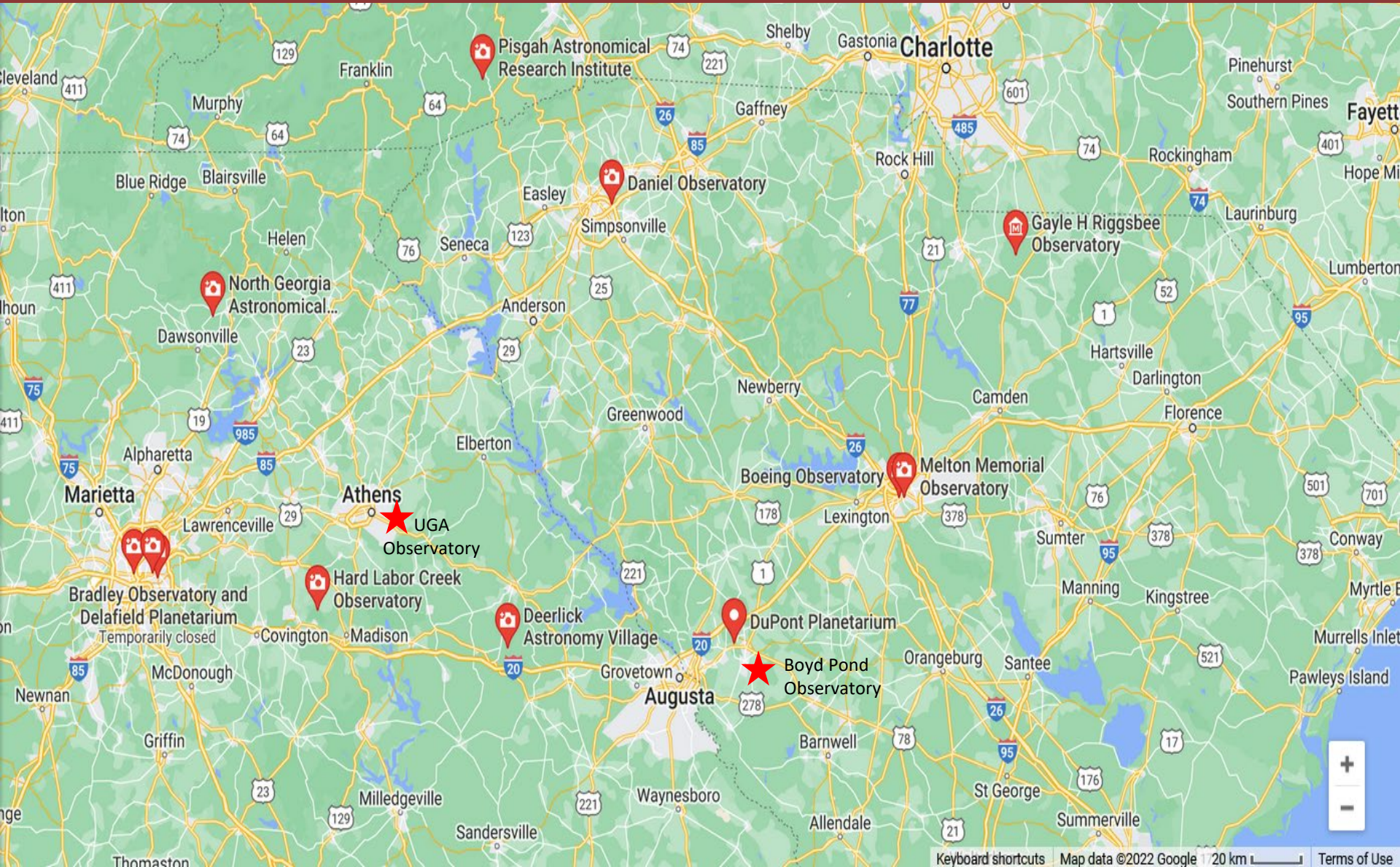


# “Local” Observatories







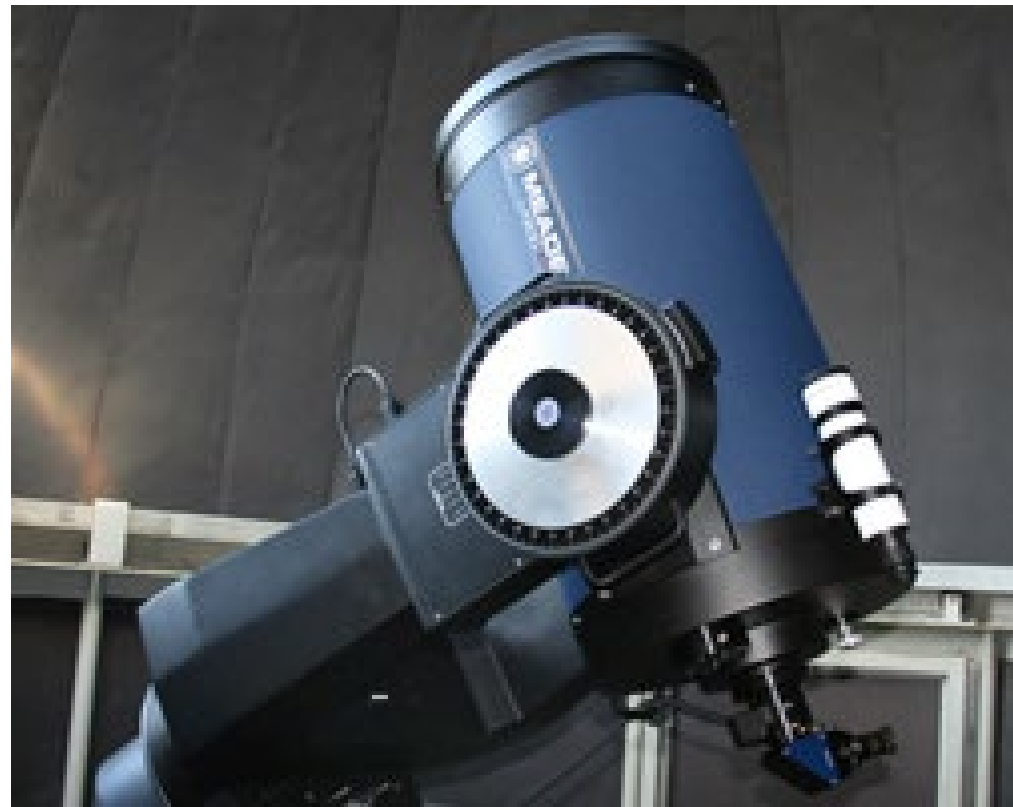
RUTH PATRICK SCIENCE EDUCATION CENTER

AIKEN SCHOLARS ACADEMY  
HOME OF THE PLYMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTHERN STATES



The observatory building was manufactured by Observadome in Jackson, Mississippi. It is five meters in diameter and has a rotating domed roof.

The Bechtel Telescope is a 16 inch, Meade LX-200GPS, Schmidt-Cassegrain, catadioptric telescope.



**Visit the Bechtel Telescope** after evening public planetarium shows. The observatory is open after regularly scheduled planetarium shows on Saturday evenings; weather and dark skies permitting.

