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As Fall Approaches — PSF Shares Highlights of Summer

The crisp air has officially arrived and with the chilly weather also comes clearer skies, perfect for stargazing. While the fall is always a fun time with the changing colors of foliage, it's important we share all the fun things we've been up to this summer!

The PSF Earth & Space Science Museum has been host to a variety of events, some brand new and others we do each year. One of the new events this year was our summer program for children. These week-long workshops provided a great opportunity for the kids to get out of the house and participate in different activities all focused on earth sciences. Pictures from these events can be found towards the back of this issue on page 10.

In addition to our children's events, the new facility has been busy on weekends with museum tours. What's so great about this new space is that there's something for everyone regardless of age or interest. Between the five rooms - Apollo program, astronauts, meteorites, fossils, Antarctic memorabilia - and a library, there's plenty to keep everyone in the family engaged and learning.

Inside this issue you'll find great information from the Annual Members Meeting, Executive Board Meeting and a lot of photographs from all the events, recent projects and a look back at the summer events. Hope you enjoy!



Image courtesy of koratmember at FreeDigitalPhotos.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The summer months were anything but slow for your Planetary Studies Foundation. The *PSF Earth & Space Science Museum* has kept us busy with events, including special children's workshops and weekend tours. In addition to the new facility on Main Street in Elizabeth, Illinois, a lot of progress has been made on the *Douglas Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory* in Freeport, Illinois. Thanks to the efforts of **Jim Dole**, **Tom Dunmore** and all the people that have assisted to keep this project moving forward, the foundation has been laid, walls put up and dome installed. Jim and Tom provided all the members in attendance at the Annual Members Meeting on August 23rd with a full update on the project and discussed their ideas for additions and improvements to the new structure. There is no doubt that they are passionate about what they're working on. A full recap of the members meeting and photos can be found later in the issue.

As some may know, 2014 is a special year as it marked the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the Planetary Studies Foundation. In conjunction with the members meeting, the PSF hosted a dinner and awards ceremony to celebrate this great achievement. Although this event did not include astronauts like our previous dinners, it brought together the people who are so dedicated to the organization and those who are so present in the organization's efforts. It was also my pleasure, along with my wife Diane, to present a handful of special awards to the members who have provided so much these past few years in the form of physical, educational and financial support.



Maintaining PSF's Longevity

Twenty-five years for any business, let alone a not-for-profit organization, is not an easy achievement. As compared to many other not-for-profits, PSF has survived by "living within its means". Expenses from the *1876 Banwarth House & Museum* were kept well within its 2013 budget, as were the expenses from our premier program, "Science in Our Changing World". This program, which is now into its sixth full year, has evolved into a combination of historical, cultural and scientific offerings that appeal to a very diverse audience. Our Banwarth House offers a look into what life was like in 1876 northwestern Illinois. Now with the new *PSF Earth & Space Science Museum*, we were given the opportunity to expand our programming and display our wonderful collections of meteorites, fossils, astronaut and Antarctic memorabilia. All this was made possible through a generous grant from **Col. J.N. Pritzker (IL-ARNG)(ret.)** and from in-kind donations from **Nate and Karen Greiner**. A special thanks also goes out to **Conrad Wragg** for loaning us several of his magnificent meteorites and dinosaur fossils. Other "money-saving" contributions come from many of our members and community neighbors. We depend on many of those in our membership to volunteer their time by providing programs, helping move and setting-up displays.

Meteorite Research Report

The PSF continues to provide meteorite classification services in the scientific community and has its scientists presenting important research papers at the annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Houston, Texas and at the Meteoritical Society's annual meeting in Casablanca, Morocco. Among our 2013-2014 discoveries are a very important lunar meteorite and two Martian meteorites. As a scientific research institution, PSF will continue to provide new classification data to the global meteorite database and to increase our own type-specimen reference collection.

