

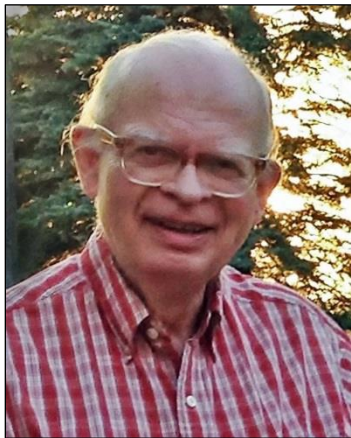
Ashton Observatory Public Nights

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

Most Saturdays include a classroom presentation, followed by stargazing as sky conditions allow.

Meet one of our fine presenters this season:

Vern Naffier



Vern Naffier, a retired Lutheran Minister, taught World Religions, Ethics, and Christian Faith and Life at Grand View University after retirement. He also taught mathematics at the university level.

Vern is a lifelong amateur astronomer. He got his first look through a small refractor telescope in his home town, Milwaukee, under the guidance of his father. He ground his first telescope mirror when he was seventeen and assisted his dad, a master machinist, in building the scope. He is currently the owner of five reflector telescopes including his first handmade scope.

Vern's grandfather, who in 1890 emigrated from France, shared with Vern his own interest in science, astronomy, and math. Vern studied Grandpa's trigonometry book for fun in eighth grade. Vern has a degree in mathematics and philosophy from Marquette University. He has an ongoing interest in physics and cosmology.

Vern has held many leadership offices in DMAS, including President. He is married to Joyce, who shares his interest in astronomy. Both are usually in attendance for weekly Ashton Public Nights.

Vern and Joyce have three children and seven grandchildren who have all visited Ashton Observatory.