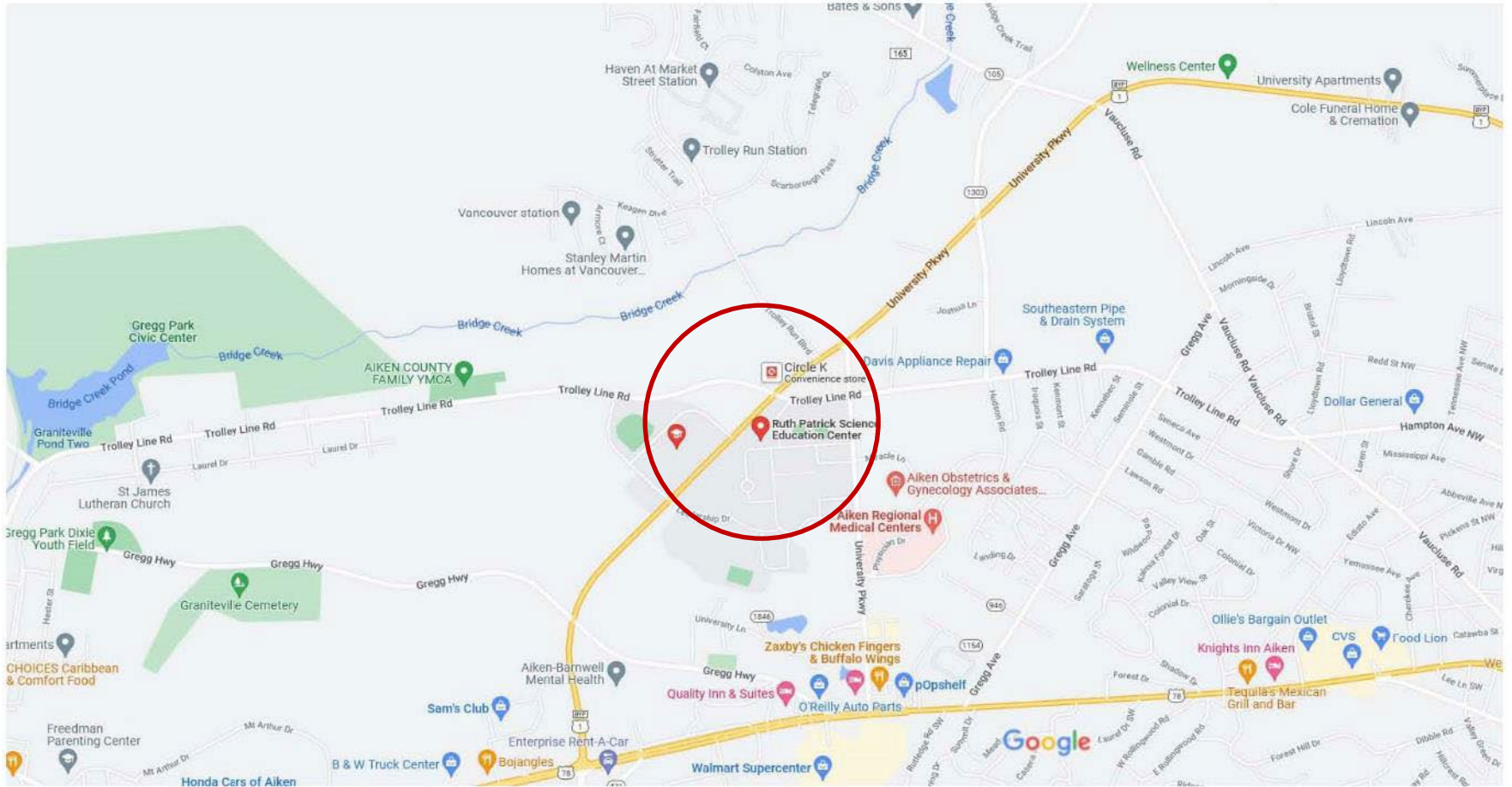
Also houses the Dupont Planetarium

**Ruth Patrick Science  
Education Center**

- 471 University Pkwy  
Aiken, SC 29801
- Phone803-641-3313

<https://www.usca.edu/rpsec/>









**AIKEN COUNTY**  
**PARKS, RECREATION,**  
**& TOURISM DEPARTMENT**

**Boyd Observatory**



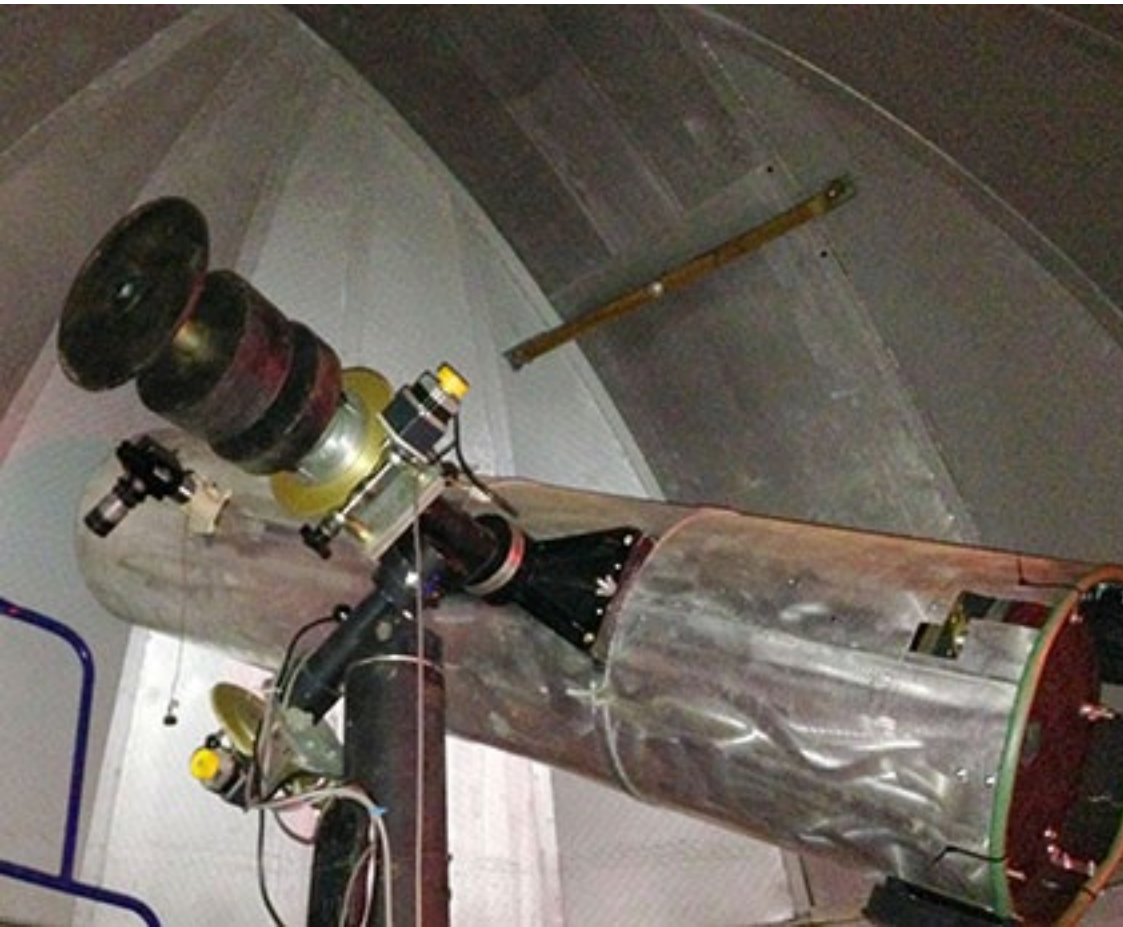


# **Boyd Observatory is open ( weather permitting ) on the first and third Friday of the month**

Please email David Boyd if you plan to visit.

[dboyd@boydobservatory.com](mailto:dboyd@boydobservatory.com)

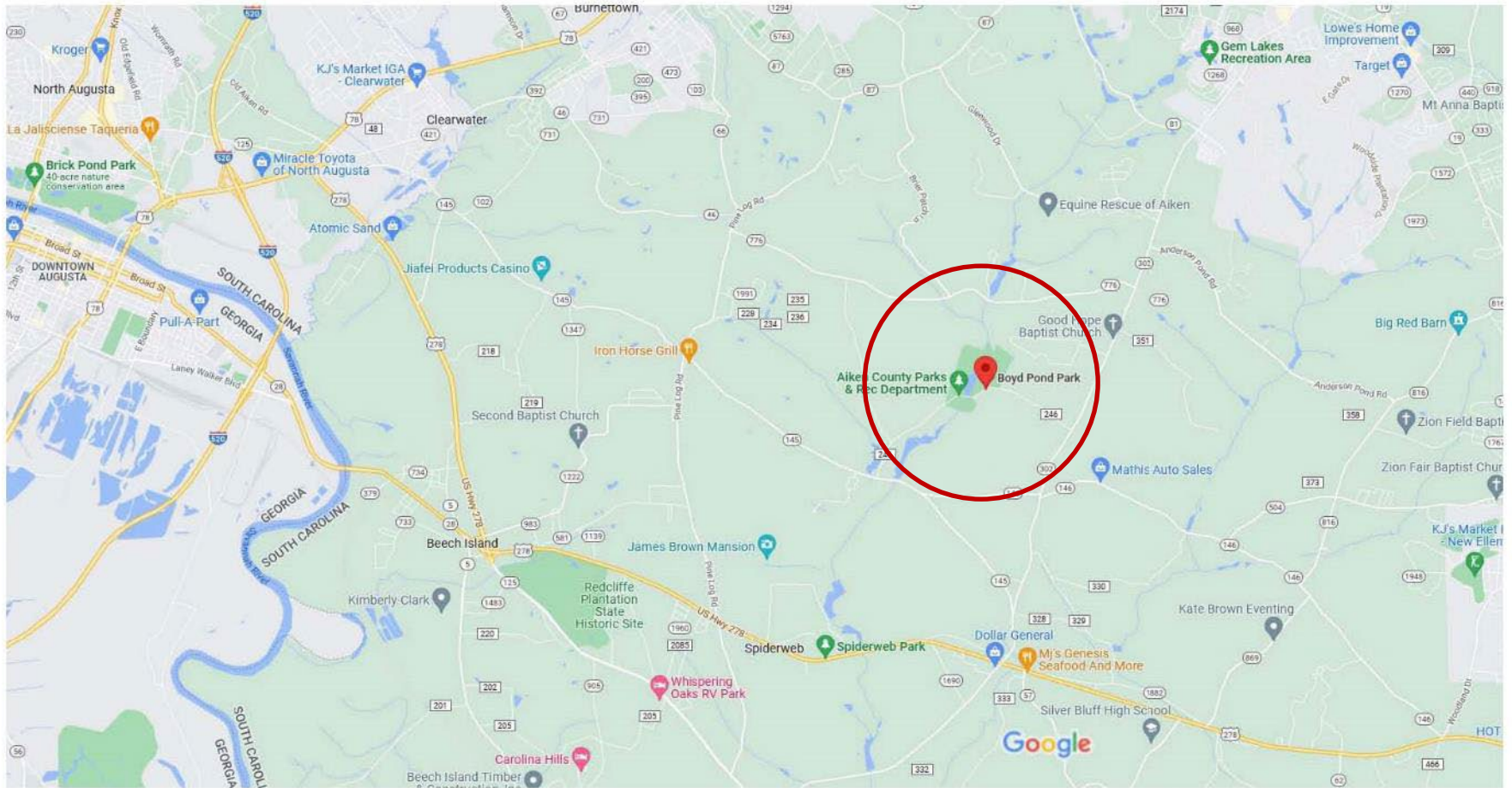
PROGRAMS START AT SUNDOWN. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY.



**The Observatory Telescope is a  
444 mm (17 ½") F 4.5 Newtonian  
Reflector**

Boyd Pond  
373 Boyd Pond Road  
Aiken SC, 29803

Google Maps Boyd Pond Park







**The South Carolina State Museum  
Includes the Boeing Observatory and BlueCross  
BlueShield of South Carolina Planetarium**

**<http://scmuseum.org/>  
Museum Information: [803-898-4921](tel:803-898-4921)  
Guest Services: [803-898-4978](tel:803-898-4978)**

**301 Gervais Street  
Columbia, SC 29201**





## **Boeing Observatory**

This 2,500 square foot observatory at the South Carolina State Museum features a 1926 Alvan Clark 12 3/8-inch refracting telescope, outdoor viewing terrace, and adjoining classroom.

