

Volume 33.1
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First Quarter

PSF NEWS

Planetary Studies Foundation

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YOU'RE INVITED

TO A SPECIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE PUTNAM METEORITE EXHIBIT

April 22, 2023 | Ceremony begins at 11:00 AM
Putnam Museum and Science Center
1717 W 12th Street, Davenport, IA 52804



DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE PSF PUTNAM METEORITE EXHIBIT



CELEBRATE EARTH DAY



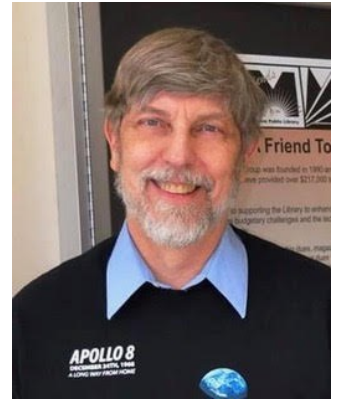
EXPLORE THE MUSEUM AND HANDS-ON FUN FOR ALL AGES

Members and their family will get in free to attend the PSF dedication of the Putnam Meteorite Exhibit. Please RSVP to Andrea Nolan to receive your tickets.

RSVP

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It seems a little hard to believe that it's already March and that the year seems to be flying by. Perhaps the fact that I have been so busy has made it feel that way. Two of our long-term projects are now nearing completion. What I am speaking of are the Educational Meteorite Exhibit at the Putnam Museum and Science Center in Davenport, IA and the transfer of our Meteorite Research Collection to the Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven, CT. Concerning the Putnam Museum exhibit those meteorites have already been in place since last December and it has already been appreciated by thousands of visitors. This exhibit will be officially dedicated to the late PSF Executive Board Member Christina Hollis on April 22nd at 11:00am. We want to remember Tina for her friendship, dedication to the Planetary Studies Foundation's goals, and especially for her love of meteorites. All PSF members are cordially invited to help us honor Tina at this very special event. If one big event isn't enough for PSF that next week the transfer team from the Yale Peabody Museum will be here to collect the over 2,000 meteorites that are packed and ready to go. No one can really appreciate what 2,000 meteorites represent until one has to locate each specimen, double-check their labeled masses, and then carefully pack them for shipment. Due to many different reasons this has been an "on and off" process for Evelyn Larson and I for the last three years. As sad as we are to see the meteorites leave our immediate care we are very happy that they will be well cared for at the Yale Peabody Museum for all time.



The first quarter of any year always gives me time to reflect not only on the past year but also on the distant past. One reason for this is the annual anniversary date of February 8th as PSF's "official birthday". 2023 marks the 34th year of PSF's existence and it feels especially good to remember all the wonderful and dedicated people that were involved in those early days that led to making PSF the successful organization that it is today. It is somewhat gratifying that there are actually too many people that I could individually thank by name and to acknowledge their contributions. So let it suffice for me to give an all-encompassing THANK YOU to all members past, present and future. I am sure PSF's future will be a bright one thanks to everyone's continued dedication and support.

On a personal basis it is a little easier for me to remember those individuals who played an important part in the development of my scientific career. What brought this to mind was the news of the recent passing of my meteorite mentor and personal friend Dr. Carleton B. Moore. It was back in 1974 when I was a graduate student that I felt it would be advantageous for me to find a "hands-on" summer job appointment at a research facility to gain practical experience. I tried NASA, JPL, and many university labs including ASU's Center for Meteorite Studies. I was overjoyed to receive an invitation from its director Carleton B. Moore to join his team for the summer. This experience led to an additional 1975 and 1976 summer appointments and inspired me to follow a career in meteorite studies. Little did I know at that time how personally influential Carleton would be in the development of my teaching and research skills. Carleton proved to be an excellent role model and for that I will always be grateful. My experiences those summers with Carleton and the Center for Meteorite Studies left me with the desire to try and create my own meteorite research laboratory. Although my career eventually centered upon teaching at Harper College, I also had the opportunity to conduct meteorite research. Over the years I was grateful that I had the opportunity to personally thank Carleton for his inspiration and early support. At this stage of my life, I find that the best way to thank him is to follow his example and inspire and encourage young science students as he did for me. If I'm successful than Carleton's legacy will be secure well into the future.

