

Nite-Net



AGU Fall 2008 Meeting

This year, IDA was invited to attend the American Geophysical Union (AGU) 2008 Fall Meeting, in San Francisco, CA, USA. We were pleased to be chosen to present a poster on the ill-effects of light pollution on wildlife and human health.

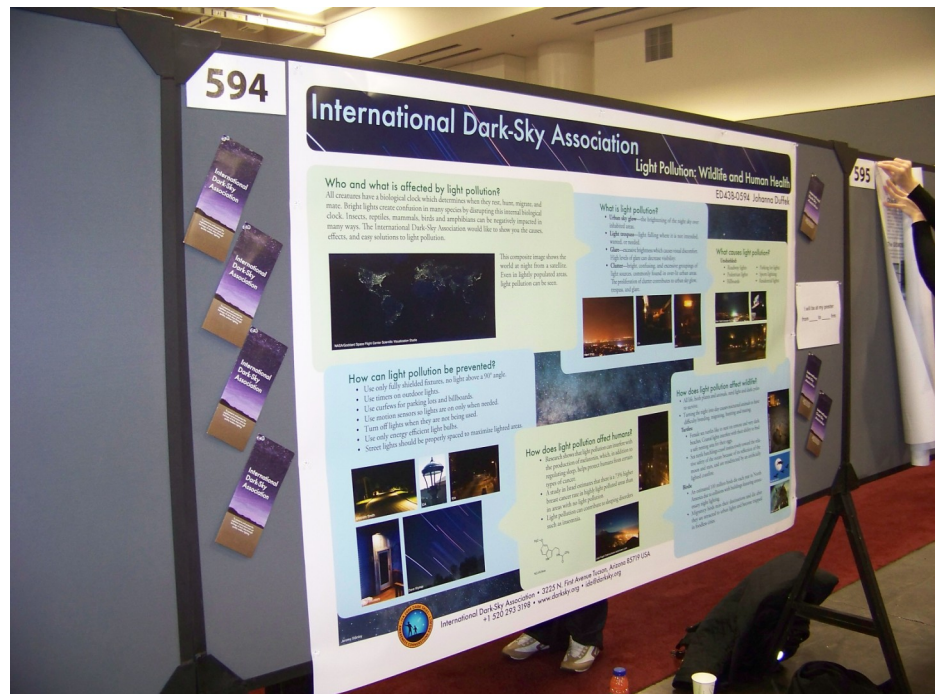
The AGU is a worldwide scientific community where the focus of the research is on earth, oceans, atmosphere, space and planets. There were ten organizations presenting Dark Sky Awareness programs for IYA 2009.

This is a very prestigious gathering of scientists from all over the world. The conference lasted 5 days and IDA was proud to be a part of it. Thank you to Connie Walker of NOAA, and IDA member for helping to organize all of the dark skies awareness presenters.

Below is a picture of the poster we used. It was designed by our in-house graphics artist Stephanie Mar and it is available on the IDA Web site as part of the IYA 2009 traveling exhibits. The size we used for the conference came out to 4'x6'; however, you do not have to print it that large. You may use whatever size necessary for your event. As you can see it makes an excellent statement with its colors and easy to follow arrows as it tells the light pollution story. It is not text heavy, so if any of the non-English speaking Sections would like to use it, very little translation is necessary.

I spoke with several people about light pollution and IDA's recommended solutions to the problem. It was very gratifying to see teachers interested in using our material to create curricula for their classrooms. We also received an offer to translate materials into Italian by one of the attendees. Just a small hint to remind all the Sections that we are always looking for volunteers to translate our work into other languages for publication on the IDA Web site.

I had a wonderful time at the conference, but to be honest I had no idea what the other poster presentations were trying to say. What the heck is an isotope, anyway?



End of Year Reports



I can hear the collective groan now: "Paperwork, yuck!" But it's one of the perils of life in the light pollution lane. You may send your completed reports via email, or via snail-mail, whichever is more convenient for you. I have already received a couple reports, thank you to those early-birds. It would be terrific if they could all be in by the end of January, 2009.

