

## STARRY SKIES NORTH MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

Nov 3, 2025

### GATHERING TIME

- New Here? Say 'Hi'

### DARKSKY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- Under One Sky (UOS) annual **Global 24-hour Conference** Nov 7-8 [[LINK](#)]

### OUTREACH NEWS

- SSN Featured in November issue of **Northern Wilds** magazine
  - <https://northernwilds.com/current-issue/>



The Milky Way shines brightly across the sky above the Grand Marais lighthouse, inspiring awe and appreciation for our place in the galaxy. | TRAVIS NOVITSKY

### Starry Skies North: Lighting the Path to Darkness

**COOK COUNTY**—From glassy lakes where loons call and moose meander, to the ancient Sawtooth Mountains standing watch over Lake Superior, the Northland is full of natural wonders. After nightfall we gaze in awe at the Milky Way stretching overhead in brilliant clarity, and we watch the aurora borealis dance across the northern skies all year long.

It's easy to take our sparkling skies for granted when you're greeted with them nightly, but our darkness is a rare treasure—and it's disappearing. Artificial lights, from busy city streets to the one on your front porch, are dimming our view of the night.

"Approximately 80 percent of the people in the U.S., and one-third of the world's population, can't see the Milky Way from their home," shares Mark Morgen, co-leader of the Cook County chapter of Starry Skies North. This non-profit group is working to preserve our dark skies so future generations can continue to enjoy them.

"Starry Skies North is a chapter of Dark Sky International, headquartered in Phoenix, which is an organization dedicated to preserving the night sky and reducing the harmful effects of light pollution through advocacy, outreach, and conservation," Morgen explains. Starry Skies Cook Coun-



Audrey Cullen, Caroline Torkildson, and Mark Morgen at the 2023 Earth Day Festival in Grand Marais. | SUBMITTED

ty began as an offshoot of the Starry Skies Lake Superior group in Duluth. Light pollution comes from human-made

outdoor lighting that alters the naturally occurring light made from stars, the reflection of sunlight off of the moon, and

other natural sources (like the northern lights). Light trespass is also a factor, which is light that escapes its intended use—like a porch lamp glaring through a neighbor's bedroom window.

"Artificial light at night can be harmful to wildlife, including birds (disrupts migration) and insects (nighttime pollinators), as well as humans," Morgen explains. Leaving lights on wastes energy and money, and too much light can actually make places less safe by causing glare that impairs vision. It also makes astronomical research more difficult.

The simplest solution is to turn lights off at night, and with modern technology we can use timers and motion detectors to limit use only when it's needed. While this is the most effective action to take, it isn't always possible.

Changing light fixtures to dark sky friendly models that are shaded to direct light to the ground is a good way to reduce light exposure. Pathways are lit, but light is no longer directed upward or trespassing outside of its intended location.

"Also having appropriate lighting levels is important," Morgen says. "Not every situation calls for a 500-Watt light." Dimming lights and switching to warm yellow lighting versus cool blue will reduce eye strain, and