Paul P. Sipiery

DONORS SPOTLIGHT

2022 End-of-Year Donations

2023 First Quarter

Douglas Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory

John Walt**

Meteorite Research

Leo & Karen Baran
Joan & Larry Reylek
Paul & Diane Szipiera***
Ralph Winrich**

General/Operations Fund

Anonymous***
Kathleen Butler**
Mary Sue Coates***
Ernst & Mary Jo Jolas
Linda Virag**
John & Jane Yoder**
Michael Zolensky**

General/Operations Fund

Mary & Alan Becker***
David & Jennifer Kahn**

** Recognizes a donation of \$100 to \$499

*** Recognizes a donation of \$1,000 & up

MEMBERS CORNER

RENEWING MEMBERS

Family Membership

Dino Milani & Ellen Tsagaris

Individual Membership

Michelle Firebaugh
Mike Otte
Michael Zolensky

Contributing Membership

David & Jennifer Kahn

Sponsoring Membership

Jim & Beth Baranski

MEMBER NEWS

PSF WINDS UP ON MARS WITH POHL CRATER

Making headlines at the end of 2022, Martian news hit the circuit that scientists believe a megatsunami may have swept over the red planet 3.4 billion years ago after a devastating asteroid strike. Similar to the Chicxulub impact off the Yucatan Peninsula that sealed the fate of dinosaurs, this impact would have sent a wave of water up to 800 feet high for hundreds of miles, leaving behind a layer of debris hundreds of feet thick.

Equally interesting was the name approved for the 68-mile-wide depression lying on the plains of Chryse Planitia: Pohl Crater.

The crater was named after Frederik Pohl, one of science fiction's undisputed grandmasters whose career spanned more than seven decades. Along the way,

he won millions of readers and seemingly as many awards while producing novels, short stories, and essays that left a profound mark on the genre.

Unfortunately, Pohl passed away in 2013, but he and his wife Dr. Betty Hull were lifelong supporters of the Planetary Studies Foundation and advocates of our mission. Both Pohl and his wife became involved with the PSF through Hull's working relationship with PSF President, Dr. Paul P. Sipierya during their tenure at Harper College in Palatine, IL.

Ironically, Sipierya was reading the latest issue of *Astronomy* magazine when he saw the headline, "Megatsunami Swept Over Mars After Devastating Asteroid Strike."

Naturally, he was intrigued by this scientific discovery, but upon reading about "Pohl Crater" he

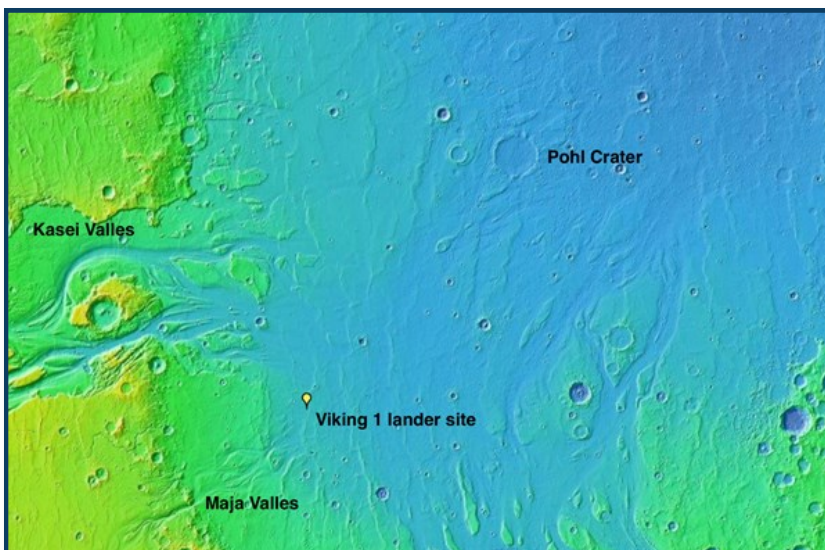
quickly confirmed that the massive crater was in fact named after his friend.

To read the full *Astronomy* article, you can click [here](#) if you're reading this publication digitally or by searching "Mars Megatsunami Astronomy Magazine" on your computer's browser.

Like we always say, we may be small, but we sure are mighty! We're so thankful for Pohl's support for so many years and sincerely wish he could have been here to see this enormous honor.

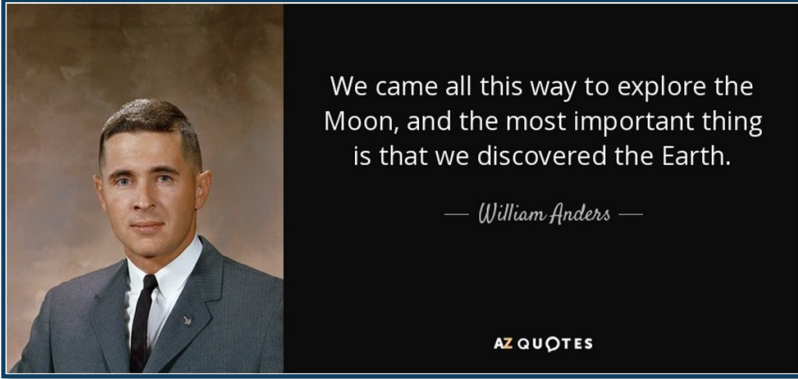
PSF MEMBER AND ASTRONAUT, BILL ANDERS, RECEIVES NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM'S 2023 MICHAEL COLLINS AWARD

William (Bill) Anders received the National Air and Space Museum's 2023 Michael Collins Trophy along with the James Webb Space Telescope Team. Anders has dedicated his life to aerospace, first as a pilot, then as an astronaut, and eventually in the private and non-profit sectors. He served his country in the U.S. Air Force, as an ambassador and as a civil servant. Anders and his wife, Valerie, also gave their time and generous support to numerous aerospace and research efforts. Among his many achievements, Anders' ability to connect spaceflight with the human experience here on Earth could be considered his greatest.