The PSF operates its meteorite classification program through the cooperation of various individuals who are geographically widely separated from each other. The newly discovered meteorites that we classify primarily come from our French colleagues, **Fabien Kuntz** and **Pierre-Marie Pele**, and our Belgian associate, **Alexandre Debienne**. Fabien goes to Morocco, Oman and Tunisia to actually find them and record their GPS positions in the field, while our other associates purchase them at various markets. Since 2009, their combined efforts have provided PSF with over 350 new meteorites.

Once PSF receives these meteorites, they are prepared for analysis and sent to our Research Associates, **Dr. Ted Bunch** (Northern Arizona University) or to **Dr. Tony Irving** (University of Washington in Seattle). Together, with their respective associates, they classify and submit these meteorites to the Meteoritical Society for official recognition. PSF scientists usually present their research at two professional meetings each year, the annual Meteoritical Society meeting and the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. It should also be noted that PSF is recognized as an official repository for meteorite type specimens. The annual meteorite research budget is built upon an estimated number of required analyses. This number can vary from year to year depending upon the number of meteorites recovered by our sources.

In 2013, PSF's research program classified about sixty and for 2014, we anticipate close to the same number. This unpredictability also affects our annual budget with either large surpluses or deficits. Surplus dollars are held in a reserve account and later used to cover costs in deficit years. PSF is very proud of its research program and looks forward to continued success in adding new meteorites to the world's databank.

In Closing

As I say almost every year and 2015 is no different, I see PSF maintaining its high-profile status among the communities of northwestern Illinois, and building upon its world-renown reputation in meteorite studies. As new opportunities present themselves, PSF will make every effort to take advantage of new situations and to improve upon our established programs given our resources. If that sounds familiar – it should – since that is essentially PSF's mission statement!

Paul P. Szipiera

DONORS' SPOTLIGHT

As of September 30th

\$1,000

The Anders Foundation
Bill & Valerie Anders

\$500

Diane & Paul Szipiera

\$50 - \$100

Carol Dehnbostel
Linda Virag

\$5 - \$25.00

Joe & Bonnie Garriety
Jeff & Judith Glenn
Nate & Karen Greiner
Ashley Maynard
Gerald Speer

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Douglas Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory

The Planetary Studies Foundation would like to thank the following cash donors for their financial support that has made the transformation of the old *JETS Observatory* into the new and expanded *Douglas Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory*. The initial construction cost estimate came in at approximately \$16,000 and to date we have raised \$14,390 toward that goal. We are very close to reaching our \$16,000 goal and would encourage everyone to help us hit our mark and even go beyond. Any additional funds will be placed in a dedicated observatory account for upgrading equipment and general maintenance. Special thanks goes out to **Paul Comba**, the original owner of our 18" Dobsonian Telescope, and to **Herbert Windolf** whose cash contribution brought this telescope to Freeport, Illinois. Additional thanks goes out to **Jim Dole** and all his volunteers who contributed their time and skills to the construction of the new building, and to **Tom Dunmore** who spent countless hours reassembling the Comba-Windolf telescope and getting it ready to once again see "starlight".

\$500 - \$1,500

Jim & Pamela Dole
Douglas Firebaugh
Michele Firebaugh
Lawrence & Mary Lynn Luy
Dolores K. Schnoes
US Bank – Freeport
Kristen Warren

\$200 - \$499

Freeport Lions Club
Hasken Construction, LLC
Hulsebus-Gehlsen Chiropractic Clinic - Freeport

\$100 - \$199

A-L-L Equipment, Inc.
Citizens State Bank - Lena
Jerome Clair
Diane L. DeWitt
Mildred Dole
David D. Knight
Midwest Commercial Bank - Freeport
Donna Robertson
Harriet Stauffacher
State Bank - Freeport
Eric Welser

\$25 - \$99

Roger & Michele Daws
Terence Steenrod
Jim Stout
James Frisbee
Robert & Sandra Johnson
Tim & Denise Johnson

MEMBER'S CORNER

NEW MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL

Khaled Soussi
Mary Lynn Trost

FAMILY

Vickie & Keith Kouzmanoff

RENEWING MEMBERS

INDIVIDUAL

Cecelia Cooper
Steven Hoyer
Eugenia Krzyzanski
Carleton Moore
Karen Sabatini
Ann Swan-Johnson

FAMILY

Ron & Mary Damasco
Michael & Jonna Dittmar
Wanona & Bill Ceisel
Jeff, Judith & Philip Glenn
Ashley Maynard
Nate & Karen Greiner

The following individuals and organizations received an appropriate one-year PSF membership as a "thank you" for their generous support.

