

# Keep your eyes peeled for 'Hunter's Moon'

FOR THE TWO weeks beginning with Oct. 8, Mercury is at its best for viewing in the morning sky. It will be about 10 degrees above the eastern horizon, 45 minutes before sunrise. It will still be best to have an unobstructed view of the horizon and use binoculars to see Mercury. Oct. 10 is when Mercury is at its maximum elongation (greatest apparent angle) from the sun. Mercury will be 18 degrees west (right) of the sun.

Look for Venus on the evening of the 12th and notice how much closer it is to Antares. Venus will be less than two degrees from Antares within a week.

Full Moon is at 4:32 p.m. on Oct. 14. The moon is fully lighted by the sun. This "Hunter's Moon" will rise in the east northeast, as the sun sets in the west southwest, and be visible all night. The full moon that follows the harvest moon is called the Hunter's Moon because it provides light for hunters who are out after sunset.

This is also the closest full moon around the earth is not a perfect circle; it is elliptical (oval). Every month there is a point when the moon is closest to the earth (called perigee) and a point where it is at its farthest (apogee). This month the full moon just happens to coincide with



skywatch  
**Raymond E. Bullock**

its time of perigee.

VENUS is 1.8 degrees north of (above) Antares on the evening of Oct. 16. If you continue to track Venus for the rest of the month, you will see it continuing to move eastward through the stars of Scorpius, increasing its distance from Antares.

The moon is located in the constellation of Taurus the bull on the morning of the 17th. Look high in the southwest before sunrise. The moon will appear to be sitting directly on top of Pleiades (PLEI = a decs) star cluster.

The Pleiades (the "shoulder" of Taurus) is a beautiful star cluster that looks like a tiny dipper. The light scattered by the moon will make seeing the Pleiades a challenge. To the south (left) of the moon is the star Aldebaran (al DEE a ran), the orange-red "eye" of the bull.

ON THE MORNING OF Oct. 18, the moon has moved considerably. Still in Taurus, but now 11 degrees north of Aldebaran, the moon, the star and the Pleiades form a large triangle.

Jupiter, usually the second brightest object in the night sky (when the

moon is not visible), is four degrees south of (below) the moon at 1 a.m. on the morning of Oct. 20. Four more moons should be visible if you look at Jupiter with binoculars. These are called the Galilean (gal a LAV an) satellites because they were first studied through a telescope by Galileo.

Jupiter has 16 moons, but these largest four are easy to see using binoculars. On the morning of the 20th, the four moons are aligned with two on each side of the planet. They are named going from east to west (left to right), Europa (yur OH pa), IO (EYE oh), Jupiter itself, Ganymede (GAN y mee), and Callisto (kal LIS too). If you are observing them with an astronomical telescope (one that inverts the image) the order will be reversed. The moon will be rising in the east northeast at 11:40 p.m. on the night of Oct. 20. Forming a line above the moon are the twin stars, Pollux (PAWL lux) and Castor, each representing a head of the Gemini twins. To the south of Pollux, near that twin's feet, is Jupiter. Look at Jupiter's four moons again and notice how different the alignment is after just one night.

The Orionid (o RI o nid) meteor shower reaches its maximum on the morning of Oct. 21. A patient observer can expect to see an average of 25 "falling stars" in an hour.

Unfortunately, the moon is also in the morning sky and the light it scatters will make seeing the fainter meteor trails very difficult. The shower is named for the constellation of Orion the hunter, from which the meteors appear to radiate.

Orion is high in the south in the morning. Look for three bright stars in a diagonal line that represent Orion's belt. Two bright stars above the belt are his shoulders; two bright stars below the belt are his feet.

LAST QUARTER moon is on Oct. 21. The moon is starting the last quarter of its orbit around the earth. The bright star below the waning (fading) crescent moon on the morning of Oct. 23 is Regulus, the "heart" of Leo the lion. By the next morning the moon has moved below Regulus.