## **Solar Observing**

**Mon: Closed**

**Tues. – Fri: 12 to 4 p.m.**

**Sat: 12 to 5 p.m.**

**Sun: 1 to 5 p.m.**

## **Night Observing**

**Currently Closed Until Further Notice**

Questions? Contact Observatory Manager, Matthew Whitehouse, at 803.898.4918 or email at [matthew.whitehouse@scmuseum.org](mailto:matthew.whitehouse@scmuseum.org)



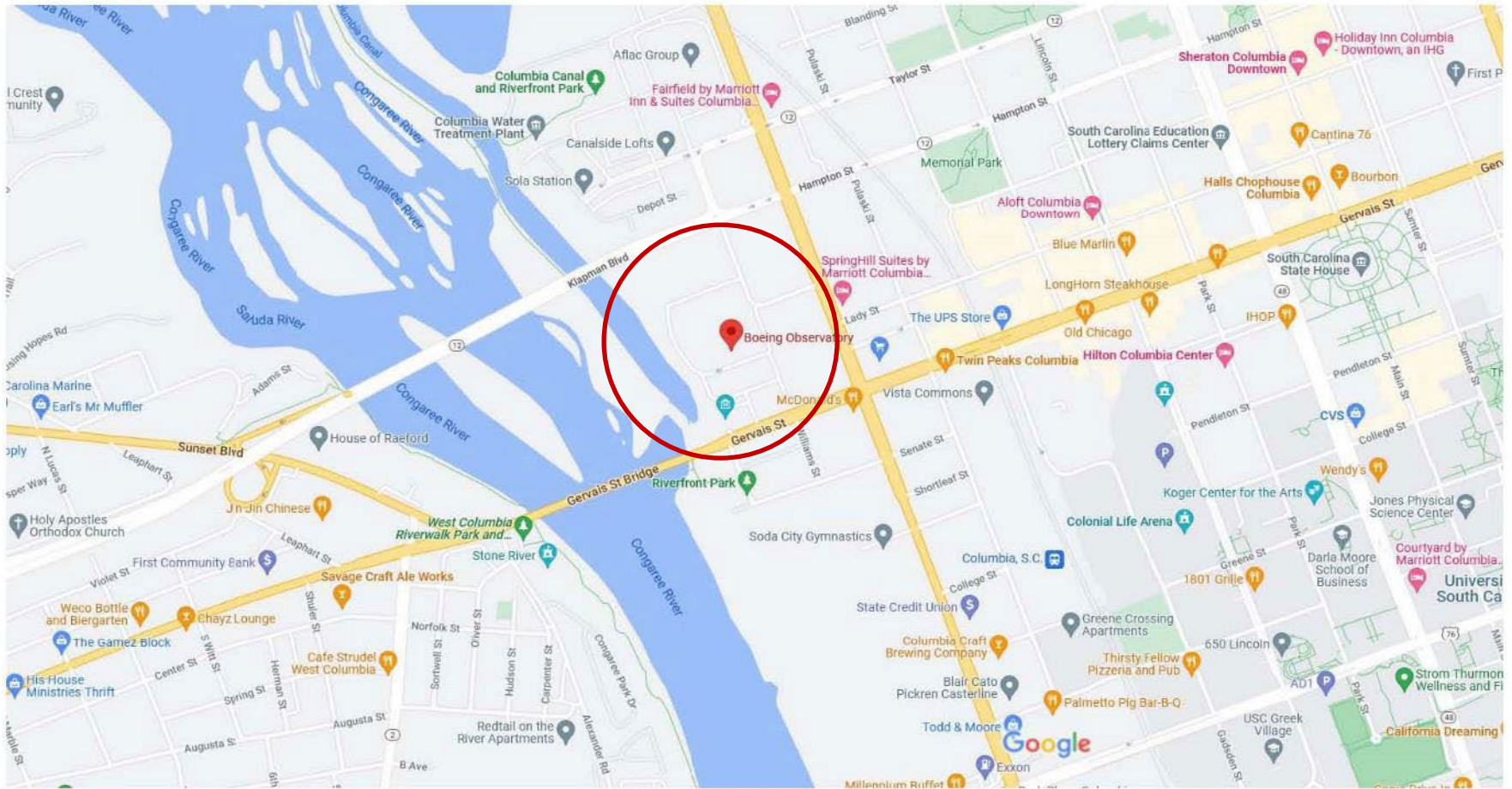
## **Museum Hours**

**Sun.:** 12 - 5 p.m.

**Mon:** Closed

**Tues. - Fri:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Sat.:** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.







# Melton Observatory

is located on the campus of the [University of South Carolina](#) at 1429 Greene St., [Columbia](#). The observatory opens every Monday night at dusk for two hours, depending on the weather. For exact hours each week, [see their website](#). Admission is free.

**Insider Tip:** This is definitely a trip for older, school-aged children. The telescopes are fragile pieces of equipment, the observation deck is very narrow, the spiral staircase is steep, skinny and goes up for a long time, and the activity, by its nature, has to happen in the dark.





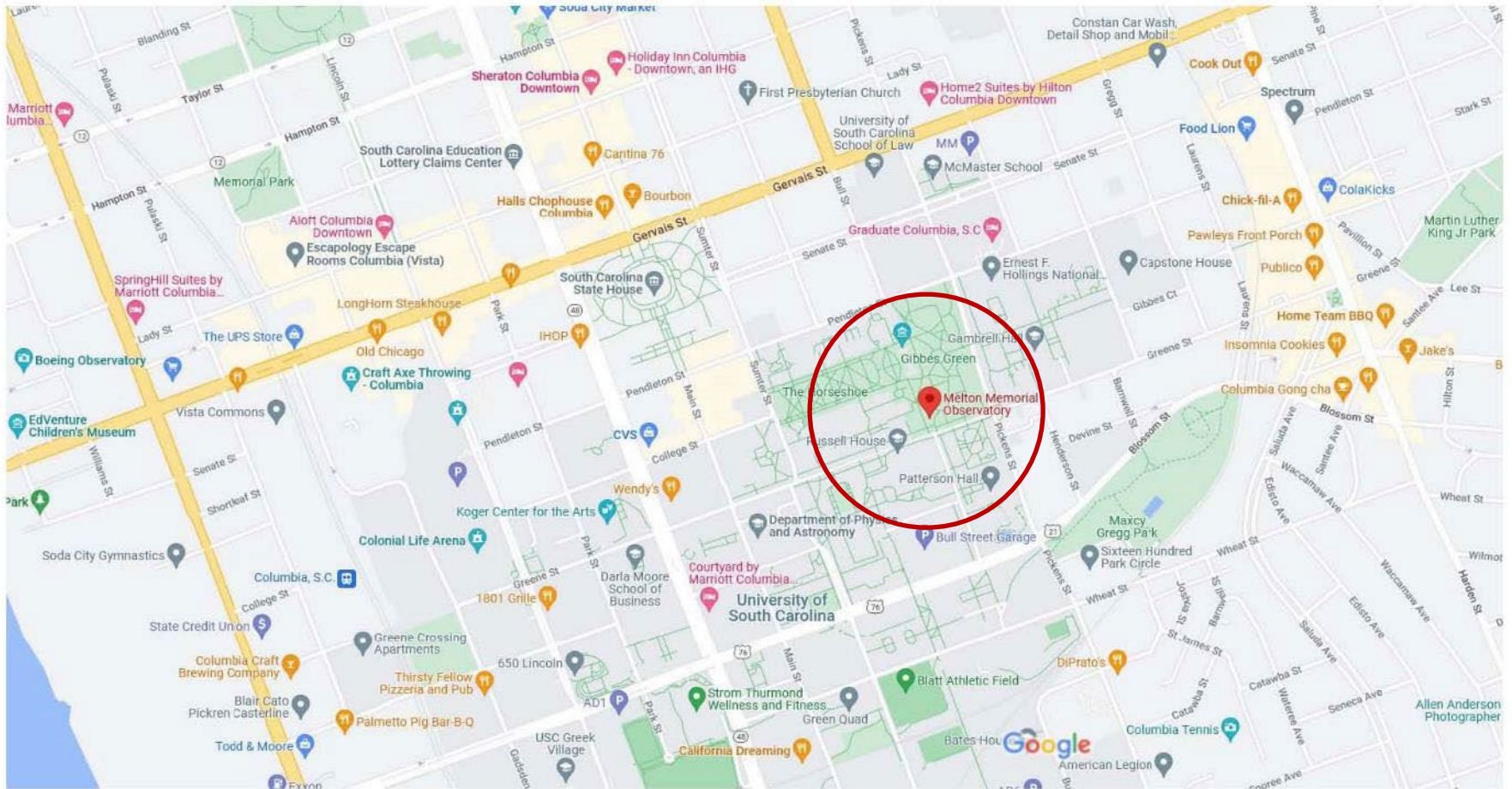
The current mirror is approximately 40 centimeters in diameter, which is between 15 and 16 inches. Current documentation lists the telescope as a 16-inch Cassegrain. The Observatory was designed to house a much larger telescope in the event of one being made available.

## Public Observing...

The Melton Observatory is open to the public on clear Monday nights (currently 8-10pm) throughout the year, weather permitting. We may also open for special astronomical events. These events will be posted on our [home](#) page and our [Calendar of Events](#) as well as on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages as they are available. See our [Calendar](#) for a complete list of events, and visit the [Sky Report](#) page to see what's currently visible in the night sky. There is no fee for visiting the observatory. *Remember to dress for the weather!*



Google Maps Melton Memorial Observatory





Charlotte Amateur Astronomers Club

# The Gayle H. Riggsbee Observatory (GHRO)



## CAAC Telescopes

- 8 Inch Alvan Clark Refractor f15
- 16 Inch Cassegrain f10
- 24 Inch Newtonian Reflector f5
- 102mm Lunt H-alpha Solar

Warm up room with microwave ovens and refrigerator

Rest rooms

Shower

Picnic Pavilion

Class room

RV and Tent Camping

Gas Grill

Yard Games

- Corn Hole
- Frisbee
- Badminton
- Volley Ball

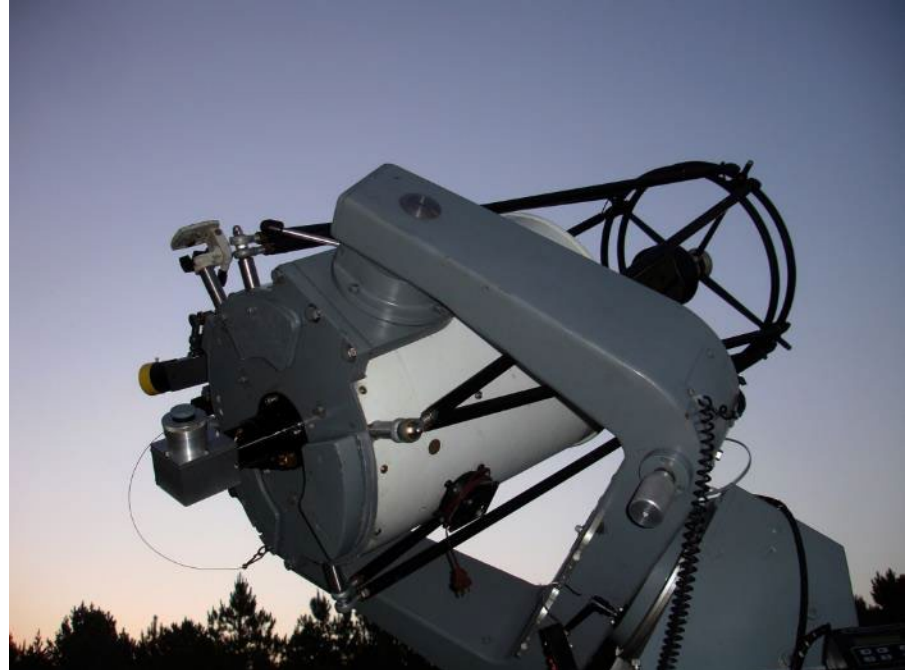
Wireless Internet (WiFi)

