

# STARRY NIGHTS



July, August, September 2006

Volume 25, Issue 3

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## Observatory Reminder

This is just a short reminder that we will be taking the summer off for the observatory sessions. Starting in August and going through October, we will be NOT be using the Oakwood Golf Course as our alternative observing location as many of our previous releases stated. We will meet at Froemming Park as usual. The reason that we are moving back to Froemming Park is that we were denied access to turn off a very bright "security" light that lights up the parking lot. This light was not on when we researched this park. See page 3 for the schedule. If the weather is clear on a Friday near a 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter or new moon, we might be out at Harrington Beach doing some dark sky observing. Check the message board on the website to see if we are going to be out.

See the revised schedule at [www.wehastro.org](http://www.wehastro.org)

## Donations

Thanks to Bob Dzidzan for donating a Night Navigator and the following books:

Comet by Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan  
The Concise Handbook of Astronomy by Ian Ridpath  
Fire of Life: The Smithsonian Book of the Sun

## Earth Day at Wehr Nature Center

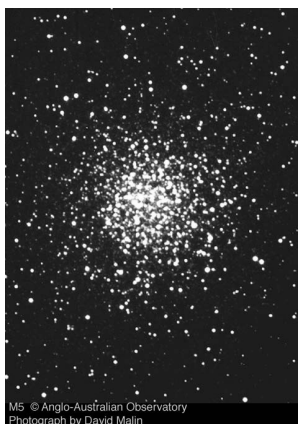
Earth Day was held on Saturday, April 22. The weather was very good and quite a few people attended. Sandy Dombeck manned our Wehr Astronomical Society table and she talked to quite a few people, who stopped by to see what astronomy was all about. Hopefully we will see some of these people at our observing sessions during the next few months. (If our cloudy skies clear!)

## Welcome New Members

In February we welcomed two new members, Paul and Patricia Kebbel-sus to our club. We hope to see them at the meetings and observing sessions.



## Observer's Corner – M5



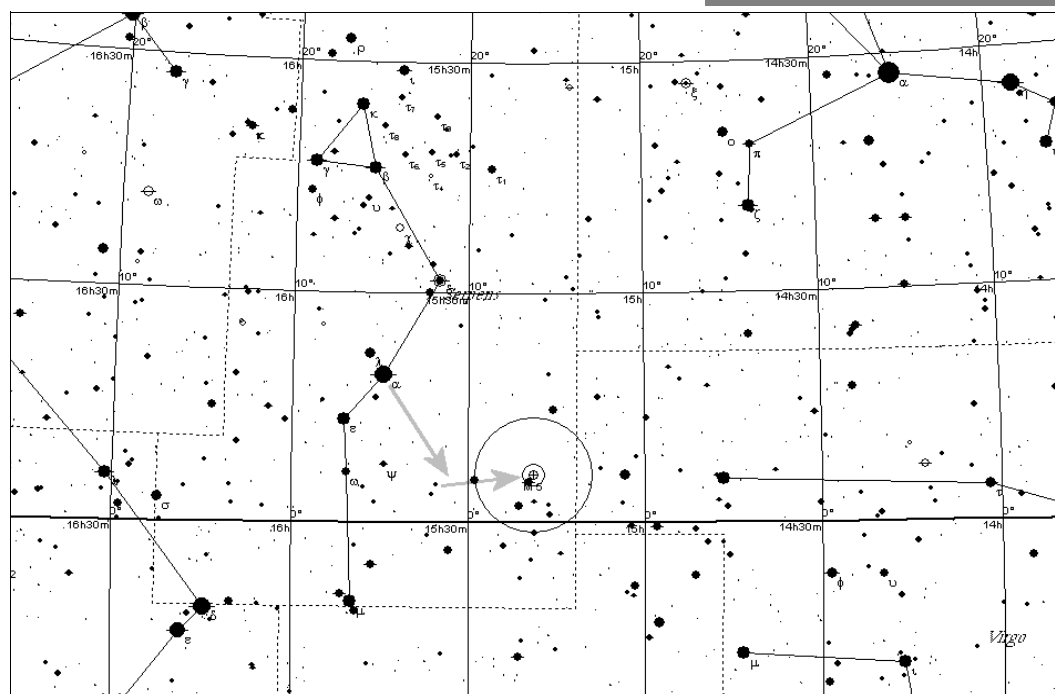
M5 © Anglo-Australian Observatory  
Photograph by David Malin

This quarter we are going to look at one of the more prominent globular clusters. This globular cluster is located in Serpens Caput, the head of the serpent. It is a little bigger than M13, but is not as compact. Visually it will appear about 10 arc-minutes in diameter, while M13 will appear about 13 arc-minutes in diameter.