Pohl Crater lies among scablandlike terrain that had been carved by outflows, but would have been submerged by the time the asteroid that formed the crater struck Mars.

Image credit: NASA/JPL/GSFC/Arizona State University/Google Mars



Anders became one of the first people to circumnavigate another world and see the entire Earth from space. As an astronaut on Apollo 8, he was responsible for photographing and documenting the lunar farside, which had not been seen by humans until that point. During the fourth orbit of the Moon, Anders took the famous *Earthrise* photograph, which is considered one of the most important images of the 20th century.

PSF MEMBER AND ASTRONAUT, WALT CUNNINGHAM, PASSES AWAY



Apollo 7 astronaut, Walt Cunningham passed on January 3, 2023 at the age of 90 from a complication due to a fall.

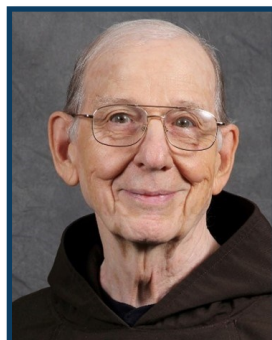
Walter Cunningham was a retired NASA astronaut and pilot of the

first crewed flight in the space agency’s famed Apollo program.

The Planetary Studies Foundation was fortunate to have Walt as a speaker at our 2003 Fundraising Dinner. He spoke about the Apollo 1 fire and his mission Apollo 7. Walt had a great personality and made people laugh. Walt also spoke at the Dubuque Kennedy Mall in Iowa about his life in Iowa and of course his space mission. He was a participant for the mall’s Space Week Observance that NASA and Planetary Studies Foundation co-hosted.

Having the opportunity to spend several days with Walt and his wife, Dot, gave way to a friendship of phone calls and emails. It was wonderful to call them both friends.

PSF MEMBER, WILLIAM FRIGO, PASSES AWAY



Reverend William Frigo, or Father Billy, passed away December 6, 2022. Father Billy ministered in Nicaragua, Iran, and Iraq as a missionary. He also served in different parts of the United States before he was the director of the Capuchin College Program at St. Joseph Seminary at Loyola University in Chicago. He taught at both Loyola University and De Paul in the areas of philosophy and anthropology. After 60 years being a priest he retired to the St. Katharine Friary in Crow Agency, Montana.

Father Billy would come to Galena to his cousin’s house to go on retreats. While taking a therapeutic walk one day, Father Bill met Paul Sipiera on the road and started a friendly conversation. Since Paul’s house and Bill’s retreat house is somewhat secluded, Paul offered him to come over to dinner and the Sipieras and Father Billy became good friends instantly. He performed the ceremony at Paul and Diane’s daughter’s wedding and was their daughter’s confirmation sponsor.

He loved the study of man and was extremely opened minded. He was a forgiving person because he believed that everyone had a story to tell. He enjoyed being a member of PSF especially the astronomy. He will be missed.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Richard & Eleanor Leary

PSF: *Where did the two of you go to college and where did you meet?*

Richard (RL): I earned a B.S. in geology at Virginia Tech and went to the University of Michigan for an M.S. in geology. Eleanor was there completing a B.S. in zoology. A mutual friend arranged a blind date and little more than a year later he was our best man.

PSF: *Richard, you were in the Geology Department at the Illinois State Museum for numerous years and Geology Curator Emeritus. What did you specialize in?*

RL: Being a curator meant doing a variety of things but I specialized in paleobotany. I collected and studied plant fossils from the early Pennsylvanian Period. I made several discoveries, named several fossil plants and proposed theories related to evolution and migration of plants. They were not widely accepted.

PSF: *Is it true that you found a fossil of a Scorpion and you were able to name it? Where did you find it and what is its name?*

RL: It was discovered in the Allied Stone Company Quarry in Milan, Illinois. It is similar to one found in Scotland. I named it *Labriscorpio alliedensis*. (pictured to the right)

PSF: *You've both been members of the PSF for 30+ years, how did you get involved?*

RL: I met Paul when we were both very active in the Illinois State Academy of Science. We shared interests in geology and ancient history. Primarily, we met at ISAS meetings but I traveled to Harper College to visit and give lectures and Paul came to Springfield to visit the State Museum. I witnessed the birth of the PSF.