**Address:** 1427 29720 Bloomwood Dr, Kershaw, SC 29067 **Phone:** [\(704\) 996-4215](tel:7049964215)





8" Alvan Clark Refractor



16" Cassegrain f10



102mm Lunt H-alpha Solar Observatory

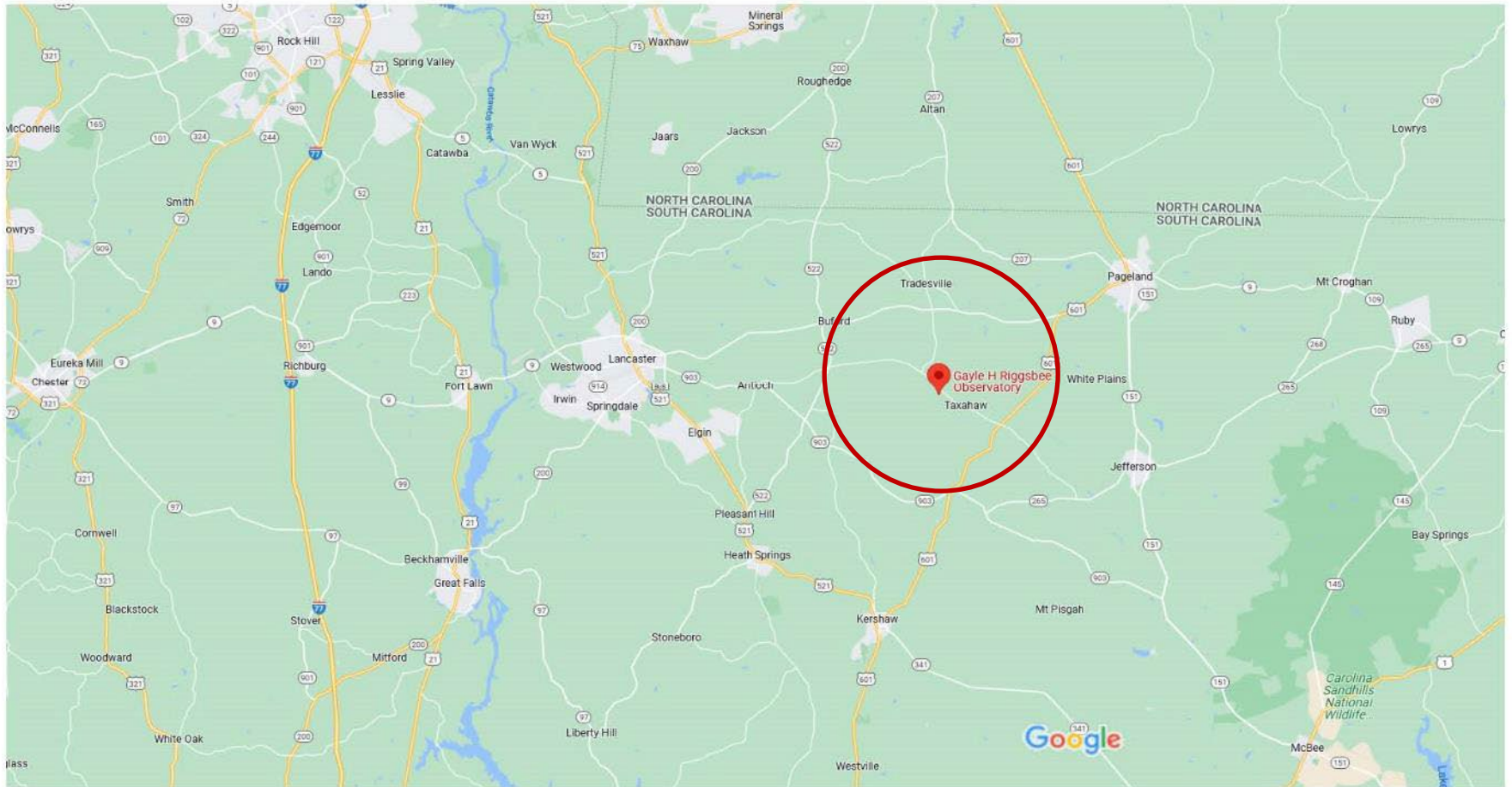


Ken Steiner Astronomy Outreach Center



24" Newtonian Reflector f5

Google Maps Gayle H Riggsbee Observatory







COLLEGE of  
CHARLESTON

# College of Charleston Observatory

## Facilities Available During Open House

Our main 24" telescope housed in the dome will not be part of the Open Houses. We will have our smaller, portable telescopes set up on the roof deck, portable planetarium on the first floor, and classrooms with physics and astronomy demos on the third floor. All open house events are free and open to the public.



# The CofC 24in Telescope

The CofC Observatory is now home to one of the most powerful telescopes in South Carolina. Our telescope is a PlaneWave Instruments CDK (Corrected Dall-Kirkham) 24in telescope with a Mathis Instruments MI1250 fork on a M1000 mount. It was installed at the College of Charleston observatory on August 25, 2018. The current fork mount can mitigate building vibrations that severely impacted effectiveness of our previous 16inch DFM telescope in the existing location.

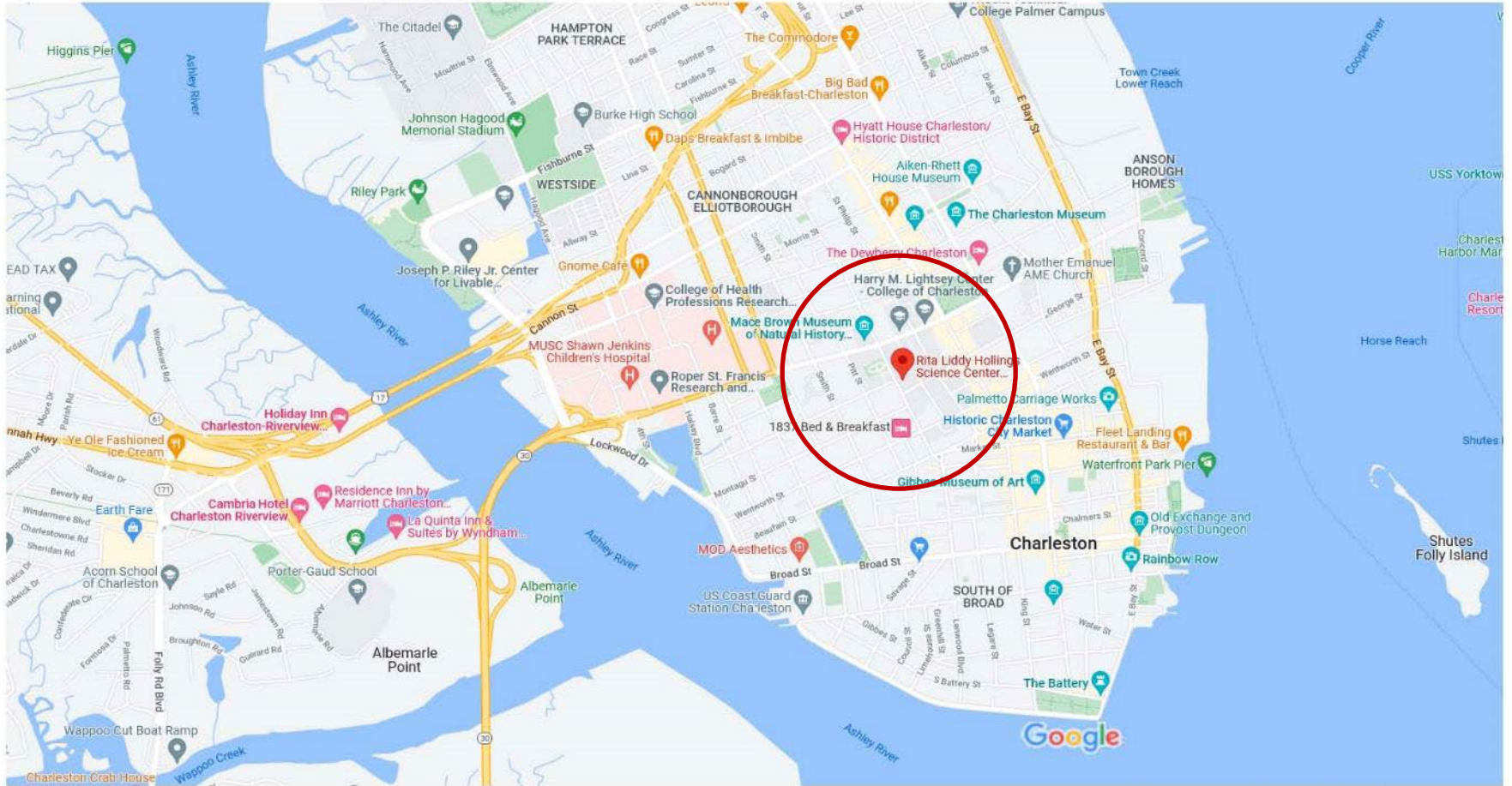
CofC faculty and students are able to capture spectacular high-resolution images of galaxies and nebulae, thanks to the telescope's astrographic design (F ratio = 6.5), which provides excellent imaging with a large format charge-coupled device (CCD) camera, while remaining superb for visual use. It far exceeds the performance of most commercial telescope designs.

**Department of Physics and Astronomy  
College of Charleston  
RITA Hollings Science Center  
58 Coming Street  
Charleston, SC 29424**

[chartasg@cofc.edu](mailto:chartasg@cofc.edu)









The UGA  
Observatory is  
located on top of the  
Physics Building on  
the [UGA campus](#).

