

Nite-Net

AGM 2010

The IDA 22nd Annual General Meeting has come and gone and we wanted to keep you informed of the highlights of the event. On June 24th we began early registration and some of the attendees made their way to the Jarnac Observatory Tour. This is the private observatory of comet discoverer David Levy, and it was easily the most popular side trip of the Expo. The skies almost didn't cooperate because early monsoon cloud cover moved into the area. But there was some clearing and the moon, some brighter stars and a planet or two became visible.

June 25-27 included the ALCon Expo and the Lunt Solar Conference. Lunt Solar set up several telescopes out near the pool and provided free viewing for two days to the general public.



The winner of the Dark Sky Giveaway was announced on Sunday the 27th. Lee Paul of Illinois was the lucky

winner of the TeleVue eye pieces. *Congratulations Lee, and have fun under the night sky.*

Coming soon to the IDA Web site will be the audio recording along with the corresponding PowerPoint presentation, *Lighting Ordinance Workshop by Nancy Clanton, Jim Benya, & Leo Smith.* The workshop included information about the revised Model Lighting Ordinance (MLD) Draft 2. This is out and available for public comments. If you have comments concerning this revised version, please submit them during the public review period from 24 June through 23 August.



IDA is aware that not everyone can make it to the AGM. In order to share as much of the vital information from the meeting as possible we will produce all the IDA AGM presentations on the Web site as soon as possible. Like the MLO workshop, these presentations will include the audio and the Power Points. Issue topics included:

- The Book- *Stars Above, Earth Below...*
- Night Recreation in State Parks
- NPS Night Sky Team
- Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve, Canada
- Europe's Dark Sky Movement
- Blue Rich White Light Panel



Chris Luginbuhl & Chad Moore on the Blue Rich White Light panel

Thank you to all of you that procured donations to the AGM silent auction. We are pleased to announce that over \$3,000 was raised to help IDA continue with its mission of protecting and preserving the night sky.



Sunday, the 27th we held the IDA Chapters meeting. The agenda included an update on the education project from We Write that works with students to publish books by kids for kids. This is an ongoing project and they are currently in the development stage, we'll keep you posted.

We discussed the new Education Committee chaired by Dr. Connie Walker of NAO. There are requests from additional supporters to be a part of this new and exciting committee. As always, you are welcome to suggest project ideas, present projects that have worked for you, or submit written proposals for grant funding for a project.

We were fortunate to have a display sponsored this year by our health insurance provider, Health Net. We drew names from the Chapter Leaders who attended and Joanne Hailey, IDA Iowa, was the lucky winner of this year's banner.

(more photos of the conference on page 8)



Aaron Reid of IDA CO discusses his outreach plans and funding needs



10th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky

<http://www.astro-zselic.hu/symposium.html>

The theme this year is "The Science of Light Pollution." It will be held 2-4 September 2010, the County Hall, Kaposvár, Hungary. IDA Chapter Leader, Zoltán Kolláth, is the contact for the Symposium. He can be contacted at zkollath@gmail.com. The organizers of this important event are IDA Europe, IDA Hungary, Hungarian Astronomical Association, Lighting Society of Hungary, and Duna-Drava National Park Directorate.

The purpose of this symposium is to bring together all the experts and activists in the field of light pollution to discuss and exchange views on how to reduce artificial light at night. As you know from previous Nite-Net issues, Europe is making big advancements in the areas of equating light at night as a quality of life issue. [The Campaign to Protect Rural England](#) conducted a survey-is your life blighted by light? [The European Council](#) has released a draft resolution deploring both noise and light pollution for its citizens, and actions that should be taken to protect them.

Background on the City and the Symposium Partners

Kaposvár is located on the River Kapos 190km (118mi) southwest of Budapest. It has only recently made its mark as an industrial town. "Eighty percent of the houses in Kaposvár have been built in this century, so it does not possess many historical monuments. It used to be known as the "City of Flowers" because of its many parks ([planet ware](#)).

Goldendale Observatory Receives Dark Sky Status by David Ingram, IDA Northwest

One of the highlights of the AGM and the European Symposium is the announcement of new members to the International Dark-Sky Places program. This year was no different. On Saturday evening, at the IDA Board of Directors' meeting, the Dark Sky Park review committee recommended and the Board unanimously approved and granted provisional Dark Sky Park status to Goldendale Observatory State Park (GOSP) in Washington State. The application process has been an year in the making and GOSP is looking forward to completing some required changes and then being granted full status as a Dark Sky Park.

"The Goldendale Observatory Interpretive Center is located on a hilltop North of Goldendale, Washington. It is a unique facility because it caters to the general public with programs designed to educate the novice as well as the experienced star gazer. They have a number of telescopes including a 24.5 inch that is used in the evenings for public viewing sessions. The facility is run by the Washington State Parks Department. Steve Stout serves as the facility supervisor and is a very knowledgeable amateur astronomer. He gives an interesting talk before each session and keeps the public updated on the latest happenings in the cosmos," from the GOSP Web site at <http://www.perr.com/gosp.html>.

