

Volume 21.2
 Summer 2011
 Second Quarter

PSF NEWS

Planetary Studies Foundation

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2011 DAFFODIL QUEEN: LEXI PARR



The Planetary Studies Foundation and the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce would like to announce the 2011 Jo Daviess County Daffodil Queen for this year, *Lexi Parr*. Lexi is a freshman from River Ridge High School. She scored high marks with the judges with an essay highlighting what she would do for her community and how she would go about doing it. Her idea to bring Operation Snowball to her high school was “mature, realistic and very admirable for such a young woman” commented the judges. Operation Snowball is an international alcohol, tobacco and other drug use prevention program focusing on leadership development to empower youth to lead drug-free lives. In addition to the title of 2011 Daffodil Queen, Lexi received a \$500.00 EE savings bond from the Planetary Studies Foundation. The second place winner of the \$300.00 EE savings bond went to Sophia Ahmed, and the third place winner of the \$100.00 EE savings bond was Hannah Jackson.

Read the entire article on page 11.

1876 BANWARTH HOUSE SUMMER LECTURE SERIES

In addition to being a historical site and museum, the 1876 Banwarth House is pleased to offer a summer lecture series presented by PSF members located in Jo Daviess County. These volunteers have diverse backgrounds and offer a wide variety of programs that highlight their many interests and talents. These programs are not only provided free of charge to PSF members, but the money that is raised is directly donated to the Planetary Studies Foundation.

We strongly encourage our Illinois members to take a day trip to Elizabeth and visit the Banwarth House on a Saturday. You'll discover exactly what it was like to live in the 19th century by taking a tour of the house, talking with our interpreters and learning about the artifacts that make up each room. Walk a

quarter mile north and you can visit the Apple River Fort, the site of an important battle during the Black Hawk War. In 1832, the settlers at the fort turned back an attack by 200 Sauk and Fox warriors led by Black Hawk. The successful defeat ended the threat of Indian attacks in the area and opened the region to further settlement. Many notable men participated in this war including a young Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis and General Winfield Scott. While exploring the fort, watch out or you may get caught in an Indian attack reenactment! Stay the afternoon and join fellow PSF members for the weekly lecture and solar astronomy. You may even find a new hobby for you or your children!

Grab dinner in the town of Elizabeth and stay the evening for incredible

stargazing, a bonfire and Native American storytelling. This is a great way to spend a Saturday with the family, a friend or just come by yourself! Come join the PSF family!



See page 8-9 for full details of Saturday events at the 1876 Banwarth House.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a very busy and exciting spring for your Planetary Studies Foundation. Our Saturday lecture series has attracted a considerable amount of attention from both the local press and the number of people in attendance. As a result, there has been an increase in new memberships and in member participation. One program in particular, *Ghosts and Paranormal Activity: Fact or Fiction?* witnessed a record crowd of 74 participants. The response was so overwhelming that we had to hold the event in the lecture room at the Apple River Fort Interpretative Center. Even with standing room only we were forced to turn away an additional 12 people. The host and discussion leader for the program was **Dr. Todd Gephart, M.D.**, accompanied by his wife **Irene** and their two sons. For years, they have been intrigued with the topic of paranormal activity and have participated in several sessions run by television's *Ghost Hunters*.

Dr. Gephart began with an introduction to the validity and methodology of paranormal research. He then revealed the results of an investigative session that he and Irene conducted several weeks earlier at PSF's 1876 Banwarth House and Museum. This was followed by an open discussion with the participants. The response from the audience was extremely positive and several people indicated their interest in forming a discussion group that would meet regularly to share each other's paranormal experiences. I was particularly pleased at the success of this program by the fact that it attracted so many people from near and far and introduced them to the diverse interests of the Planetary Studies Foundation. I want to thank Todd and Irene for giving of their time, and for sharing their passion of unraveling one of the many mysteries of our universe.



