

Science Education: Christian Luginbuhl  
Website: <http://www.flagstaffdarkskies.org/>

Mr. Luginbuhl is one of the original founders of the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition. The Night Visions art exhibition at Flagstaff's Coconino Center for the Arts was created by Mr. Luginbuhl and the Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition as part of a community-wide series of events called Celebration of the Night. Chris's efforts helped our community gain recognition as the First International Dark Sky City. Chris has been a public advocate for preserving and enhancing the Dark Skies of Flagstaff, the state of Arizona and the entire world. He was an active member of the International Dark-Sky (IDA) from its founding in 1988 until 2010. He was a member of the IDA board of directors 2005-2007.

Chris Luginbuhl collaborated with an artist in designing and proposing the establishment of a new celestial observatory in Flagstaff called STARHENGE ([www.starhenge.net](http://www.starhenge.net)). The proposed public artwork, made entirely of natural materials, was designed to be environmentally sensitive and esthetically inspirational. His primary purpose in development of STARHENGE was to educate local youth and bring international attention to our need to preserve dark skies as a natural resource.

**Below are Chris Luginbuhl's responses to a set of questions posed by an editor from the Noise magazine in 2011:**

What inspired you to begin Night Visions?

"As a professional scientist I have always tried to raise awareness of the role of beauty and wonder in scientist's work - we are not all just a bunch of social misfits infatuated with calculations and theory. Most astronomers I know chose astronomy because of the beauty and sense of wonder a star-filled night sky brought to them. Further, I've always wondered that ordinary people seem to dismiss themselves from this wonder, when they say things like "oh yes, it's important to protect the night skies for the astronomers." No-one ever seems to make the mistake of saying that "it's important to preserve Grand Canyon for the rock hounds and geologists." Night Visions and the Celebration of the Night are my attempt to bring stars, the beauty of the natural night, and the wonder of the immense Universe to everyone, to remind us all of the value a starry sky and contemplation of the Universe can bring to our lives."

How many years have you been involved with dark skies?

"Since about 1986, or 25 years, in the sense of active involvement with outdoor lighting regulations and research, but since I was a young boy in the 1960s I've been inspired by just looking at and thinking about stars and the night sky."

Chris is involved in the art scene as well. He is the prime example of a science and arts educator. The Dark Skies Coalition aims to educate and celebrate the

dark sky in Flagstaff. Flagstaff has specific ordinances that regulate nighttime lighting, allowing the brilliance of the stars to be visible. The coalition promotes information on the ordinance through educational programs and with the Night Visions exhibition held every few years at the Coconino Center for the Arts. Night Visions displays artwork, both locally and nationally, that represents the night skies. This event is a great example of combining science and art in Flagstaff. As an astronomer with the US Naval Observatory, Chris provides information about astronomy and light pollution to the public, in the media, and in classrooms.

### **CHRISTIAN B. LUGINBUHL**

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### **EXPERIENCE**

1982-present	U.S. Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station <i>Astronomer</i>
2011	2011 Celebration of the Night / NightVisions IV <i>Event initiator/proposer; NightVisions exhibit juror</i>
2008	2008 Celebration of the Night / NightVisions III <i>Event initiator/proposer; NightVisions exhibitor</i>
2006 NightVisions II	Smithsonian <i>Culturefest</i> / Celebration of the Night / <i>Event coordinator, NightVisions exhibit juror</i>
1996-2000	Flagstaff Festival of Science Asteroid Naming Contest <i>Contest originator and coordinator</i>
2001	2001 Celebration of the Night / NightVisions <i>Event initiator/coordinator; NightVisions exhibit juror</i>

### **EDUCATION**

1978-1981	Case Western Reserve University <i>Graduate study, astronomy</i>
1973-1978	Northern Arizona University <i>Bachelor of Science (BS) – Physics and Botany, double major</i>

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- 1. American Astronomical Society
- 1. Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

- 1. Sigma Xi (Scientific research society)
- 1. Board of Directors, International Dark-Sky Association 2005-2007 (member since 1988 founding)
- 1. Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition (member since 1999 founding)
- 1. Board of Directors, Flagstaff Festival of Science 1995-2002
- 1. Board of Directors, Arizona Natural History Association 1989-1995

### **PUBLICATIONS**

- 1. Observing Handbook and Catalogue of Deep Sky Objects, Cambridge University Press, 1990
- 1. "Coda: What the Solution Would Look Like" in Let There Be Night: Testimony on Behalf of the Dark (P. Bogard, ed.), U. of Nevada Press (Reno), 2008
- 1. Over 40 publications in the refereed professional literature of astronomy and archaeoastronomy, 1986-present  
(see [http://www.nofs.navy.mil/about\\_NOFS/staff/cbl/publications.html](http://www.nofs.navy.mil/about_NOFS/staff/cbl/publications.html))