



# Cleveland Astronomical Society

www.clevelandastronomicalsociety.org

## Thursday, April 1, 2010 Meeting Announcement

6:15—7:00 p.m. – Get acquainted and snacks

7:45—8:00 p.m. – Short Business Meeting

7:00—7:45 p.m. – Buffet Dinner (Reservations Required) 8:00—9:00 p.m. – Featured Speaker (Free to public)

### Leonard Krieger CanalWay Center

4524 East 49<sup>th</sup> Street (turn onto Whittlesey Way to reach Center), Cuyahoga Heights (216-206-1000)

### Speaker: Dr. Charles Wood

Director, Center for Educational Technologies

Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling WV.

Senior Scientist, Planetary Science Institute, Tucson, AZ

## The Most Fascinating Object in the Night Sky

Amateur astronomers typically observe faint fuzzy objects. Finding the faint objects often is more of a goal than studying them because typically the faint cosmic objects show no details. Yet these same observers complain when a world with tens of thousands of visible landforms brightens the night sky--the Moon. With a little guidance, observers can learn to read the Moon and understand the fascinating stories it tells.

The Moon is a simple world dominated by volcanism and impact cratering. The biggest impact features are basins that control volcanism and associated surface fracturing. It took hundreds of millions of years for basins to fill with lavas that are very similar to those on Earth. The ejecta from the formation of basins affected vast regions of the Moon, undoubtedly raining down on the early Earth. The morphology of impact craters depends on crater diameters, ages and neighborhood. Craters change over time, mostly very slowly, sometimes instantaneously. Craters bring shallow buried rocks, as well as pieces of the Moon's upper crust, to the Moon's surface; and lunar scientists sort out which is which. With knowledge, the Moon can become the observer's friend, causing him to bemoan dark nights when it's not in the sky.

High School Teachers interested in bringing two students, as our guests, please contact Bob Sledz, President, at 440-333-7827 or sledzbob@yahoo.com by the Friday prior to the scheduled meeting date.