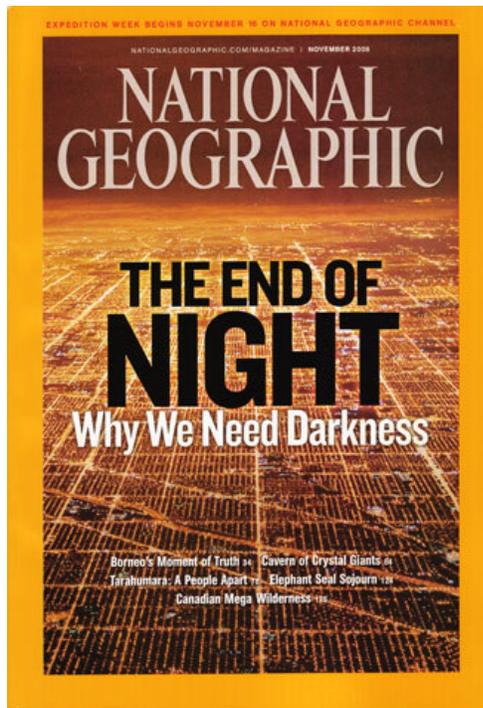


For Immediate Release  
Tremont, Maine October 27, 2008

Contact Information  
Peter W. Lord  
Executive Director  
Island Astronomy Institute  
P.O. Box 249  
Bernard, ME 04612  
(207) 244-9477  
[www.islandastro.org](http://www.islandastro.org)

## **National Geographic Magazine recognizes Acadia's Dark Sky in the November 2008 Issue.**

"Starry nights have become rare and exotic skylscapes for many Americans", states the November Issue of National Geographic Magazine. Acadia National Park's "excellent conditions for stargazing" made the list of four "spots offering" the nation's "darkest nights" for "star chasing".



The cover story "Vanishing Night" portrays the nation's loss of natural darkness through compelling photography and writing.

"We've grown so used to this pervasive orange haze that the original glory of an un-light night... is wholly beyond our experience, beyond memory almost."

Here on the East Coast, nearly an entire generation has never seen the Milky Way. Maine retains the largest expanse of natural night skies east of the Mississippi. National awareness of light pollution strengthens Maine's reputation as a place that still has stars, a visible measure of "the way life should be."

Ironically, light pollution is easy to control with designs that improve safety and visibility by directing light only to where it is needed.

Establishing the high quality of Maine's night sky and its value as a natural resource is key wide spread implementation of the new designs.

The Island Astronomy Institute (IAI) collaborates with an array of organizations to protect this increasingly valuable natural resource including; the National Park Service. Hancock County Planning Commission, Bar Harbor Conservation Commission, Friends

of Acadia, College of the Atlantic, and local conservation groups. The IAI provides light measurements and related technical expertise for municipal lighting ordinances and public education on a consulting basis.

A technical assistance agreement executed by Acadia National Park enables the IAI to provide cutting-edge light pollution measurement technology, developed by the National Park Service.

The project's goal is to provide the starlit communities surrounding Acadia National Park with unprecedented levels of management information. Nowhere else in the world can community light pollution domes be tracked at the resolution of individual buildings and facilities. The Maine Technology Institute is helping the Island Astronomy Institute transform the first loan ever made of government measurement technology into a permanent program serving the State of Maine.

Links to National Geographic:

Our Vanishing Night

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/light-pollution/klinkenborg-text>

Photo Gallery

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/light-pollution/richardson-photography>

Follow-up featuring Acadia National Park

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/light-pollution/follow-up-text>