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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Big Bend Conservancy Hosts Dark Sky Weekend January 15-17

Big Bend Conservancy and Big Bend National Park are kicking off the Centennial Celebration of the National Park Service with a Dark Sky Weekend at Big Bend National Park. Dark Sky Weekend will be held January 15-17, 2016.

The weekend will include three events that are free to the public. They are:

Friday, January 15, 2016: Astrophotography Demonstration

9:00PM, Cell Phone lot, beginning of the Basin Road

Hosted by TJ Avery of Thomas J. Avery Photography

TJ will lead a mini-class in astrophotography, providing tips for using personal cameras to capture the Milky Way.

Saturday, January 16, 2016: Solar Viewing

11AM-1PM, Chisos Mountain Lodge Shade Ramada

Adjacent to parking lot

Hosted by Phil Kelton, former Superintendent, McDonald Observatory

Phil will set up his hydrogen-alpha solar telescope to offer park visitors the opportunity to view the sun.

Sunday, January 17, 2016: Solar Viewing

11AM-1PM, Chisos Mountain Lodge Shade Ramada, adjacent to parking lot

Hosted by Phil Kelton, former Superintendent, McDonald Observatory

Phil will set up his hydrogen-alpha solar telescope to offer park visitors the opportunity to view the sun.

The mission of Big Bend Conservancy is to support, promote and raise funds for Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River. In the past 20 years, Big Bend Conservancy has donated over \$2.7 million to the National Park Service for much needed special projects, programs and facilities. One project was the dark sky lighting initiative, a gift of over \$40,000 that resulted in Gold Tier Dark Sky status from the International Dark Skies Association for Big Bend National Park.

For more information about Dark Sky Weekend log onto www.bigbendconservancy.org.

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