

**Galilean Nights Event ID:** gn110

**Number of telescopes:** 8

**Number of organisers:** 3

**Number of attendees:** 113

**Event Report:**

In period costume, the character of Johannes Kepler, a.k.a. John McFarland, transported us back in time to 1609 when Galileo first turned the telescope to the sky to discover features on Earth's moon, to reveal the secrets of Jupiter and its moons, and other wonders. Since then the telescope has continued to change our view of the Universe and our place within it. Kepler circulated 400 year old coins and books he brought with him from 17th century. Kepler brought two of Galileo's telescopes with him, just like the ones in the Florence Museum. Everyone attending recieved a CD of astronomy songs, including a song about Galileo, written especially for the International Year of Astronomy-2009.

**Telescope Adventures**

Following the performance, on Oct. 23rd, attendees visited with Kepler, looked through Galileo's telescope replica, and some built Galileoscopes. On Oct. 24th, the weather cooperated and attendees were able to look through telescopes on the South Lawn to see the Moons of Jupiter and craters on our own Moon. 3 members of the Wisconsin Astronomy Group and 9 members of the Yerkes Teacher Leadership Cadre shared views of heavenly objects on the south lawn of the observatory.

Galilean Nights continued on Monday for students at the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Janesville, WI where about 18 students and 2 staff members enjoyed performances by Johannes Kepler. On Tuesday Kepler performed twice for students at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in Delavan, WI. About 23 students attended, with about 9 staff members.