Department of Physics & Astronomy  
The University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-2451 U.S.A.  
Tel: (706) 542-2485  
Fax: (706) 542-2492  
Email: [physast@uga.edu](mailto:physast@uga.edu)

***The UGA Observatory***



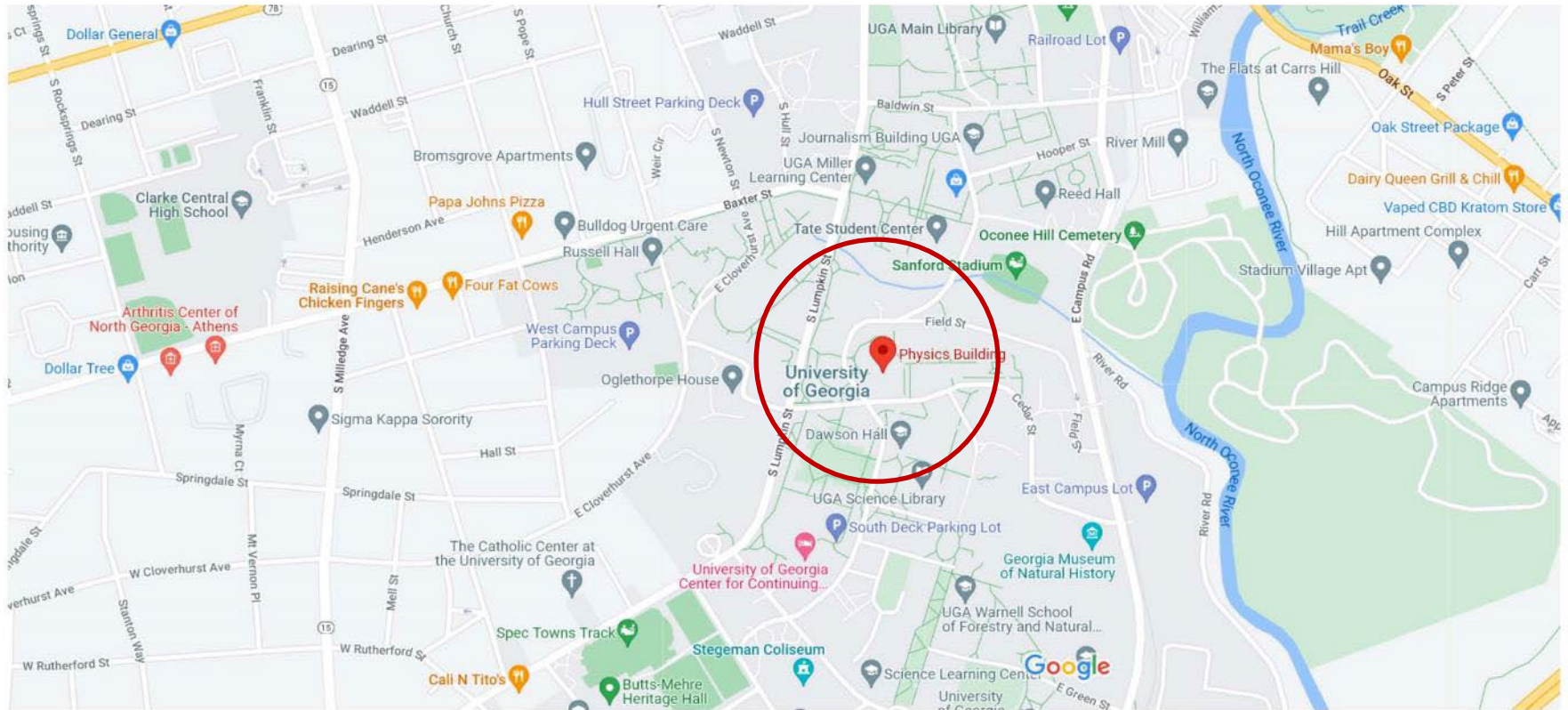
The University of Georgia owns one of the largest visible light telescopes in the state. The main component of the telescope is its 24 inch wide primary mirror, which is mounted in the much larger support and steering structure shown in the photo.



Both the primary and secondary mirrors are being cleaned and recoated in this long-overdue maintenance effort. They should be back from the mirror re-coating company in a few weeks. After their return, and re-installation, the **Observatory will return to operations and the autumn public observing schedule will be announced.**

<https://www.physast.uga.edu/observatory/schedule>

Google Maps Physics Building



Map data ©2022 Google 500 ft



# AGNES SCOTT

## COLLEGE

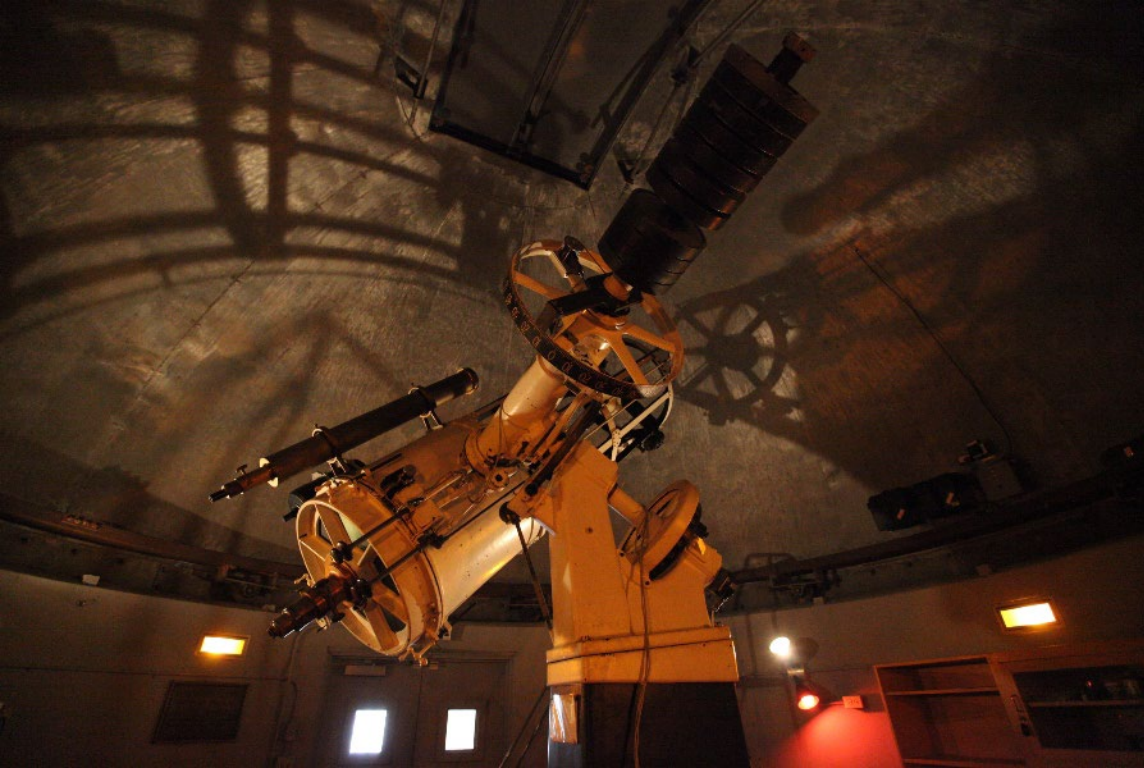
AGNES SCOTT COLLEGE > BRADLEY OBSERVATORY

# Bradley Observatory

The astronomical teaching and research facility is located on the Agnes Scott College campus in Decatur, Georgia. The observatory, named in honor of William C. and Sarah Hall Bradley, contains the 70-seat Delafield Planetarium and a 100-seat capacity lecture hall. The building also contains a library/seminar room, two faculty offices, a darkroom, a student computer lab and an observing plaza for astronomical viewing. The large dome atop the observatory houses the 30-inch Lewis H. Beck telescope.

### **Information Alert**

Bradley Observatory at Agnes Scott College is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For additional information, please contact Channon Weeks at [crweeks@agnesscott.edu](mailto:crweeks@agnesscott.edu).



## **The Beck Telescope**

The Beck Telescope is a 30-inch reflector. This 1930 vintage Cassegrain has a Warner & Swasey mounting with optical elements by J.W. Fecker. It was completely refurbished and modified for its installation in 1950 by the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. The telescope tracking control system was modernized and upgraded during the summer of 1998, and the mirrors were refinished during the renovations in 2000.



## **Optical Telescopes**

The observatory contains eight Celestron Nexstar 4SE telescopes for use in Astronomy 120. A variety of Celestron and Meade 8-inch and 10-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes are used in Astronomy 120L and 200L. Astronomy 200L students also use the Bradley Radio Telescope (BrAT), a steerable 3.1 m diameter radio telescope with an L band (21 cm) receiver.