PSF: *In 1999 you both went on the PSF's geological and solar eclipse expedition to Turkey. What exactly did you do there?*

RL: I witnessed the eclipse while sitting on the ancient city wall, enjoying snacks and drinks provided by the men who owned the property we were trespassing on. We also saw some amazing sights and sites. The visit to the ruins of Troy was a highlight.

PSF: *The two of you like archeology, have you been on any digs?*

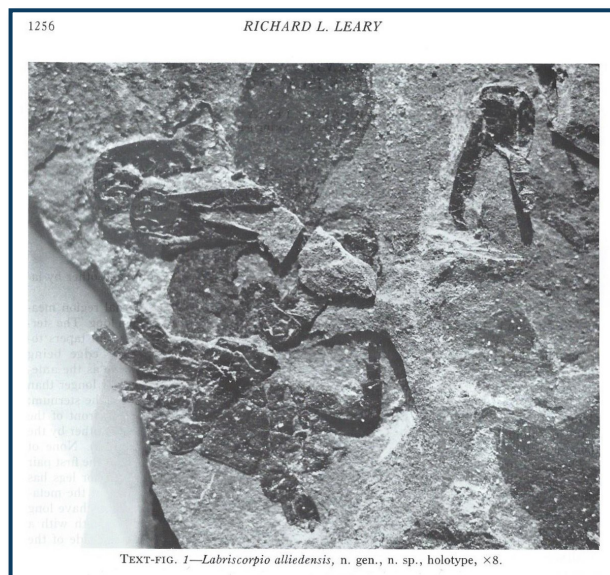
I saw several active dig sites in Europe but only over the fence. In Illinois I consulted about geology on several ISM digs.

PSF: *Ellie, you were in the medical field with biology. What did you do and did you find it rewarding?*

Eleanor (EL): I was always interested in lab work. I worked at SIU Med School, doing research in immunology. It is a significant field and I felt I was doing something important. I retired when the doctor I worked for became an administrator.

PSF: *What are some of your hobbies?*

EL: During the four years before children, when I had free time, I did a variety of art projects: ceramics, rug hooking and cross stitching. I helped Richard research the history of the village of Lake Ann, Michigan where my great-great-grandparents homesteaded. The village and



TEXT-FIG. 1—*Labriscorpio alliedensis*, n. gen., n. sp., holotype, ×8.

A picture of the scorpion fossil Richard found and named *Labriscorpio alliedensis* in the Allied Stone Company Quarry in Milan, Illinois

Lake are named for my great-great-grandmother, Ann Wheelock.

RL: I also like art including block prints, drawing and painting. My interest in history includes, in addition to Lake Ann, early Christian history. I have written a short novel about Mary Magdalene. She was perhaps the best known of Jesus' followers (in the first four centuries A.D.) It is the classic story of a woman wronged. The novella is currently in the hands of a publisher.

PSF: *You have traveled world, what were some of your favorites?*

RL: Our list of "favorites" would be long. Paris is the place we would most like to revisit. London is close, plus having a daughter and granddaughter there adds to its appeal. Many places don't make the list because they have changed so much since we previously visited. Fifty (yes, fifty) years ago there were no cruise ships and tour groups. Cities were foreign places, not tourist sites. In that regard, Athens has to be the greatest disappointment. With all the "improvements" it resembles a Disney park.

But I would still encourage people to travel. There are still "unspoiled" places to visit and interesting places to explore and people to meet. Learn a little of the language and travel on your own and off the beaten path. ♦

Firebaugh Observatory Season Opening May 6 – 4 to 11p

**2892 W Stephenson St
Freeport, IL 61032**

*Open House and 2023 Observing Season Kickoff
May 6, 4-11p*

Tour the observatory and see the telescope equipment that is used, talk with the observatory staff, look at the various displays and activities for the day. At 8pm they'll transition to their first night of public observing.

*Getting Started in Astronomy
May 4—June 8, Thursdays 7-9p*

Observatory staff is offering a six week (one night a week, Thursday from 7pm -9pm) introductory class for people interested in learning about astronomy, how to use a telescope, and find your way around the night skies. This class is for adults 16 or older and limited to 12 persons. The cost is \$50 per person and no astronomy knowledge is required/assumed.

To sign up contact Jim Dole (jbdole@gmail.com) or direct message the Firebaugh Observatory on Facebook.

*Public Observing Nights
May—October, 8p
1st and 3rd Saturday of the month*

There will be an astronomy related presentation as the prelude to observing on public nights. Come and share the beauty of the nighttime skies with the observatory telescopes and imaging.

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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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, environmental, and cultural sciences so as to broaden man's knowledge of all phases of the universe.

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