



SCIENCE MATTERS

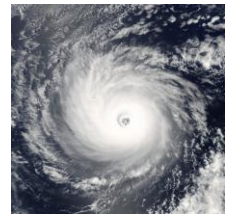
Science Partners Newsletter

October 2017 Issue:

- Good Things About Hurricanes by Mr. Clifton
- *Creationist Guide to SeaWorld* – Friday, October 6
- *Central Florida Habitats* – Friday, November 3
- *St. Augustine – FL History Tour* – Saturday, December 2
- Upcoming Science Opportunities: October 21 – Oakland Heritage Festival; October 28 and 29 – Fossil Fair, Orlando
- Fourth Grade Essay Contest – Deadline October 6
- Science Partners Classes: October and November Reminders
- 2017-18 *Creation Adventures*
- How to Schedule a *Creation Adventure* for a Homeschool Group or a Christian School

Good Things About Hurricanes by Mr. Clifton

After seeing and hearing about all the destruction and chaos surrounding Hurricane Irma, I decided to look for positive aspects of hurricanes and even had my students think of at least one positive result of Irma. Was God still in the area, or had He moved to Mars and abandoned us? While not trivializing the damage, sorrow, displacement, and fear caused by the hurricane, I believe there has to be something good to come out of it. You have probably discovered these and many more.



1. **Neighbors became friends.** We “knew” our neighbors, but when we worked together to repair a common fence that had fallen, we came to know them much better. We wound up sharing the cost of a piece of equipment needed to repair the fence. Now, they use it when they need it, and we do too.
2. **Kindness abounded among neighbors.** Many people in the neighborhood pitched in to help rake and move debris and broken tree limbs out of yards of their neighbors so that someday the debris can be picked up and removed. One lady with a riding lawn mower even went so far as to go down our street and mow peoples’ lawns! We looked out one morning and she had mowed ours. (We didn’t hear her mowing because of the noise of generators.) She didn’t ask if she could mow it, and didn’t own up to it until we asked her about it.
3. **“Resurrection Fern” spoke.** One of my favorite plants is the “resurrection fern.” It grows on limbs and bark of oak trees. During a dry season the leaves shrivel up, turn brown, and the plant appears dead. But following a good rain, it “resurrects” from deadness back to its bright green, leafy form to once again adorn the oak tree. Hence the name “resurrection fern” after the resurrection of Christ. While raking up limbs and debris, I noticed many pieces of broken limbs with resurrection fern attached scattered all over the neighborhood. I believe it was a reminder from God that He is still here and knows our condition and needs. The “resurrection” still brings hope.
4. **This disaster (and others) prompted distant family members and friends to reconnect.** Two cousins in Alabama that I hadn’t communicated with in some time, called to check on us. My sister, who lives in Texas and was still reeling from Hurricane Harvey, called every day - just like we had called her in the previous weeks.
5. **Without the normal conveniences of our homes, we were forced to rethink our true necessities of life.** No power means no internet, no game boxes, no TV, no electronic devices that control way too much of our lives. This in turn causes us to rely on conversation and activities among our family members to connect to “survive”. People have told me of their families playing board games and putting together jigsaw puzzles by candle light.
6. **People with generators ran extension cords to neighbors without electricity, often people they hardly knew.** We ran an extension cord from our generator to our neighbors who didn’t have one so they could keep their refrigerator going. With Hurricane Charley in 2004, we had no water since our well pump ran on electricity. Neighbors across the street allowed us use their outside faucet to get water. You can live without electricity, but you must have water! Like the old saying states, “You don’t miss the water ‘til the well runs dry!”
7. **We appreciate electricity much more after running a generator for days.** We have become more aware of turning off lights that we don’t need and just being more conservative in our use of electrical appliances.
8. **The Bible says, “In every thing, give thanks.”** Although we’re not necessarily thankful for hardships and disasters, we can always look for opportunities to learn from them and to help others through them. The aftermath of a natural disaster like Irma teaches us to be more patient, more considerate, and more compassionate of others.

Creationist Guide to SeaWorld – Friday, October 6



Join Bill and Merilee Clifton - creationists, authors, Florida Master Naturalists, and science educators - as we **explore SeaWorld from a creationist perspective**. **Mr. Clifton, former head of SeaWorld Orlando's Education Department, knows his way around the park!** He will lead our tour through SeaWorld as we **learn about the sea and the awesome creatures that live in it**. Did you ever wonder why marine mammals have tails that move up and down instead of side to side like fish? Or why they are born tail first instead of head first like land mammals? Come along as we answer these and many other questions, exploring SeaWorld

from a creationist viewpoint and discovering how these unique life forms were specially created for a marine environment! **Your creation tour of SeaWorld will last from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Then, you are free to explore SeaWorld on your own until the park closes!** Space is limited to the first 45 registrants! **We have a few spots still available. For an info / registration form, click here:** http://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/10-06-17_seaworld.pdf.

