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BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON ...

Lunar therapy is new medical marvel

CONCENTRATED moonbeams have amazing powers to heal and rejuvenate the body, say folks who have basked in lunar rays captured by a giant reflector the size of a drive-in movie screen.

Believers from across the country — as many as 120 on a given night — have flocked to soak up modern medical miracles, thanks to lunar therapy at the Interstellar Light Collector, about 15 miles west of Tucson, Ariz.

The reflector's owners hope to eventually open a string of healing centers where patients can come for treatments that can help them beat cancer, depression and other ailments — all without any serious side effects.

Lunar therapy changed firefighter Jon Graves' life.

Graves of Tucson swears that standing in the bluish, high-powered lunar rays gave him the energy and willpower to lose 90 pounds and eventually run marathons.

"I felt bad all day before the first night I ever went under the moonlight collector," says Graves. "It was definitely a kick start. After being under the light, I felt like I was 19 years old again. I went home and ran eight miles."

And another believer in regular lunar therapy reports that the enhanced moonlight has made numerous moles and small, benign skin tumors disappear.

The Light Collector reportedly can provide "full spectrum light therapy" with concentrated moonlight up to twice as bright as the sun, but without the harm of direct sunlight, explains Richard Chapin, 54, who founded Interstellar Light Applications with his wife Monica.

Interstellar Light Applications has erected a $2 million, 250-ton "moonshine" collector measuring 52 feet high and 62 feet wide and equipped with 84 mirrored reflectors. Moonbathers stand under the beams for up to two minutes. There is no charge, but a $10 donation is suggested.

Mike Cagle, who spends hours immersed in concentrated moonlight while adjusting the massive device's reflectors, jokes: "If it's detrimental, I'll be the first to grow a second head."

The Chapins were inspired to create the Light Collector while seeking ways to save the life of a close friend who was dying of pancreatic cancer.

During their research, they came upon full-spectrum light therapy. And they hope their experiments will lead to other applications in medical treatments, business and agriculture.

The Interstellar Light Collector has also attracted Dr. Corinne Davies, who has a Ph.D. in plant genetics and breeding. Davies has launched a series of experiments into the influence of moonlight on seeds.

"There is definite biological precedent for thinking that organisms would have reactions to moonlight," says Davies. "The Light Collector is an amazing idea, and I'm glad to be part of it."

Founder Richard Chapin

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