ORGANIZATIONS

A-L-L-Equipment, Inc.
Citizens State Bank - Lena
Freeport Lions Club
Hasken Construction
Hulsebus-Gehlsen Chiropractic Clinic - Freeport
US Bank - Freeport
Midwest Commercial Bank - Freeport

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

Jerome Clair
Roger & Michele Daws
Diane L. DeWitt
Jim & Pamela Dole
Mildred Dole
Douglas Firebaugh
Michele Firebaugh
James Frisbee
Robert & Sandra Johnson
Tim & Denise Johnson
David D. Knight
Lawrence & Mary Lynn Luy
Donna Robertson
Dolores K. Schnoes
Harriet Stauffacher
Terence Steenrod
Jim Stout
Kristen Warren
Eric Welser

ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

MEMBERS MEET TO RECAP THE PAST YEAR AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE FUTURE OF PSF

By Ashley Maynard

The Annual Members Meeting and 25th Anniversary celebration were a huge success. It's always great to get an inside look into what's going on "behind the scenes". In 2013, the Planetary Studies Foundation had 1,530 children and adults attend one of its many programs, and in 2014, 1,018 people have already enjoyed our programs. It's easy to forget how many people a small organization can reach!

In addition to hearing about all the interesting activities that make the PSF an internationally recognized organization, we heard Jim Dole and Tom Dunmore give a full update for the new Douglas Firebaugh Observatory.

Since the beginning of summer, Jim and his staff have been busy at work laying the foundation, installing the dome and making the building handicap accessible. In addition to making great progress with the observatory, Jim has kept the entire project within budget, but they are not done yet! The grand opening and open house is set for next September 2015.

One task Paul gave to all PSF members, in attendance and those absent, is to help increase our membership. For years, the PSF membership has always remained around 250 individuals and families. To grow this number, we ask everyone to talk about the organization, talk about our efforts and encourage friends and family to become members. What is great about this organization, is how affordable a membership is, and how

much that money makes a difference in various PSF projects.

As we start to approach the "giving season" consider a PSF membership as a great option to give to a child, fellow science enthusiast, or set aside money for a donation which provides a deduction for federal income tax purposes.

And if financially contributing is not an option, think of ways you can help our efforts through giving of your time, talent and telling your network to check us out. The PSF is on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, and we would love to increase our followers and social outreach, too!





Left to Right: Annual Members Meeting, Tom Dunmore and Jim Dole, Bill Ceisel and Dr. Wynona Wellspring Ceisel



Left to Right: Appreciation Awards, Presidential Awards, Awards Table



Left to Right: 25th Anniversary Cake, Paul and Diane Sipiera, Diane, Paula & Caroline Sipiera and Andrea Cosentino



Left to Right: Ann Swan Johnson and David Lauerman, Maxine and John Pokornik, Ron and Mary Damasco



Left to Right: Pamela and Jim Dole, Leo and Karen Baran, Max and Martha Purchis

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Left to Right: Tina Hollis and Michael "Wulf" Clifton, Judith, Philip & Jeff Glenn, Isaac Steffes and Diane Sipiera



Diane Sipiera presenting an Appreciation Award to Leo Baran.



Diane Sipiera presenting an Appreciation Award to John Pokornik.



Diane Sipiera presenting an Appreciation Award to Board Member, Pat Tierny.



Diane Sipiera presenting an Appreciation Award to Jeff and Judith Glenn.



Diane Sipiera presenting an Appreciation Award to newly elected Board Member, Tina Hollis.



Martha and Max Purchis were awarded the James A. Paglin Award for their generous support of time and office furnishings.



