

# CAROLINA SKIES APRIL - MAY 2022

Hold the star chart over your head. Find north, and align your chart accordingly. You may need a flashlight, but be sure not to ruin your night vision with a bright bulb. Use a red light, or put a brown paper bag over your flashlight for a muted glow.

Begin your sky tour with the Big Dipper. The Dipper's "pointer stars" can guide you to Polaris, the North Star. The Dipper's handle also "arcs" toward the orange star Arcturus, where you can "speed on to Spica." Can you curve on to Corvus? South of the Dipper (and its constellation Ursa Major, the Big Bear) you can find the backward question mark forming Leo the Lion's head and mane.

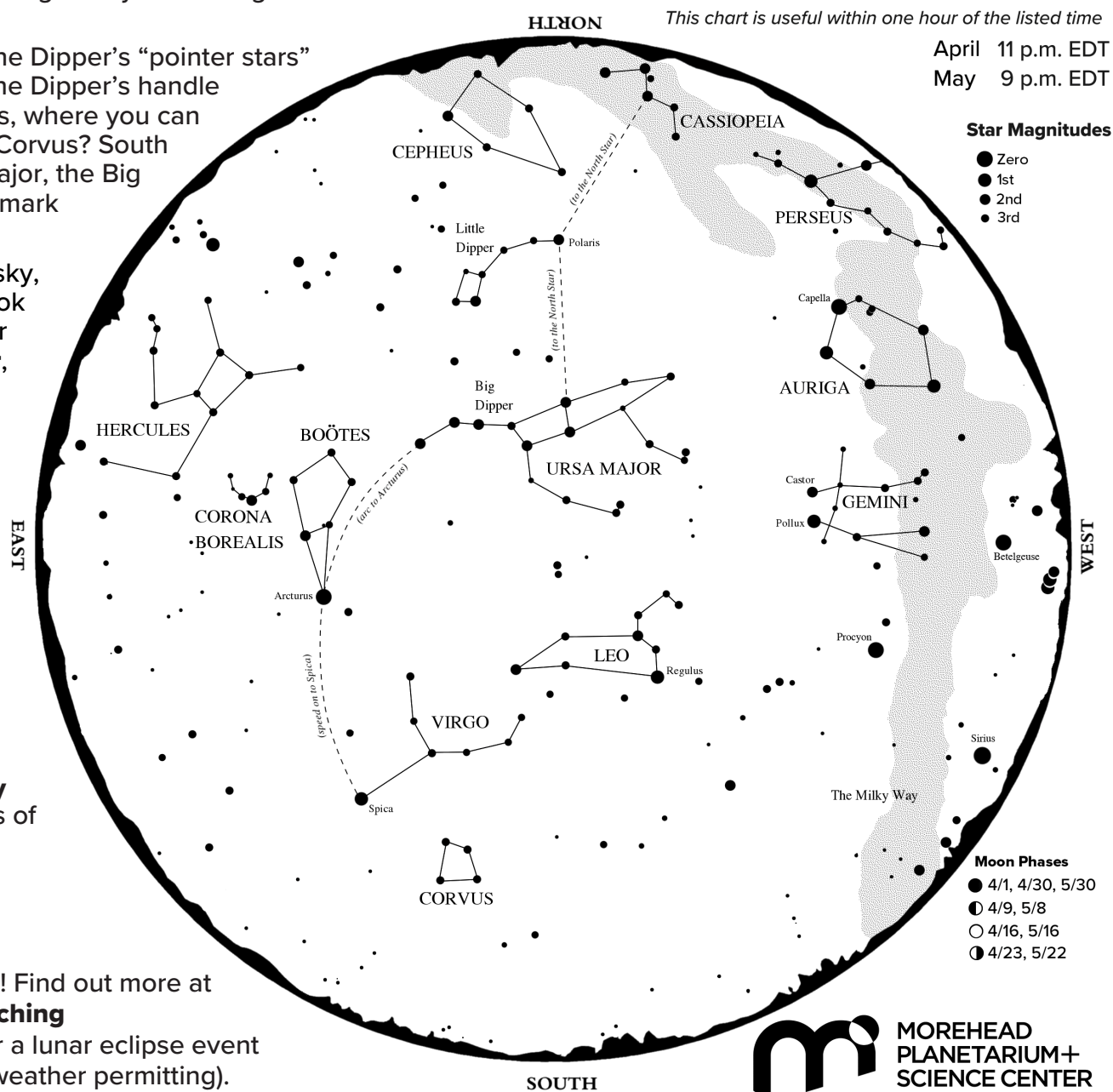
**Mercury** is the only planet in the evening sky, seen only during the latter half of April. Look for it low in western twilight. The other four naked-eye planets – **Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn** – shine in the eastern pre-dawn sky. Over several weeks they perform a little dance, shifting relative positions as they orbit the Sun. Watch for three particularly close planet passes: between Mars and Saturn on April 5, between brilliant Venus and bright Jupiter – this one being quite spectacular – on April 30 & May 1, and between Mars and Jupiter on May 29. Don't miss the **total lunar eclipse** on May 15-16 (10:28 p.m. – 1:55 a.m.; eclipse is total between 11:29 p.m. and 12:53 a.m.)!

Participate in the **NC Statewide Star Party** on April 8 and 9! Find a Star Party (and lots of other STEM events in April) near you at [ncscifest.org](http://ncscifest.org)

## Skywatching Sessions:

Morehead is back with public skywatching! Find out more at <http://moreheadplanetarium.org/skywatching>

Be sure to join us at Dix Park in Raleigh for a lunar eclipse event Sunday, May 15, 9:30 p.m. – 12 midnight (weather permitting).



MOREHEAD  
PLANETARIUM+  
SCIENCE CENTER