

# SEMINAR ANNOUNCEMENT

## **Stuff in the sky, Stuff on the ground, And Why It's There**

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**Abstract:** There are an extremely large number of interesting optical phenomena which occur in the natural environment outdoors, and which can easily be observed if one knows what to look for and when to look. These include rainbows, glories, ice crystal halos, the color of the sky during the day and at sunset, the twilight wedge, cloud corona, crepuscular sun rays, unusual properties of shadows, reflection and transmission caustics, reflection from dew drops, and topologically deformed reflections. I will show photographs of a number of these phenomena (mostly observed in my yard or in the neighborhood) and I will explain the physics behind them.

**Thursday, April 2, 2009**  
**12:00 – 1:00 pm**  
**Room 117**

*Pizza and refreshments will be served before the seminar.*