Are you able to start seeing "earthshine" on the unlighted part of the moon again? Jupiter is stationary on Oct. 28.

The planet has been drifting eastward (forward), through the stars of Gemini. On the 28th, the eastward motion ends and Jupiter will begin westward (backward) motion. Backward (retrograde) motion is an optical illusion.

It is caused when the faster orbiting Earth overtakes a slower moving planet as we orbit the sun. Jupiter will move 10 degrees (20 full Moon diameters) west during the next four months.

Daylight Saving Time comes to an end at 2 a.m. on Oct. 29. Clocks will need to be turned back one hour. We are not altering the speed of Earth's rotation or the length of the day, we are merely altering the device by which time is measured.

NEW MOON occurs at 10:27 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time now) on Oct. 29. The moon is located between the earth and the sun and is not visible.

One-half hour after sunset on Halloween (Oct. 31), Saturn, Venus, Antares and the waxing crescent moon form a long line stretching the southwest to west southwest. The moon will be close to the horizon and difficult to see.

## Writer's Conference upcoming

Sharpen your pencil and boot up the computer. The 27th annual Writer's Conference is coming Friday-Saturday, Oct. 20-21, to Oakland University near Rochester.

Cosponsored by OUI's Division of Continuing Education and Detroit Women Writers, Oakland's premier conference is an important forum for beginning and established writers to perfect writing skills and to exchange ideas with professional writers from many fields.

For a brochure and to register for the conference, which is open to the public, call 370-3120 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Individual manuscript critiques, as well as writing workshop critiques, are offered. Enrollment is limited.

FRIDAY, OCT. 20, a cocktail reception and dinner at Meadow Brook Hall will feature prominent author Loren Estleman as speaker. Estleman is a two-time winner of the Private Eye Writers of America Shamus award and a nominee for both the American Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. Dinner registration deadline is Oct. 13.

On Saturday, Oct. 21, will be 33 concurrent workshop sessions in fiction, non-fiction, writing for children and young adults, poetry, short stories, articles, mysteries and screenplays.

Additional subjects will include how to get published, query letters, selling your work, grants for writers and disciplining yourself to write. Registration deadline is Oct. 16. Luncheon speaker Oct. 21 will be Shelby Hearn, author of 11 novels and five-time winner of the NEA/PEN Syndication Short Story Prize. "Owning Jolene," Hearn's best seller this year, will be out in paperback in 1990. Hearn will speak on "The Truth of Fiction."

Fees for conference events are: individual manuscript critiques, \$30; workshop audit, \$20; Saturday conference sessions all day, \$47; Friday evening cocktail reception and dinner, \$38; and Saturday luncheon, \$7.50. The luncheon is open only to conference participants, however, seating will be provided for conferees who opt not to attend the luncheon, but who want to hear Hearn.

## You are needed.

ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19  
between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.



Between three and five o'clock on Thursday, as part of their annual Field Day experience, students of Seaholm High School will pick up packaged foods from you and caring, sharing others who contribute to the Oakland County Food Bank.

TO CONTRIBUTE, ARRANGE PICK-UP, AND SUPPORT THE CLASS OF YOUR CHOICE, CALL ONE OF THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:

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## Is Your Child Too Small?

Most kids grow at their own rate. And there's nothing to be alarmed at if they're a little above or below the growth chart.

For some children, though, it's different. For any number of reasons, they just don't grow like other kids do. But if treated in time, many of them can be helped.

And that's the purpose of the Growth Assessment Clinic sponsored by Pediatric Associates of Farmington, in affiliation with Children's Hospital of Michigan and the Human Growth Foundation. If you're worried about your child's growth pattern, give us a call at (313) 228-2769.

We'll set up a private screening on Saturday, October 14. And it won't cost you a penny.

The Growth Assessment Clinic sponsored by Children's Health Care of Port Huron. It's a great way of cutting the problem down to size.

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