

2009 International Year of Astronomy
Report of Activities
Michiana Astronomical Society (USA)

Members of the Michiana Astronomical Society (MAS) were active in supporting the 2009 International Year of Astronomy in northern Indiana and southern Michigan. In addition to its normal offerings to the public, the MAS expanded its outreach commitment for the global celebration for large groups or for casual gatherings alike. Below are examples of local programs and events related to IYA2009.

- Let There Be Night (LTBN) program introduced thousands of students to the issues of light pollution at the PHM Planetarium; developed the Let There Be Night 2-DVD set and distributed over 1,000 copies; coordinated an experiment that quantified sky glow in tandem with Globe at Night, with over 3,400 students participating; guided Student Leadership Teams at 11 elementary and 3 middle schools to quantify sky glow with Sky Quality Meters; conveyed results of LTBN experiment with 3D model made from 35,000 LEGO® blocks; and shared results with the local community and dark sky advocates;
- Monthly public meetings of the Michiana Astronomical Society (MAS) with invited speakers
 - January -- Skylore from Around the World -- Dayle Brown
 - February -- The Great Galactic Road Atlas: Stellar Evolution in a Nutshell -- Mike Sherck
 - March -- NASA's Great Observatories' M101 -- Ruth Craft
 - April -- Astrophotography -- Dr. Craig Lent
 - May -- From Relativity to Extra Dimensions and Supersymmetry -- Dr. Chris Kolda
 - July -- Powered Telescope Mounts -- Paul Surowiec
 - August -- Astro Camp 2009 -- Chuck Bueter and Linda Marks
 - September -- Birth of the Universe -- Dr. Grant Matthews
 - October -- Why the Heck are We Trying to Go Back to the Moon? -- Pat Chrenka
 - November -- Meteorites: Hold a Piece of Space in Your Hand! -- Linda Marks
- Pinwheel Galaxy program at Kennedy Planetarium
- Let There Be Night public shows at the Penn-Harris-Madison (PHM) Planetarium
- Family Star Nights behind Eggleston School
- Earth Hour - Switch off your lights 8:30-9:30
- "Galileo's Observations" by Dr. Phil Sakimoto & Katherine Brading at Notre Dame Digital Visualization Theater (DVT)
- "Exploring the Spring Stars" at St. Patrick's Park
- Michiana Star Party at Potawatomi Wildlife Park
- Sidewalk Astronomy at Walmart

- Telescope Renaissance at Toscana Park
 - Night Sky Network activities
 - Starlab sessions
 - Telescope repair-and-use clinic
- Astronomy presentation at Notre Dame's DVT
- Astrofest 2009 at LaSalle Intermediate Center
- "Einstein's Blunder Undone"-- Edison Lecture Series
- Science Spooktacular at ETHOS in Elkhart
- Star Observation Night at North Side Middle School
- "Exploring the Winter Stars" at St. Patrick's Park
- NASA image (Galactic Center of Milky Way) unveiling at Kennedy Planetarium
- NASA Milky Way at Notre Dame DVT
- MAS Winter Solstice Celebration
- Science Olympiad tutoring in astronomy at St. Pius X (SPX) Catholic School
- Science Fair assistance for light pollution projects
- MAS Astronomy Award for regional Intel Science and Technology Fair
- LTBN 3D model tour of 14 PHM schools, City-County Building, and Villa Macri
- LTBN Student Leadership Team—Saturday sessions
- St. Joseph County Council presentation by students about light pollution
- Green Expo (Earth Day) exhibit at Clay United Methodist Church
- Starlab at St. Pius X Catholic School
- NDIX Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop at Notre Dame
- 9th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky (in Second Life)
- Telescope viewing for People of Praise
- Prairie Vista Elementary School 5th Grade Camp astronomy activities
- LCROSS impact Tweet-up
- Learning Safari workshops to build and use Galileoscopes at St. Pius X Catholic School
- "Curing Nature Deficit Disorder"—astronomy activities for teachers, at Camp Eberhart
- "A Visit from Galileo" lecture at Rotary Club of Elkhart
- 365 Days of Astronomy podcasts
 - January 18-"Gosh Dim It All!"
 - August 17-"Let There Be Night"
 - December 5-"The Celestial Alignment of 2012"
- "Globe at Night" vodcast for Astronomy From the Ground Up (AFGU)
- Students meet with Mishawaka Mayor Jeff Rea re: light pollution
- Student conversation about astronomy via Skype with Dr. Connie Walker (NOAO)
- Bus stop astronomy with telescope
- Added two activities and video to Paper Plate Education: Turtle Hatch and Cosmic Hat II
- Science class light pollution projects at Discovery Middle School
- Turtle Hatch activity in Elm Road Elementary School gym
- ISS-space shuttle viewing outside Mishawaka Branch Library
- Creation and distribution of LTBN Analysis booklets