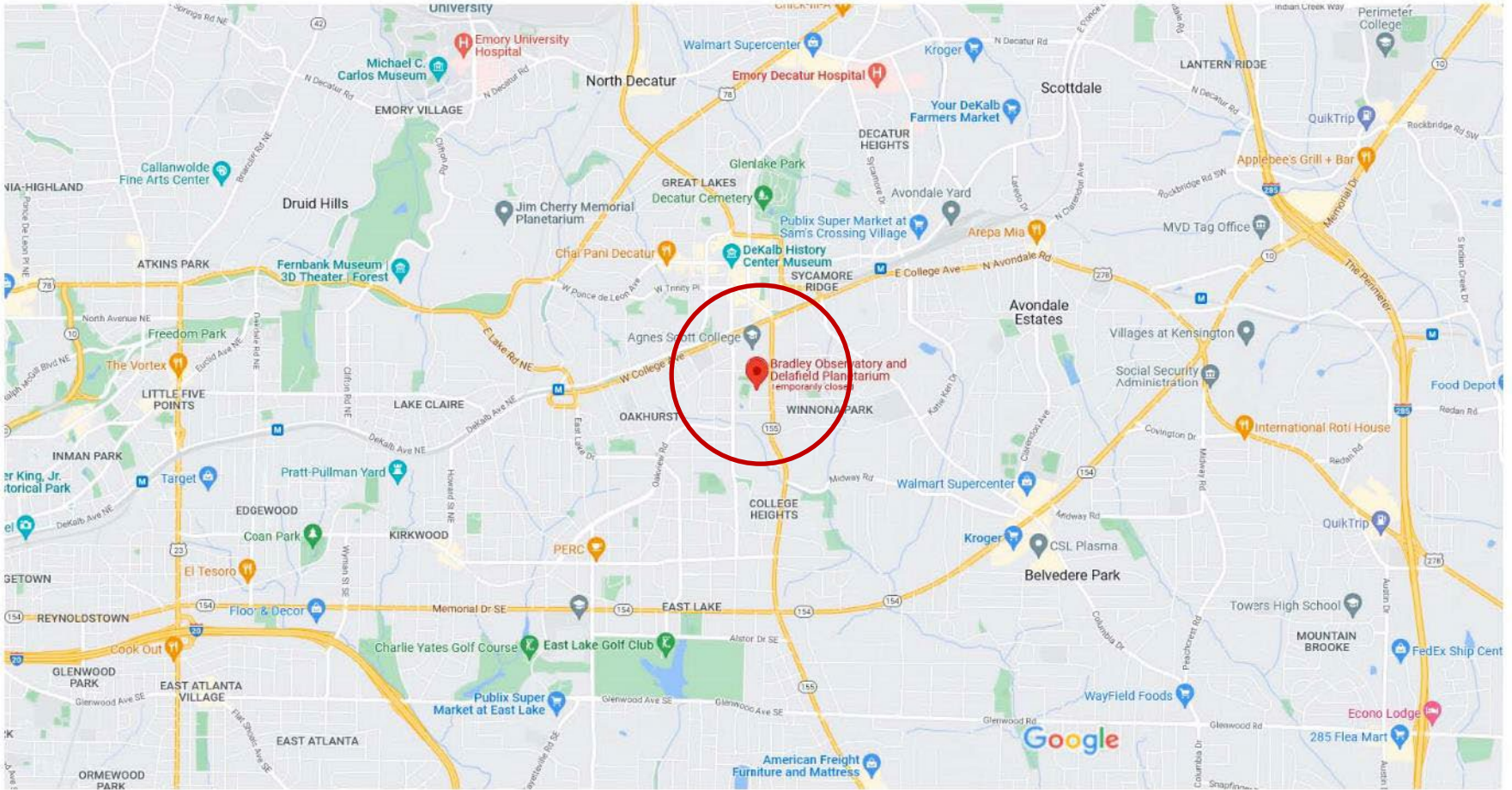




### **Delafield Planetarium**

The Delafield Planetarium located in the Bradley Observatory seats 70 people. The Zeiss machine allows us to project stars, planets, constellation patterns, the sun and the moon onto the ceiling. The planetarium serves Agnes Scott students taking astronomy courses. It's also open to the public for monthly open houses and observatory group tours.

Google Maps Bradley Observatory and Delafield Planetarium





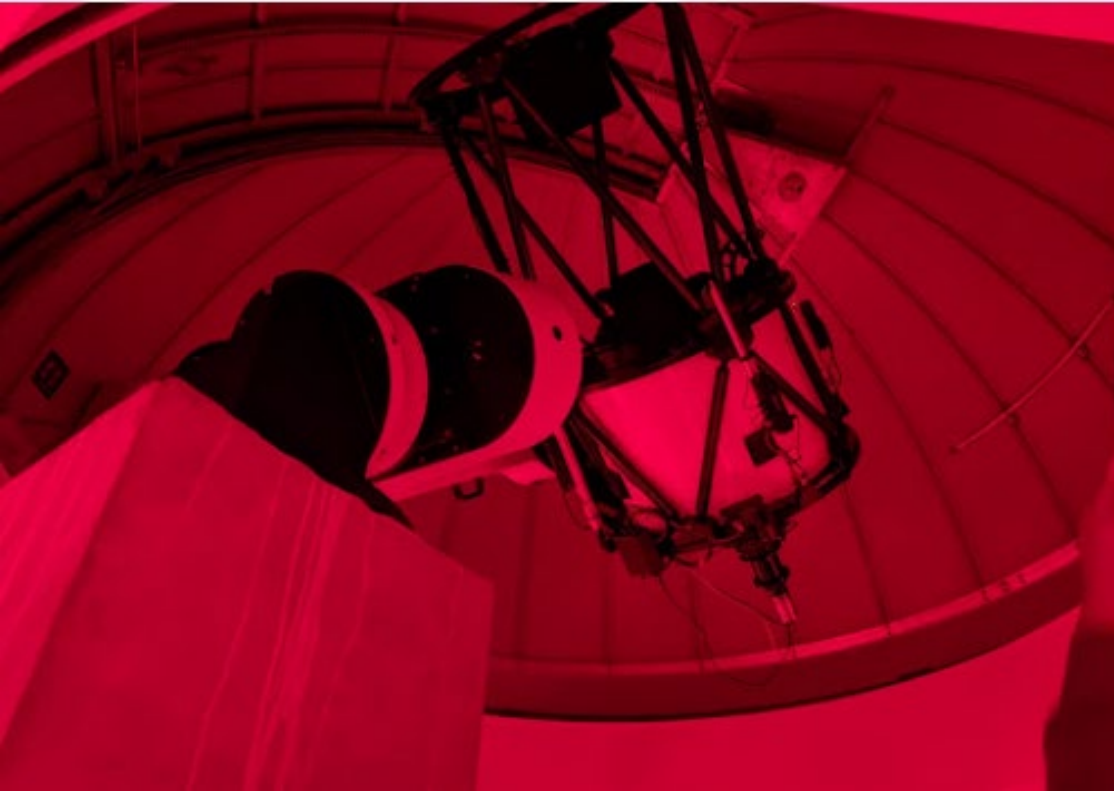


**UNG** | UNIVERSITY *of*  
NORTH GEORGIA™

## **North Georgia Astronomical Observatory**

The North Georgia  
Astronomical Observatory  
exists to promote astronomy  
education to University of  
North Georgia students, as  
well as the general public.  
This state-of-the-art facility is  
located only four miles from  
the UNG Dahlonega  
Campus.





## **Public Telescope Viewing**

**Friday - Saturday**

**8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.**

Students and community members are invited to free telescope viewings of the night sky on Friday and Saturday evenings between, weather permitting.

Two key pieces of equipment are the brand-new telescopes measuring at 24 and 28 inches across in the primary mirror diameter.

## **George E. Coleman, Sr. Planetarium**

At the George E. Coleman, Sr. Planetarium, students and the general public can explore the night sky as seen from Earth, or fly into the cosmos to explore other worlds in our dome-shaped theater. Planetarium events open to the public are FREE unless otherwise stated.

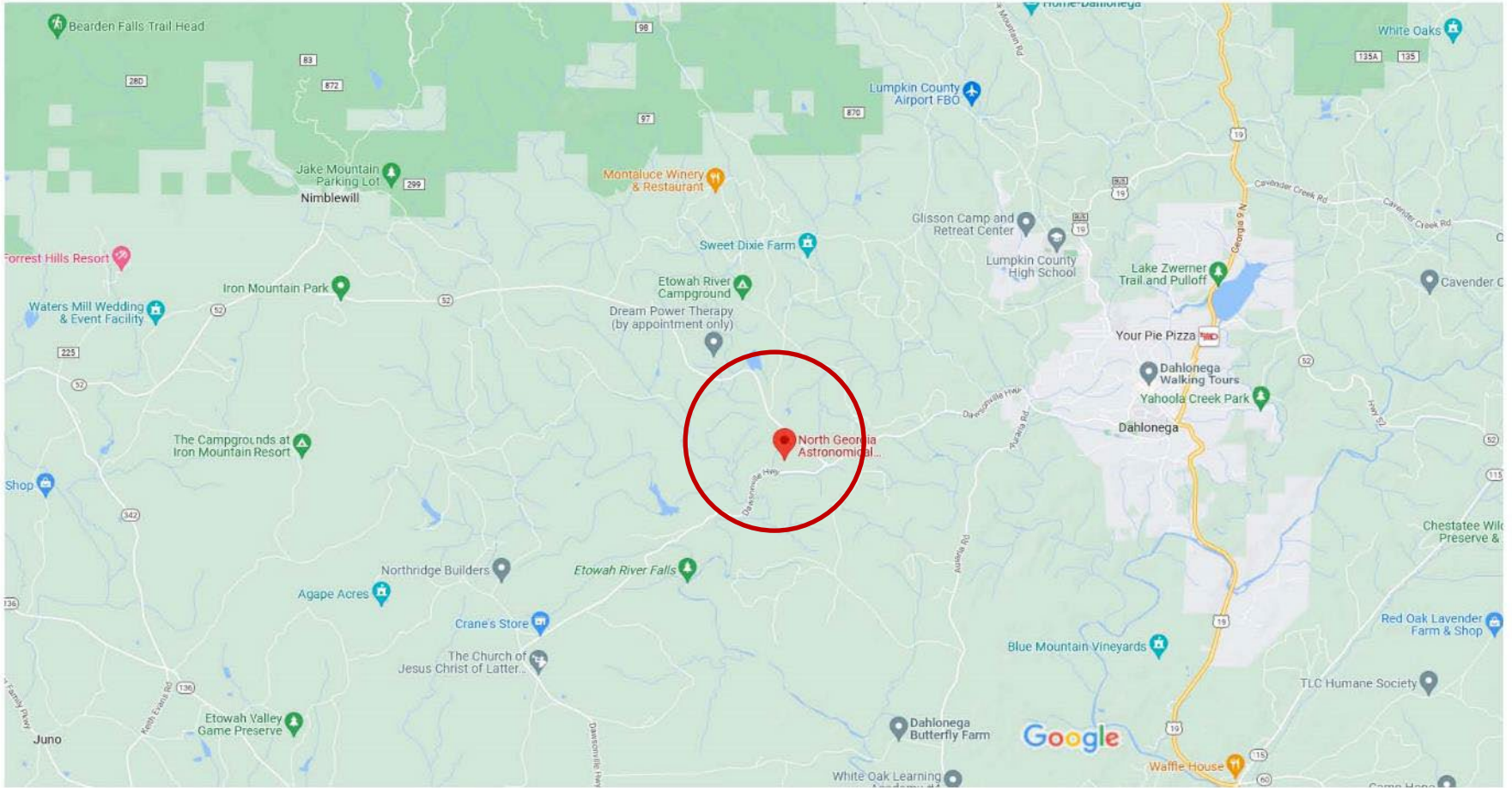
You will be truly immersed in the universe and see incredible modern-day scientific discoveries!

