



# **Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society Conference 2018**

***“Full STEAM Ahead!”  
Wed-Sat, May 30 – June 2, 2018***



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*Hosted by the Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport in Mystic, CT*

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Dear MAPS Member,

The staff and volunteers of the Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport would like to invite you, MAPS friends and colleagues, to join us from May 30 – June 2, 2018 here in beautiful Mystic, Connecticut for 2018 conference. The gathering, as always, is a great time for MAPS Members to re-connect, brainstorm ideas for education programming, and share with each other all of the wonderful things that we are doing at our home planetariums!

Here in Mystic, we are excited to be able to host our annual conference at the nation's premier maritime history museum! Since 1961, the Treworgy Planetarium has served as the Seaport's "science center", inspiring visitors to draw connections between our maritime history and the world around us. The meeting spaces we will utilize for our workshops and presentations will provide picturesque views of the Mystic River waterfront, with historic vessels dotting the shore in a re-creation of a 19<sup>th</sup> century coastal New England village.

The theme of this year's conference is "Full STEAM Ahead!" In the maritime world, this phrase is, "used to indicate that one should proceed with as much speed or energy as possible." What a fitting way to summarize Astronomy Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century! And of course, the reference to STEAM is no accident, as we encourage our workshops, lessons, papers, posters, and panels to celebrate the multidisciplinary approach we all take to fulfill the missions of our various organizations. We hope that, in addition to attending our conference, you will consider submitting a proposal to present a talk, lesson, workshop, poster, or panel discussion.

Continuing a long-standing MAPS tradition, our annual banquet will be highlighted by the Margaret Noble Address. This year's address will be given by Patty Seaton, the Planetarium Specialist at the Howard B. Owens Science Center in Lanham, MD.

We are pleased to announce that, with the generous support of numerous sponsors, we will be able to maintain the low registration costs from past MAPS conferences. The full registration is \$150 if paid by April 30, and you can register by mail or online through the MAPS website ([www.mapsplanetarium.org](http://www.mapsplanetarium.org)). We hope to see you all here in Mystic at the end of May!

Brian J. Koehler  
Supervisor, Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport  
Conference Host

& Your MAPS Executive Board

## Host Facility:

Nestled within the “formal gallery” region of the Mystic Seaport Museum is the Treworgy Planetarium. Originally named the “Seaport Planetarium”, it was re-named in 2009 in honor of Don Treworgy, its beloved director of 44 years, who had passed away earlier that year.

The Treworgy Planetarium houses a 30-foot dome with concentric seating for up to 85 people. In the center of the room, a Spitz A3P star projector displays the night sky upon the dome. Additional digital projectors are able to project square-frame (non-fulldome) slides, images, and video clips onto the dome.



Today, the Planetarium delivers 3-4 public programs every day to visitors of the Mystic Seaport Museum. In addition, we host school groups, scout troops, and local community organizations for special workshops. Advanced lectures and telescope observing occur during the summer time, and courses on celestial navigation take place in the spring and autumn.

## Directions to the Mystic Seaport Museum:

<https://www.mysticseaport.org/visit/plan-your-visit/directions/>

Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport  
75 Greenmanville Avenue  
Mystic, CT 06355

## Conference Hotel:

Hilton Mystic  
20 Coogan Boulevard  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860-572-0731

## Directions to hotel:

From I-95 North or South, take exit 90 and head south on Route 27. Just south of the highway, turn left onto Coogan Blvd. The hotel will be on your right about ¼ mile ahead.



When making reservations, mention the MAPS Conference for our group rate. April 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for reservations to receive the conference rate of \$139-220 per night. For more info, please visit: <http://goo.gl/VZSZZs> or the full URL of <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/M/MYSMHMF-MAPS-20180530/index.jhtml>

## **Participate and Contribute:**

There are four ways to participate in and contribute to the 2018 MAPS Conference:

**Paper Talks** are scheduled in 15-minute time slots. Talks allow the short presentation of any topic that lends itself to publication as a research or topical article. Presenters should allow time at the end for questions, and they may have hand-outs for the general group. These talks can involve a PowerPoint presentation, video and/or use of planetarium equipment and are sometimes presented as a **planetarium mini-lesson**.

**Poster Presentations** are displayed for most of the conference with time scheduled for authors to present material to interested delegates. Some subjects are better presented with posters or display boards, hand-outs, and one-to-one conversation.

**Workshops** are longer, 45 and 90 minute engaging sessions, scheduled concurrent with other workshops, when small groups explore specific subjects together with a leader. Workshops engage participants interactively and can include make-and-take activities, introductions to tools and methods, or explorations of specific topics and problem solving in planetarium development and operation. Vendor-conducted workshops are an option for sponsors in accord with sponsor guidelines.

**Panel Discussions** allow a delegate to organize several people to serve on a panel to address complex or controversial topics. Panel discussions are presented to the entire conference body and will entirely fit within a 30 minute time slot. Submit proposals only after confirming the members who will sit on the panel

Feel free to address any questions about the proposal of a presentation or the process to the MAPS Program Committee Chair at [april\\_whitt@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:april_whitt@dekalbschoolsga.org).

Presenters are encouraged to submit their "Proposals to Present" online at: <https://goo.gl/forms/HZjf77KgYA74PwhC3>. In addition a form for proposals will be available on the MAPS website for downloading and submission.

