



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DRIPPING SPRINGS TO HOST BETTER LIGHTS FOR BETTER NIGHTS CONFERENCE

City & International Dark Sky Association - Texas Section will host first-ever Texas lighting seminar

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS – June 12, 2014 – On Friday, August 15th, the City of Dripping Springs, in partnership with the International Dark Sky Association Texas (IDA Texas), will host the first-ever Better Lights for Better Nights Conference at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park Events Center, located at 1042 Dripping Springs Ranch Road, Dripping Springs, Texas 78620.

The day-long conference is designed to address many issues surrounding light pollution and to provide attendees with the tools to enable them to share information and possible solutions with their communities. Exhibitors will share displays and demonstrations; organized sessions led by industry professionals and educators will take place throughout the day covering:

- Education on how to address the challenges presented by outdoor lighting, including:
 - Energy costs and economic impact to your area;
 - Actual safety & security versus the illusion of security;
 - Light trespass and saving our common view of the sky;
 - Health & ecological consequences of artificial light at night;
- Ordinances and Texas laws: examples on how some municipalities have put forth ordinances and policy on implementing new/improved lighting regulations;
- Instruction on the finer details of inspections and enforcement of such ordinances; and
- Solutions for unincorporated areas.

“We made a conscious effort many years ago to proactively protect the night sky by creating a lighting ordinance and policy to guide smart development and improve visibility without creating light pollution,” said Dripping Springs’ Mayor Todd Purcell. “We are proud to be the first Dark Sky Community in Texas and one of only six in the world. We hope this conference will teach others how to implement these types of solutions to improve their communities.”

In February 2014, Dripping Springs became the first Dark Sky Community in Texas and is among the first to host such an event.

Early bird ticket price is \$50; after July 15, the ticket price goes up to \$60. Registration fee includes admission to all seminars, a box lunch, afternoon snack and reception, a barbecue dinner by [The Salt Lick](#) and a tour of outdoor lighting in Dripping Springs.

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About IDA

The International Dark Sky Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, advocates for the protection of the nighttime environment and natural night skies by educating policymakers and the public on the subject of night sky conservation and by promoting environmentally responsible outdoor lighting. More information about IDA and its mission may be found at <http://www.darksky.org>.

For more information

For more information please visit www.TexasNightSkyFestival.com or contact the City of Dripping Springs by phone (512) 858-4725 or e-mail at MFischer@CityofDrippingSprings.com. Registration forms and sponsorship applications can be found online.

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