Dr. Todd Gephart, M.D. and his wife, Irene Gephart

Now that the warm weather is finally upon us, it is time to once again enjoy the nighttime sky of Illinois. Our April and May observing sessions were held on two beautiful nights and our visitors witnessed numerous satellites passing overhead, several meteors, and this summer's feature of Saturn's rings and its moon Titan. If you have not attended one of these sessions, then you are truly missing out on a very memorable experience, especially for our city-dwelling friends. If Elizabeth seems a bit too far to travel, let me introduce you to PSF's new opportunity in Freeport, Illinois. **Jim Dole**, an adjunct instructor of astronomy at Highland Community College, recently asked for PSF's help to reopen Freeport's JETS Observatory. This observatory was originally opened in 1967 and subsequently operated by Freeport High School as part of its JETS, the Junior Engineering Technical Society, science club. Over the years, this observatory has been a popular place to promote science education while providing a place for family recreation. The JETS Observatory is certainly a valuable component of the Freeport community. However in 2010, for various reasons, Freeport High School had to dissolve its JETS club and close the observatory. Now, through efforts and enthusiasm of Jim Dole and **Jack Carey** of the Freeport Park District, the JETS Observatory will once again open its doors to the public on a regular basis. I invite our members to watch for further announcements concerning the JETS Observatory and its scheduled programs, and to come out and enjoy this excellent facility. And for our golfing friends, the observatory is located adjacent to the 18th tee at the Park Hills Golf Course... there's always a good reason to visit the PSF!

Paul P. Szipiera

DONOR'S SPOTLIGHT

\$1,000 - \$3,000

Paul and Diane Sipiera

\$500 - \$999

ArcelorMittal Gifts Program
Catherine A. Rudolph

\$50 - \$499

Phil Gabel

In-kind Donation

Carl Bryant - Office Furniture

A Special Thanks

In the last issue of the *PSF NEWS* we asked our members for help in replacing several years of *National Geographic Magazine* issues that were damaged in the July 2010 flood.

Our thanks to **Warren Sansoucie, Jr.** from Missouri, **Pat Tierney** an Elizabeth resident and the **Stockton Public Library** that supplied many of the needed issues.

Also, we would like to thank **Jim Paglin**, for his donation of several all-weather star finders that we put to good use at the Apple River Fort observing sessions.

MEMBERS' CORNER

Congratulations to our recent graduates!

Meagan Havlik
Andrew Graves
Katie Havlik
Paula F. Sipiera
Caroline A. Sipiera



PSF would also like to wish a speedy recovery to Christina Hollis.

NEW MEMBERS

Sierra Centero

James Dole

Phil, Suzanne & Rachel Gabel

Todd and Irene Gephart

Lea & Trinity Griffin

Bruce Hoff

Karen Lee Lemon

Shelia Magnus

RENEWING MEMBERS

James and Sandy Napolitan

Deborah E. Pausz

Richard Persons

Chris Zirtzman



SAVE THE DATE

Annual Members' Meeting

August 20th - 1:00 p.m.

This year's annual meeting will be held at the 1876 Banwarth House in Elizabeth, IL. The date is set for Saturday, August 20, 2011 and will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. The meeting is open to all PSF members. This meeting will offer the opportunity to hear from the PSF Board a full re-cap of the fiscal year of 2010, accomplishments to date for 2011 and the future plans for 2012 and beyond. Official information will be sent to our members in the mail.

Our election for board members will also be decided. If you are interested in learning more about filling a position on the board, please contact Diane Sipiera at (815) 858-2014.

If you live in the area or would like to plan a day trip to Elizabeth, IL we sincerely encourage you to come! Each year, it's a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow PSF members, learn about the organization and most of all, it's so nice to have the PSF family together. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email Andrea at andrea2986@aol.com or Diane at dsipiera@planets.org.

ASTRONOMY EVENTS

June 18

SKYWATCH

(begins at sunset)



July 2

Solar Observing

(1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)

- and -

SKYWATCH

(begins at sunset)

July 16

Solar Observing

(1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)

- and -

SKYWATCH

(begins at sunset)



August 6

Solar Observing

(1:00 - 3:00 p.m.)