As Chapter Leaders, you too are welcome to propose a park, reserve, or development in your region be given dark sky status. If you need help with the application, please don't hesitate to ask.



The Hungarian Astronomical Association, according to the [HAA Web site](#), "aims to publicize astronomy everywhere, help improve observational and telescope building skills, improve education of astronomy in primary, secondary schools and at university level, and last but not least, provide opportunities for meeting people of the same astronomical interests. HAA members also organize research activity in corporations with professional institutions." Take a look at their Web site for the history, youth programs, camps, and other events the HAA has planned. We couldn't ask for a better partner for the symposium.

We look forward to hearing from the IDA Chapters that attend this year's meeting. If you have an opportunity to visit Hungary in September, we will be happy to provide more details for you to attend the symposium.



Dave Ingram, center receives his certificate of provisional status from Kim Patten and Chad Moore

Sections Event Calendar

Please send events, presentations, awards, dates of council hearings, or trade shows to Nite-Net

July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 European Youth Perspective Conference on Biodiversity, Beel,	2	3
4 U.S. Independence Day	5 IDA Offices Closed for Independence Day	6	7	8	9 -11 InterSoles 3 Eclipse Conference, Buenos Aries, Argentina	10
11	12	13	14 Bastille Day, France	15	16	17
18	19	20 Neil Armstrong walks on the moon, 1969	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 NASA's anniversary	30	31

August 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Friendship Day	2	3-6 Outdoor Retailer Summer Market, Salt Lake City Utah National Night Out, US	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13 Only Friday the 13th in 2010	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 8th Annual Green Building Conference, Sydney, Australia				



BRIGHT IDEAS IN THE NEWS!

CPRE is watching the construction of a new car park in a greenbelt zone: http://www.messengernewspapers.co.uk/news/8185670.Car_park_plans_for_Sale_greenbelt_critiscised/

University of Florida study, dark sky lighting during the construction phase: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FILES/UW/UW32800.pdf>

Globe at Night roundup: http://www.tucsonsentinel.com/local/report/052710_darkskies

Best night sky places in Britain: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/activityandadventure/7772447/Britains-best-stargazing-locations.html>

From Travis Longcore and Catherine Rich: http://www.actionbioscience.org/environment/longcore_rich.html



IDA Board Member, Audrey Fischer in the News:

<http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=165762>

Astronomy apparel online store: <http://www.cloudynights.com/ubbthreads/showflat.php/Cat/0/Number/3810323/page/0/view/collapsed/sb/5/o/all/fpart/1>

Extensive article out of UK about dark sky places: http://findarticles.com/p/news-articles/sunday-telegraph-the-london-uk/mi_8064/is_20100530/free-earth/ai_n53826485/?tag=content:coll

Article out of the Washington Post: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/07/AR2010060703222.html>

The Night Sky Team: in the news: http://www.pe.com/localnews/stories/PE_News_Local_D_nightsky11.238a408.html

<http://www.scrippsnews.com/content/too-much-light-spoils-view-astronomers-stargazers>

Online PowerPoint: <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/43071487/Light-Pollution-in-Champaign-County-IL>

IDA Board President, Robert Wagner in the news: <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/0/625231BF5E40D321862577480068C113>

McDonald Observatory dark skies initiative: http://www.utexas.edu/news/2010/06/22/mcdonald_dark_skies/
See more about what's happening in Texas in the article on the next page.

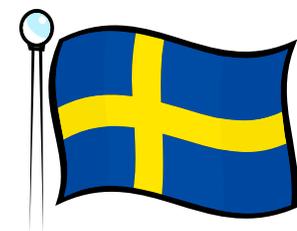
Dark sky video from McDonald and the University of Texas, Austin: <http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/darkskies/video.html>



The economic cost of light pollution in the UK: <http://www.britastro.org/dark-skies/economic.html?DB>

Lighting a tower in Duluth, MN, USA: <http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/event/article/id/172606/>

Lighting workshop in Alingås, Sweden: <http://www.light sinalingsas.com/en>



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Mission Statement:
To preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies, through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.

News from IDA Texas by Benjamin Jones

“Dark-sky advocate leaders from around the state met on May 11th in the Director’s House at McDonald Observatory in Ft. Davis, Texas to discuss pressing issues around the state as well share personal experiences that might be of assistance to others. Texas IDA Section Coordinator Benjamin Jones, McDonald Observatory’s Bill Wren, Sierra La Rana’s Gil Bartee, and George Observatory’s Barbara Wilson were present among others.

