

STARRY SKIES NORTH GENERAL MEETING

January 3, 2024

GATHERING TIME

- The First [Globe at Night](#) campaign of 2024 Jan 2-11. Perseus, Pegasus, Orion

DarkSky NEWS

- DarkSky-Friendly Home Self-Certification [\[LINK\]](#)

RECENT EVENT RECAPS

- December 7-9: Cook County Dark Sky Festival [\[LINK\]](#)
- December 12th: Ubiqquia Webinar: Shedding Light on Dark Skies
- December 31st: Woodlake New Years event
 - 1,700 registrants for this event, Woodlake Nature Center's most attended event. Great time talking with the public, making connections with city leaders and other groups working to better life in Richfield. Reengaged talk about the Urban Night Sky Designation, other Naturalists are interested in getting involved and receiving more outreach materials.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 4th: Preso to Superior, WI Planning Committee
- January 27th: Great Northern Festival Untitled Night dance on Silver Lake 5:30, 7:00
- January 30th: St. Louis River Estuary Summit artwork and poster abstracts due [LINK](#)
- February 8th: 6:45-8:00 Dark Skies & Astrophotography for Master Naturalists -Terry Nielsen [Mtg Notice](#)
- February 12-19 Boreal Star Party: I-Falls, Duluth, Mpls [LINK](#)
- February 16th: Woodlake Nature Center Stargazing **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**
- April 26-28: Training for Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park staff
- August 10th: Forestville/Mystery Cave State Park's annual Dark Sky Festival

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

- 2024 Strategic Plan (working version; 21 total; SMART)
 - **Growth**: Launch a Wisconsin Chapter; Open our 4th MN office; Connect with GLAS
 - **Growth**: Develop relationships with 2 more state parks, an environmental justice organization, and a MN-based Audubon chapter
 - **Growth**: Bring 12 new first-time volunteers on board
 - **Finance**: Apply for 2 grants, and develop fundraisers to fully fund 2024 budget
 - **Finance**: add finance human resources to meet accounting and fundraising goals
 - **Advocacy**: Launch an advocacy committee
 - **Advocacy**: Launch and sustain Dark-Sky Friendly Business (DSFB) and Great Light Minneapolis (GLM) initiatives
 - **Advocacy**: Foster and support 2 new IDSP applicants
 - **Communications**: Launch and sustain a periodic newsletter (or similar)
 - **Communications**: Recruit volunteers for ongoing social media and website support roles
 - **Communications**: Develop ability to reach 50 media outlets in MN
 - **Operations**: Automate and Streamline member on-boarding
 - **Operations**: Establish Standard Operating Procedures
 - **Operations**: Train chapter leaders in equity and inclusion (open to all)

SSN BOARD NEWS

- This meeting is moving to the 1st MONDAY of the month, 7-8 PM.
 - Reminder that general meeting schedule and minutes are posted publicly on our website: <https://starryskiesnorth.org/volunteer-opportunities-events>
- Welcome Lynn Moline, our new Secretary!

- Huge thank-you to Board Member, Science Chair, and outgoing Secretary Caitlin Johnson!
- SSN Brochure 2nd draft underway -Thank you Audrey and Lynn
- Plugged in to MPRB \$1.19M 5-yr capital plan for park lighting.
- A Nice Win: Duluth EPA dimming their lights; will add shields if needed.

VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

- Dark-Sky Friendly Business Initiative -Need Program Definition & Execution Support
- Great Light Minneapolis -Need Infrastructure Development Support
- Boreal Starfest table at Bell Museum 9:30-4:30 Feb 17 & 18
- Science Committee: Use the [Interest Form](#) or contact caitlin@starryskiesnorth.org
- Finance: Contact bobg@starryskiesnorth.org
- Outreach: Contact caroline@starryskiesnorth.org
- Advocacy (open seat) - help by leading the charge!
- Communications Committee - starting soon - contact chris@starryskiesnorth.org to get involved
- Connect us with speaking opportunities
 - Nature Centers, Friends of XYZ Parks and Trails, Education Symposiums, Dark Sky Festivals, more

IN THE SKY

- Happy Perihelion! Earth-Sun distance 91,404,095 miles yesterday (94,510,539 on July 5th)
- Go ahead, hit the snooze alarm. Latest sunrise of the year was yesterday. 7:51 AM
- Quadrantids Meteor Shower TONIGHT. Peak is 6 AM tomorrow morning. The shower is only a few hours long, but can reach 100/hr for a few hours.