- and -

SKYWATCH

(begins at sunset)

August 20

SKYWATCH

(begins at sunset)



Details for the sky events:

SKYWATCH - Volunteers from the Planetary Studies Foundation will present an evening of stargazing and Native American storytelling. The program will begin at sundown, approximately 8:30 p.m. This is the perfect opportunity to get out and enjoy a summer evening. Please be sure to bring portable chairs and blankets for optimal viewing. Telescopes will be provided by the Planetary Studies Foundation. Stargazing will be held at the Apple River Fort Historic Site located at 311 E. Myrtle Street, Elizabeth, IL. The event is determined by weather and may be canceled by excessive rain or cloud conditions. This event is FREE.

Solar Observing - Please join Chris Zirtzman, PSF member and amateur astronomer, as he presents solar astronomy. Chris will demonstrate how to use a solar filter, along with identifying the correct filter to use. Chris strongly encourages anyone who owns a telescope or is thinking about purchasing one to attend this event. He can teach you how to properly use your specific model and what you need to know before you buy one. Solar Observing with Chris Zirtzman will be held at the 1876 Banwarth House and Museum located at 408 E. Sycamore Street, Elizabeth, IL. The cost for attending this event is FREE for PSF members and a \$3.00 donation for non-members.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Christina Hollis

Planetary Studies Foundation (PSF): *What colleges did you attend and what was your primary area of study?*

Christina Hollis (CH): I attended University of Minnesota and received my BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Math. I then attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where I received my Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Theoretical & Applied Mechanics.

PSF: *What is your current profession and what inspired you into that career?*

CH: My current profession is to assist my husband, Wulf in running Dr. Woodchucks Auction Services as well as the Allan Opera House in Scales Mound, Illinois. Previous to that, I performed engineering and managerial work for John Deere from 1973 to 2001 in six different Deere units and had a wide variety of responsibilities. This included Moline (Advanced Research), Waterloo (Tractor Engineering and Reliability), New Jersey Rotary Engine (Marketing & Quality Engineering), Davenport, Iowa (Special Assignment) and finally Dubuque, Iowa (Construction Equipment in Advanced Research and Computer Modeling). I retired from John Deere in 2001 and formed Omega Consulting, my favorite job, where I performed Computer Modeling and Simulation of most every product in the John Deere line-up until officially retiring in late 2007.

My most significant achievement was perhaps being Program Manager of the 8000 Series Tractor that was introduced in 1992, a radical (for Deere) and award-winning tractor. You'll see it along the countryside!

I was "inspired" by my experiences and work ethic that I developed while growing up on a farm. I always had an

interest in building, designing and mathematics of all sorts. My father ran Deere equipment and later worked at a John Deere Implement shop, so I always knew Deere was the place I wanted to work.

PSF: *What is your favorite area of science and why do you find it so interesting?*

CH: Although I am a trained engineer, one of my four heroes in life is Albert Einstein. I am fascinated with the way he thought, in such a deductive manner, more a physicist than a mathematician. His Theory of Relativity (or Invariance) and General Relativity and how they explain the Universe and all their wonders is simply breathtaking. I struggle to understand it but that is part of the fun, and now I'm retired and have lots of time! I never had the chance to apply this theory at Deere as our ground speeds were a bit slower than the speed of light! But I have always been intrigued.

At the Space Smithsonian in March 2011, we attended a twenty minute Super Max film of Einstein and Black Hole Theory. I highly recommend it, even though it makes one seem awfully insignificant. And of course, Einstein's attempt to unify all of the universe's laws and equations, from quantum mechanics to General Relativity, is stupefying.

I have a deep appreciation of math, logic and science but primarily when it can be applied to something meaningful. Especially in my last years at Deere, I performed state-of-the-art computer modeling and simulation of most all Deere products, involving transmission, engine, traction, hydraulics, electronic controls and heat transfer. Developing and applying algebraic and differential equations and relationships in order to simulate how these areas combine in



Christina Hollis and her husband, Wulf

vehicle performance, before the machine was built, or to study problems in the field, was a great challenge and most satisfying. I also employed a favorite subject of mine, that of Dimensional Analysis and Similitude (it helps explain why a giant will buckle under its own weight!) often in my modeling work. It was one of my favorite subjects at University of Illinois.

