

FOR: Immediate Release

FROM: Lake Afton Public Observatory
WSU Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education
Robert Henry, 316.978.3991 or Greg Novacek, 316.978.3854

DATE: May 21, 2012

RE: Lake Afton Public Observatory - Programs for June, July & August, 2012.

Office:
1845 Fairmount
Wichita, KS 67260-0032
(316) 978-3191

Program Information:
(316) WSU-STAR
Internet:
<http://webs.wichita.edu/lapo>

Observatory:
20 mi. SW of downtown Wichita
on MacArthur Rd. at 247th St. W.
(316) 794-8995

removable lens) can take celestial photographs using the Observatory's 16" telescope as a giant telephoto lens.

On Saturday, June 30th at 11:00 pm the Observatory's astrophotography program will feature our closest celestial neighbor, the Moon, during its gibbous phase. On Saturday, July 14th at 11:00 pm, the astrophotography program will attempt to capture the beautiful details of Saturn and its ring system. Finally, on Saturday, August 25th at 11:00 pm the astrophotography program will focus on the craters and maré of our Moon.

For the photography programs listed, the ability to shoot color pictures at ISO 400 or 800 is recommended.

Note that if you do not have an SLR camera, that's ok too. Bring a USB flash drive with you and the Observatory will let you use their digital SLR camera to take your astronomy photographs. When you have finished, your pictures will be transferred to your flash drive for you to take home and enjoy.

Opening Times and Admission

The Lake Afton Public Observatory is open to the public every Friday and Saturday evening. From June through the end of August, Observatory hours will be from 9:00-11:00 pm. Admission is just \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6-12; children under 6 are admitted free. There is also a special family rate where 2 parents and their immediate minor children or grandchildren get in for just \$15.00. Current program information is available on our information hotline at WSU-STAR (978-7827) or from our website at <http://webs.wichita.edu/lapo> .

Location

The observatory is located about 20 miles southwest of downtown Wichita on MacArthur Road at 247th Street West in Lake Afton County Park. It is immediately north of the lake, just off MacArthur Road. Lake Afton can be reached by any of the following routes: west from Wichita on U.S. 54 to the Lake Afton sign at Viola Road three miles past Goddard, then three miles south and one mile east; or southwest on K-42, 7 miles to Schulte and nine miles west on MacArthur.

Events Taking Place in the Sky

Would you like to know when the full Moon will occur? Have you ever pondered the name of the bright star you saw near the Moon? Is there a meteor shower this month? To discover the answers to these questions or if you just want to know what events are taking place in the sky during the current month, call the Observatory's Program and Sky Information line at WSU-STAR (978-7827).

The Lake Afton Public Observatory is operated by the Fairmount Center for Science

Public Program Schedule June 1 September 1, 2012

Program

June

Fridays and Saturdays