



The Quarterly newsletter of the Oregon-wide Chapter of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA)

“In the midst of winter I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there’s something stronger – something better, pushing right back.” a quote from Albert Camus, relevant during pandemic weeks

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What to Do at Home?

Our current physical separations and home sequestrations provide strengthening and learning opportunities, both online and in your back yard. Here are some ideas...

Oregon Field Guide Video on Dark Skies

Learn as two young scientists educate about light pollution and dark skies. Ashley Pipkin, a Regional Biologist with National Park Service explains how National Parks are biosphere refuges of the night sky, while measuring light pollution in Lava Beds National Monument. Mary Coolidge, Portland Audubon Dark Skies Campaign Coordinator and an IDA Oregon Board Member, explains how unshielded and overly-bright lights and light pollution harm migrating birds and people. Watch this [online at Oregon Public Broadcasting](#), first aired on Feb 25, 2020 (13 minutes).

International Dark Sky Week – April 19-26th

IDA headquarters in Tucson, AZ organizes an annual Dark Sky Week, which usually involves group visits to astronomical observatories and dark sky locations for star viewing parties around the world. This year's Dark Sky Week activities are virtual with presentations online – [check out this link](#).

Home Schooling on Dark Sky Issues – Calling all Dark Sky Rangers!

IDA's website provides [links to home schooling workbooks and educational materials](#) on dark skies and light pollution from ages 5 through high school. Spark the interest in a budding scientist!

Backyard Science & Dark Skies – Globe at Night

Your science kids can literally make a global difference by taking backyard measurements of light pollution. [Check out this video on how you and your kids can do this](#). You don't need any instruments, except a mobile phone opened to the [Globe at Night website](#).

The Globe at Night world map shows only 30 measurements in Oregon during 2020 so far. We can do better Oregon! Do this during no moon periods – the next one is April 14-23.

Virtual Astronomy in Oregon from Home

Astronomers with the Rose City Astronomers of Portland are in the process of developing a program of remote, real-time, online telescope observing sessions -- virtual astronomy tours from one or more locations in Oregon during the upcoming dark sky (new moon) period – April 14 – 23. The online events would be held through Zoom or GoToMeeting. Check out the [Rose City Astronomers website](#) for possible days and times.

Regional News from Portland

Progress Report: City of Portland Dark Skies Program

Last June, with the steadfast help of our esteemed late City Commissioner Nick Fish, Portland Audubon successfully lobbied the Mayor and City Council to award funding for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to explore avenues to preserve dark skies in Portland—for migrating birds, for ecosystem health, for the health and safety of the City's human residents, and for the love of stars!

The City's report on that work is scheduled to be released for review by early May. It is a synthesis of the light pollution issue and its impacts on human health, wildlife and ecosystem health, public safety, energy waste and night sky viewing, and best practices for mitigating it. It looks at what other jurisdictions

have done (locally and nationally), existing conditions in Portland, and Portland plans and policies that already address it.

The report also recommends next steps for strategically curbing Portland's light pollution, including code amendments, integration into the City's Green Building Policy for city-owned facilities, and fully funding Portland Bureau of Transportation's shield request program to help meet the public demand for streetlight shields to keep light from trespassing into people's homes, a program which currently has a months-long back log!

If you are in the Portland area, here's how you can help:

- **Comment on the Public Review Discussion Draft**, which will be linked on [Portland Audubon's website](#) as soon as it becomes available. City staff are working to schedule virtual public open house and virtual targeted outreach meetings during the month of May.
- **Participate in the City Council Hearing**-- originally scheduled for June 2020--but now likely delayed due to circumstances surrounding the Covid19 Virus. Audubon will post the date on their website as soon as it is scheduled.
- **If you live in Portland and a streetlight shines light into your house/apartment**, [request a shield from the Bureau of Transportation](#).

Take the Pledge in Portland to Go Lights Out!

Light pollution is the cumulative result of countless light sources that are poorly designed, poorly shielded, too bright, and on when we aren't even using them. Portland Audubon's Take the Pledge to Go Lights Out program operates throughout the Portland Metropolitan region, and asks folks to look around at their home lighting and look for opportunities to help preserve dark skies overhead by following some basic best practices:

- Turn off your outdoor lights when you're not using them
- Make sure your outdoor lights point down and are well-shielded so they don't create light trespass or glare – [Check out this website](#) which shows examples of good and bad lighting from Houston, TX
- Install motion sensors on outdoor lights so they're only on when needed
- Select warm LEDs (3,000Kelvins or below)
- During migration seasons, draw blinds or curtains to reduce light spill

If you are in the Portland area, [Sign up here](#). We'll send you a metal yard sign or a vinyl window cling to hang somewhere in your yard or a front window to

help us raise awareness about this important issue.

Regional News from Central Oregon

Good Light Neighbor Program

We are setting up a pilot project in Central Oregon called “Good Light Neighbor” which will encourage good environmental lighting practices and will recognize businesses, organizations, and residents for their dark sky stewardship. It’s modeled after successful programs in Borrego Springs, CA and Texas. Want to help? Contact us at idaoregon@darksky.org.

What’s Happening in each of the Other Six regions of Oregon?

Given the diverse character of Oregon and varying issues, the Oregon Chapter has adopted an organization that aligns with the same seven regions recognized by Travel Oregon (see map below): Oregon Coast, Mt. Hood & Columbia Gorge, Willamette Valley, Portland Metro Area, Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon, and Southern Oregon.

Let us know what’s happening in your locality and region and we’ll post it onto our website [on the regional pages](#).

To sustain the work of the Oregon Chapter, we are looking for a coordinator from each region and volunteers who will act locally. Every person can make a difference! We especially need volunteers from Coastal Oregon, the Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon and Eastern Oregon. Contact us at idaoregon@darksky.org.



We need a Social Media Coordinator

IDA Oregon is looking for someone with social media skills to help coordinate our online presence. Please contact us at idaoregon@darksky.org

IDA Oregon Online:

Website <https://www.darkskyoregon.org/>

Email idaoregon@darksky.org

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/IDAOregon/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/darkskyoregon/>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/DarkSkyOregon>

How to get Involved?

IDA Oregon is growing and needs your help!

- [Join IDA](#) or renew your \$35 annual dues – that’s how you become a member of IDA Oregon.
- Volunteer to help organize your IDA area of Oregon – all regions need help!
- Tell us what’s happening in your region!
- View and share the movie “[Saving the Dark](#)”
- Learn about your local City or County lighting ordinances – work to improve them
- Support IDA Oregon – Donate through PayPal at the end of this newsletter or [at our website](#). All donations are tax deductible. IDA Oregon operates on volunteer funding for printing posters and banners,

purchasing outreach materials, light pollution monitoring equipment, renting meeting space, website maintenance, online meeting fees, and more. The total expense is several thousand dollars per year.



A Call for Oregon Nightscape Images and Movies

IDA Oregon is putting together a 3 to 4-minute inspirational video and also a 2021 Calendar focusing on starry imagery of Oregon.

If you have nightscape shots (like the one above) of iconic places in Oregon or time lapse night sky movies or just fun time images under the stars with friends and family, please contact us at idaoregon@darksky.org

You will receive credit for the work. We have received several photos already, but many more are needed. It's a chance to get your movie and photos out to a wider audience. If we receive too many, we'll put the rest on our website.

***** Stay Safe *****

All donations support IDA Oregon dark sky projects!



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