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Astronomy club to put sun in the spotlight

by Matthew W. Quinn

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The Flint River Astronomy Club will gather Saturday at the University of Georgia-Griffin campus gardens on Ellis Road to observe the sun.

According to a flier provided by club President Bill Warren, the event will begin with a brief presentation by Stephen Ramsden and refreshments.

“Visitors will then observe the sun as it really is — a huge fireball of boiling, seething gases rising from the sun’s interior,” the flier said. The telescopes the club will provide have powerful filters to protect users from the worst effects of looking directly at the sun. Those who come will be able to observe sunspots, solar flares, the granulation of the solar surface and prominences (arcs of burning gases rising and falling from the solar surface).

Warren said there is no charge to attend the event and the public is invited.

Those who do not wish to use the telescopes are welcome to take informational handouts that will be available. He said the event will take place if the weather cooperates. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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