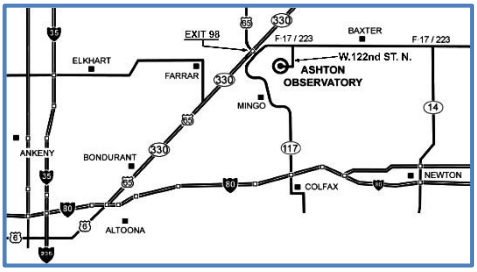
Ashton Observatory Public Nights 2026

Presented by The Des Moines Astronomical Society. Inc.

Ashton Observatory is open to the public for weekend programs, followed by stargazing – Saturday evenings, April through October.

Date		Time	Presentation Subject	Presenter	days Moon
Apr.	04	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		17.1
	11	8:00 p.m.	Preview of the coming 2026 season	Derryl Barr, Greg Woolever	24.0
	18	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		1.6
	25	8:00 p.m.	Astrophotography with a DSLR/Mirrorless Camera	Heather Johnson	8.6
May	02	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		15.6
	09	8:00 p.m.	Types of Objects in the Universe	Paul Caligiuri	22.6
	16	8:00 p.m.	Ashton Observatory closed: NCRAL conference in Cedar Rapids		0.3
	23	8:00 p.m.	Stars & S'mores: The Perfect Camping Combination.	Jim McGraw	7.3
	30	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		14.3
Jun.	06	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		21.3
	13	8:00 p.m.	Starry, Starry Night	JoAnn Cogil	28.3
	20	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		6.0
	27	8:00 p.m.	Inspiring Astronomer: Hebert Howe	Jim VandeBerg	13.0
Jul.	04	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		20.0
	11	8:00 p.m.	Finding Distances to Stars and Objects	Paul Caligiuri	27.0
	18	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		4.7
	25	8:00 p.m.	Protecting our Dark Skies	JR Paulson	11.7
Aug.	01	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		18.7
	08	8:00 p.m.	Our Address in the Universe	JR Paulson	25.7
	15	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		3.4
	22	8:00 p.m.	Astronomy Fun Facts	Jim VandeBerg	10.4
	29	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		17.4
Sep.	05	8:00 p.m.	Chasing Comets, Past & Present	Jon Voisey	24.4
	12	8:00 p.m.	Journey to the Edge of the Universe	Jim VandeBerg	1.9
	19	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		8.9
	26	8:00 p.m.	History of Apollo, Part 2	Wade Johnson	15.9
Oct.	03	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		22.9
	10	8:00 p.m.	Hidden in Plane Sight: Looking at Saturn Edge-On	Derrick Bennett	0.4
	17	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		7.4
	24	8:00 p.m.	Galileo and the Pendulum	Paul Caligiuri	14.4
	31	8:00 p.m.	Stargazing		21.4

Donations are tax-deductible to the Des Moines Astronomical Society, a 501(c)(3) corporation.
Ashton Observatory is located in Ashton Wildwood County Park, Jasper County, IA,
8837 W. 122nd Street, Mingo, IA 50168. Location coordinates: 41.813371; -93.288447
website: www.dmastronomy.com
email: info@dmastronomy.com
DMAS founded 1970. Ashton Observatory built 1983. Classroom added 2002.
Classroom programs are created by individual presenters, and do not necessarily reflect the views of DMAS or its members.