

# Spring 2024

# Prairie Sky

| Last Quarter |           | New Moon   |           | First Quarter |            | Full Moon  |            |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|
| March 3rd    | April 1st | March 10th | April 8th | March 16th    | April 15th | March 25th | April 23rd |
| April 1st    | May 1st   | April 8th  | May 7th   | April 15th    | May 15th   | April 23rd | May 23rd   |
| May 30th     | June 28th | May 6th    | June 6th  | May 14th      | June 14th  | May 21st   | June 21st  |

**March**  
 10th Daylight Saving Time begins  
 19th Spring Equinox  
 21st Venus and Saturn close in early morning sky

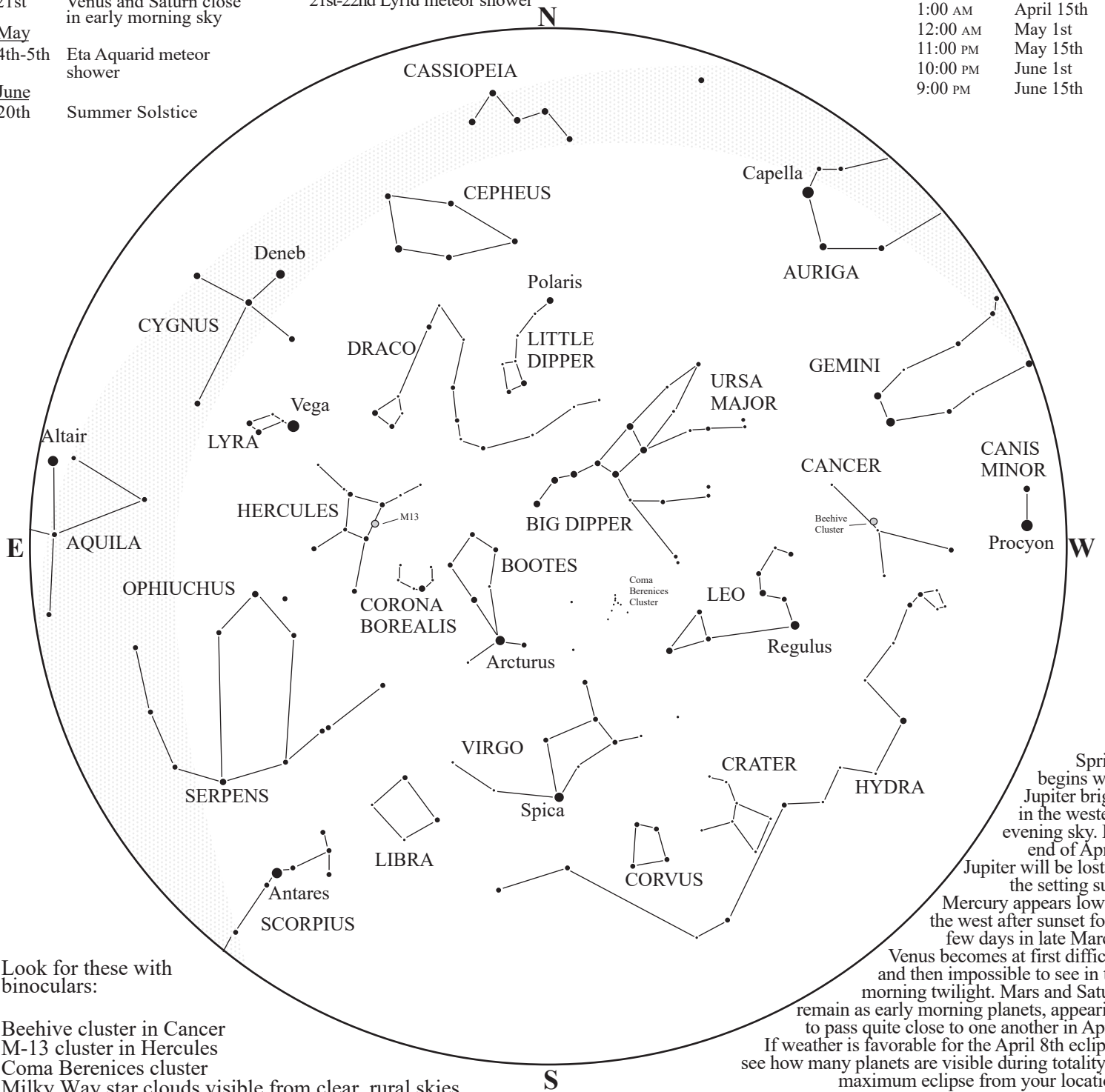
**May**  
 4th-5th Eta Aquarid meteor shower

**June**  
 20th Summer Solstice

**April**  
 8th Total Solar Eclipse (only partial from Champaign)  
 10th Mars and Saturn close in early morning sky  
 21st-22nd Lyrid meteor shower

\*This is how the sky will appear at these approximate times:

|          |            |
|----------|------------|
| 2:00 AM  | April 1st  |
| 1:00 AM  | April 15th |
| 12:00 AM | May 1st    |
| 11:00 PM | May 15th   |
| 10:00 PM | June 1st   |
| 9:00 PM  | June 15th  |



Look for these with binoculars:

- Beehive cluster in Cancer
- M-13 cluster in Hercules
- Coma Berenices cluster
- Milky Way star clouds visible from clear, rural skies

Spring begins with Jupiter bright in the western evening sky. By end of April, Jupiter will be lost to the setting sun. Mercury appears low in the west after sunset for a few days in late March. Venus becomes at first difficult and then impossible to see in the morning twilight. Mars and Saturn remain as early morning planets, appearing to pass quite close to one another in April. If weather is favorable for the April 8th eclipse, see how many planets are visible during totality or maximum eclipse from your location.

For planetarium schedules and more information about the night sky, call the showline at 217/351-2446, or check out our website at [parkland.edu/planetarium](http://parkland.edu/planetarium)