For those of you who have asked for a copy of the reports, below is a template of the

report form. There is an expense and income statement as well to submit. If you are submitting by electronic mail, please write "submitted by e-mail" under signature.

The forms are on the Sections home page for you to download as you need.

If you have just organized your Section within the last 2 to 3 months, clearly I will not be expecting a report from you this

year. If you want to send one just to have a record, that's fine.

Please don't delay in submitting your reports. I will be keeping track of submittals and it would be really terrific if I didn't have to remind a lot of people, and I sure don't want to have to tattle to the board.

Section Report for the Year ending 12/31/xxxx

Please complete the following to the best of your ability, attach the activities submission form and expense report, and return the forms to ida@darksky.org.

Section Leader:
Section Address:

Section E-mail Address:
Section Phone Number:
Other Information for the Web:
Submitted By:
Date Submitted:

Signature:

Quick Summary of Financial Activities:

Please provide a short summary of the total income and expenses and any notable donations of over \$250.00.

Summary of Year's Activities:

Please provide a summary of the year's activities.



Sections Event Calendar

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

January 2009

Eye Care Month, Braille Literacy Month

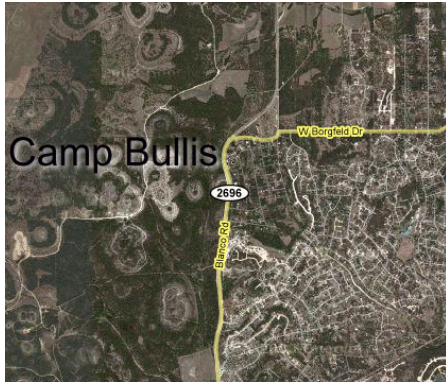
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year Everyone!	2	3
4 thru 8th AAS 213th Meeting, CA USA	5 National Bird Day	6	7	8	9 Static Electricity Day	10
11	12	13 International Skeptics Day	14	15 -16 IYA 2009 Official Opening Ceremonies	16 in Paris, France	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2009

Black History Month (US)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Groundhog Day (US)	3 Thru 5 US DOE Solid -State Lighting Workshop	4 In San Francisco, CA, USA	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15 Galileo's Birthday, 1564	16	17 thru 19 29th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium, Brisbane Australia	18 Planet Pluto Discovered, 1930	19 Birthday of Nicolas Copernicus, 1473	20 Hoodie-Hoo Day, Northern Hemisphere	21
22 International World Thinking Day	23	24	25	26	27	28

Some Section Success Stories—



We reported back in September that IDA Texas was working to help keep the US Army Base, Camp Bullis, dark sky friendly. Urban encroachment had deteriorated the nighttime environment so badly, that realistic night time conditions for

training could not be maintained. According to this article: <http://www.mysanantonio.com/military/36735179.html> two state lawmakers are introducing legislation to zone property in Texas. At this time, counties in Texas do not have zoning powers such as cities do. The legislation would make it more difficult to build without proper oversight of the entire area.

This bill would specifically provide protection for the camp to decrease urban encroachment and reduce light pollution. This is a critical time for the camp because it will begin training US Air Force and Navy medics as well as Army medics, and they will need the most realistic conditions possible in order to learn their jobs effectively.

IDA Southern Arizona worked to bring attention to a potential lighting hazard in a remote location of the US Sonora desert. Several billboards were planned along a scenic route and the Cochise County, USA, Planning and Zoning Commission voted 6 to 1 not to allow the billboards to go up. They cited scenic blight and light pollution for the

reason. See article at: <http://www.douglasdispatch.com/articles/2008/12/13/news/doc4943c37d0de6e944170463.txt>

From Cliff Ochser, Section Leader Sedona, AZ, USA - Dec 7, 2008 -

The Federal Government has stepped onto the stage in Sedona and has stopped Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) plan to install 76 streetlights on Hwy. 89A according to a December 6, 2008 letter from Mr. Robert E. Hollis, Division Administrator for the US Federal Department of Transportation. In the letter to KSB, Hollis states that "all appropriate steps for NEPA (National Environmental Protection Act of 1969) process will be followed." Hollis goes further to state "the Department of Transportation will consider all viable alternatives that address the current safety concerns on SR 89A."

