

**Texas Master Naturalist Program
Cradle of Texas Chapter
General Meeting and Advanced Training
Wednesday, July 11, 2018
BASF Planetarium
at The Center for the Arts and Sciences
400 College Drive, Clute, TX 77531**



8:30 AM – 9 AM	Fun and Fellowship Snack Team Ed Johnson, Anna King, Ann Lange, Jo Myers
9 AM – 9:50 AM	General Membership Meeting <i>This meeting is approved for 1.00 hour volunteer time</i>
10:15 AM – 12 PM	Speaker: Judi James, Director, BASF Planetarium, Center for the Arts and Sciences, Clute Topic: <i>This is Mars 2018</i>

The BASF Planetarium is one of the gems of the Brazosport area. The planetarium includes a 30-foot diameter dome and a dual projector system along with displays, interactive, educational terminals, and a live feed from NASA. Audience seating under the dome accommodates 72 visitors. Incorporated as the Nature Center and Planetarium of Brazosport in 1984.

At the center of the dome stands The Spitz Model 4A planetarium projector capable of projecting images of approximately 2000 stars and five naked-eye planets (Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn). The projector is of excellent optical quality. Our focus on astronomy and the high quality well maintained presentation equipment brought NASA incoming astronauts learn the night sky here as part of their training program.

A full dome video system provides high resolution digital video across the full diameter of the dome. NASA's model of the shuttle (used in wind tunnel tests) is on permanent display at the planetarium.

Weekly programs are presented on Tuesday nights at 7 pm with the program changing monthly.

There is an active astronomy club that presents periodic "star gaze" programs to the public at the planetarium and school events onsite for students and parents.

Judi James is the Director of the Brazosport Planetarium in the BASF Planetarium building, a Member Group of the Center for the Arts and Sciences.

Judi graduated from the University of Houston in science education with a minor in geology. She holds Texas certification to teach secondary astronomy, geology, meteorology and oceanography.

Judi hosts a variety of audiences at the Planetarium. Her audiences include grade school students and the general public. She has presented the star identification class for incoming NASA astronauts since 2000.

Judi taught school for 29 years at Brazosport ISD including teaching high school astronomy for 14 of those years. She has served as Director of the BASF Planetarium for over 18 years.

In addition to her duties as Director of the Planetarium, she serves the Center as writer and director of the Elizabethan Madrigal Feast and as show director, actress and volunteer for Brazosport Center Stages.

Judi's husband Denis is a founding member of the Cradle of Texas Chapter.

