentations on Pond Creations and Miniature Trains. He also

helped organize trivia games for our member holiday parties, happily volunteered as a pie taster during our popular pie contests and anything else the PSF needed.

Jim enjoyed spending time outdoors with his garden railroad and going out for coffee with the neighborhood guys. Jim was also a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church and a member of the NRA.

Jim will be dearly missed by PSF and the rest of the community.

KIDS SUMMER WORKSHOP

"GEOLOGY WEEK"

AUGUST 4-7th from 10am to 3pm



Courtesy of the PSF Earth & Space
Science Museum

This four day children's workshop is open to students age 7-12 and run from 10:00am to 3:00pm.

For more information to sign a child up for the workshop, please contact Diane Sipiera directly at 815.858.2014 or dsipiera [at] planets [dot] org. Applications can also be found online on www.planets.org under the events page.

Price per 4-day session is \$50. Please bring sack lunches.

Limited to the first 15 registrants

Are you on the *PSF EMAIL BLAST* distribution list?

Be sure we have your correct email address on file to receive our *PSF Blasts* with news, updates and upcoming events.

Please send an email to [amcplanets \[at\] gmail \[dot\] com](mailto:amcplanets@gmail.com)



Doug Firebaugh Observatory

“CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF THE PSF”

GROUNDBREAKING AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

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On Saturday, June 7th the Planetary Studies Foundation held the official groundbreaking and dedication ceremony for the new Doug Firebaugh Observatory in Freeport, Illinois. Formerly named JETS Observatory, the observatory is located at the Park Hills Golf Course approximately 2 hours outside of Chicago and 45 minutes west of Rockford.

PSF members Jim Dole and Tom Dunmore have been busy orchestrating the special expansion project and the new building has been dedicated to the widely-adored, retired astronomy teacher, Doug Firebaugh. His dedication to science education, especially in the area of astronomy, inspired many young minds.

Local dignitaries, business donors, private donors, former students, family, friends and PSF members were in attendance for this special event. PSF President, Paul Sipiera, Observatory Director, Jim Dole, and Doug Firebaugh spoke to those in attendance about the significance of the expansion and the memories behind the special observatory. In addition to the photos from the dedication and groundbreaking ceremony, Jim Dole sent new photos of the cement foundation officially being poured.

Be sure to check the PSF website (www.planets.org) for updates and more information about the observatory. The observatory is open May through September on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Sky viewing begins at 8:00 p.m.





PSF President, Paul Sipiera



Firebaugh Observatory Director, Jim Dole



Doug Firebaugh



(Left to right) Doug Firebaugh, Jim Dole, Tom Dunmore, James Gitz, Paul Sipiera, Pat Tierny and Paula Sipiera



Comba/Windolf 18" Dobsonian telescope



BETH BARANSKI

PSF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What profession have you worked in and what led you into that career?

My "career path" has been an organic one that continues to evolve. Because I loved art and math, my high school counselor suggested that I might enjoy the architectural profession. I received a degree in architecture from the University of Illinois after a couple of detours where, for short periods at various times, I tried being an art major and a math major.

While in college, I learned about, and fell in love with, the work of architect Louis Sullivan. His clean modern massing combined with his rich ornamental style fascinated me. After graduating, I took a drafting position in a Chicago preservation firm that was in possession of a collection of photographs of the work of Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan. The photographs were taken by Richard Nickel in the 1960s, a time when many historical buildings were being demolished, making Nickel's photographs an important resource. I switched from drafting to research and writing, and worked with others for a few years on the book, *The Complete Architecture of Adler & Sullivan*, which was published in 2010.

In 1989, my husband Jim and I moved to Galena, Illinois. I took a job with the City as Development Director and helped develop various city projects, wrote and administered



grants. After about 3 years at the City, the City Administrator, Monica Notheis and I formed Notheis & Baranski, Inc., a community development consulting firm. We did planning, project development and grant writing for 7 years, completing projects like a 6-county flood recovery plan, the Jo Daviess Comprehensive Plan, the Jo Daviess County Housing Study, the Hanover Comprehensive Plan, formation of an economic development corporation, and countless grants for infrastructure improvements in northwest Illinois.

My son, Alex, was born in 1994, and I stopped working in 1999 so that I could homeschool him, which I did through 7th grade. I now work part-time in my husband, Jim's, architectural firm doing the bookkeeping, while pursuing a variety of projects in the area as a volunteer.

What are some of your hobbies?

