



”The Arizona Dark Sky Highway: Keeping the Stars Bright” with John Barentine

Hosted by the Superstition Area Land Trust and the
Apache Junction Parks and Recreation Department

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

AJ Multi-Generational Center, Room B-117

1035 N. Idaho Road, Apache Junction, AZ

6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



What would happen if light pollution made the night sky disappear? If children couldn't marvel at the Milky Way or a shooting star; migrating birds, bats and sea turtle hatchlings had no celestial cues; blue light from electronic displays disrupted our biological rhythms and increased risks for sleep disorders and breast cancer; and much of the outdoor lighting in the US were simply wasted?

With 50-plus chapters on five continents, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) works to protect the starry skies and fragile ecosystems of parks and neighborhoods. It has rigorously certified Dark Sky Places around the globe, including Flagstaff, Grand Canyon, Kaibab Paiute Reservation, Oracle State Park and Sedona in Arizona. With three of the five largest telescopes in the continental US and an annual contribution of millions of dollars in astronomy, space and planetary science-related fields, our state would seem the perfect place for a Dark Sky Scenic Highway. But if Valley skies continue to brighten, scientists may be forced to move their research elsewhere within a decade.

John Barentine, Program Manager for Tucson-based IDA, will discuss stewardship of the night sky on Wednesday, March 9, at 6:30 PM at the Apache Junction Multi-Generational Center, 1035 N. Idaho Rd. Barentine has contributed to science in fields ranging from solar physics to galaxy evolution while helping develop hardware for ground-based and aircraft-borne astronomy. Throughout his career, he has been involved in education and outreach efforts to help increase the public understanding of science. The asteroid (14505) Barentine is named in his honor.

His talk is part of the Speakers Series co-sponsored by the Superstition Area Land Trust (SALT) and AJ Parks and Recreation Department. The presentation is free, and will be followed by dark-sky viewing with astronomical telescopes (weather permitting). The SALT Speakers Series, “The Superstitions: The Nature of Place”, is a no-cost program supporting SALT's mission to conserve the natural Sonoran Desert open spaces surrounding the Superstition Wilderness Area for this and future generations. No registration is necessary; however, space will be limited to the number of seats available.

SALT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

“Keep It Wild Forever”