Often I would have those "eureka" moments while driving home from work after being stuck on a programming problem. I definitely appreciate what it takes to understand the makings of this world. My motto was "If you can't model it, then you don't understand it!"

By the way, my other heroes are Mohammed Ali, Olga Chenchikova (from the Kirov Ballet) and my dog, Basil. They all seem to have it figured out!

PSF: *How did you become involved with the Planetary Studies Foundation?*

CH: My husband and I were fortunate to meet Paul and Diane when they attended one of our auctions in Scales Mound. We found them most interesting and zany (and I say that in the nicest of ways!) and they informed us of the Planetary Studies Foundation. We were amazed that it existed in Elizabeth and we were both interested in their promotion of scientific

studies. We quickly got involved and became members. We also discovered that they were interested in antiques as well, and we are proud to say that many items you'll see in the Banwarth House came from our auctions.

PSF: What is one thing you like most about being a member of the Planetary Studies Foundation?

CH: Probably being able to help out Paul and Diane with their various projects for the PSF. They're always orchestrating multiple events at one time and something is always happening. The stargazing every month in the summer at the Apple River Fort, the various seminars and workshops at the Banwarth House, the parade in Elizabeth... all of those events, plus more, add up to an interesting foundation! And the basic premise to promote scientific study and interest is so very important. We need to encourage, nigh demand, our younger generations to spend more time in "thinking" and broadening their brain activity and perhaps less video gaming, facebooking and texting. (You touched a nerve, here!)

PSF: You and your husband, Wulf are quite involved with the community, what are some things that you have both done?

CH: Regarding the PSF, we have given a couple of seminars on auctioneering, assisted in the parade where PSF participated, attended various seminars at the Banwarth House and whatever we can do in the future to assist. Outside PSF, we enjoy going to and performing auctions, collecting antiques and "old things" and always a local building project! We bought the "Old Feedmill" in Scales Mound about eight years ago. It was built in 1873 and we spent many days together saving the building, particularly in restoring the James Allan Opera House on the second floor. (Visit www.drwoodchuck.com). We rent the Opera House for weddings, parties, dinner & a movie and an annual

Halloween dance for the high school. Auctions are held downstairs. We've had as many as nineteen in one year, but are settling down to about seven auctions per year. We also built a 4-deck, 60 foot tower on our property which incorporates several chicken houses and more. So we like to stay busy!

PSF: What are some of your hobbies?

CH: I love golf, building things, going to auctions, reading, socializing with my good friends, drinking wine and traveling. I used to play Bridge a lot but no one in Illinois plays it anymore! Lately, I have been studying philosophy and am thinking of writing down my thoughts and theories on the relationship between spirituality (or a "God") and the universe. This subject is quite fascinating to me. I feel fortunate to be retired and have the time to dwell on such things!

PSF: Where is your favorite place you have traveled and what makes it so memorable?

CH: Both Wulf and I would say our favorite trip was to Ireland, although Italy is a close second. We spent seventeen days driving around the Irish coast. We love to travel spontaneously when possible. As we were driving out of the Shannon airport, we had to decide whether to go left (and go clockwise around Ireland) or right. That was the extent of our planning. We decided to go left!

We stayed at B&B's along the way, ate a lot of Pub-Grub and seriously talked to many of the Irish people. This trip was memorable due to its scenic beauty, the lovely people and our relaxed method of travel. Specifically, the Cliff's of Mohr, the bogs in Donegal, Giants Causeway, the Ring of Kerry, and driving on the left while dodging sheep were my best memories.

PSF: What advice would you give to our younger readers and science enthusiasts?

