

Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve presents

‘WILDERNESS ASTRONOMY’

a party under the stars at

Elk Island National Park - Astotin Recreation Area

Sunday, September 5th, 2010

3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Thank you for supporting your local national park by purchasing an entry pass at the park gates and campground kiosk. The event is free for all visitors with a valid park pass.

On the Labour Day weekend join us for our annual celebration of Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve (BHDSPP) hosted by: **Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - Edmonton Centre; Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation and Culture; Parks Canada Agency; Strathcona Wilderness Centre and Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village.**

Sunday, September 5th marks the fourth anniversary of the creation of the Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve. Please join us as we welcome our new partner, Sherwood Fish and Game: Ketchamoot Creek Recreation and Conservation Area, into the BHSDP.

Outdoor activities include public stargazing with astronomers using a variety of telescopes, children’s activities, an unveiling ceremony, and guided hikes. Indoor activities include astronomical presentations and making red light flashlights.

OUTDOOR EVENT PROGRAM

3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Painting the Elk Island Skies – Meet at the Playground

Let the natural surroundings inspire you to create a water colour masterpiece. Painting supplies are provided. Take your creations home with you!

5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Welcoming Ceremony – Blue Events Tent – Astotin Lake Area

Beaver Hills Dark Sky Preserve partners welcome:

Sherwood Fish and Game Ketchamoot Creek Recreation and Conservation Area

and are also proud to unveil the fourth and final Dark Sky interpretive panel:

‘Be ‘Sky-wise’: Reduce Lights and keep Dark Skies’.

8:30 p.m. Nightfall, Stars Up! - Astronomy begins outdoors

View Jupiter, star clusters, nebulae and other galaxies beyond the Milky Way.

Telescopes will be set up courtesy of RASC volunteers, amateur astronomers and Parks Canada if skies are clear, at three locations within the Astotin Lake Area:

Lawn Area - Main parking lot

Pavilion – Cook Shelter overlooking the beach

Astotin Theatre – Back Deck

INDOOR EVENT PROGRAM
Astotin Interpretative Theatre

6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Red Light Flashlight making tips (bring a flashlight) – outdoors by lobby entrance

7:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Adventures in Wilderness Astronomy

Award winning science journalist Peter McMahon has covered space shuttle launches, witnessed a new carnivore unearthed on a dino dig, walked through a stadium-sized particle accelerator and descended into a solar observatory 2 km underground.

8:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m.

Wild Meteorite Chase

Dr. Erin Walton brings treasures of wild space to you! View visiting Lunar and Martian meteorites and learn about their travels. Royal Astronomical Society of Canada's Bruce McCurdy and Alberta Park's Cecilia Goncalves take you from this presentation to an informative starry-storytelling session under the dark skies.

9:00 p.m. – 9:45 p.m.

The Truth About Hoaxes

Frank Florian, Telus World of Science, Edmonton, dispels the myths and excels at casting a spell over the audience with real science. Can Mars look as big as the Moon in our sky? Did we really land on the Moon? What is the Sun really up to? Do the Mayans control our fate in 2012?

10:00 p.m. - 10:45 p.m.

Wild Stellar Stories Peter McMahon and 'open microphone' for local astronomers and stargazers: In the event of cloudy weather, come inside and listen to this strange breed of starry adventurers and see their amazing images of the universe.

Making Your Visit More Enjoyable

Food Service

3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Elk Island Golf Course

Light meals and beverages available for purchase at the Golf Course Clubhouse.

6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. – Mobile Food Concession

Angel Food Services are located near the Astotin Theatre, or bring your own picnic lunch. Picnic tables are located throughout the Astotin Lake Area.

Washrooms Facilities

Accessible washrooms are located at the Astotin Theatre, near the Dark Sky Panels and at the boat launch parking lot.

Washrooms in the Astotin Theatre are open 24 hours a day – accessed via the exterior of the building.

Portable washroom facilities available on site.

Astotin Theatre

The Astotin Theatre will be closed at 11:00 p.m.

Please no pets or food in the Astotin Theatre.

As seating is limited, free tickets will be available at the lobby starting at 6:00 p.m.

Telescopes

Telescopes will be set up courtesy of volunteers and amateur astronomers. They are more than happy to have you take a look through their lens. Don't be shy to ask!

Star Party Survival Kit

Be Star-Bright! Bring a flashlight to cover with red, night-friendly material that we will supply. Make a red-light flashlight for the enjoyment of all.

Please dress for the weather and night time temperatures. Insect repellent is recommended.

Most activities will proceed 'rain or star-shine', however telescopic viewing requires a clear sky.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.