Jim Dole presenting the Appreciation Award to Tom Dunmore for his work with the Firebaugh Observatory.



Paul Sipiera presenting the Karl G. Henize Award to fellow Board Member, David Lauerman for his dedicated work to the PSF.



Paul Sipiera presenting the President's Award to Nate and Karen Greiner for their generous support of the new museum.

PSF HELPS JO DAVIESS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

By Diane Sipiera

Many people from the Jo Daviess County area are very familiar with the Horseshoe Mound Preserve. But many of our Chicagoland members may not be aware of this unique preserve. The Jo Daviess area is most known for its history and of course, it's beautiful terrain. On September 29, 2014, the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation officially opened this new preserve. Director of Development, Christie Trifone-Simon, approached the PSF in May to see if we would be willing to help them set-up their central gathering ring which seats 50 people. This special request asked the PSF to help them mark their sunrise and sunset summer and winter solstices. Their intentions were to make a similar "Stonehenge". The PSF was honored to do this and PSF President, Paul Sipiera, was very taken by this project. It took a few months to ensure that everything was aligned properly and we were delighted to attend the official event to see the project completed. For more information about this project, please visit the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation website at www.jdcf.org.



HORSESHOE MOUND PRESERVE

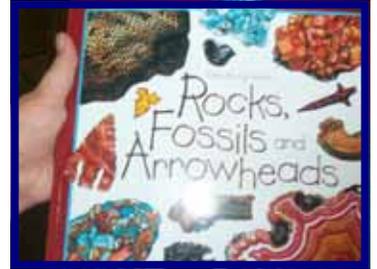


(Left) Paul and Diane Sipiera, Central gathering ring (Above and Below)



CHILDREN'S SUMMER WORKSHOPS

THE EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE MUSEUM BECAME A FUN SPOT THIS SUMMER TO LEARN ABOUT EARTH SCIENCES



Geology

**Oceans Seas
fresh Water**



Planetary Studies Foundation 2013-2014 Honorary Awards

President's Award

Nate & Karen Greiner

Meyer Rudoff Founders Award

Jennifer N. Pritzker

James M. DuPont Meteorite Research Award

Dr. Ted Bunch

Karl G. Henize Award

David M. Lauerman

James A. Lovell Award

Jim Dole

James A. Paglin Award

Martha & Max Purchis

Appreciation Awards

Leo Baran

Dr. Wanona Wellspring Ceisel

Michael "Wulf" Clifton & Tina Hollis

Tom Dunmore

Jeff & Judith Glenn

Dr. James Hagan

John Pokornik

Randy Shaw

Gerald Speer

Isaac Steffes

Jim & Patricia Tierny

Dan Tindell

Tammy Trebian

Conrad Wragg

FALL / WINTER CELESTIAL CALENDAR

October 22, 23—Orionids Meteor Shower

The Orionids is an average shower producing up to 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust grains left behind by Halley's comet. This will be an excellent year for the Orionids because there will be no moon to interfere. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Orion.

October 23—Partial Solar Eclipse

A partial solar eclipse occurs when the Moon covers part of the Sun. A partial solar eclipse can only be safely observed with a special solar filter or by looking at the Sun's reflection. The partial solar eclipse will be visible throughout most of North and Central America.

November 6—Full Moon

The Moon will be fully illuminated as seen from Earth. *Did you know?* This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Beaver Moon because it was the time of year to set up traps before the swamps and rivers froze.

November 12—ESA's Rosetta to Deploy Lander

The European Space Agency's Rosetta mission will deploy its lander, Philae, to the surface of Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. This will be the first ever attempt to soft-land on a comet.

November 17, 18—Leonids Meteor Shower

The Leonids is an average shower, producing an average of 15 meteors per hour at its peak. This shower is unique in that it has a cyclonic peak about every 33 years where hundreds of meteors per hour can be seen. This last occurred in 2001. The Leonids is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tempel-Tuttle.

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 ___ \$ _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to
Planetary Studies Foundation

Please mail the membership form
along with a check to the
address below.

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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