International Dark-Sky Association e-News

21 January, 2009

<u>Nightscape Issue #75</u> is now available for download! Read and in-depth feature on IYA2009 and get updates on the latest in lighting technology and dark sky protection across the world.

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New Study Released on Polarized Light Pollution

Day or night, a study released 07 January, 2009 uncovers the multifaceted dangers refractive light pollution from surfaces of buildings and other human made objects.

Read more >>

NPS Night Sky Team in the News

Army of Darkness

by Rebecca Boyle, Fort Collins Now - Fort Collins, CO, USA, 16 February, 2009 Moore is well known among an army of researchers fighting to save the darkness. They include medical researchers, naturalists, ecologists and astronomers, who collectively believe the loss of dark skies is a threat to human and wildlife health, scientific knowledge and the human spirit...

IDA in O Magazine

Blinded by the Light

by Louisa Thomas, O Magazine, USA, January, 2009

At least 15 states have ordinances putting limits on use of outdoor lights. The IDA's website, <u>darksky.org</u>, lists the manufacturers that have earned its "fixture seal of approval."...

IDA in the News

Stargazers Take a Dim View of Las Vegas

by Alicia Chang, Columbus Dispatch - Columbus, OH, USA, 20 January, 2009

The International Dark-Sky Association, an Arizona-based nonprofit group, has noticed an increased awareness about the perils of light pollution, but it acknowledged that there's a limit to promoting dark skies. "I don't think you can get Paris to turn off the Eiffel Tower or persuade Times Square to turn off all of its lights," said Pete Strasser, the association's managing director...

Towards Dim Lights for a Brighter Future

by S. Ananthanarayana, Deccan Herald - Bangalore, India, 13 January, 2009

According to the International Dark-Sky Association, the long-term effect of light pollution will do much more than burn a hole in our pockets...

Shedding Light on Light Pollution

by Valerie Blaine, Chicago Daily Herald - Chicago, IL, USA, 12 January, 2009

Light pollution is the one form of pollution that has an immediate, inexpensive, and lasting solution. Turn off the switch. Reconsider how much exterior lighting you really need. Check out the International Dark Sky Association's Web site...

La Guerra por las Estrellas (en Espagnol)

Semana - Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Colombia, 11 Enero, 2009

En Estados Unidos, desde hace 20 años existe la International Dark-Sky Association (Asociación Internacional de Cielo Oscuro), la más importante...

Bringing the World Back into the Black

Rebecca Greatrex, New Zealand Herald - New Zealand, 09 January, 2009

More people around the world are becoming aware of light pollution and its destructive effect on the environment, with organisations such as the International Dark-Sky Association working to raise awareness and protect our natural night skies...

Glare: Astronomer's Archenemy

University of Wisconsin, "Why Files" - WI, USA, 08 January, 2009

The bright-sky problem "is probably going to get worse before it gets better," concedes Johanna Duffek, coordinator of local chapters for the International Dark Sky Association, yet part of the solution is rather basic: Lights that shine downward put light where it is needed, Duffek says, while lights that shine upward just illuminate the sky...

Dark Skies Vanishing

by Jimmy Laroue, News Virginian - Waynesboro, VA, USA, 07 January, 2009

"Ill-conceived, poor design is what creates most light pollution," said Pete Strasser, managing director of the International Dark-Sky Association, based in Tuscon, Ariz. "The idea is to use some common sense with the approach to lighting."...

Bring Back Starry Nights

by members of the Reading Advisory Committee for Cities for Climate Protection (ACCCP) Stephanie Anderberg, Michele Benson, and Gina Snyder, *Reading Advocate* - Concord, MA, USA, 07 January, 2009

For 20 years, the International Dark-Sky Association has argued that such poorly designed outdoor lighting wastes tremendous amounts of electricity...

Night Sky Protection

A Shot in the Dark

by Kevin Mayhood, Columbus Dispatch - Columbus, OH, USA, 20 January, 2009

A corner of Geauga County might become a mecca for astronomy in Ohio. Observatory Park is Ohio's and the Midwest's first "International Dark Sky Park," the third such in the United States...

Turn Out the Lights to See the Night Sky

by Anita Rachman, Jakarta Globe - Jakarta, Indonesia, 19 January, 2009

For many Indonesians, the blinding lights emanating from homes, businesses and streets in Indonesia's urban centers erode their chances of glimpsing celestial beauty. For astronomers, this extra light, along with the orange nighttime haze it creates, is a fatal blow to critical research...

Bill Would Reduce Light Pollution, Improve Skywatching

by Kahrin Deines, Great Falls Tribune - Great Falls, MT, USA, 17 January, 2009

A Bozeman lawmaker says light pollution is dimming enjoyment of the state's big skies and he's offered a bill to shield the glare created by outdoor lighting...

A Study Finds Light Pollution Blocks out Stars

RedOrbit - Dallas, TX, USA, 16 February, 2009

This level indicates severe light pollution. This online survey took place on the nights of December 20-24 of 2006, and January 14-21...

Matters to Contemplate: Shielding Night Skies from Light Pollution

by Laura Tennant, Reno Gazette Journal - Reno, NV, USA, 07 January, 2009

A number of industries and businesses surrounded their facilities with powerful outdoor lights for security purposes, thereby creating light pollution...

Dark Skies Policy Approved

by Chris Simon, The Scope - Innisfil, Ontario, Canada, 07 January, 2009

Town council approved a dark skies policy for the municipality, which will regulate street and outdoor lighting standards for new developments, during a meeting recently...