ADOT, although required by federal law, has not begun a NEPA study to determine the environmental impact of the proposed lighting scheme. No work can begin on the project until that study is completed and its results are approved by the Department of Transportation.

Federally funded projects of this type require a NEPA study to assure that the public and the environment are not harmed. ADOT is required to follow the direction of the Department of Transportation regarding the NEPA study and public input and participation are one important component of the study.



This link will take you to a really cool video about a unique streetlight solution in a village in Germany. The village has a new program where you can call in, using your cell phone to have the lights turned on in your neighborhood if you are going out after 9:00 pm. People are so clever. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7796800.stm>

This is a good article about light pollution and crime. Mentioned at the end of the article are Section Leaders Leo Smith and Dr. Mario Motto.

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/newburyport/news/x1647205570/Taking-a-dim-view-of-things>

On the international scene, France is working to turn off neon lights at night. Go to this site for more information: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/French-Anti-Neon-Activists-Grow-In-Numbers-97478.shtml>

This is an article about the first dark sky park application for Europe. The park is located in Scotland where they

are planning several activities for IYA 2009. This is a good one to keep for your records. <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/008200812260915.htm>

My apologies for a bit of self-promotion, but I was quoted for my first IDA interview for an article in Dubai. <http://www.xpress4me.com/news/international/world/20010915.html>

Call to Action, December 2008

Many of you received an email for a Call to Action this month about the sale of land by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). We do not usually issue a call on a national basis and but we felt there were extenuating circumstances to this issue. We received some inquiries into why we chose this cause, and we would like to clarify our position to help you speak to your volunteers and interested supporters.

The parcels were to be sold and opened up to mining interests. This process was all done within a month's time. The famed NASA Earth at Night map not only shows the urban glow of our cities, but it also clearly shows significant wildfires, fishing boats, and oil and gas flares. Our call to action was requesting a reprieve from the BLM lands adjacent to the Utah National Parks that have become known for their dark skies, Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, and Dinosaur National Monument. If this reprieve was not granted, at least a halt in production at night to prevent the destruction of these scenic nightscapes. To quote our letter to Director Caswell, "To preserve the ecological rarity of the area, we ask, if the auction continues, to stipulate that all drilling operations halt production during the nighttime hours." In true IDA style, we are not suggesting that we stop nighttime activities necessary for comfort, safety, and recreation; only that we allow the few pristine areas of unadulterated night to remain natural.

Additionally, and perhaps the largest argument for this call to action was the way in which the auction was announced. The National Park Service, which is a great partner of IDA, was not consulted on this decision until after it had been made.

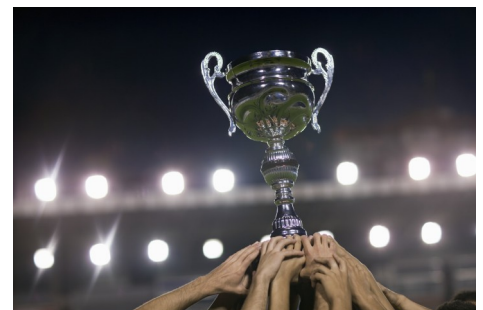
Common Sense Stadium Lighting Suggestions—Nancy Emerson, IDA Sections Leader, Santa Barbara, USA

- 1) Determine what your goals are. Decide whether or not you can live with the best lighting available, or whether you remain opposed to any lighting.
- 2) Insist that if lighting is going to be installed, it will be the most technologically advanced lighting available, not the cheapest lighting.
- 3) Work for controls on when the lights will be turned off when they are not in use. Game nights may need a later hour than practice nights.
- 4) Find out what the field is being used for, or who

- is using it. Try to seek controls on how often the lights are used.
- 5) Be prepared with the lighting ordinances for your area. Work with the builders to ensure they are aware of those ordinances.
- 6) Work with the neighborhood associations that may be effected by the lights. Especially the homeowners nearest the stadium.
- 7) Don't be afraid to ask questions of local lighting companies. What is the newest technology? What

are the cost differences? Do they have samples of dark sky friendly stadium lighting?