CH: I would first encourage them to put down their video games, cell phones and even calculators, and spend some serious time in stimulating brain activity within your favorite science field. Read a lot of books and articles on your favorite subject, Google the Internet, and become involved in related organizations and with people that share your interest. Only through thought and often introspection will you ever have a chance on fulfilling your potential. You should strive to become more informed on your subject of choice than anyone, even though it may take a lifetime. It is the journey that can be fun and it never ends. I'm just starting some journeys! ♦

1876 BANWARTH HOUSE LECTURE SERIES

Incorporating Model Trains Into Your Garden

Saturday, June 18th

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Model train expert, Jim Paglin will captivate your interest with his wealth of knowledge about model trains. He has aspired to be a model train collector for over forty years and will explain the various types of model trains and where to begin as a collector. Jim will bring in various types of model trains for guests to examine. He will also be sharing tips on how to integrate model trains into your backyard landscaping. Sound interesting? Come see a model train moving through a flower bed of hostas and phlox. Since this is an outdoor event, you may bring your own blankets and lawn chairs to enjoy this captivating afternoon under the sun. The cost for attending this lecture is FREE for PSF members and a \$3.00 donation for non-members.

First Annual Checker Tournament Fundraiser

Saturday, June 25th

Begins at 10:00 a.m.

The PSF will be hosting its first fundraising event in Elizabeth, Illinois. You are invited to the First Annual Checker Tournament, held at their 1876 Banwarth House and Museum. First rounds will begin at approximately 10:00 a.m. Participants will be placed in brackets prior to the tournament, along with clarification of all rules and regulations. The winner for each match will be determined by the best two out of three games. The winners will continue in this manner until only one individual is honored as champion.

The prize for this fundraiser will be a split of entry fees with 50% going to the winner and 50% going to the Planetary Studies Foundation. The fee for this checker tournament is \$10.00 per person. To participate, the entry deadline date is June 18th, pre-registration is required. We will accept cash or check only. Please make checks payable to: *Planetary Studies Foundation*. Applications can be acquired by either emailing Diane Szipiera at dszipiera@planets.org, on our website www.planets.org or at the following locations in Elizabeth: Tucci's, Welcome Inn, Elizabeth Public Library, Apple River State Bank, Galena State Bank, Jug's, Dually's and the Elizabeth Post Office. The PSF would like to encourage all participants to bring their own board and checker pieces. All entry fees are non refundable.

Homemade Ice Cream Making

Saturday, July 9th

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Did you know the month of July is National Ice Cream month? What better way to celebrate than learning how to make your own dish of freshly made ice cream. In this delightful and tasty lecture by Jolene Foat and Elizabeth Myelle, you will learn the basics of turning milk into the delicious frozen treat. You will be involved in the process of measuring and mixing the ingredients, shaking the liquid into solid ice cream and of course, taste testing and eating the final product! The cost for attending this lecture is FREE for PSF members and a \$3.00 donation for non-members. If you are interested and would like to reserve a spot, please contact Diane Szipiera at least one week before the event. You must reserve your spot so enough supplies can be purchased ahead of time. We hope to see you there!

Please note: All of the events listed in the lecture series will be held at the 1876 Banwarth House located at 408 E. Sycamore Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028. For questions or to make a reservation for any of the programs, please contact Diane Szipiera at (815) 858-2014 or email her at dszipiera@planets.org. Reservations made the same day of the event will not be accepted.

Canning At It's Best**Saturday, July 23rd****1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

In a time where money-saving and environmentally friendly trends have never been greater, this is a great opportunity to do both! As the summer gets into full swing, many country kitchens are busy with homemade treats and do-it-yourself delights. Join Jolene Foat as she takes you on a journey through the practice of canning fruits and vegetables. Canning is the perfect way to make the most of your own garden, support local produce and save you money. The cost for attending this lecture is FREE for PSF members and a \$3.00 donation for non-members.

Victorian Hat Making 101**Saturday, July 30th****10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Join us for one of our most popular workshops! Victorian Hat Making 101 is a hands-on workshop in which you will have the opportunity to make a true Victorian hard bonnet. Your guides into the millinery world of hat making are Diane Sipiera and Jolene Foat. This workshop fee \$25.00 for PSF members and \$35.00 for non-members. This fee covers fabric, feathers, ribbon, form and thread. If you plan on attending this workshop please bring a sack lunch. If you are interested and would like to reserve a spot, please contact Diane Sipiera at least one week before the event. You must reserve your spot so enough supplies can be purchased. We hope to see you there!