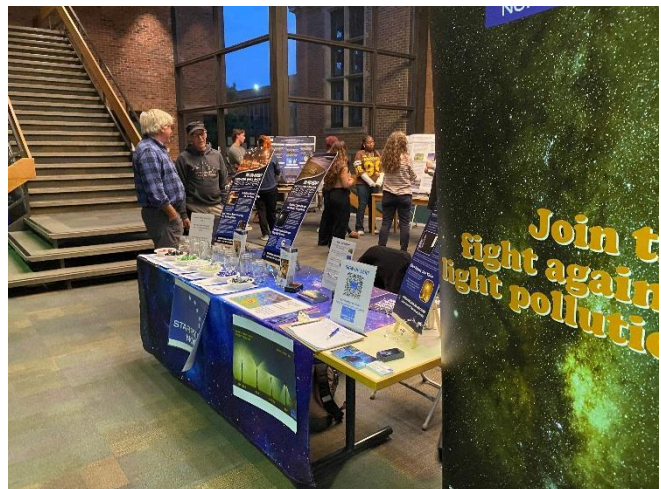
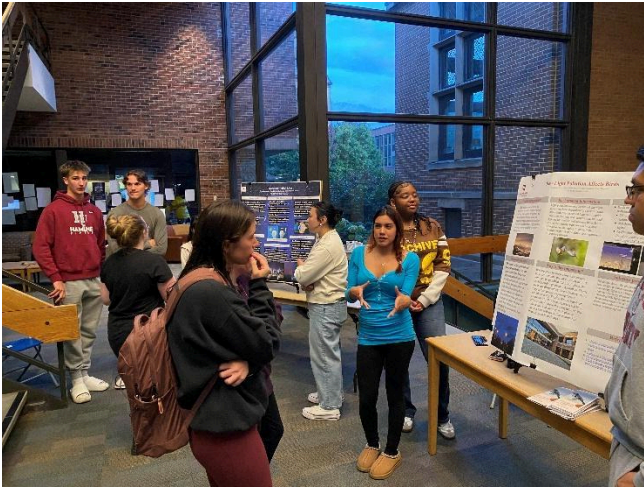
- **November Newsletter** is in progress. This is a community effort -can you help with these?
  - Arts and Culture
  - Book Reviews
  - Recent Research
  - Our Events – PAST & UPCOMING



- Partner Events – PAST & UPCOMING
  - Look Up! Celestial Highlights
  - Calls to Action (Simple "Go-Do")
- Citizen Science  
Artist Spotlight  
DarkSky International Dissemination

## RECENT EVENTS

- Oct 9: **St. Paul:** Hamline 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Night Festival -Peter L, Steven, Paul B, Todd
- Oct 17-18: **Silver Bay:** Superior Dark Skies -Marc, Jill, Todd
- Oct 20: **Northfield:** lighting survey -Joel & Todd
- Oct 25: **Sax-Zim Bog:** Star Party -Todd
- Oct 29: **Duluth:** Halloween at the Planetarium - Lance, Bob, Richard, Mary, Eric, Rodger
- Nov 1: **Mankato:** 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Conference -Lara







## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 30: **Grand Marais**: Cook County Chamber of Commerce Gala
- Nov 25: **Rochester**: Zumbro Valley Audubon -John
- Dec 11-13: **Grand Marais**: Dark Sky Festival -Mark & Chris
- Feb 9<sup>th</sup> (TBC): **Boreal Starfest**: Statewide: Theme is night sky and the arts
- Flex: **Woodbury**: Wild Birds Unlimited in-store preso/outreach Heidi Dwinell
- Flex: **Online**: Todd JPM lunch-n-learn

## ADVOCACY NEWS

- MN Bird Coalition's Light Out Alert -WE'RE A FOUNDING PARTNER [\[LINK\]](#)
- Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) update -Peter L

- Tamarack Water Alliance -sulfide mine in Aitken county
- DLC's LUNA 2.0 released today [[LINK](#)]

## GOVERNANCE NEWS

November 20<sup>th</sup> is Give To The Max Day. We're working hard to have our most successful campaign ever -please keep us in mind, and keep an eye out for some communications later this month



- Our only annual fundraiser
- We need EVERYONE's help: spread the word; consider donating
- <https://www.givemn.org/organization/Starry-Skies-North>

## VOLUNTEER APPEAL OF THE MONTH:

- GTMD Campaign team -help us tell our story. Share you photos, help with communication!

## MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: NOCTOURISM

NOcturnal + TOURISM = NOCTOURISM

**WHAT IS IT:** Travel focused on nighttime experiences and activities

- **Stargazing:** Auroras, Comets, Meteors, Milky Way, Constellations
- **Wildlife:** nocturnal critters, bioluminescence; fluorescence
- **Mindfulness:** Forest Bathing; Star Bathing; Moonlight Yoga
- **Culture:** Night markets; city tours; wine under the stars
- **Adventures:** Night Safaris, Night Diving; Night Kayaking; Night Ziplining



**SMORGASBORD** of Multi-Sensory Experiences

- **Sight** –terrestrial & celestial under unique light
- **Sound** –wind; waves; nocturnal critters; silence



