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New Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition

While the name is the same, there is an expanded mission statement and a new legal structure to our Coalition. Building upon the extraordinary success that Flagstaff has had over the past six decades in preserving the incredible dark skies in the region, the FDSC is moving forward to share this story (the Flagstaff Solution) with other communities that seek to preserve their night skies and even to roll back damage that has already occurred due to bad lighting practices. The goals of this new direction were described in the Strategic Plan created and approved in 2020 (see the FDSC website for this document).

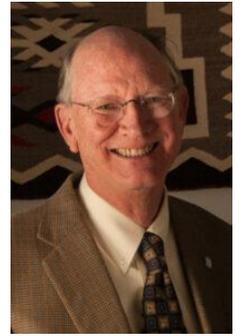
First, though, a new corporate structure was created – we are now an independent, nonprofit corporation in the Arizona. With a Board of Directors providing governance and mission oversight and an Executive Director playing a vital role in FDSC activities, the FDSC is eager to take on its new mission while continuing to perform its traditional activities of the Flagstaff Star Party, Celebration of the Night and advocating for dark skies for the northern Arizona region.

Meet your new FDSC Directors



Danielle Adams is the Chief Marketing and Revenue Officer at Lowell Observatory. With her background and interest in Arabian astronomy and cultural impacts of science, Danielle will contribute to the broader mission of the FDSC.

Robert G. Breunig is President Emeritus of the Museum of Northern Arizona and the museum's former Director and CEO. On joining the board of the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition Dr. Breunig said: "One of the great joys in my life is being able to look up and see the heavens. I want to do whatever I can to help preserve the dark sky so that we may show what humanity can preserve and recover."



Drew Carhart, a life-long enthusiast regarding everything to do with natural history, is retired from a career in horticulture, and volunteers at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. He co-founded the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting (2009) and has subsequently helped communities, businesses, and organizations in addressing outdoor lighting issues.

Billy Cordasco serves as President of Babbitt Ranches and is President of the Landsward Foundation. He brings a commitment to environmental preservation and ecological restoration to these positions which he describes as being "the best in the World".



Don Davis fell in love with the night sky while growing up in the 1950s. His interest in science and astronomy pointed to a career in planetary science and was a member/Chair of the Tucson/Pima County Outdoor Lighting Code Committee.

Matthew Kent is the President & CEO of Meteor Crater Enterprises since September of 2019 where he is leading a new phase of growth and development for this world-renowned scientific landmark. Matthew has over 35 years of experience in the tourism industry including extensive experience in asset management, consulting, multi-unit operations, and hotel development.





Chris Luginbuhl is a retired astronomer specializing in the quantification and modeling of the effects of outdoor artificial lighting on the night sky, and lighting codes and their effect on controlling sky glow. Chris was a principal author of the innovative 1989 Flagstaff outdoor lighting code. He has assisted over two dozen communities with the development of outdoor lighting code

Highlights from the December Board Meeting

The first in-person meeting of the FDSC Board of Directors took place on 13 December, 2021 at the Board Room of the Babbitt Ranches office complex in downtown Flagstaff. The Board Members listed above (except for Adams) were joined by Executive Director Stevens for this meeting. New Directors Bruenig, Cordasco and Kent were officially added to the FDSC Board. ED Stevens noted that, the dark sky issue was becoming a hot topic nation and world-wide, and that the time was ideal for an organization like the FDSC to step up and enhance its leadership role. The main purpose of this meeting was that of getting to know one another and for some, to learn more about the FDSC and its goals. An informal get together was held later that day at the house rented by FDSC Board secretary Carhart (who drove down from Illinois for this meeting) to provide an opportunity for further discussions. Full Minutes from this Board meeting are available at request to info@flagstaffdarksdies.org

FDSC Celebrates 20 years of Dark Sky Leadership

October 24, 2001, is a day that will be remembered for launching a program that has spread the message about Flagstaff's leadership in dark sky preservation around the globe. The International Dark-Sky Association initiated the IDA Dark-Sky Cities program at the suggestion of the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition which nominated, Flagstaff as the first International Dark-Sky City . Not only was this nomination approved but it served as the model for the broader IDA Dark-Sky Places program that has been wildly successful at raising awareness about the importance of dark skies worldwide. Currently there are more than 180 Dark-Sky Places recognized by IDA around the world . Since 2001 Flagstaff has not rested on its laurels, continuing to expand and enhance its awareness of the beauty and inspiration of dark skies through events like the NightVisions art exhibit and the annual Flagstaff Star Party, and continuing to forge cutting-edge solutions to dark sky protection in the modern era



FDSC Members gathered with staff and friends at the Dark Sky Brewing Company on October 24, 2021 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Flagstaff's Dark-Sky City recognition. Flagstaff Mayor Paul Deasy holds the proclamation declaring October to be International Dark Sky City month.

