

**Title:** Fireflies: Summer's Dazzling Gift

**Speaker:** Ken R. Butler

**Abstract:**

The presentation features a 10-minute segment from the award winning 2016 film narrated by Sir David Attenborough, "Attenborough's Light on Earth". The firefly segment was filmed in NW PA and is the first ever to capture synchronous fireflies, blinking in unison, filmed in amazing color in a very dark sky environment. Sir David provides an excellent explanation of the science that makes the firefly "light" possible. The multi-media presentation also includes an introduction to the most prevalent firefly species, teaches how to use the flash pattern to identify different species and a discussion of the femme fatale fireflies, the genus photuris. You will learn why the female photuris must imitate the female flash pattern of other firefly species to attract, kill and eat the males of non-photuris species. Fast paced and informative, the presenter encourages questions at any time during the presentation.

**Bio:**

In 2012, through an amazing set of circumstances, Ken R. Butler, an officer within a \$6B investment organization and his wife, Peggy, a speech and hearing pathologist within the local public schools, discovered themselves surrounded by the rarest of firefly species, the synchronous firefly! This discovery, at their bed & breakfast oasis in the Allegheny National Forest in NW PA, created a deep passion to share their good fortune with others. They are the co-founders of the PA Firefly Festival Inc. with a mission to educate both children and adults about environmental change and the emerging threats to all firefly habitats.

They are avid outdoor enthusiasts and love to fly fish the cold mountain streams near their bed & breakfast. Now committed to serving as citizen scientists, they support the development of firefly habitat and dark sky environment. Mr. Butler is a former college instructor and enthusiastic presenter.