The planetarium features: 30-foot diameter dome 46 seats

State-of-the-art Digistar 6 Full-Dome Digital Planetarium Projector



Google Maps North Georgia Astronomical Observatory



Georgia Tech Contact:

Dr. James Sowell

Howey W102 /

404.385.1294

[jim.sowell@physics.gatech.edu](mailto:jim.sowell@physics.gatech.edu)

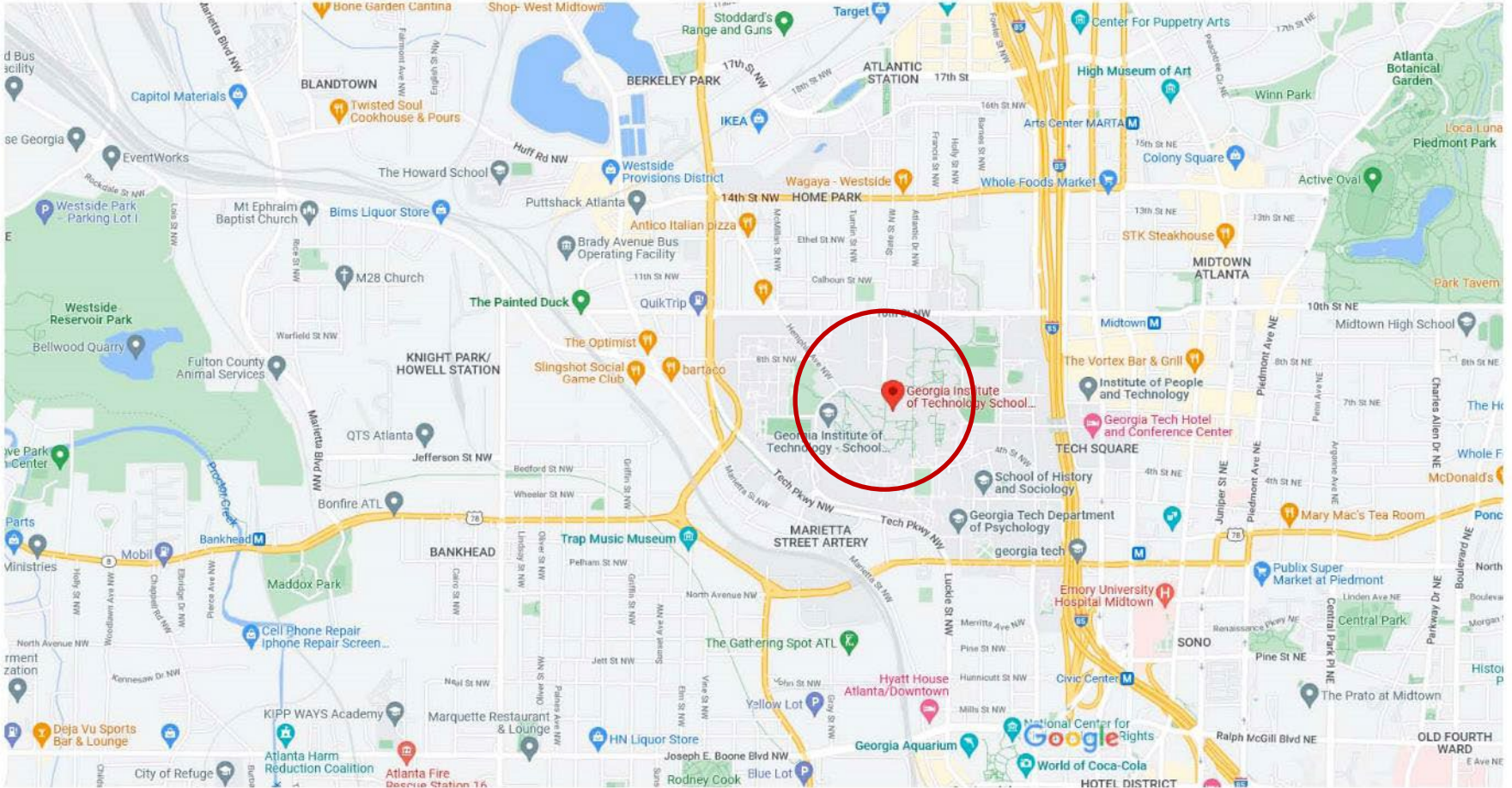


16" Meade LX200 - A 20" Telescope was added in 2014 but no picture was available

**Public Night Schedule  
for 2022-23  
coming in July**



Google Maps Georgia Institute of Technology School of Physics



Map data ©2022 Google 1000 ft

THE DR. RALPH L. BUICE, JR.  
OBSERVATORY

FREE  
to  
ALL VISITORS

Come join us  
for views that  
are out of  
this world!

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY NIGHTS  
9:00 PM TO 10:00 PM  
(Weather Permitting)



Fernbank Science Center 156 Heaton Park Drive Atlanta, GA 30307 678-874-7102

# Ralph L. Buice Jr. Observatory at Fernbank Science Center And Jim Cherry Memorial Planetarium

[CALENDAR](#) FOR PROGRAM SCHEDULES\*

Fernbank Science Center  
156 Heaton Park Dr.  
Atlanta, GA 30307

[Email FSC](#)

Phone: 678-874-7102

Fax: 678-874-7110





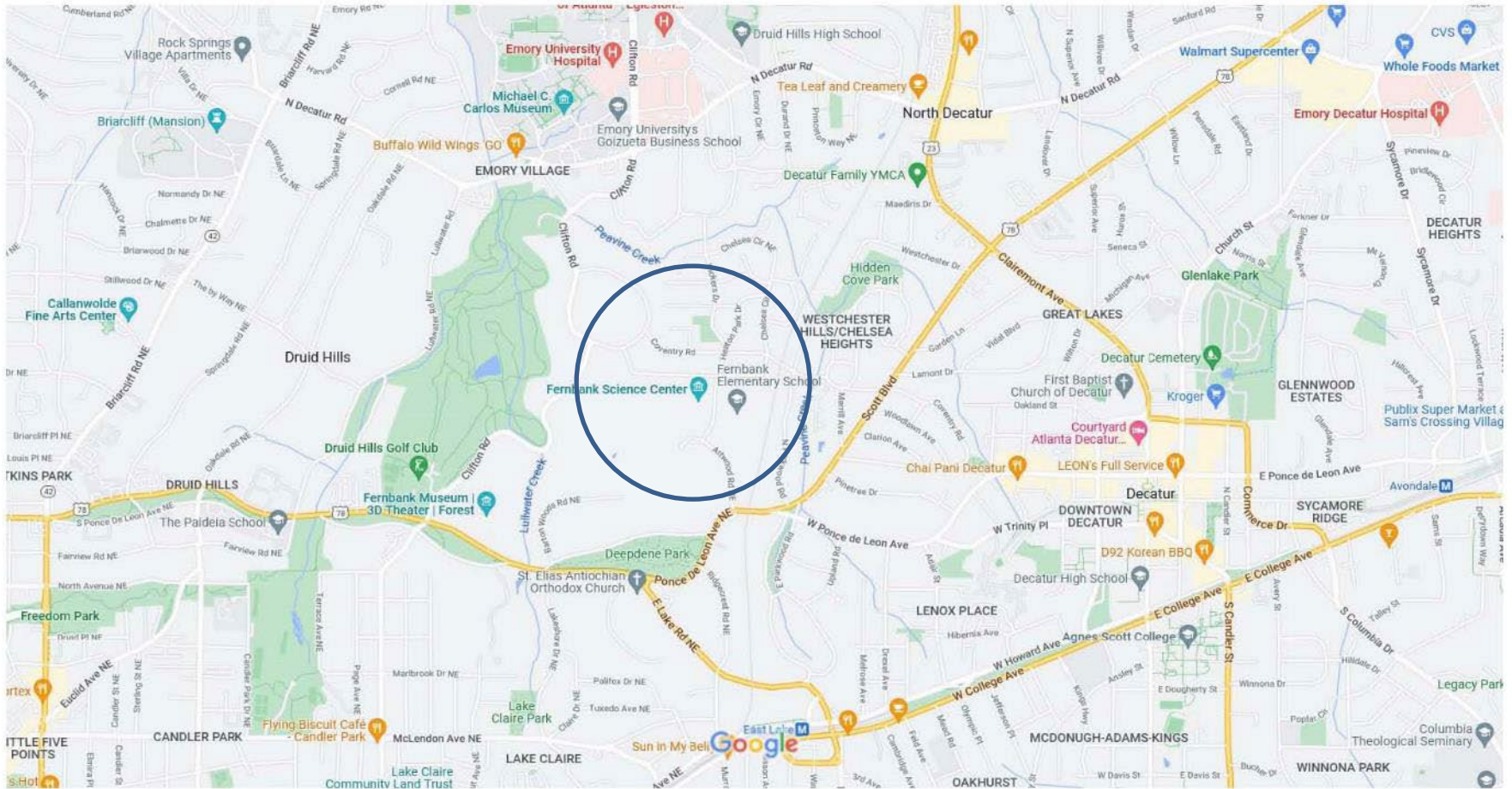


The Dr. Ralph L. Buice, Jr. Observatory at Fernbank Science Center houses a 0.9 meter (36-inch) Cassegrain reflector beneath a 10 meter (30 ft.) dome. **This is one of the largest instruments ever dedicated to education and public viewing.**

**FREE** public observations are offered every Thursday and Friday evening from 9:00 - 10:00 PM (weather permitting). The observatory will open only when there is a clear view of the night sky.

***Please call 678-874-7102 between 8:30 PM and 9:00 PM for observatory updates.***

Please check [our calendar](#) for dates that the observatory will be closed.





# Georgia State University Astronomy Hard Labor Creek Observatory



Located in the middle of [Hard Labor Creek State Park](#) in Rutledge, Georgia (~50 miles east of downtown Atlanta), the observatory is a resource for professional and amateur astronomers. However, an additional service of HLCO has been to the public - bringing the wonders of the Universe to Georgia residents.