- 8) Follow-up, follow-up, follow-up.



Pine Tree Arch, Arches National Monument, Utah, USA
By Randal-Schwartz

Subsequently, since this call for action was released, a number of the parcels that we were asking for reprieve were closed from auction. This announcement was released in the 12-23-08 eNews mailing.

Thank you for your continued support of IDA and the natural night sky.

Canyonlands National Park, White Rim Overlook, Utah, USA by vtveen



Update on the Fight Against Light Pollution (excerpt)—Milt Roney, Washington DC

Current Status:

This is a time of opportunity and challenge. Light fixtures around the country are old and in need of replacement at a time when people are concerned about energy costs and complain about light shining into their windows. At the same time, the market is being flooded with compact fluorescent bulbs that produce more light per watt than incandescents, and Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights that are cheap and bright. Our challenge is to replace those old lights with new lights that don't generate as much light pollution.

For many years, IDA and others have worked with state and local governments to enact lighting ordinances that require better lighting. In conjunction with the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), IDA has been working on an improved Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO). This was formally presented to the IES this fall, and IDA is now in the process of negotiating with them before publishing the draft for comment (as of 12/30/08 IDA's Board has based the MLO and we are waiting on the IESNA Board's vote).

This summer, IDA conducted well attended light pollution briefings in the US House and Senate. Eleven supportive Representatives signed on to a letter to the Environmental

Protection Agency urging that the EPA codify a formal definition for light pollution, consider the environmental, human heritage, safety and health effects of light pollution in EPA research, expand discussion of well-designed light in Energy Star publications and standards, and support education about light pollution. In addition, a citizen's petition was submitted to the EPA with a request to monitor atmospheric discoloration caused by light pollution, and develop regulations to achieve "natural visibility" as defined by the Clean Air Act.

IDA and its members are doing a lot, and more needs to be done. Perhaps the easiest way to start is to encourage more people to

**International
Dark-Sky
Association**

IDA's Mission:

To preserve and protect the nighttime environment and our heritage of dark skies.

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A Look Back at 2008

I want to begin by saying thanks to all of you for your help and support for me throughout this year. As a relative newcomer to the issues involving light pollution, you have all been great teachers, patient, and so passionate about our cause.

When I accepted this position, my husband told his father what I was going to be doing. My father-in-law's reaction was, "it's about time she joined the family business." You see, he works for Kitt Peak here in Tucson, AZ, USA and my husband is the Director of Operations for the Vatican Telescope (VATT) on Mt. Graham, Safford, AZ, USA. (Yes, that Vatican, is there more than one?). I'm in for the duration, just like you.

I would also like to say a special thanks to our wonderful staff at IDA. If you haven't met us all you are missing out on a treat. We are an intelligent, creative, funny, motivated, professional and completely crazy group of people. We hope we can meet you all at next year's Annual General Meeting. We love to be able to put a face with the voice. The meeting will be in Phoenix next year following GreenBuild.

This year we saw a lot of media coverage about light pollution issues. More and more the consequences of the ill-effects to wildlife, humans and energy waste are making the news. We still need to keep up with the issues of safety and how to educate the public about the benefits of dark sky friendly lighting. So we've got our work cut out for us.

As promised at the AGM, we will continue to provide more educational/marketing materials. Wildlife and energy brochures and posters are now available on the Web site. We are also working on a safety brochure and poster as well and we hope to have that available by the end of January.

IYA 2009 is up and running. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to connect with others around the world who are working on Dark Sky Awareness programs.