Photography 101: Capturing Still Life in Jo Daviess County**Saturday, August 13th****1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

Do you enjoy taking pictures and wonder what takes a photograph from good to award-winning? This program will be sure to teach you both the practical knowledge and techniques to take your photography to the next level. Whether you are just starting out with your camera or consider yourself an amateur photographer, this program is sure to teach you something new. Join amateur photographer, Elizabeth Myelle as she shares her passion and knowledge of the skill along with tips and methods in the art of photography. Highlights of the program include basic composition, lighting, capturing action and so much more. Please bring your camera, questions and your own secrets of the trade. The cost for attending this lecture is FREE for PSF members and a \$3.00 donation for non-members.

Basket Weaving at its Finest**Saturday, August 27th****1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Transforming stiff, unyielding reed into an adorable napkin basket is something anyone can do with a little guidance. This workshop will demonstrate how to make a simple basket from start to finish. The fundamentals of weaving flat reed, twining, and finishing a basket rim will be presented in a straightforward process that anyone can enjoy. The cost for attending this lecture is FREE for PSF members and a \$3.00 donation for non-members.

CELESTIAL SEMANTICS

By: Richard Leary

Some time, when you don't have anything to worry about or don't want to worry about something important, you can ponder these grand celestial questions.

The Romans had a word for it. As did the Greeks before them. Not just a word, actually, but a name. I refer to our moon. The Greeks called it 'Selene' and the Romans 'Luna.' For some reason, today we refer to it as 'the Earth's moon.' It no longer has a name.



Contemporary astronomers have given names to the moons of other planets but not our own. Jupiter has Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto. Saturn has Mimas, Enceladus, Tethys, Dione, and Rhea. But Earth has 'the moon.' How generic!

We would not call our son 'boy' nor a daughter 'girl.' So why do we refer to our moon, our natural satellite, as 'the moon'? Because most planets have Roman names (as opposed to Greek), perhaps the Roman name for Earth's moon is to be preferred. We already refer to 'lunar landers' and make other references to 'lunar.' The only change in these designations would be to capitalize 'Lunar.'

Another quirk in United States usage, is the failure of many writers to spell the name of the third planet (Third Rock?)

from the sun with a capital letter. As you read astronomy papers and news articles from abroad, you will find they all write about 'Earth.' However, in the U.S., it is commonly written as 'earth.' The term 'earth' (lower case) means 'dirt,' as "we dig in the earth." Of course, writers, even American writers, spell the names of all other planets with capital first letters. It is inconsistent, and nonsensical, to spell one planet, our own, without capitalization.

About the only time Earth is written with a capital 'E' is when the name of another planet is nearby. We say "The rocket traveled from Earth to Mars." But then we might say, "The rocket returned to earth." We call ourselves "earthlings" but "little green men" from Mars, "Martians."

We say, "We live on earth," when we mean we live on the planet Earth, not that we live on dirt (earth). Some people live on rock and also on Earth. Or even live on water while also living on Earth. One cannot both live on water and one earth (dirt).

One could point out that our planet is misnamed. It is the only planet that has any oceans at all, let alone liquid water covering three-fourths of the surface. Anyone looking at our solar system from afar would surely have named this planet some word meaning 'water' or 'sea.'

But I will not advocate a crusade to rename our beautiful blue planet 'Oceania.' It will be sufficient to bring back the name 'Lunar' for our moon and convince American authors to join everyone else in capitalizing the name of our planet, Earth. ♦

Summer Solstice (Jun. 21)

The North Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its northernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Cancer. This is the first day of summer in the northern hemisphere.

Full Moon (Jul. 15)

The Moon will be fully illuminated as seen from the Earth. *Did you know?* This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Buck Moon because the male buck deer would begin to grow their new antlers around this time. Farmers have also called it the Full Hay Moon.

Southern Delta Aquarids Meteor Shower (Jul. 28-29)

This meteor shower can produce about 20 meteors per hour at its peak. The radiant point for this shower will be in the constellation Aquarius. Best viewing is usually to the east after midnight from a dark location.