AROUND THE ROOM

→ Add your topics & questions in Chat

OLD BUSINESS

- Minneapolis eco-rotary would like a presentation

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES:

Joel volunteered to do some training at Forestville -I need to connect Joel & Dawn

Morgan has Finance experience and would be willing to help on the committee

Frontenac State Park may be an IDSP candidate-Dawn knows mgr & MaryBeth is familiar with it

Printed or electronic newsletters

Dawn Outdoor Afro Caitlin Utely, Alora Jones

SeeStar telescope

CHAT

clayton lindsey 6:58 PM

Hey Mark J

Yes At MAS Cherry Grove Observatory. About 8 observers there.

Messages addressed to "Meeting Group Chat" will also appear in the meeting group chat in Team Chat

Julie Anderson's iPhone (2) joined as a guest

Mark Job 7:01 PM

Hi Clayton

Cool image

Bob King — Presenter joined as a guest

Carolyn S joined as a guest

Kyle Johnson joined as a guest

Caroline Torkildson 7:05 PM

<https://globeatnight.org/>

Morgan Thorson 7:05 PM

Link for home certification

A116814 joined as a guest

You 7:06 PM

https://idsw.darksky.org/activities/dark-sky-friendly-home/?_gl=1*_gje8wy*_ga*MTQyNzQ1ODM0MS4xNjU1MDA1NzUx*_ga_H2QZSPC0PC*MTcwNDI0Nzc4My4zNi4xLjE3MDQyNDc4MTluMzEuMC4w

Caitlin Johnson, Starry Skies North 7:06 PM

Full agenda:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LBZ3tbOZxp51KNcY-Tmwc7D-FYZKGtt1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=111035805279825945701&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Agenda should be view-only, but reach out if you can't access it or any of the links don't work!

Lara Fletcher joined as a guest

A116814 left

Peter Miller joined as a guest

Morgan Thorson 7:12 PM

Untitled Night 27th, 5:30p, 7:00p

<https://thegreatnorthern.swoogo.com/2024/session/1806113/morgan-thorson-untitled-night>

Jan 27th, Silverwood Park, Untitled Night

Can you put a link in the chat about the artwork

At Estuary Summit

Caitlin Johnson, Starry Skies North 7:17 PM

Beautiful!!

You 7:18 PM

<https://westmetromasternaturalists.weebly.com/meetings.html>

Caroline Torkildson 7:18 PM

<https://lakesuperiornerr.org/summit/>

Morgan Thorson 7:20 PM

Thank you Caroline!

Trudy Dunham to You (Direct Message) 7:21 PM

I could help on the 16th, depending on what you need expertise in. Also a Master Naturalist. Live in metro

Bob Beck joined as a guest

Suki joined as a guest

jimbrennan joined as a guest

Bob Beck 7:40 PM

Do you think the newsletter would be printed/mailed or electronic only??

Morgan Thorson 7:42 PM

How are you looking for people to train in Diversity, equity and inclusion?

Kyle Johnson left

Caitlin Johnson, Starry Skies North 7:43 PM

Just for clarity, do you mean how are we looking for someone to train us, or how are we looking for the training to be done?

Morgan Thorson 7:43 PM

Both.

Carolyn S 7:43 PM

Another strategy is to save the print version for special events/announcements, key fundraising events etc.

Dawn Ryan 7:45 PM

Inviting groups such as Outdoor Afro for a star party. I work with that group a lot.

Mark Job 7:49 PM

Caitlin thank you for your service!!!!

jimbrennan left

Morgan Thorson 7:50 PM

Kaitlin. Thanks for your service! It's been a pleasure to be in meetings with you.

Julie Anderson's iPhone (2) left

Shawne FitzGerald joined as a guest

You 7:56 PM

bobg@starryskiesnorth.org

Lara Fletcher 7:56 PM

Caitlin Johnson, thanks for all you have done and continue to do with Starry Skies North.

marybeth 7:57 PM

I would be interested in either the Bell on the 17th or the event on the 16th

1 - Sara Erdman 7:59 PM

I'm interested in helping out with the events on the 16th and/or 17th as well.

Bob K -not below 14F. Does its own photo processing