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What's Up With the Astronomical League August, 2014

Compiled by Carroll
Iorg, Media Officer
and President

International
Starry Night
A CELEBRATION OF STARLIGHT 2014
www.starry-night.org

During the week of
AUGUST 9, 2014,
grab some friends,
turn out the lights
& celebrate starlight!

By participating in International Starry Night as a business, individual, group, club, or whatever and taking the time to appreciate the wonder of the night sky and the Perseid meteor shower, you are taking action to **reduce Harmful Light Pollution.**

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?
Visit www.starry-night.org for information, to register your event, or to find an event near you.

STARLIGHT INITIATIVE
in partnership with
MAB
one star at a time

((See more information regarding this event and other news on page 2)).

Survey of Skygazing in the State of Illinois

Information regarding this special project in the State of Illinois was posted on the League website on 7/30/2014. We encourage Illinois astronomers to respond to the survey below and return your results to:

Elizabeth.Norden@illinois.gov

Elizabeth Norden
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
(312) 814-3161

This also is relevant to the rest of the country. We encourage you to ask these same questions of your own state officials.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Illinois State Parks: Stargazing Evaluation Form 2014

1. At what Illinois state park do you stargaze?
2. What is the best location at the park from which to stargaze?
3. What existing elements at the park enhance stargazing?
4. What impediments exist to stargazing from the park?
5. How does the security lighting at the park affect stargazing?
6. In your opinion, what specific infrastructure at the park could be altered to provide enhanced stargazing opportunities?
7. Is there a local stargazer organization associated with the park?
8. Have you previously held events at the park and/or worked with the site superintendent/interpreter to promote stargazing? If yes, please describe.

Update on the League's Involvement With the Harvard Observatory Project

A core group of Astronomical League members has made a substantial and meaningful contribution to the digital documentation work for the Harvard Plate project. Now the Observatory is planning to expand this project by collaborating with the Smithsonian. More information will follow soon about increased opportunities for the League membership to contribute to this worthwhile project.

New Observing Award Programs Approved at ALCon 2014

The following new Observing Award Programs were approved at the 2014 Council meeting In San Antonio: Advanced Binocular Double Star Observing Program, Radio Astronomy Observing Program, Two in the View Observing Program and Sketching Observing Award.

Information on these new programs will be posted on the League website soon.