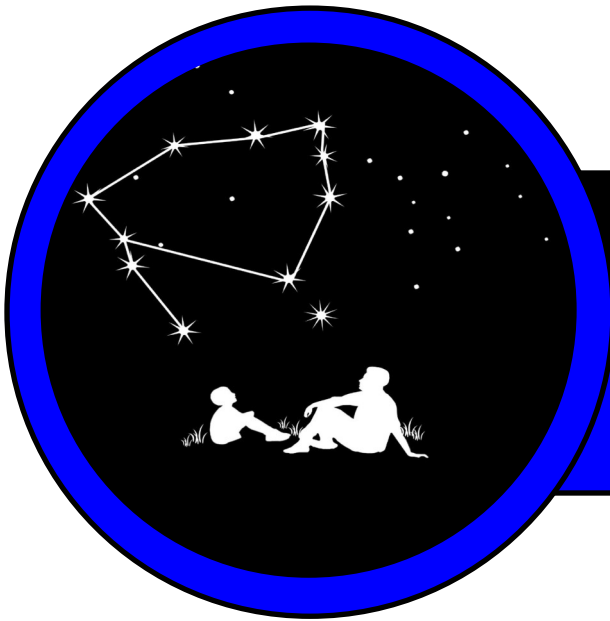


DR. LAWLESS

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK

MICHIGAN DARK SKY PRESERVE



## NIGHT VISION

A quarterly publication dedicated to light pollution education and awareness.

November, 2020

As we near the end of 2020, Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park / Michigan Dark Sky Preserve, experienced a positive first year. This despite all the obstacles 2020 had to offer. The park welcomed over 1200 stargazing enthusiasts. We hosted visitors from as far away as Missouri and Iowa. Even one traveler from England! Research students from Valparaiso University, Michigan State, Notre Dame, the University of Michigan and Western Michigan University also took advantage of our dark skies to help perpetuate science.

Comet Neowise was an unexpected but much welcomed visitor to the park. Across the observing field the clicking of camera shutters

could be heard as our visitors tried their best to capture the rare occurrence of a naked eye cosmic event.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the Perseid Meteor Shower drew large crowds to the park. Many “oohed and awed” as shooting stars streaked across the sky. Mark your calendar (August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) now for the same event in 2021. The Moon will be 13% illuminated, so it promises to be a good show.

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Josh Holcomb and Elizabeth Start

from the Michigan Sacred Music Festival to the park. With Josh’s music on the violin, we felt the music would be a welcome compliment to the beauty of the night sky. Clouds dampened that collaboration, but the large audience of music lovers all enjoyed the music. They also demonstrated a Theramin which is heard in many sci-fi movies. Not sure of what a Theramin is, Google it!

As exciting as 2020 was, our goal is to offer more in 2021. Ideas being discussed are offering beginner astrophotography classes, green laser astronomy nights (no equipment needed, we just use a green laser to point out the night sky), bringing in speakers from the NASA Solar System Ambassadors Program, and offering additional music venues. Do you have suggestions? Drop us a note on our Facebook page:

[Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park](#)



Photo Credit: Robert Parrish

As a Dark Sky Park, we are required by the International Dark Sky Association to offer continuing education on Light Pollution. The following video is a great primer on the subject and will only take 11 minutes of your time: [Why the Stars are Disappearing](#)

Also, [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org) offers a plethora of information.

With Christmas quickly approaching, many consider giving the gift of a telescope. But what to buy? There are so many options. Type, size, portability, quality, and price all figure into the equation. We offer these links to aid in the decision process:

[How to Choose a Telescope](#)

[How To Pick The Perfect Telescope](#)



Photo Credit: Robert Parrish

This photo shows the star Sadar which is part of the Cygnus the Swan constellation. Sadar marks the heart of the Swan. It is also the middle star of the Northern Cross. Even though the star Sadar looks to be within the red nebula, it is 1000 light-years away while the nebula is 4,900 light-years further away.

From all of us at the Cass County Parks and Recreation Department, thank you for your support of Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park. We wish you all the best during this special season. May 2021 bring us all peace, love and clear skies!

Robert Parrish

*"Only in the Darkness can you see the stars"* Martin Luther King, Jr.



The Pleiades" is a wonderful naked eye open star cluster in the constellation Taurus. It is 444 light-years away. Also known as the "Seven Sisters" the hot blue stars are surrounded by a dust cloud that the stars are currently passing through.

Photo Credit: Robert Parrish

If you would like to be on our email mailing list, please drop us a line with your information and we will be glad to add you!

Dr. Lawless International Dark Sky Park/Michigan Dark Sky Preserve is part of the Cass County Park System.



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