I enjoy gardening, cooking, I'm a runner, and I'm interested in local politics. I serve on the Land Protection Committee of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation, I am on their Board of Trustees and volunteer monitor for their properties and easements. I serve on the Galena Foundation Board, an organization that is focused on supporting Galena's heritage. As a member of the League of Women Voters, I co-chair the organization's Water Protection Partnership and serve as project coordinator for their watershed planning effort.

Where is your favorite place you have traveled and why?

I love Italy - for its long amazing history, art, food, wine, and beauty.

We've visited there several times, exploring different areas, and it is always wonderful.

What is your favorite area of science and why?

I describe myself as a "project person". I immerse myself in a topic or project for an extended period and then I move on to another project. I'm currently focused on understanding the geology and hydrogeology of the Driftless Area. I'm doing this because I have a growing appreciation for the value of our water resources. I believe an understanding of the way water cycles through our particular natural environment is critical to efforts to responsibly manage this resource. I'm currently working with the League of Women Voters of Jo Daviess County on a two-year watershed planning effort.

How exactly did you become involved in PSF?

I became involved with the PSF when my husband, Jim (per his PSF interview, did not actually invent Post-it Notes!), designed a Galena planetarium for PSF. We fell in love with Paul, Diane and the great work that PSF does, and have been members ever since.

What is one of your most memorable stories about PSF?

One of the things I like most about PSF is that it creates opportunities for extraordinary experiences. I'm not sure I can pick just one...so here are my top 3:

1) A call from Paul and Diane inviting us to join them for dinner at Frank

O'Dowd's in Galena so that our son Alex could meet Walt Cunningham

2) Seeing Paul evaluate my friend's "maybe meteorite" - now "not-a-meteorite"

3) Watching the transit of Venus at the Apple River Fort

Earlier in the interview you mentioned you have an interest in issues surrounding water. Which water challenges are on your radar and most concerning to you?

In spite of our dependence on water to survive, we take it for granted. The supply of potable water is limited. Extensive water treatment is expensive. We need to be thoughtful about the quantity of water we use and our land uses that affect water quality. Because of our topography and the increase in the intensity of storm events, we need to focus on stormwater management in Jo Daviess County. By properly managing stormwater runoff, we can reduce contaminants polluting our waterways, soil erosion, and – in large storm events – infrastructure damage and loss of life.

What are some ways people can help work towards solving and/or protect themselves from these critical challenges?

There is a lot of readily available information about ways to conserve water, reduce water pollution, and minimize stormwater run-off. The League of Women Voters of Jo Daviess County has formed a Water

Protection Partnership which is undertaking a Watershed Planning Process. Planning is an opportunity to pause and reflect on issues of importance, and to establish consensus for a pathway to a desired future. Information about water issues in Jo Daviess County will be studied and discussed during this planning process, goals will be developed and projects identified. Those interested in the planning project are invited to learn more at <http://www.sites.google.com/site/jodaviesscountywatershedplan/>

MUSEUM INFORMATION



PSF EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE MUSEUM

115 N. MAIN ST.
ELIZABETH, IL 61028
WWW.PLANETS.ORG

Visit the PSF's new Earth & Space Science Museum (ESSM) to view fascinating artifacts from Antarctica, the Apollo program, astronauts, fossils and meteorites directly from the PSF's private collection.

The ESSM is open every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (ages 5-14) and children must be accompanied by an adult. Additionally, admission buys a dual pass to both the ESSM and the 1876 Banwarth House & Museum which is located a short walking distance away.

1876 BANWARTH HOUSE & MUSEUM

408 E. SYCAMORE ST.
ELIZABETH, IL 61028
WWW.BANWARTHMUSEUM.COM

Enjoy a 40 minute guided tour of the historical Banwarth Family home. We encourage photography and hands on learning!

The Banwarth House is open for tours every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (ages 5-14) and children must be accompanied by an adult. Admission to the Banwarth House buys a dual pass to the ESSM.

