

## The Cedar Amateur Astronomers

## "Bringing the Universe to Linn County"

Cedar Amateur Astronomers, Inc. (CAA) is a non-profit all volunteer organization of over 100 members based in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Founded in 1979 to promote and practice astronomy in East Central Iowa, membership is open to any individual, student or family interested in astronomy. Members receive our monthly newsletter *The Prime Focus*, discounts on astronomy books and magazines, membership in the Astronomical League, and are entitled to use of facilities and equipment.



An observatory site is maintained and operated at Palisades-Dows Preserve near Palisades-Kepler State Park in cooperation with the Linn County Conservation Department. "Public Night" meetings are held



monthly at the observatory for people interested in learning more about astronomy and telescopes, and for people who just wonder what it's like to look through a high quality telescope.

Business and membership information meetings are also held monthly. Visit our Website at [www.cedar-astronomers.org](http://www.cedar-astronomers.org) for additional information.



M51 Galaxy  
(Michigan State University)

## "CAA Receives Gift of Professional Research Telescope"



Mars in 2003  
Siding Springs Observatory  
N.S.W. Australia

In 2003, the University of Iowa donated a valuable 24-inch Boller & Chivens professional grade telescope to the CAA. In consultation with U of I personnel, CAA members organized, planned, documented, disassembled and successfully moved this superb instrument to a secure location. It is currently in storage pending construction of an appropriate facility. When installed in the new facility, this telescope will have an estimated value of over \$250,000.



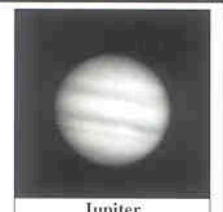
Boller & Chivens 24"  
Classical Cassegrain Telescope

The Palisades-Dows site currently has only electricity and 2 small buildings housing telescope equipment. There are no indoor classroom facilities, running water or restrooms, and little protection from the weather for groups of people. In order to support the growing public interest in astronomy, our outreach programs require larger, family-friendly, observatory, classroom and presentation facilities.



## COMMITMENT TO SUCCESS

CAA Has the Technical and Project Management Talents to Successfully Complete this Premier Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center.



Jupiter  
(Michigan State University)





# The Eastern Iowa Observatory and Learning Center

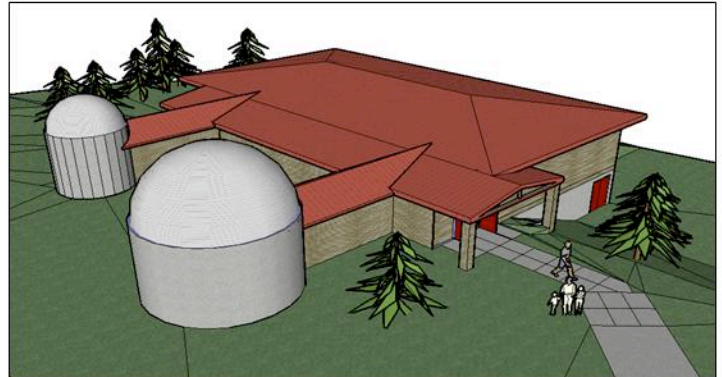


Boller & Chivens 24" Cassegrain Telescope

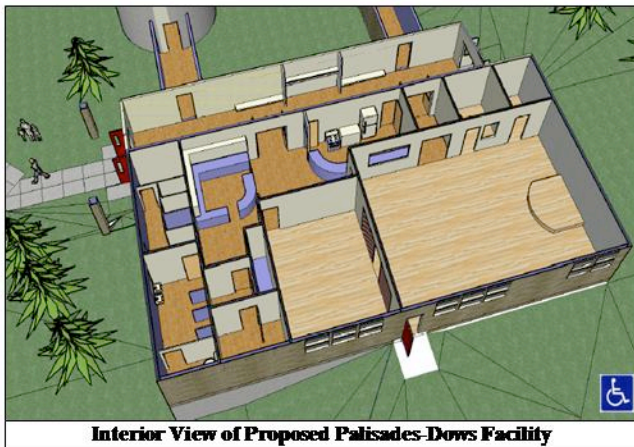
Greater Cedar Rapids and Linn County have a unique opportunity to create what will be the premier public astronomy site in Iowa. The centerpiece of this new facility will be a rare and valuable 24-inch Boller & Chivens classical Cassegrain telescope originally installed at the University of Iowa's Riverside observatory and recently gifted to the Cedar Amateur Astronomers (CAA).

A new 4600 sq. ft. facility is proposed to support the growing community interest in astronomy.

It will consist of two observatory domes, a classroom, multi-purpose presentation room, computer control room, library, storage, and restrooms. The domes will house the superb 24-inch "B&C" telescope, and a 16-inch "Robotic" telescope set up for remote control observing .



Proposed Palisades-Dows Observatory & Classroom/Presentation Facility



Interior View of Proposed Palisades-Dows Facility

This facility is to be located at the Palisades-Dows Preserve in Linn County on land currently used by the CAA in cooperation with the Linn County Conservation Department.

The architectural plans for this new facility result in a total construction budget of \$550,000. As a non-profit organization that does not charge for their programs and services, CAA looks to community groups and local businesses for funding. This facility, and the world-class astronomical instruments it will house, will have a significant positive impact on the community and education in Eastern Iowa for many years to come.



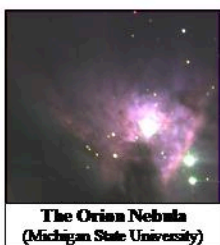
## Our Vision

**"To offer Eastern Iowa an unparalleled opportunity to promote interest and education in the science of astronomy"**



Peculiar galaxy M82 in Ursa Major  
(Photo contributed by Matt Neely)

We promote the study of astronomy and related sciences through free educational programs, presentations, guided observing sessions and special programs. These are available to community organizations, scouting, church groups, schools, colleges and universities. The 24-inch B&C telescope will be made available for college and university programs as well as public observing sessions. The 16-inch robotic telescope in the second dome will be 'linked' to area schools for use in their science programs.



The Orion Nebula  
(Michigan State University)

**Why is this important to us? We wish to encourage the sciences through hands-on participation in astronomy.** There is nothing like seeing the excitement on a young person's face when they see the rings of Saturn or a distant galaxy for the first time with their own eyes.