One important conversation that took place was that of enforcement of existing state laws. Texas has a state law in place requiring all state funded entities to use cutoff outdoor lighting at their facilities. However, after lengthy discussions with state agencies and government officials, it appears that without a strict enforcement agency written into the law, it cannot be enforced. This discussion regarding enforcement of existing laws was furthered by anecdotes from those present who have encountered great difficulty in getting city/county officials to enforce lighting requirements.

Other issues discussed included education efforts, the status of LED lighting technologies, and the creation of a new Big Bend IDA Chapter.

On top of this meeting, Benjamin Jones, Bill Wren, Gil Bartee, and Dave Desper participated in a outdoor lighting roundtable at the Texas Star Party on May 13th. Our 1-hour roundtable included discussion of a number of issues brought forth by audience members. Chief among these was a

discussion as to the importance of dim lighting in addition to fixture design. TXDOT as well as Arizona DOT seems to be using relatively good cutoff lighting on their new construction, but either install too many luminaries or use bulbs whose lumen output is unnecessarily high. This is something that we need to address with Texas and Arizona leaders.

We continue to work hard to keep the stars big and bright deep in the heart of Texas!”

Thank you for that update Benjamin, We appreciate your time and work.



Flip the light switch off,
enjoy the night sky!

CELESTRON
Proud supporter of dark skies everywhere.
www.celestron.com

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UNESCO Education Awards in Northern Ireland

Four secondary school students from Santa Sabina, Dominican College, Dublin, Ireland were recently awarded the "Most Innovative Award" at the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards with their project "The Light Pollution Game".

Using the Thinking Worlds software they developed their 3D interactive environment (originally created for the Light Pollution Challenge at the 9th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky) which highlighted problems associated with light pollution. The game was designed to raise

awareness of the light pollution issue for young children and the general public.

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards Programme attracted the participation of over 8,000 young people raising the awareness of environmental issues in over 750 schools and communities in Ireland. <http://www.ecounesco.ie/>



The picture shows the winning team Siobhán McGovern, Alison Shepherd and Iryna Mykhalevska with TV presenter Aidan Power at a ceremony in the Mansion House Dublin

New Denver Ordinances by Robert Stencel, IDA Denver

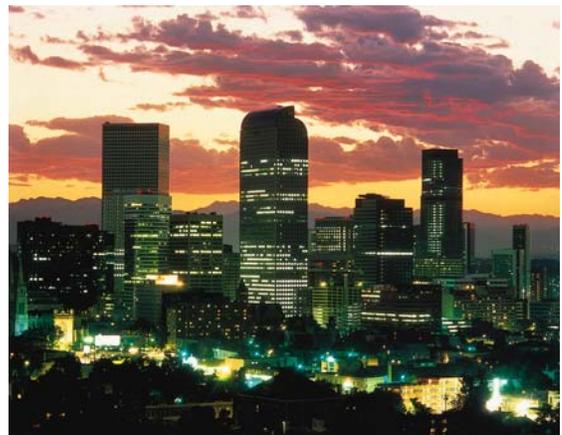
On June 21, 2010, the city and county of Denver, Colorado adopted sweeping new building and zoning code regulations that for the first time include some smarter lighting management.

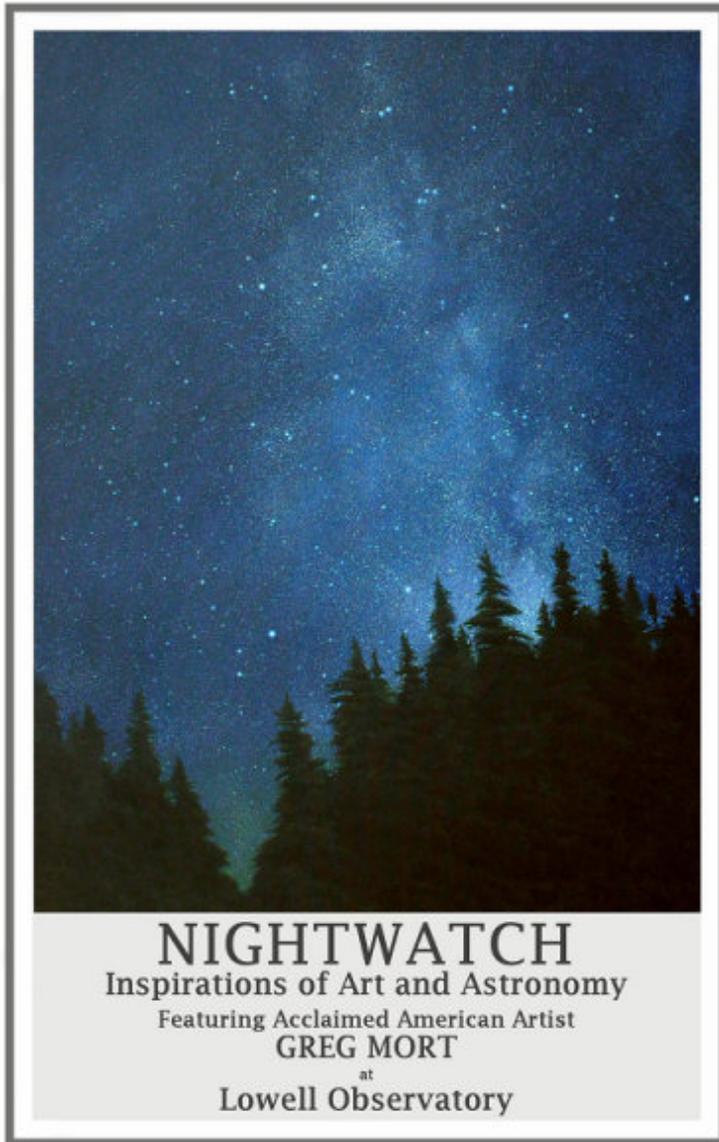
Details of the code can be found at www.newcodedenver.org - under Article 10 - General Design Standards.

