

**Nomination on behalf of
~ Carl J. Wenning ~**

**Nomination submitted by: Board of Directors
Twin City Amateur Astronomers, Inc.
Bloomington-Normal, Illinois**

Earned Regular/Honorary AL Messier Award Citation #632 in 1985/86

Received lifelong honorary membership in the Twin City Amateur Astronomers in 1988.

In 1989, he was inducted as a member of the G. Weldon Schuette Society of Outstanding Amateur Astronomers by the Twin City Amateur Astronomers.

1978-2001 Illinois State University Planetarium Director

1999-2006 Advisory Board Member, Challenger Learning Center grant writer (having written two Institute of Museum and Library Services grants, one award nomination, and one earmark appropriation for his U.S. Senators during 2006). He has served as Challenger Learning Center “champion” since 1999.

He obtained and is project leader for a \$50,000 grant from the Space Telescope Science Institute to produce, with a work group of four writers, two teacher’s guides to go along with Challenger Learning Center missions which will constitute a de-facto curriculum for the 50 CLC’s nationwide. The guides are *Rendezvous with a Comet* and *Mission to Mars*. Each of the teacher’s guides, when completed (the first due out this summer), will each impact about 250,000 5th - 8th grade science students each year.

TCAA Officer almost continuously since 1979, holding a variety of offices: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Historian.

He is an amateur historian. He wrote a definitive history of the Emerson McMillin Astronomical Observatory constructed on the campus of Ohio State University in 1896 and which now stands as the Ballreich Observatory in Mansfield, Ohio. See the following URL: <http://www.phy.ilstu.edu/~wenning/McMillin/McMillin.html>

As TCAA Historian he wrote the club's 25th, 30th, and 40th anniversary editions of the club's history. See <http://twincityamateurastronomers.org/history.html>

For many years, he has contributed in a very significant way to the production of *The OBSERVER*, the club's monthly newsletter.

Eclipse chaser and writer, having privately published two eclipse expedition booklets for the May 10, 1994 U.S. annular eclipse and the November 3, 1994 total solar eclipse in South American; privately published a Mars Opposition booklet in 1988.

Is recognized for his explanation of the Moon Illusion (a recent Google search found 338 hits associating "Wenning" and "Moon Illusion"). He has been referenced on "Astronomy Picture of the Day" and in several NASA press releases. He is referenced as a moon illusion authority in Phil Plait's "Bad Astronomy." See the following URL: <http://www.badastronomy.com/bad/misc/moonbig.html>

He has several articles published dealing with the Star of Bethlehem.

He has had an article published online dealing with meteorite identification.

1978-2006 Over the past three decades he has given literally hundreds of public presentations at TCAA public observing sessions and other special events

2006 He hosted a 5-part family science education astronomy course for 24 members of the general public. He wrote a 160-page *Galileo Observer's Guide to the Heavens* to serve as the basis of this course. He has taught this course in cooperation with other members of the TCAA several times since the early 1980's.

In 2005, he single-handedly raised nearly \$3,000 in cash contributions, and \$1,600 in-kind donations for a raffle in support of the Illinois State University Planetarium.

Sponsors the Clear Sky Clock for Sugar Grove Observatory on behalf of the TCAA. See: <http://cleardarksky.com/c/SGOILkey.html>

He contributed significantly to the TCAA's purchase of a 12-inch Meade GPS LX200 for the club's Sugar Grove Observatory.

1980's For several years he wrote *Stars Over Illinois*, a weekly newspaper column.

2005-2006 He is currently involved with production of a radio science program *Uncommon Knowledge*, that includes many astronomical topics. During February, he began work on a \$25,000 proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services to support creation of corresponding elementary classroom materials and disseminate the radio programs as podcasts and mp3 files.

1978-present He has served as an astronomy and aerospace merit badge counselor for both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

1997 He worked with the Illinois Math & Science Academy to host a one-week Problem-Based Learning workshop for about 100 7th and 8th grade students dealing with the topic of Near Earth Orbiting Objects. See the problem statement and samples of student work at <http://www.imsa.edu/programs/pbln/problems/collisions/index.html>