



The newsletter of the  
Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition

September 2013

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## Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition (FDSC) Web Presence!

In April 2013 we launched a new and improved website at <http://www.flagstaffdarkskies.org>. The upgraded website includes:

- lots of new pictures;
- tips for residential outdoor lighting;
- where to purchase fully shielded lighting fixtures;
- a list of exceptional night sky viewing locations in the Flagstaff area;
- newsworthy items that are “Trending Now”;
- scientific links for “Wonks”;
- functioning outdoor lighting codes in various municipalities;
- and much more!

We welcome suggestions for new material.

FDSC also has a Facebook page for those of you who have Facebook accounts! In the Facebook search bar type in Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition. If you enjoy what you see please “Like” us and share the great pictures, quotes, and links with your friends on Facebook.

We would love to feature pictures taken by you of the night sky in the Flagstaff and Northern Arizona area. Please send your pictures to [info@flagstaffdarkskies.org](mailto:info@flagstaffdarkskies.org) or post them on the FDSC Facebook page!

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“I often think that the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day.”

-- Vincent Van Gogh

## Upcoming Events

### Nightlife in the Extreme

Sunday, September 29

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Buffalo Park

Meet in the Parking Lot

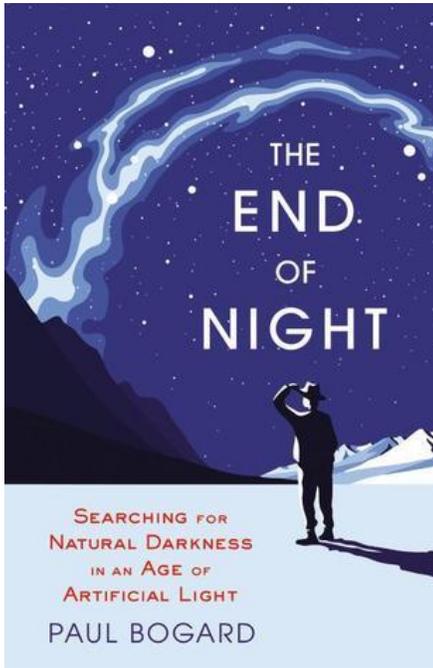
Enjoy an introduction to the night sky with an easy, flat walk around Buffalo Park as day turns to night. Bring flashlights and stay after the walk to view the sky through telescopes and binoculars. An event in the 2013 Flagstaff Festival of Science – see [scifest.org](http://scifest.org).



Day into Night Buffalo Park. Photo by Lance Diskan.



Buffalo Park Walk. Photo by Lance Diskan.



## The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light

Author Paul Bogard released a new book on the night sky this year. Paul visited Flagstaff many times in the writing of this book and he writes how the citizens of Flagstaff have embraced dark skies as part of the city's identity. Amazon.com, which sells the book, describes it as:

A deeply panoramic tour of the night, from its brightest spots to the darkest skies we have left.

A starry night is one of nature's most magical wonders. Yet in our artificially lit world, three-quarters of Americans' eyes never switch to night vision and most of us no longer experience true darkness. In *THE END OF NIGHT*, Paul Bogard restores our awareness of the spectacularly primal, wildly dark night sky and how it has influenced the human experience across everything from science to art.

From Las Vegas' Luxor Beam--the brightest single spot on this planet--to nights so starlit the sky looks like snow, Bogard blends personal narrative, natural history, science, and history to shed light on the importance of darkness--what we've lost, what we still have, and what we might regain--and the simple ways we can reduce the brightness of our nights tonight.

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*In these countless stars, in their clusters and colors and constellations, in the "shooting" showers of blazing dust and ice, we have always found beauty. And in this beauty the overwhelming size of the universe has seemed less ominous, Earth's own beauty more incredible.*

~ Paul Bogard in "The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light"

## National Association of Counties Conference

by Lance Diskan

With support from Coconino County Supervisor Liz Archuleta and her staff, FDSC members were joined by Deanna Greco of the National Park Service at a table set up during the National Association of Counties Western Interstate Region Conference held in Flagstaff in May. Many positive conversations about Flagstaff's leadership in dark sky protection, and the important economic impacts of being a dark sky community took place with county representatives from around the western United States. Local artists and businesses donated dark sky themed items that were business-card "raffled" to officials attending the event. Our thanks to Dan Duriscoe, Shane Knight, Lynn Overend and Winter Sun Trading Company for helping build awareness for protection of a natural night sky both locally and around the Colorado Plateau.



The FDSC and NPS table at NACo's Western Interstate Region Conference event at Fort Tuthill.

# Breaking News: Sedona City Council Votes in Favor of Dark Skies

On Tuesday, September 10, the Sedona City Council voted to support an application to the International Dark-Sky Association to recognize Sedona as an International Dark-Sky Community. The organization, Keep Sedona Beautiful, will submit the application. Flagstaff is the first IDSC, recognized in 2001.

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*I have long thought that  
anyone who does not  
regularly - or ever - gaze up  
and see the wonder and  
glory of a dark night sky  
filled with countless stars  
loses a sense of their  
fundamental connectedness  
to the universe.*

**Brian Greene**

*No matter how hard you try  
to teach your cat general  
relativity, you're going to  
fail.*

**Brian Greene**

# Grand Canyon National Park Planning Lighting Upgrades

*by Lance Diskan*

The National Park Service has quietly but quickly become a key player in raising awareness about the importance of a natural night sky under its foundational mandate, The Organic Act of 1934. Several western units of the NPS system have already earned designation as International Dark-Sky Parks, with its Chaco Canyon unit (also a UNESCO World Heritage site) in New Mexico being recognized most recently for both exceptional skies and strong visitor programs about the nighttime ecosystem.

Closer to home, Grand Canyon National Park has funded a position to conduct a survey of existing lighting fixtures at the north and south rims. Once collected this data will be used in planning lighting upgrades that will address safety needs while simultaneously guaranteeing that people who visit the park from all over the world will be able to continue to enjoy the nighttime beauties of the canyon.

NPS is also a partner in the emergence of a Colorado Plateau Night Sky Cooperative - a voluntary association of federal, state, county and municipal entities who will be working alongside local landowners, business and environmental groups, and NGO's (like FDSC) who hope to work together on preserving views of an unspoiled western sky.



Photo courtesy of Grand Canyon Association . Consider supporting their effort to protect dark skies at Grand Canyon at <https://www.grandcanyon.org/donate/projects/current/dark-skies-experience>



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