Please note that a 2-3 paragraph summary of your presentation must be sent electronically to the program committee by the start of the conference.

## **Conference attire:**

During late May and early June, Mystic typically sees temperatures in the high-60s (up to the low 70s) during the day, dropping down to the low-60s or high-50s in the evening. Meeting spaces will be climate-controlled. Conference attire is generally work day or summer casual. Many choose semi-formal / coat-and-tie dress for the banquet on Friday night.

## **Contacts and Important Deadlines:**

### **Registration due by April 30, 2018**

*Online (using PayPal):*

[www.mapsplanetarium.org](http://www.mapsplanetarium.org)

**Register Online today!  
It's quick, it's easy!**

*Mail:*

Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society  
Attn: Talia Sepersky  
1 Science Park  
Boston, MA 02114

***If registering by mail, please be sure to  
send your forms to Talia's attention.***

### **Proposals to Present: due by April 30, 2018**

*Please submit these with your conference registration.*

*THREE ways to submit a Proposal to Present:*

*Submit your proposal online at:* <https://goo.gl/forms/HZjf77KgYA74PwhC3>.

*Download the "Proposal to Present" form at [www.mapsplanetarium.org](http://www.mapsplanetarium.org), fill it out, scan it,  
and send it to the MAPS Program Committee Chair: [april\\_whitt@dekalbschoolsga.org](mailto:april_whitt@dekalbschoolsga.org).*

*Download the "Proposal to Present" form at [www.mapsplanetarium.org](http://www.mapsplanetarium.org), fill it out, and mail  
it to the MAPS Program Committee Chair:*

April Whitt  
Fernbank Science Center  
156 Heaton Park Drive NE  
Atlanta, GA 30307

### **Reserve hotel rooms by: April 30, 2018**

*Remember to ask for the MAPS rate or book online at <http://goo.gl/VZSZZs>*

Hilton Mystic  
20 Coogan Boulevard  
Mystic, CT 06355  
860-572-0731

### **Mailing and Shipping Address for Conference Host:**

Treworgy Planetarium at Mystic Seaport  
75 Greenmanville Avenue  
Mystic, CT 06355  
Attn: Brian Koehler

## The 2018 Margaret Noble Address

### *The Passion for the Planetarium – by Patty Seaton*



Snapshot of 5th grade, my first trip to a planetarium, at the Howard B. Owens Science Center (HBOSC). I don't remember the content of that program, but I remember the feeling of total awe of being under the stars. Fast forward to ninth grade, the first day of Earth Science class. One of the pictures posted in the room was a recent Voyager flyby image of Jupiter, and I was captivated by it. I sought to know everything I could about that planet, and that day, I decided that instead of pursuing a career in singing, I wanted to be an astronomer. Fast forward to college. I was an astronomy major at the University of Maryland at College Park. My Dad

worked at the HBOSC, and said that the planetarium director was looking for people to work weekends for the public programs and Girl Scout programs, was I interested? Of course I was! I volunteered for about six months before getting paid for the part time work, but I didn't care about the pay. I had found my passion! At this point, I had been struggling with my physics courses in college and knew I wasn't cut out to be a PhD astronomer, which was pretty much necessary to get a job in the field. But working with the public and the Scouts made me realize that my talents and strengths were perfectly suited for teaching in a planetarium! Fast forward ten years. I had my mind set on working full time at HBOSC, but since it was part of the school system, I knew I had to become a certified teacher to even be considered. I went back to school and obtained a Masters in Science Education, Curriculum and Instruction. I left the field of industry and was hired on a provisional certificate at an elementary school that was clustered with the HBOSC. I became fully certified as a teacher in Maryland. And after two years serving as an elementary Science Resource teacher for grades K-6, a position opened up at HBOSC, one requiring planetarium experience. I had now been working there part time for 12 years. I got the job. One year later, I took over the role of planetarium specialist (our system's equivalent of planetarium director) and have now been there for 18 years full time, creating school programs tied into the curriculum and having the freedom to design creative public programs. We've even expanded to include concerts under the stars in addition to our regular Friday night series.

## Preliminary 2018 MAPS Conference Schedule

### Wednesday, May 30

Afternoon	Hotel check-in & Conference registration
Evening	Welcome Reception at the Mystic Seaport Museum Fun & Games “under the dome”

### Thursday, May 31

Morning	Delegate talks, Vendor Hall time
Afternoon	Lunch with invited speaker, Workshops, Vendor demonstrations, Poster presentations, Vendor Hall time
Evening	Dinner and Evening Activities at the Mystic Seaport Museum Group outing to U.S. Coast Guard Observatory (North Stonington, CT)

### Friday, June 1

Morning	Vendor talks, Vendor Hall time, Vendor demonstrations
Afternoon	Lunch with invited speaker, MAPS Business Meeting Delegate talks, Group photo,
Evening	Cocktail Reception and Conference Banquet 2018 Margaret Noble Address by Patty Seaton

### Saturday, June 2

Morning	Delegate talks, Workshops
Afternoon	Lunch, Door Prizes, and Closing Remarks Optional Post-Conference Outing: Downriver Cruise on the Steamboat SABINO

***Descriptions of invited speakers and other workshops will be posted on the MAPS website as information becomes available.***