

Visit Us During Our *Free* Open House Nights

Hard Labor Creek Observatory (HLCO) is open to the public one Saturday per month from March until October. The events are hosted by a volunteer staff of real astronomers from Georgia State University (come with questions!) Visitors get a chance to observe celestial objects using all of our telescopes, weather permitting. Observations begin 30 minutes after sunset and run for 2 hours. No reservations are required, but organizers of large groups (more than 20 people) should confirm visit times with the GSU Department of Physics and Astronomy at least 1 week prior to the open house.

Please visit our web page for directions and open house dates: www.astro.gsu.edu/HLCO

Support Astronomy at Georgia State

If you've enjoyed your visit to HLCO, consider giving a monetary donation in the Donation Box on site. All donations will be used for the purchase of new telescopes and equipment, and are greatly appreciated!

If you have an interest in making a more substantial contribution to astronomy research and education at Georgia State, please visit <http://phy-astr.gsu.edu/giving> for more information.



About The Photos In This Brochure

The 5 images of celestial objects shown in this brochure were obtained by GSU staff and students using telescopes at HLCO. Can you identify which image is associated with these descriptions?

M81 is a spiral galaxy containing billions of stars and harbors a supermassive black hole at its center

Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system, being 318 times more massive than Earth

The Horsehead Nebula is a region of star formation in the Orion Molecular Cloud

The Moon has a very cratered surface caused by meteor impacts during its very violent past

M15 is a globular cluster containing over 100,000 stars all orbiting their common center of mass

Hard Labor Creek Observatory

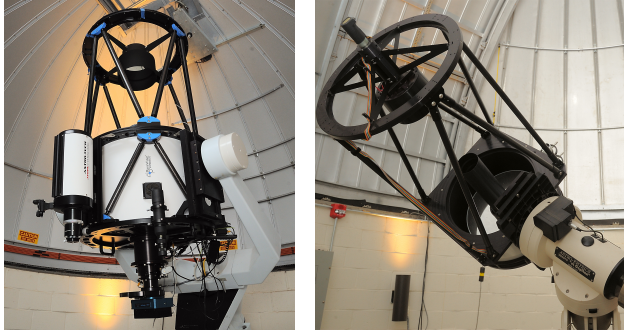
Rutledge, GA

Department of Physics and Astronomy

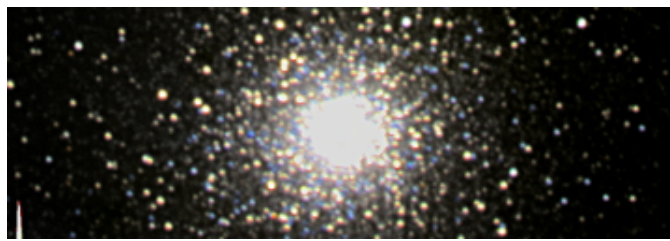
A public outreach
and research facility



Our Telescopes



The two largest telescopes at HLCO are the Miller and McAlister Telescopes (pictured above). In addition, HLCO has 2 somewhat smaller telescopes permanently mounted in the Wingert Building around back, and several “hands on” telescopes that the staff bring out onto the front lawn.

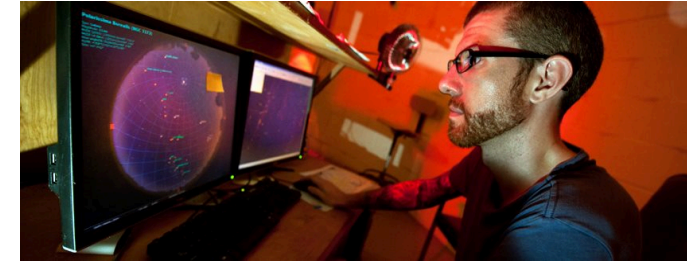


Astronomy at Georgia State University

Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, Georgia State University is home to the largest and most successful astronomy program in the state. GSU has 10 full-time astronomy faculty that specialize in a range of research areas under the umbrellas of solar physics, stellar astronomy, and extragalactic astronomy.

Our astronomical observations cover the electromagnetic spectrum, including radio, infrared, visible, ultraviolet, and x-rays. We operate the CHARA interferometer on Mt. Wilson, and have dedicated access to ground-based telescopes in both hemispheres. We also have a strong track record of winning competitive observing time at other ground-based observatories (e.g., WIYN, Gemini) and space-based observatories (HST, Kepler, Chandra, XMM). To learn more, please visit us online at <http://phy-astr.gsu.edu>

Graduate Student Training



Training graduate students to become creative and independent scientists and teachers in a diverse environment is a major focus of our department.

Hard Labor Creek Observatory plays a key role in graduate student training. Over the past several years, we have invested significant time and effort in outfitting the observatory with modern telescopes and in bringing the instrumentation and other equipment up to the typical standards of our field. Having access to our own private facility ensures that all students get hands-on training with the observational techniques that are currently practiced in professional astronomy.

Enhancing Astronomy Education

Introductory Astronomy is one of the most popular undergraduate courses at GSU, but the bright lights of downtown Atlanta prevent students from seeing anything but the moon and a few bright stars and planets. The dark skies at HLCO, however, provide an easily accessible opportunity for students to “see” more directly what they are studying.