- **Smell** –higher humidity enhances
- **Touch** –cool night air; tactile exploration
- **Enhanced senses:** UV lights; image intensifiers; thermal imaging

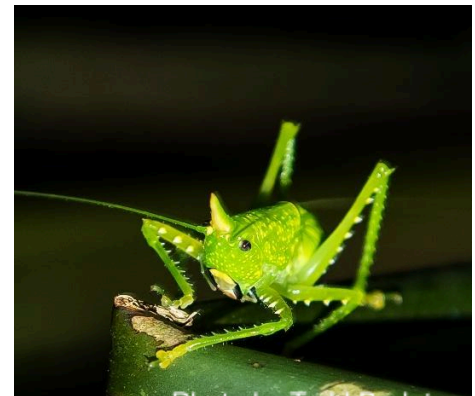


### Benefits

- Unique Experiences
- Slower Pace
- Smaller Crowds
- Alternative to nighttime bar scene
- Cooler Temperatures & no UV
- Stress relief; grounding; awe

### What it means for destinations and our outreach & Advocacy Efforts

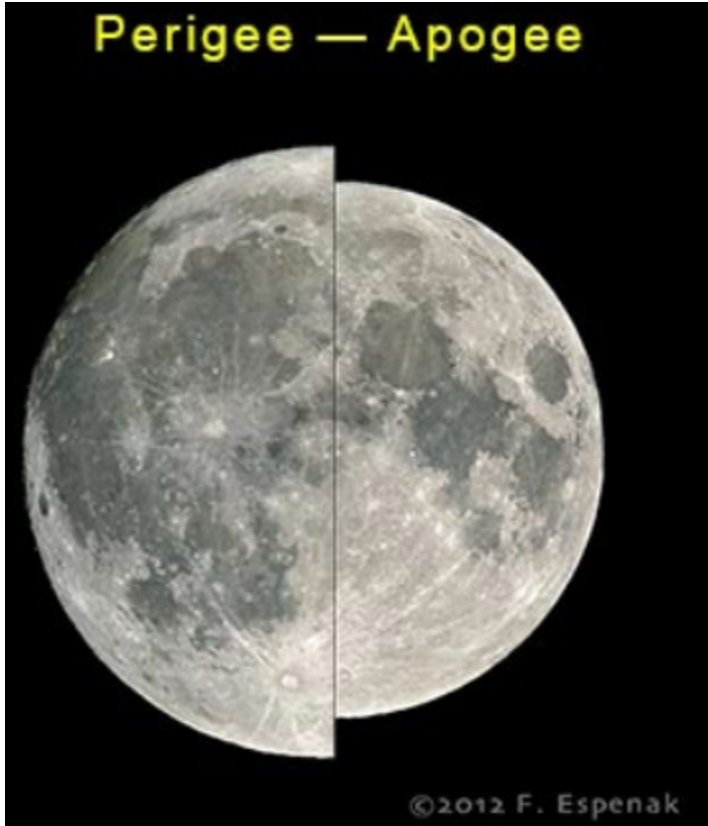
- Less Dependence on clear skies and moonless nights
- More offerings for visitors; longer events
- Appeals to larger audiences



**Next Month:** Join us for a **Special Presentation by Chris Luginbuhl, President of Flagstaff Dark Sky Coalition** on how they became the first Certified Dark Sky City in 2001 and have kept light pollution at bay even while the city continues to grow.

## IN THE SKY

Check out the November 5<sup>th</sup> Super (Duper) Moon -the biggest super moon of 2025. About 14% larger than its apogee appearance and 16% brighter than an average full moon.



## CITIZEN SCIENCE

International Astronomical Union (IAU) is launching a satellite brightness citizen science initiative

- Are you concerned about satellite mega-constellations?
- Are you an experienced visual observer?
- Then the IAU needs your help to take their prototype observing program for a test drive

**GLOBE AT NIGHT:** Perseus the demi-god hero Nov 11-20 [\[LINK\]](#)





NOW: Catch Comet Lemmon after sunset



**AROUND THE ROOM**

→ Add your topics & questions in Chat