To find M5 we start at Serpens Caput, which is located below Corona Borealis (the Northern Crown) and Bootes (The Herdsman). Start by locating the head of the serpent and then work down its body until you get to three stars that form a line (Delta ( $\delta$ ) Serpentis, Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) Serpentis and Epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) Serpentis). Note Lambda ( $\lambda$ ) Serpentis next to Alpha Serpentis. Form a line between those two stars ( $\alpha$  and  $\lambda$  Serpentis) and travel along that line, away from the head of the serpent. You should come to a star (10 Serpentis) that is a little dimmer than Lambda Serpentis, which is shown on the left edge of the finderscope circle on the map. Next to it will be two stars close together at an angle that are to the left of 10 Serpentis. Use this as an "arrow" to find your way to M5 which is just above 5 Serpentis (which is the star on the top of a group of fairly bright stars that are around 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> magnitude).

This globular cluster is bright enough to be seen with binoculars at about 5.6 magnitude in brightness. In dark skies, this globular cluster can be seen with the naked eye. M5 is about 24,500 light years away which would give its actual size to be about 165 light years in diameter.

-Tim Grunewald



## LUNAR PHASES

- July 3      First Quarter
- July 10      Full
- July 17      Last Quarter
- July 25      New



- August 2      First Quarter
- August 9      Full
- August 15      Last Quarter
- August 23      New
- August 31      First Quarter



- September 7      Full
- September 14      Last Quarter
- September 22      New Moon
- September 30      First Quarter

# SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

FOR

THE WEHR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

<http://www.wehrastro.org>

## REGULAR MEETINGS

(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)



**July 11, 2006**

No Meeting Planned



**August 9, 2006**

No Meeting Planned



**September 12, 2006**

Wehr Nature Center

Topic to be Decided, See [www.wehrastro.org](http://www.wehrastro.org) for updates

## OBSERVATORY ACTIVITIES

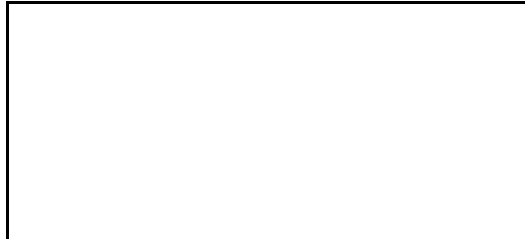
(FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC)

July		No scheduled observing sessions.
August 4	9:30	Observing the moon and deep sky objects. See a gibbous moon and deep sky objects. See Jupiter.
August 18	9:00	Deep sky objects. The Perseid meteor shower.
September 15	8:00	Deep sky objects. <b>Novice Night.</b> Bring you telescope or binoculars and let us show you what you can see.
September 29	7:30	Observing the moon and deep sky objects. See a 1st quarter moon and the brighter deep sky objects.

Note: All observatory dates fall on a Friday, and are held at Froemming Park, on 51<sup>st</sup> Street between Ryan Rd. and Puetz Rd.



**WEHR ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**9701 WEST COLLEGE AVE.**  
**FRANKLIN, WI 53132**



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**Wehr Astronomical Society**

**Phone: (414) 425-8550**

**<http://www.wehrastro.org>**

**Contact a board member if you are interested in a position.**

## *Starrynights*

**The official newsletter of the Wehr  
Astronomical Society.**

We are a group of amateur astronomers organized to promote the study of astronomy and further public and members' interest in astronomy. We have been serving the Milwaukee area since 1981 and welcome the public to our meetings. Our aim is to give guidance and information to those who want help in the pursuit of stargazing.

Back issues of starrynights can be requested or downloaded from our website at: [www.wehrastro.org](http://www.wehrastro.org)