

BLANCO COUNTY FRIENDS OF THE NIGHT SKY

Formed in August, 2018

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE LAST YEAR

130 supporting households – 20 Lifetime supporters – 11 Business Supporters

Website applauded throughout the U. S. with thousands of hits per month

988 Facebook Group Followers – 522 Instagram Followers

Published newsletter for 49 months with distribution of 569 people

154 supporting signs displayed in Blanco County

- April 1: Sent monthly newsletter (Issue 49) via email to 569 individuals
- March 23: Had exhibit table at 1st Annual Blanco Founder's Day
- March 15: A resident of Blanco filed eleven official complaints with the City of Blanco for violation of Blanco's Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. These were the first official Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Complaints filed in the City of Blanco
- March 12: Two banners installed on the east side of US281 on the south side of Blanco announcing Blanco as an *International Dark Sky Community*
- March 1: Presentation Team (featuring the **Wizard Of The Night Sky**) completed two programs for 5th graders at Blanco Elementary School
- March 1: Wayne Gosnell conducted a nighttime inventory of Blanco's major light polluters, taking photos and color temperature readings using an Oppele light meter; he also identified several candidates to be recognized as Night Sky Business-friendly businesses
- February 29: Sent monthly newsletter (Issue 48) via email to 565 individuals
- January 31: Installed the first of 5 city roadway entryway signs announcing Blanco as an *International Dark Sky Community*
- January 31: Submitted the City of Blanco's first *International Dark Sky Community's* Annual Report to DarkSky International
- January 31: Completed 3rd Annual BCFNS Facebook Group Poetry Contest
- January 30: Sent monthly newsletter (Issue 47) via email to 559 individuals
- December 29: Sent email link to December newsletter (Issue 46) to 553 individuals
- December 15: The 3rd Annual BCFNS Facebook Group Poetry Contest was announced to start January 15, 2024, with the theme being "*Deep In The Dark Of Texas*"
- December 15: Presentation Team (featuring the **Wizard Of The Night Sky**) completed the last 3 of 7 programs for 6th grade science and 8th grade ecology students at Blanco Middle School
- November 30: Sent email link to November newsletter (Issue 45) to 550 individuals
- November 21: Barbara Hudson presented a \$200 BCFNS check to the Johnson City ISD for art supplies in their art departments in support of the BCFNS Night Sky Art Contest for middle and high school students
- November 23: Linda Whitlow and David Loose presented a \$200 BCFNS check to the Blanco ISD for art supplies in their art departments in support of the BCFNS Night Sky Art Contest for middle and high school students
- November 16: Published Special Edition Eclipse Newsletter (Issue 46) to 549 individuals
- November 10: Presentation Team (featuring the **Wizard Of The Night Sky**) did two programs for classes at Blanco Middle School
- November 2: Wayne Gosnell advised a group of night sky enthusiasts in Fairfield, Iowa on how to form a night sky advocacy group
- October 31: Sent email link to October newsletter (Issue 43) to 545 individuals

- October 28: **Wizard of the Night Sky** and **Fiddler of the Night Sky** entertained/educated attendees of the Blanco Marigold Festival at the Old Blanco Courthouse in Blanco
- October 4: BCFNS Board Members and members delivered solar eclipse glasses for every public school student and staff member to the Superintendents of both ISDs in Blanco County
- September 30: Bob Heinonen did a presentation to a regional meeting of the Daughters Of The Republic of Texas at the Gem Of The Hills Activity Center
- September 26: Sent email link to September newsletter (Issue 42) to 532 people
- September 23: Wizard of the Night Sky and Fiddler of the Night Sky presented to the Girl Scouts Region 5 at the Science Mill in Johnson City
- September 20: Wayne Gosnell and Bob Heinonen participated in Zoom meeting with the High Point Ranch Subdivision Home Owners Association
- August: Designed and produced eclipse T-shirt using art from student art contest
- August 30: Sent email link to August newsletter (Issue 41) to 528 people
- August 28: Closed online survey for Educational Media Blitz with an amazing 20.4% response rate
- August 8: Sent out online survey to the 528 people on our email distribution list to evaluate the success of our Educational Media Blitz
- July 25: Sent email link to August newsletter (Issue 39) to 508 people
- July 23: Began 7 day Educational Media Blitz social media campaign
- July 19: Ran Educational Media Blitz ½ page ads in both Blanco County newspapers
- July 10: Mailed Educational Media Blitz postcard to 5,000+ addresses in Blanco County
- June 29: Wayne Gosnell and Bob Heinonen had a Zoom meeting with three individuals in Elgin, Texas, who want to darken the sky at night in Elgin, and mentorship began
- June 29: Sent email link to August newsletter (Issue 39) to email distribution list
- June 26: Mailed letter to 19 Blanco businesses that are in violation of the Blanco City Outdoor Lighting Ordinance offering them assistance in becoming compliant
- May 25: Sent email link to May newsletter (Issue 38) to email distribution list
- May 18: **Deep In The Dark Of Texas** presentation at Blanco High School
- May 8: Provided the City of Blanco a Quick Guide to Blanco's Amended Outdoor Lighting Ordinance (OLO)
- April 29: Sent email link to April newsletter (Issue 37) to email distribution list of 494 individuals
- April 25: Third annual **BCFNS Membership Gathering and Star Party**
- April 23: 3rd Annual Art Contest for students in Blanco County – 200+ entries
- April 19: First 5 year Business membership: **La Vie Estate Winery**
- April 19: Wizard Of The Night Sky presented to **Blanco County Conservation Initiative**
- April 18: **Deep In The Dark Of Texas** presentation at LBJ High School in Johnson City
- April 3: First presentation by new 5 member Presentation Team for Blanco Rotary Club