Web link: http://www.denvergov.com/Portals/646/documents/10_DesignStds_DZC_62510.pdf

The language is LIMITED however, due to numerous compromises, but represents a step forward in recognition of the need for smarter lighting in a large city. The code was developed with sustainability concepts that represent growing awareness of the value of resource conservation. A precursor effort called Greenprint Denver helped persuade city Council members and the business community that these code revisions were

needed. Ideally, improvements will follow and word of this success will inspire those in other towns and cities to carefully consider MLD language.





GREG MORT
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO
NIGHTWATCH

[View NIGHTWATCH YouTube Video](#)

June 12th – August 30th 2010

[www.Lowell.edu/outreach/
nightwatch.php](http://www.Lowell.edu/outreach/nightwatch.php)

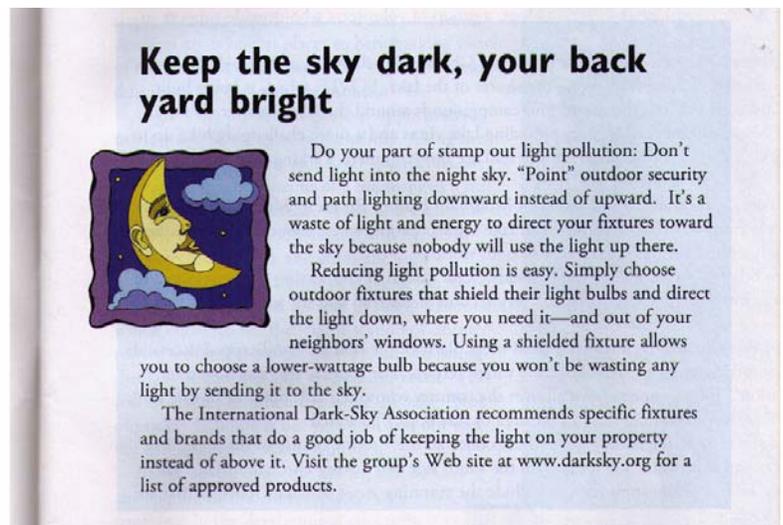
Lowell Observatory
Steele Visitors Center
1400 West Mars Hill
Flagstaff, Arizona 86001 (928) 774-3358

As a customer and member of Ozark Electric Cooperative, we receive the Rural Arkansas magazine every month. This magazine is circulated to members of every Electric Cooperative in Arkansas - Ozark Electric Coop, Arkansas Valley Electric Coop, and many others.

See the image to the right from the June 2010 issue of this magazine for very heartening news for Arkansans. This from a power company!

IDA Arkansas

Nice work Arkansas!



Reflector Presented to Hays Co. Citizens Collection Station

Cindy Luongo Cassidy of Green Earth Lighting LLC recently donated a reflector in memory of John Gregory for the area light (also known as a NEMA light) at the County of Hays Citizens Collection Station in Driftwood. Gregory was known worldwide as a master optician who designed some of the most specialized devices in astronomy. He was known throughout Texas as a proponent of responsible lighting where lights have reflectors like the one pictured above. Gregory lived in Dripping Springs for 35 years prior to his death last November in a tragic auto accident.

The reflector Cassidy donated attaches to a standard NEMA light, increasing the useable light in the area by about 45%. These drawings depict the light pattern of a NEMA light without a reflector then with a reflector.



Greg Tvrdik, Manager of the Citizens Collection Station in Driftwood, accepts a reflector for their area light from Cindy Luongo Cassidy of Green Earth Lighting.



Celestron Telescope winner with Michelle Meskill and Dean Koenig



Exhibitor Hall Saturday morning



Happy staff & volunteers at the end of the weekend!



Speaker, David Levy, at the luncheon



Keith Scholtzman & Bob Gent pick a door prize winner