

A Typical Saturday Evening Public Observing Session

- *Lecture about the featured object or topic.* This 20- to 30-minute presentation, held in the SGNC picnic shelter, includes images of and details about the featured sky object or topic as well as information about other interesting objects that might be viewed that evening.
- *Sky tour using a laser pointer.* We step out under the stars to point out the major constellations and planets, and to designate the location of the featured celestial object for the evening if appropriate.
- *Telescope observing session.* We use a wide variety of telescopes at ground level to observe the wonders of the heavens. The Sugar Grove and Prairie Skies Observatories have “open house”. Visit to see what’s happening there.

Things to Know

- Programs will be held *even* in the event of an overcast sky; active rain, however, will cause a cancellation of the event. On cloudy evenings, the presentation will be given and tours of the Sugar Grove and Prairie Sky observatories will be available. Additionally, various images taken by TCAA astrophotographers will be shared via computer display in one of the observatories.
- Please dress very warmly during cooler months. These are outdoor events; none of the buildings we use are heated.
- Please be very careful when driving into and out of the Sugar Grove Nature Center parking lot. At all times there are people, including small children, walking from place to place in the dark. Please park so that your headlights are aimed away from the picnic shelter and telescopes.
- You may bring along a flashlight if you wish, but be certain to cover the lens with a red filter so that observers' dark adaptation isn't adversely affected. Please aim your flashlight at the ground only. Also, please leave pets at home.



TCAA – Serving the Bloomington-Normal Community Since 1960
<http://www.tcaa.us/>

2019

FAMILY FRIENDLY PUBLIC VIEWING SESSIONS



AT SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER

TCAA PUBLIC SKY VIEWING SESSIONS FOR 2019

<u>Date (Sat.)</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sunset</u>
▪ April 13	8:00 PM ~ 10:00 PM	7:28 PM CDT
▪ May 11	8:30 PM ~ 10:30 PM	7:58 PM CDT
▪ June 8	8:45 PM ~ 10:45 PM	8:21 PM CDT
▪ July 13	9:00 PM ~ 11:00 PM	8:25 PM CDT
▪ August 10	8:30 PM ~ 10:30 PM	7:57 PM CDT
▪ September 7	8:00 PM ~ 10:00 PM	7:15 PM CDT
▪ October 5	7:00 PM ~ 9:00 PM	6:29 PM CDT

Sessions begin at dusk, about 30-45 minutes after sunset. At the conclusion of the talk, the sky will be dark enough for sky viewing.

If you are unfamiliar with Sugar Grove Nature Center, we suggest that you arrive early. Our location is dark at night as there are no lights. Also, it takes about 20 minutes for your eyes to adapt to the dark conditions.

When you are uncertain if a session will be held due to rain, check for updates on *Facebook* (TCAA).

Featured Sky Object or Topic by Month*

- April 13 – Distance: How do we know how far?
- May 11 – Spectra: The Stories the Stars Tell
- June 8 – Telescopes: Why Astronomers Need Them
- July 13 – A History of Women in Astronomy
- August 10 – Meteor Showers: There's More than 1
- September 7 – Your First Telescope/Binoculars
- October 5 – Uranus, Neptune, Pluto: 2 Planets or 3?

* Additional prominent sky objects such as the moon, planets, nebulae, star clusters, and galaxies will be viewed when visible.

DIRECTIONS TO SUGAR GROVE NATURE CENTER

- From Bloomington-Normal, take Interstate 55 heading southwest toward Springfield.
- Exit at Shirley, the first interchange a few miles out of town (Exit 154).



- From the exit ramp, turn right (west) onto County Rte 34.
- Go to the T-intersection, stop, then turn left (southwest) toward Shirley and Funks Grove.
- Continue along old Route 66 for about 4 miles, paralleling Interstate 55.
- Turn right (west)

onto County Route 36 at the Funks Grove sign, cross the railroad tracks (careful, fast trains!), and then take the first left (south) toward Funks Grove Church.

- Continue 1.8 miles along County Road 550 N, past *Sudden Impact* paint ball area, and until you come to the first intersection where the road branches. Avoid taking the right branch (County Road 540 N) that goes west toward Funks Grove Church and Cemetery.

- Continue going straight ahead down the dead-end road.
- After about one mile, turn right (west) into the Sugar Grove Nature Center.
- Park in the gravel parking lot just west of the main Nature Center building.

