



## Teaching Science Biblically

Every weekend for two years, Bill Clifton loaded up the back of his little truck with an assortment of dissection equipment, preserved fetal pigs, microscopes, and lab equipment. He was headed to his part-time ministry teaching biology to homeschooled students. As his ministry grew, Bill and his wife, Merilee, felt God leading them to do this full-time.

So in 2000, they established Science Partners. They serve students in Orlando-area homeschools, Christian schools, and churches by providing elective science classes, field trips, and workshops from a biblical creation perspective.

Bill was once the head of SeaWorld Orlando's education department, so he reveals a unique and fascinating perspective about the ocean and the animals that live in it. He and his wife even offer a 10-month marine science class for high school homeschoolers, which meets once a month onsite at SeaWorld of Orlando.

Bill has a bachelor's degree in biology, a master's degree in science education, and a master of divinity degree. He and Merilee are also trained and certified

Florida Master Naturalists. They teach classes on a variety of topics, from life science to physical and earth sciences.

They care about more than imparting solid facts. "Our favorite thing is to teach students to observe the natural world around them, and to recognize the hand of the Creator in all of nature," Bill enthusiastically explains. "Through our programs, homeschooled students can take eight years of creation-based science classes."

Merilee says Science Partners presents everything from the perspective that the God of the Bible created the world in six literal 24-hour days.

"In a matter-of-fact way, we teach the students that God's handiwork is evident in everything around us. Our focus reinforces Romans 1:20 that we are 'without excuse' if we deny the Creator's existence," she says.

Bill adds that pointing even one young mind to the Creator is a significant achievement, and it has a ripple effect.

"At this point, we are teaching children of former students," he says. "We can now see our influence reaching another generation." ■

## CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

If you're ever in the Orlando area, you may want to consider one of the creation-based learning adventure tours offered by Bill and Merilee Clifton, founders of Science Partners. They offer day trips to places like Orlando Wetlands Park (for birdwatching) and Crystal River (for snorkeling in wetsuits with manatees). But two overnight trips are unforgettable.

**THE FLORIDA PANHANDLE** tour begins at Florida Caverns State Park. While in the caves, guests see evidence of the Creator. The next morning, they head to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, where a professional biologist leads the group as they collect and tag migrating monarch butterflies for scientific research. In the afternoon, they tour the Butterfly Rainforest at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Here thousands of exotic butterflies fly freely in a tropical setting. This stop also includes the chance to observe scientists at work behind the scenes in the world's largest facility dedicated to butterflies.

**THE FLORIDA KEYS AND EVERGLADES** trip includes everything you'd expect in an Everglades trip—an airboat ride through the sawgrass, a visit to Everglades National Park, hiking the Anhinga Trail, a visit to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (the first undersea park in the US), and snorkeling on the coral reef off Key Largo.

Throughout these adventures the Cliftons highlight the ways good science and belief in the Creator go hand in hand. ■

Contact the Cliftons at [sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com) or visit their website at [sciencepartners.net](http://sciencepartners.net).