



Sustainability Stewards of Broward

An Inspiring Movie Night among Stars and Fireflies

Workshop Summary

The Dec 11, 2015 Sustainability Stewards Workshop propelled us into the night sky and had us dreaming of a city that shared its night with the stars!

This special night was co-hosted by BAPA, Broward County's Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division, Anne Kolb Nature Center, International Dark-Sky Association, Point of View (POV) and Zoological Lighting Institute.

Thanks to the generosity of the sponsors, this event was FREE and open to the public. Fifty-five (55) participants joined us for a FUN and INSPIRING movie night as we asked ourselves: *"what do we lose, when we lose the night?"*



The night included the screening of two internationally-acclaimed documentary films:

- "The City Dark", an Emmy®-nominated PBS POV documentary about light pollution, and
- "Brilliant Darkness", an award-winning short film about fireflies.

Light refreshments were served during the movie and subsequent panel discussion. A night sky photo exhibit was also on display featuring captivating images from across Florida.

On the panel, local and international experts and advocates helped to answer questions on the effects of night lighting on wildlife, health, safety, and energy usage. The panel discussed what residents, planners and architects can do to utilize and promote wildlife and night sky friendly lighting strategies.



Together we learned that the increased and widespread use of artificial light at night is not only impairing our view of the universe, it is adversely affecting our:

- Environment** Plants and animals depend on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators.
- Energy consumption** Quality lighting design reduces energy use, carbon emissions, saves money and allows us to enjoy the night sky.
- Health** Research suggests that artificial light at night can negatively affect human health, increasing risks for obesity, depression, sleep disorders, diabetes, breast cancer and more.
- Safety** Bright unshielded outdoor lighting can actually decrease safety. Smart lighting that directs light where it is needed is more effective and creates a balance between safety and starlight.



The workshop was a great first introduction into the topic of light pollution for 55 residents, planners and other local practitioners interested in topics of sustainability. We hope that momentum around this topic can be built through the strength of these partnerships, and continued public engagement, over the next couple years. Next steps may include additional field trips and workshops to learn about critically threatened night environments, and the technical and planning solutions that can be employed in the near term.

The workshop agenda, summary, and presentation documents will also be posted on the County's GoGreen webpage, under [Sustainability Stewards](#).

If you have additional ideas or questions, our speakers have kindly made themselves available for event follow-up. Their contact information is below.

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More about the Films:

THE CITY DARK (60 min) chronicles the disappearance of darkness. When filmmaker Ian Cheney moves to New York City and discovers skies almost completely devoid of stars, a simple question – what do we lose, when we lose the night? – spawns a journey to America’s brightest and darkest corners. Astronomers, cancer researchers, ecologists and philosophers provide glimpses of what is lost in the glare of city lights. Blending a humorous, searching tone with poetic footage of the night sky, what unravels is an introduction to the science of the dark, and an exploration of the human relationship to the stars.

BRILLIANT DARKNESS: Hotaru in the Night (12 min) explores the importance of darkness, and erosion of it, through the study and preservation of firefly habitats in Japan and the United States. Fireflies have inspired appreciation of nature at night across cultures. But, fireflies disappear as artificial night lights disrupt their 'languages of light'. The film features artists and scientists on different continents, including top firefly researchers from University of Florida, working to understand firefly flash patterns and how to live among wildlife in urban settings.

Thank you again to our wonderful speakers and participants. Fantastic information and ideas were presented, and the group left inspired to take new concepts and best practices back to their realms of practice to implement. By sharing our knowledge, experiences, and thoughts we advance all of our programs and help to move sustainability forward in our entire community.

Together, through the Sustainability Stewards of Broward, we are making Broward a more energy efficient, climate resilient, and sustainable community. We hope to see you at the next informative and inspiring event!

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