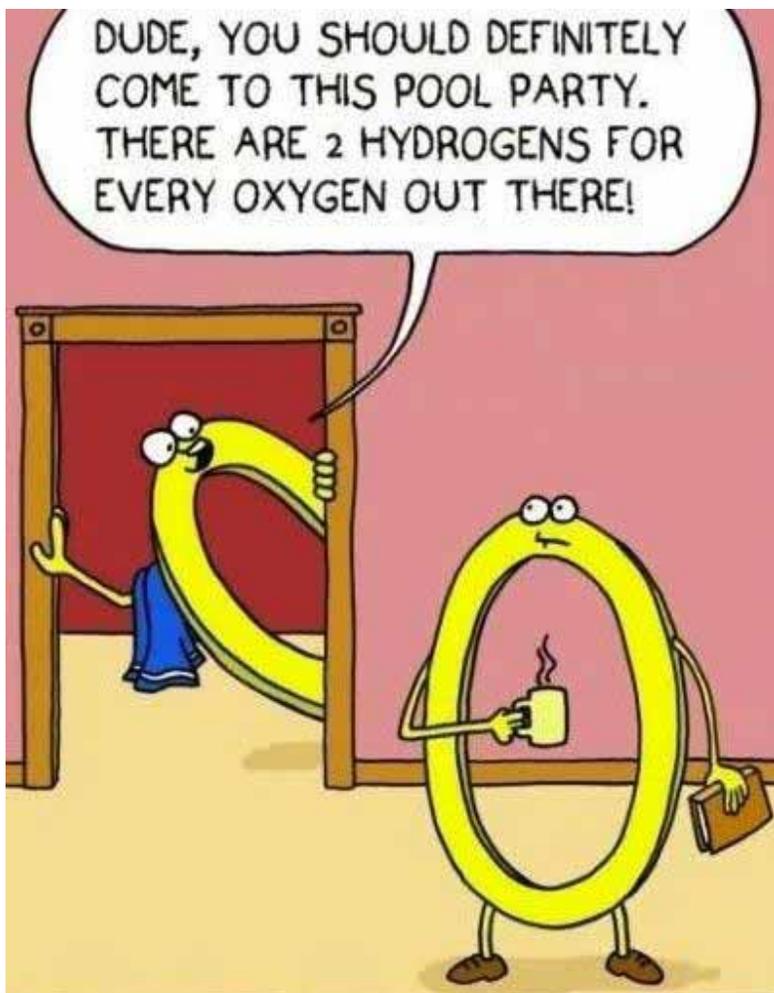
The Banwarth House is also looking for volunteers to serve as tour guides as well as presenters for Saturday afternoon lectures and workshops. Be sure to contact us 815.858.2014 if you are interested.

DOUG FIREBAUGH OBSERVATORY

2892 W. STEPHENSON ST.
FREEPORT, IL 61032
815-291-3072

Enjoy the heavens above with Jim Dole and his observatory staff as they share their passion for the night sky. The observatory is open whether it is cloudy or clear. If visibility is poor, there will be a presentation or group discussion on related topics.

The observatory is open May through September on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Sky observing begins around 8pm.



AUGUST CELESTIAL CALENDAR

August 12, 13—Perseids Meteor Shower

This shower is one of the best to observe, producing up to 50 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by the comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. It peaks on the night of August 12th and the morning of August 13th. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Perseus, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

August 18—Conjunction of Venus and Jupiter

Conjunctions are rare events where two or more objects will appear extremely close together in the night sky. The two bright planets will come unusually close to each other, only a quarter of a degree, in the early morning sky. This rare event is definitely one not to miss!

August 29—Neptune at Opposition

The blue giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. This is the best time to view and photograph Neptune. Due to its extreme distance from Earth, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

FUN WATER FACTS FOR KIDS

- Each molecule of water is made up of two hydrogen atoms bonded to a single oxygen atom.
- Water has three different states; liquid, solid and gas.
- Found in the Pacific Ocean, the Mariana Trench is the deepest known point in the world's oceans.
- Water can move up narrow tubes against the force of gravity in what is known as capillary action.
- The freezing point of water lowers as the amount of salt dissolved in it increases.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership ___ \$ 20.00 1 year **or** ___ \$ 35.00 for 2 years
 Family Membership ___ \$ 35.00 1 year **or** ___ \$ 60.00 for 2 years
 Sponsoring Membership ___ \$ 50.00 1 year **or** ___ \$ 90.00 for 2 years
 Contributing Membership ___ \$ 100.00 1 year **or** ___ \$180.00 for 2 years
 Student Membership ___ \$ 10.00 1 year
 Life Membership ___ \$ 500.00
 Please accept this donation ___ \$ _____

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Thank you for your support!

Our mission is to promote the study of planetary science and astronomy with emphasis on meteorites; and to sponsor, encourage, and assist in the physical, astronomical, earth, environmental and cultural sciences so as to broaden our knowledge of all phases of the universe.

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and comments please send to:
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