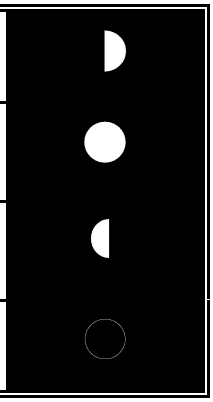
May Skies over the Pinnacles

May 2022

May's four principal phases of the moon

May 9	First Quarter	
May 16	Full Moon	
May 22	Last Quarter	
May 30	New Moon	

Experiencing Living History

If you read last month's 'Pinnacles', you learned that we were planning a tour of the Cincinnati Observatory.

Our tour guide, Mr. John Ventre, is seen here at right as he demonstrates the Cincinnati Observatory's analemic sundial to the Berea group. Using nothing more than your own sun-cast shadow it accurately yields local time to an accuracy of just a couple of minutes.

Here, Mr Ventre demonstrates how the grand 11.25-inch aperture Merz und Mahler 1845 refractor is pointed at objects in the sky. Visitors are welcome to register to view the moon and planets through this telescope!

Located under a separate dome, we get to experience the even larger 16-inch aperture Alvan Clark refractor.

Eclipse of May's "Flower Moon"

May's big celestial event is the total eclipse of the Moon, spanning the night and early morning of May 15-16. All physical objects cast shadows. The Sun's light can be blocked by your hand or by a planet. Lunar eclipses occur when the Moon's orbit carries if through the shadow of the Earth. Unlike solar eclipses, where, to experience them you must place yourself in the narrow, traveling shadow cast by the Moon on the Earth, anyone on the night-side of the Earth can experience a lunar eclipse. That is, as long as skies are clear!

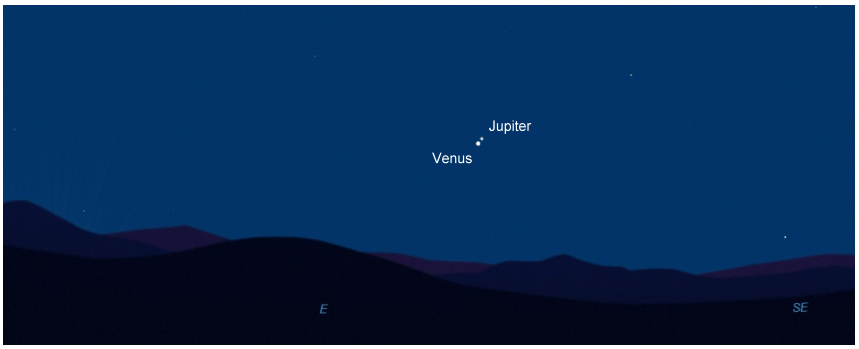
If you'd like to experience May's event, plan to stay up late.

Total Lunar Eclipse, May 15-16		
Fully Illuminated Moon		sunset to 10:27pm
Partial Phase Begins		10:28pm
Moon Turns Grey (left to right)		10:28 to 11:29pm
Totality		11:29pm through 12:54am
Deepest Eclipse		12:12am
Second Partial Phase Begins		12:54pm
Moon Turns White		1:56am until dawn

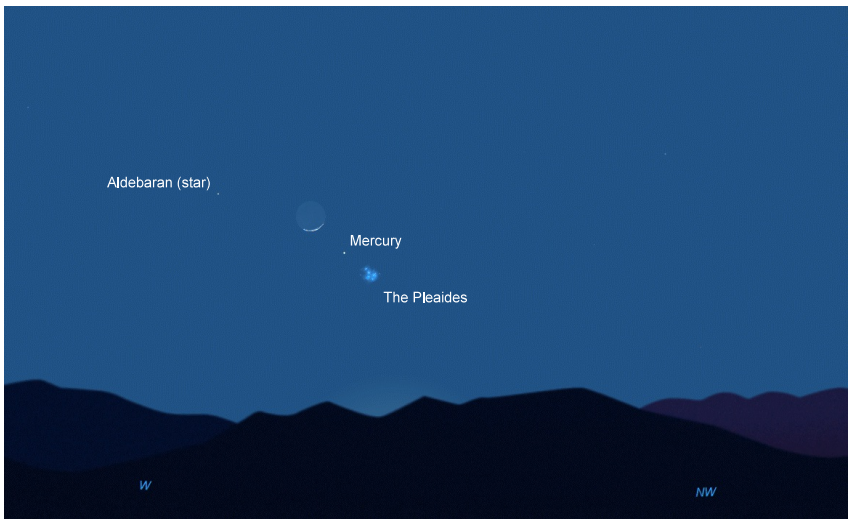
Because we have a Full Moon about every month, many societies have given names to the Moon in it's full phase during each the 12 or 13 Full Moons we have each year. Let's say that on May 15-16 our Moon goes from being a white moon flower to a red carnation.

Attractions in May

May 1 Get up before sunrise and look to the east as Jupiter and Venus appear so close together that you may not be able to slide your pinkie finger between them!



May 2 Just as it is getting dark, look to the northwest to catch the glittering spectacle of the crescent Moon, Mercury and the Pleiades just above the horizon.



May 5 Come to the Forestry Outreach Center at Indian Fort for our first planned Star Party ay 7:30! I'll give a short presentation before we go outside to identify constellations and view the heavens through telescopes**.**

May 6 Go outside between 3AM and dawn to catch sight of some meteors from the **Delta-Aquarid** meteor shower.

May 15-16 Don't miss tonight's total eclipse of the Moon! See details above.

May 24 Rise early and catch the serene view Venus, Jupiter, Mars and the crescent Moon rising together in the east.

May 29 This dawn, it's Jupiter and Mars that will seem squeezed together in the southeastern sky.