## Research Facilities:

### [The Miller Telescope](#)

Plane Wave 24" Corrected Dall-Kirkham Astrograph  
Telescope

### [The McAlister Telescope](#)

RC Optics 20" Ritchey-Chrétien Telescope

### The Wingert Building

Celestron 11" Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope

Out of an abundance of caution in light of  
recent cases of COVID-19 confirmed in the

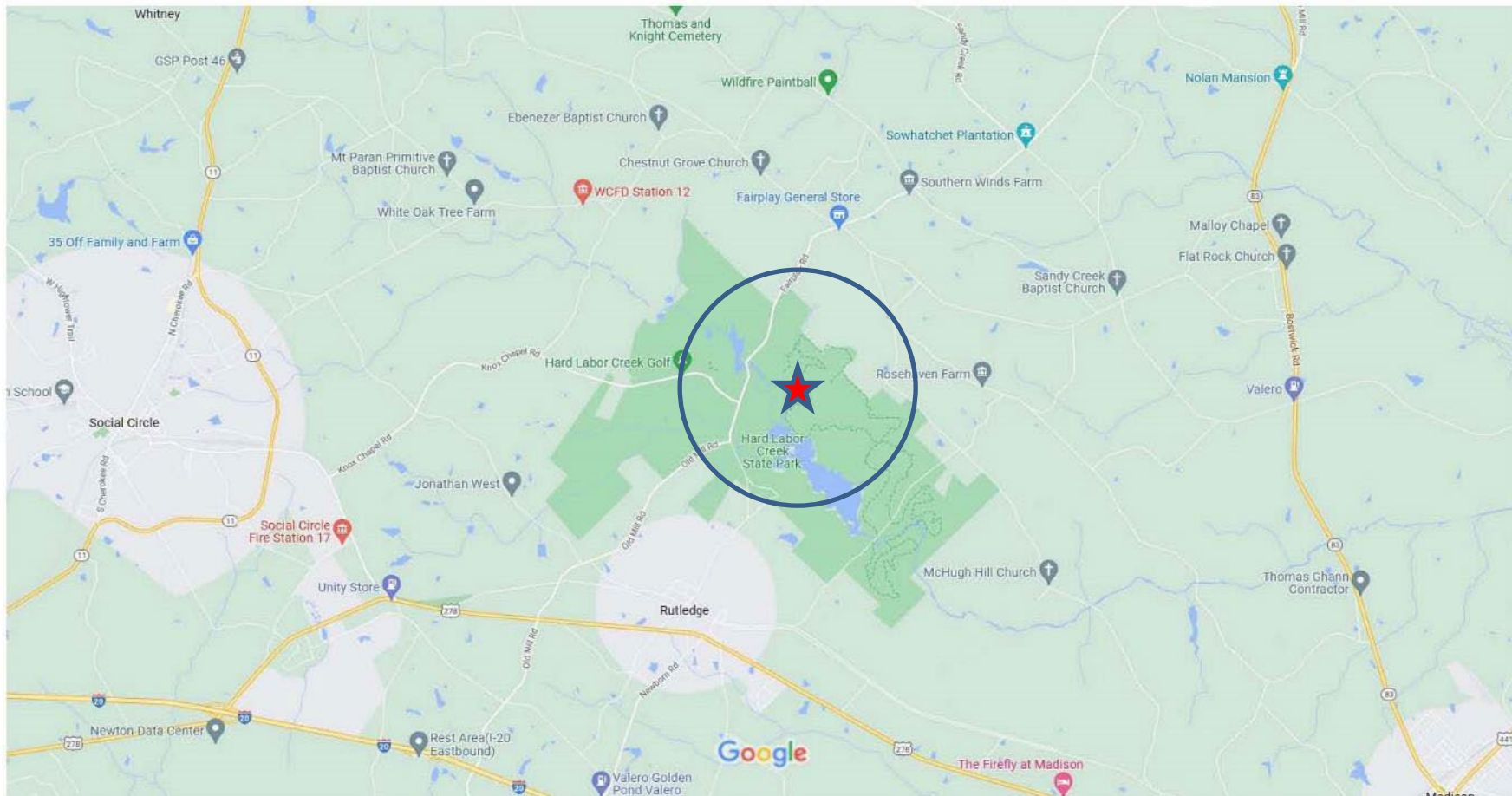
Atlanta Metro Area,

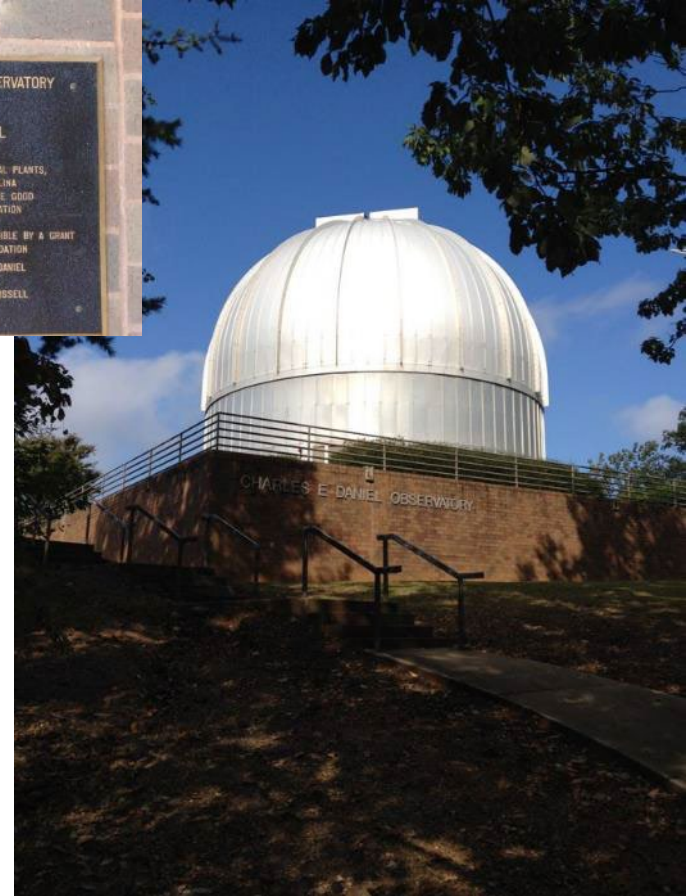
**ALL OPEN HOUSES ARE**

**SUSPENDED**

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**







# Charles E. Daniel Observatory - Roper Mountain Science Center & Planetarium

<https://www.ropermountain.org/>

## ROPER MOUNTAIN ASTRONOMERS

<https://rmastro.com/>

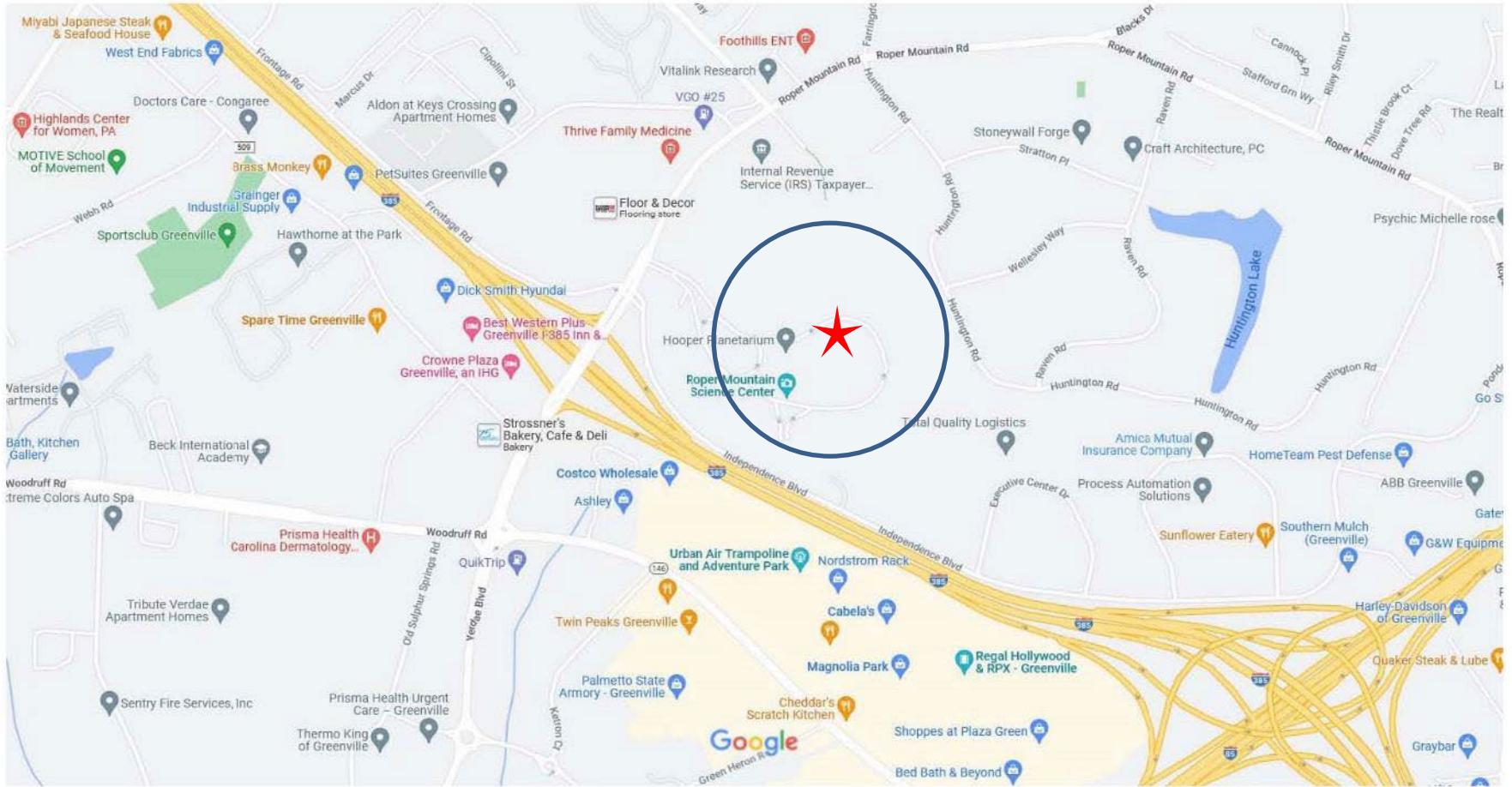


**As a Greenville County Schools facility, the Daniel Observatory is open to the public only during special events.**



**We hold our RMA Club Meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm, except December and August. We meet at the Roper Mountain Science Center in Greenville SC, on the top floor of the Wilkins Conference Center next to the Charles E. Daniel Observatory.**

The Charles E. Daniel Observatory features a very historic 23" refractor telescope, the eighth largest of its kind in the nation. The Great Refractor was completed in 1882 for Princeton University and was the main instrument in their Halsted Observatory. The lens was figured by Alvan Clark and Sons of Cambridge, Massachusetts. In 1933, the telescope was entirely rebuilt by J. W. Fecker Company. The U.S. Naval Observatory owned the telescope from 1964 until 1978, when it was offered to the School District of Greenville County.





# ASTRONOMY CLUB OF AUGUSTA



**<https://astroclubaugusta.weebly.com/>**

**Nine Mile Range-Deep Sky Observing - NMR-DSO**

This site is available only to our members. If you are a member, contact our President for directions.

**Monthly Observing sessions (Weather Permitting)**

**See the Calendar of events for upcoming dates.**