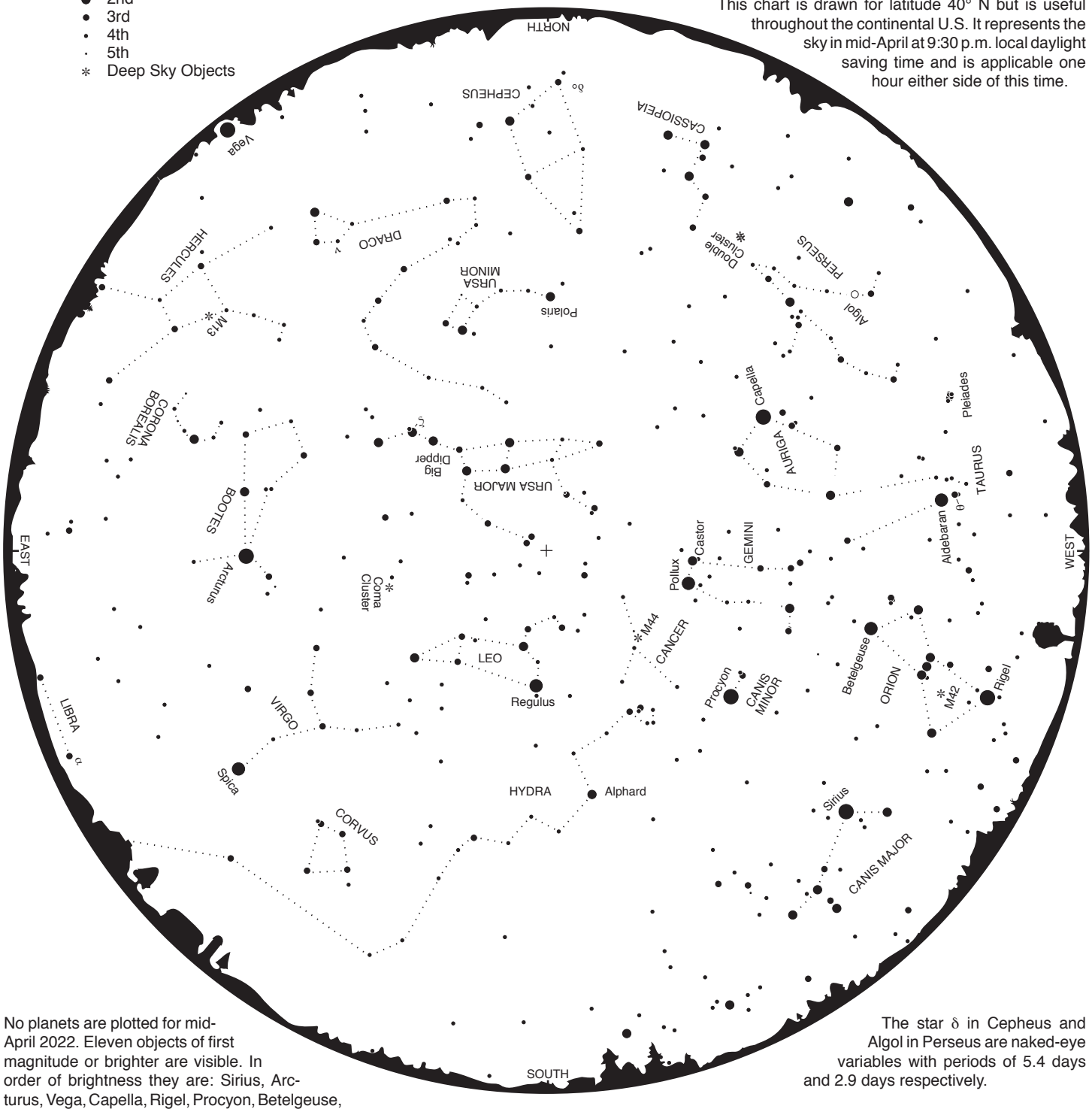
April Evening Skies

Subscription: $12.00 per year, from ***Sky Calendar***, Abrams Planetarium, 755 Science Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824 or online at www.abramsplanetarium.org/SkyCalendar/.

This chart is drawn for latitude 40° N but is useful throughout the continental U.S. It represents the sky in mid-April at 9:30 p.m. local daylight saving time and is applicable one hour either side of this time.



No planets are plotted for mid-April 2022. Eleven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are: Sirius, Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Rigel, Procyon, Betelgeuse, Aldebaran, Spica, Pollux, and Regulus.

Our usual monthly maps are designed for stargazers just beginning to find their way around the sky. This month's map is useful for serious stargazing from dark locations. It contains many more stars, inclusive to magnitude 4.5, and some fainter stars as needed to complete patterns or assist in locating special objects.

A selection of double stars (labeled with Greek letters) and "deep sky objects" is also plotted. All are visible with modest equipment; most are within the range of the unaided eye or binoculars.

The double stars, in order of decreasing angular separation, are ζ in Ursa Major, θ in Taurus, α in Libra (just rising), and ν in Draco.

Three open or galactic clusters are noted: the Coma Cluster between Leo and Bootes; the Beehive or Praesepe (M44) in Cancer, the Double Cluster between Perseus and Cassiopeia.

The Hercules Cluster (M13) is a fine example of a globular cluster, and M42, the Orion Nebula, is a gas cloud out of which stars are forming.

The star δ in Cepheus and Algol in Perseus are naked-eye variables with periods of 5.4 days and 2.9 days respectively.