- Science Alive! At St. Joseph County Public Library
 - Meteors and Meteorites station with Linda Marks
 - Gravity Works! station with MAS-Kennedy Planetarium, using Night Sky Network hands-on space science activities for children--about 400 participants
- YMCA AstroCamp at Camp Eberhart, Three Rivers, MI; a one-week astronomy adventure for kids
- Quail Ridge Homeowners Association entrances and signs changed to lower light impact
- LTBN and Nightwise interactive building in Second Life at Astronomy 2009 Island
- Participation in IYA2009 Dark Skies Awareness Committee
- Astronomy Club at Kennedy Academy -- 45 students
- Moon Mornings at Kennedy Academy -- 140 third graders viewed the Moon through a telescope.
- Neighborhood Sidewalk Astronomy sessions by various MAS members
- Rebuilding of 17 telescopes and subsequent donation to the public

Online resources created and/or developed in support of IYA2009:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRxA59aW240>
 “A Year of Astronomy in Michiana. Highlights include the Let There Be Night project, dark sky advocacy, NASA image releases, planetarium programs, Michiana Astronomical Society Annual Star Party, ND IX Biennial History of Astronomy Workshop, YMCA AstroCamp, science fair projects, Telescope Renaissance, Galileoscopes, Astronomy 2009 Island in Second Life, Learning Safari, St. Patrick's Park programs, sidewalk astronomy, AFGU vodcast, 365 Days of Astronomy podcasts, and appearances by Galileo himself. Michiana is the area near the Michigan and Indiana border. Music: *Tides* by Matthew Rumley; *In This Light* by Starball.”
- www.LetThereBeNight.com
 Let There Be Night program prepared students to quantify existing sky glow in St. Joseph County, IN. Over 3,400 local students participated actively.
- <http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/astrocamp09.htm>
 AstroCamp 2009 at YMCA Camp Eberhart
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-wcKyulbkY&feature=player_embedded
 “On the Shoulders of Giants” video entry for contest to the music of The Chromatics; sponsored by Johannes Kepler Project
- <http://www.michiana-astro.org/>
 Michiana Astronomical Society
- <http://astro.michianastem.org/>
 Michiana STEM Astro Collaboration Wiki

- <http://www.quailridgehomes.org/news/8-footprint>
“Quail Ridge Lessens Its Footprints” article sums up neighborhood lighting improvements.
- <http://analyzer.depaul.edu/paperplate/What's%20New.htm>
Additions to Paper Plate Education in 2009
- <http://www.nightwise.org/>
Dark sky advocacy resources added in 2009
- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/nightwise/sets/>
Photo sets include IYA2009 highlights.
- <http://365daysofastronomy.org/2009/01/18/january-18-gosh-dim-it-all/>
Gosh Dim It All! podcast for 365 Days of Astronomy
- <http://365daysofastronomy.org/2009/08/17/august-17th-let-there-be-night/>
Let There Be Night podcast for 365 Days of Astronomy
- <http://365daysofastronomy.org/2009/12/05/december-5th-the-celestial-alignment-of-2012/>
The Celestial Alignment of 2012 podcast for 365 Days of Astronomy