

Ashton Observatory Public Nights

The Des Moines Astronomical Society invites you to visit the Ashton Observatory Saturdays, 8:00 p.m., April through October.

The 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month include a classroom presentation, followed by stargazing as sky conditions allow.

Meet one of our presenters this season:

JoAnn Cogil



JoAnn Cogil comes to Iowa from rural Nebraska where she viewed the night skies while growing up on the family farm. She graduated from Nursing School with her R.N. degree and spent many years helping people with their health. JoAnn recently retired after working for the City of Johnston in the Library and Police Department.

JoAnn and Jim have 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren, and spending time with her family is always a priority for her. When her son was young, he received an 8-inch Dobsonian telescope but found other interests as he grew. JoAnn felt drawn back to the night sky and brought out that telescope and has never put it away. She has actually added to her astronomy equipment. Of

course, her grandchildren love looking at the night sky with her whenever possible.

She enjoys learning more about our night sky and now loves sharing with others. Her passion for astronomy drew her to DMAS where she is an active member, including becoming a DMAS Board member. Many evenings find her at Ashton Observatory assisting with public and private viewing night events as she shares her knowledge of the night sky and even operating one of the bigger telescopes. Hearing someone say "Wow" the first time they see Jupiter or Saturn in the telescope eyepiece always makes her smile.