Energy Edge

Photocontrol Incorporates Radio Monitoring of Atomic Clock

ThomasNet Industrial News Room (press release) - New York, NY, USA, 16 January, 2009

The Photoclock is designed to address new directives pertaining to lighting curfews, International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) initiatives...

New 'Smart' Lighting Makes Parking Greener and Safer

by Sylvia Wright, UC Davis - Davis, CA, USA, 12 January, 2009

The system uses about 20 percent of the energy of conventional parking lighting systems, yet provides better safety, reduces light pollution...

Dark Sky Comment

Saving the Starry Skies

Letter to the Editor by Edith Heyward, *Casper Star-Tribune Online* - Casper, WY, USA, 19 January, 2009 Recently there have been articles in national magazines calling attention to light pollution and the loss of the world's starry skies...

Drop Idea to Light Up Botanic Gardens

Letter to the Editor, Sun2Surf - Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia, 14 January, 2009

It is well-known that "light pollution" is responsible for unpredictable, dysfunctional and often deadly behaviour of nocturnal mammals, insects, birds and turtles, to name a few...

Looking Up: Despite Light Pollution, Interest in Sky Grows

by Peter Becker, The Patriot Ledger - Quincy, MA, USA, 09 January, 2009

Light pollution, however, is the greatest threat both to professional astronomy and the public wishing to view the heavens...

"Trib Talk" Comment Section

by Jim Robertson, managing editor, Columbia Daily Tribune - Columbia, MO, USA, 09 January, 2009

"The Tribune reported the city council was considering switching to LED streetlights to save money. A much better option would be energy-efficient street lights that direct all the light downward. This would prevent light pollution, and it would also save the taxpayers money year after year. I would recommend the city council look at the International Dark-Sky Association's Web site, and they list many different street lights that would prevent light pollution and save the taxpayers money."...

Wildlife Watch

Judge Blocks Disputed BLM Utah Oil, Gas Leases

by Patty Jenetz, Salt Lake Tribune, Salt Lake City, UT, USA, 21 January, 2009

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management must deal with a federal judge's finding that the agency failed to properly consider potential damage to air quality and ancient rock art before selling oil and gas leases on sensitive public lands in Utah. U.S. District Judge Ricardo Urbina issued a temporary restraining order to indefinitely block 77 protested oil and gas leases on more than 103,000 acres in eastern and southern Utah...

Lawsuit to Be Filed Seeking Endangered Species Act Protection for the Ashy Storm Petrel

Center for Biological Diversity (press release) - Tucson, AZ, USA, 14 January, 2009

Fossil-fuel demand is also spurring the proliferation of proposed offshore liquefied natural gas terminals off California's coast, which not only increase pollution but also add artificial lighting at night. "Artificial light attracts nocturnally active seabirds such as the ashy storm petrel like moths to a flame, and the effects can be devastating," said Wolf...

Polarized Light Pollution Study

Many unnaturally reflective surfaces can polarize light, adversely impacting the mating, breeding, and navigational habits of birds, animals, and insects. The effects of polarized light are apparent during the day and at night.

Polarized Light Pollution Leads Animals Astray

Ecological Society of America (press release) - 07 January, 2009

Human-made light sources can alter natural light cycles, causing animals that rely on light cues to make mistakes when moving through their environment. In the journal *Frontiers in Ecology* and the Environment, a collaboration of ecologists, biologists and biophysicists has now shown that in addition to direct light, cues from polarized light can trigger animal behaviors leading to injury and often death.

Artificial light that occurs at unnatural times or places - often called light pollution - can attract or repulse animals, resulting in increased predation, migrating in the wrong direction, choosing bad nest sites or mates, collisions with artificial structures and reduced time available to spend looking for food, just to name a few. In a classic example, baby sea turtles

use the direction of star- and moonlight reflected off the water surface to help them find the ocean when they emerge from their beach nests; in urbanized areas, many turtles turn the wrong way and migrate toward the brighter lights of buildings or streetlamps.

"Environmental cues, such as the intensity of light, that animals use to make decisions occur at different levels of severity in the natural world," explains Bruce Robertson, an ecologist at Michigan State University. "When cues become unnaturally intense, animals can respond unnaturally strongly to them." That heightened response, he says, happens because of the way humans have changed the environment.

More Information on Polarized Light Pollution

Light Pollution Affects Animal Behavior

PRESS TV - Tehran, Iran, 18 January, 2009

Light Pollution Forms 'Eco-Traps'

by Mark Kinver, BBC News - UK, 16 January, 2009

Lighting the Path to Death and Extinction

by Tony Carnie, Independent Online - Cape Town, South Africa, 12 January, 2009

City Lights Blamed for Animals' Deaths

by Mark Prigg. This is London - London, England, UK, 07 January, 2009

Dark Buildings, Vehicles, Roads Act as 'Ecological Traps' for Organisms

Newspost Online - Baroda, India, 08 January, 2009

Ways to Support IDA

Donate Now and Become a Member!

eBay Giving Works Program - Donate proceeds to IDA from items you sell on eBay.

A Memorial Donation or Commemorative Gift - Commemorative gifts offer a unique way to honor a special event, such as a wedding, anniversary or birthday, in the life of someone you love. By giving a memorial gift in memory of a family member or friend, you not only affirm your environmental values, but also recognize that these values were shared by the individual being honored. Whether in condolence or in honor of an occasion or person, your friends and family will appreciate the thoughtfulness of your contribution.

<u>Planned Giving</u> - Gift planning is an exciting way to fulfill philanthropic goals because planning a gift through your estate provides not only a legacy of support for IDA, but also multiple financial and tax benefits to you and your family.

Your Support Helps Us Continue the Fight to Save the Night!