What's Happening in 2022

Fairbanks Alaska turns to Flagstaff for Dark Skies Guidance FDSC received an inquiry from the City of Fairbanks asking for assistance in preparing a campaign to combat light pollution and preserve their night skies, not only for viewing the stars but also for aurora watching, a significant winter activity there. They were seeking an expert to educate and assist them in preparing a detailed plan that would accomplish their goals. FDSC Director Drew Carhart stepped up when Fairbanks asked for someone to visit their city for in-person meetings and presentations. Carhart gulped but accepted the invitation when Fairbanks said that January 25-26, 2022 were the best dates. He is now planning to meet with elected officials of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly (the governing body in Fairbanks and surrounding area), give a keynote talk to the Chamber of Commerce, have a work session with the Assembly and discussions with the Fairbanks Tourism Conference and the Energy Task Force. We expect to hear more about this trip and how this experience fits in with the expanded FDSC Mission from Drew just as soon as he thaws out.

Visit from the Telluride Academy On July 26 2022, students from the Telluride Academy, an outdoor education program will visit Flagstaff for one night . This Academy had to reschedule the 2020 "Stargazers" program due to Covid. FDSC will take the lead in designing the program.

Celebration of the Night The FDSC signature six-week series of events fostering and celebrating Flagstaff special relation to the night begins on September's First Friday Art Walk. September 2,2022 Stay tuned to flagstaffdarks skies.org as this exciting program develops!

Flagstaff Star Party The ninth annual "World's Most Accessible Star Party" is on the calendar for 22-24 September 2022

NightVisions VIII will be held in May through July 2022 at the Coconino Center for the Arts. In addition to art in all media exploring our connections with the night sky, the 2022 exhibit will feature materials honoring the work of Flagstaff astronomer Carolyn Shoemaker (1929-2021) and her work with her husband Gene. The opening reception will feature a keynote presentation by their friend, collaborator and discoverer of the famous Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet that crashed into Jupiter. David who was a featured presenter in October 2001 during the first Celebration of the Night/NightVisions events. To learn more about the event, or to submit a piece for consideration by the jury, please visit: <https://www.ccaflagstaff.org/nightvisions-2022>

Dark Sky Brewing, Pizzicletta Supporting Starry Nights

In the wake of the 20th anniversary celebration of Flagstaff's designation as the First International Dark Sky City, Dark Sky Brewing Co. and Pizzicletta started 2022 bolstering the darkness with checks made out to the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition. The donations totaling nearly \$1,000 came from a portion of beer and pizza sales made during the Oct. 24 event that included outdoor telescope viewing. "We at Dark Sky and Pizzicletta are both so excited to collaborate with the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition and bring together our community to support our local dark skies," said Dark Sky Brewing Event Coordinator Miguel Sotelo. "Together, we were able to allow our community to engage with our night skies in unique and impactful ways. We can't wait to see how this collaboration can continue to blossom through the New Year!"



Pictured here are (l-r) Kait Bieber of Pizzicletta, Sotelo, Chris Luginbuhl with the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition and Maddy Mazon of Dark Sky Brewing Co.

New Committees

FDSC will accomplish much of its work through the Committee defined in the Bylaws.

While all Committees will become active this year, at the moment there is an urgent need for the Fundraising and Membership Committees to become operational. Participation by FDSC members is crucial to achieve our expanded FDSC goals.

For the Membership Committee, increasing the FDSC membership by 100 is a 2022 goal. Fundraising needs to address the gap between the income expected from past sources and what is needed for 2022. Please take a moment to peruse the Bylaws which are posted on the FDSC website and find a committee that interests you and that you would consider joining.

Become a Member of the Coalition

Your membership supports the mission of the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition; To celebrate, promote and protect the glorious dark skies of Flagstaff and northern Arizona. And by example setting the gold standard in night sky protection

Our mission is to celebrate the wonders of the nocturnal ecosystem that all humanity inhabits, to promote awareness and participation, and to protect this natural resource for future generations as our common inheritance. We work to enhance public awareness about the night, and advocate for public policies that reduce wasteful lighting. By celebrating the values found in natural darkness, we work to continue Flagstaff's 60+ years of worldwide leadership in night sky protection. <http://www.flagstaffdarksdies.org/become-a-member-of-the-coalition/>

Memorable Quotes

"Not only is civilized man actively engaged in defacing such part of the Earth's surface as he comes in contact with, he is equally busy blotting out his sky. In the latter uncommendable pursuit he has in the last quarter of a century made surprising progress. With a success only too undesirable his habitat has gradually become canopied by a welkin of his own fashioning, which has rendered it largely unfit for the more delicate kinds of astronomic work. Smoke from multiplying factories by rising into the air and forming the nucleus about which cloud collects has joined with electric lighting to help put out the stars."

Percival Lowell, *Mars and its Canals* (1906; pg. 14)

"The treasures hidden in the heavens are so rich that the human mind shall never be lacking in fresh nourishment."

Johannes Kepler (1571-1630)

"It seemed to be a necessary ritual that he should prepare himself for sleep by meditating under the solemnity of the night sky... a mysterious transaction between the infinity of the soul and the infinity of the universe."

Victor Hugo