Neptune at Opposition (Aug. 11)

The blue 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 Neptune. Due to its distance, it will only appear as a tiny blue dot in all but the most powerful telescopes.

Perseids Meteor Shower (Aug. 12-14)

This meteor shower is one of the best meteor showers to observe, producing up to 60 meteors per hour at its peak. The peak usually occurs on or around August 13-14, but you can usually catch a glimpse of some meteors any time from July 23-August 22. The radiant point for this shower will be in the constellation Perseus. The Full Moon will be a problem on the 13th with the fainter meteors, but with an estimated 60 per hour, it will still be a great show.

Full Moon (Aug. 13)

The Moon will be fully illuminated as seen from the Earth. *Did you know?* This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Full Sturgeon Moon because the large sturgeon fish of the Great Lakes were more easily caught around this time. Farmers have also called it the Green Corn Moon and the Grain Moon.

2011 DAFFODIL QUEEN COMPETITION

The Planetary Studies Foundation and the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce would like to announce the 2011 Daffodil Queen for this year, *Lexi Parr*. Lexi is a freshman from River Ridge High School. She scored high marks with the judges with an essay highlighting what she would do for her community and how she would go about doing it. Her idea to bring Operation Snowball to her high school was “mature, realistic and very admirable for such a young woman” commented the judges. Operation Snowball is an alcohol, tobacco and other drug use prevention program focusing on leadership development to empower youth to lead drug-free lives. The name originates from the idea that “If I have a positive impact on you, you can have a positive impact on someone else and the effect snowballs.” She also mentioned she would try to really get the program started at her high school during the next school year.

In addition to the title of 2011 Daffodil Queen, Lexi received a \$500.00 EE savings bond from the Planetary Studies Foundation. The second place winner of the \$300.00 EE savings bond went to *Sophia Ahmed*, a junior at River Ridge High School. She impressed the judges with her rendition of “God Bless the U.S.A.” written by Lee Greenwood. It was truly a touching performance. The third place winner of the \$100.00 EE savings bond was *Hannah Jackson*.

Hannah is a freshman at River Ridge High School, who exhibited her talent in designing and producing custom painted silk scarves.

The Daffodil Queen competition puts an emphasis on community involvement, service, achievement in academics, extra-curricular activities and talent. These girls were also required to write an essay about ways they would help their community and how they would go about doing it. The Jo Daviess County should be very proud of these young, ambitious ladies!

The PSF would also like to thank the judges for the event. *Andrea Cosentino*, AVP of Marketing for Horizon Cash Management in Chicago, *Pat Tierney*, VP of the Elizabeth Historical Society and retiree from United Airlines, *Bonnie Garrity*, known for her activism in the Galena area for “Dark Skies” and active in the Natural Area Guardians and *Chris Warner* who resides in Galena and has over 30 years of experience in human resource career services in the financial industry. The PSF Board and the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce would like to thank these individuals for volunteering their time. ♦



2010's Daffodil Queen, Kelley Koester (left) pictured with 2011's Daffodil Queen, Lexi Parr (right)



Pictured left to right: Hannah Jackson - Third Place Winner, Sophia Ahmed - Second Place Winner, Lexi Parr - 2011 Daffodil Queen and Kelley Koester - 2010 Daffodil Queen.

THANK YOU FROM THE TEACHERS

Dear Planetary Studies Foundation and Diane,

Thank you for your participation at our CATS career day. Once again you have improved and challenged the minds of our students and I am thankful. Thanks also for bringing Starlab to our students. I really appreciate it.

Thanks,
Kim Thorsen
River Ridge School District

Dear Planetary Studies Foundation and Diane,

We would like to thank you for coming to our classes this spring. The Starlab planetarium show was excellent and the program 'Our Solar System' helped to enrich our students at Stockton Middle School. We look forward to scheduling next year's programs. We appreciate your time and everything the Planetary Studies Foundation has done for us.

Thank you,
Melissa Harbach
Stockton Middle School

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	___ \$	_____				

Please fill out the form completely and return it to:

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.

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