Central Florida Habitats – Friday, November 3

Join us as we explore Central Florida Habitats, observing plants and animals that were specifically designed to live in them. Our day begins at **Blue Spring State Park** (Orange City), home to several habitats including hammock, marsh, swamp, flatwoods, and sand pine scrub. We will **cruise the St. Johns River aboard a hands-on, floating science laboratory!** We'll test the river water for temperature, salinity, and turbidity. We'll dip, collect, and identify marine specimens. And, we'll enjoy our captain's narrated introduction to the wildlife and vegetation of this fragile ecosystem. We'll keep a look out for manatees, alligators, otters, snakes, deer, turtles, birds, and more. Students will have the opportunity to **earn a Jr. Birding Certificate** in the "Wings over Florida" program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. After our cruise, we'll **hike** the boardwalk through the lush hammock along Blue Spring Run as we **look for endangered manatees** near the head of the springs. Back at the picnic pavilion, we'll **see a manatee skull and rib**, and Mr. Clifton will teach us about manatees from a creationist perspective. Then, we're off to **Lyonia Preserve** in Deltona where we will take a short hike into a scrub habitat looking for one of Florida's rarest and most threatened birds, the **Florida scrub-jay**. We'll learn about plants and animals created for the scrub habitat and contrast them with plants and animals of other habitats. We'll also visit **Lyonia Environmental Center** and learn much from its educational displays and exhibits. **Deadline for minimum number is October 6. For an information / registration form, click here:** http://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/11-03-17_central_fl_habitats.pdf.



St. Augustine – FL History Tour – Saturday, December 2



Join Bill and Merilee Clifton as we **tour St. Augustine, our nation's oldest city**. Our day begins at the **Old Florida Museum**. We will be divided into three groups: Pioneers, Indians, and Spanish. Students will enjoy an "entertaining and educational experience designed to expose them to daily living skills of the Timucuan Indians, the Spanish Fort Mose inhabitants, and Florida pioneer children." Our next stop is the **Fountain of Youth**, a National Archaeological Park, where we'll eat our picnic lunches. The park is located at the site of the ancient Timucuan Indian town of Seloy. This is where the history of North America began when Ponce de Leon came ashore and claimed ALL of North America for Spain. At that time, "La Florida" was the entire North American continent, not just our state! Our group will tour the Springhouse where we can sample water from the spring that Ponce de Leon thought was the Fountain of Youth. We'll also see the Explorer's Discovery Globe Show, Navigator's Planetarium, and other exhibits. Then, we'll head to St. Augustine's historical district where we'll meet at the Visitor Center and walk across to **Castillo de San Marcos**. Our Castillo de San Marcos guide will lead us as we explore 300 years of Florida history in this unique national monument also known as "the fort." Afterwards, we will explore **historic St. George Street** where we will step back in time on this narrow, paved brick street to see the Huguenot Cemetery, the City Gate, the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse in the USA, and more. **Deadline for minimum number is November 4. For an information/registration form, click here:** <http://www.sciencepartners.net/st-augustine---florida-history-tour.html>.



SPECIAL NOTE: Consider staying overnight (on your own) and making this a family holiday weekend! The award-winning **Nights of Lights** festival dazzles the city as some three million twinkling white lights adorn every corner of the historic district from November 18, 2017, to January 31, 2018. Businesses downtown stay open later so you can dine and shop amongst the lit buildings. Trains and trolleys offer special seasonal tours that take you through the best areas of **Nights of Lights**, and there are also a variety of specialty tours - everything from walking tours and horse-and-carriage tours to tours to see the lights from the water and from the air. For a complete list of **Nights of Lights** tours and other events happening in St. Augustine, click on this link: <https://www.visitstaugustine.com/topics/nights-lights>.

Upcoming Science Opportunities

Saturday, October 21: Oakland Heritage Festival - Speer Park, Oakland



This 20th annual event will feature guided boat tours on Lake Apopka, Kid Zone, arts and crafts, hay rides, historical, cultural, and wildlife presentations, music, games, vendors, and food. Proceeds benefit Oakland Nature Preserve (which is closed because of downed trees and blocked trails from Hurricane Irma). This FREE festival will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Speer Park, 331 N. Tubb St. in Oakland. For more information, call 407-905-0054.

Saturday & Sunday, October 28 and 29: Fossil Fair - Central FL Fairgrounds, Orlando

Mark your calendar for Florida Fossil Hunters' 26th annual **Fossil, Mineral, and Gem Show** at Central Florida Fairgrounds, 4603 W. Colonial Drive, Orlando 32808 on Saturday, October 28, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, October 29, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children.



Besides fossils, minerals, and gems, there are activities including an hourly silent auction and a pit where kids can dig for fossils for \$1.00. For more info, call 407-699-9274 or click here: http://www.floridafossilhunters.com/Fossil_Fair.htm.

Fourth Grade Essay Contest – Deadline October 6



Here's a writing opportunity for 4th graders! Altamonte Springs City Library is having a "4th Grade Essay Contest" for 4th graders living in Central Florida. The contest gives students the opportunity to polish their writing skills and encourages creative thinking. What makes this special is that all qualifying entries are showcased in a published book giving young writers the thrill of seeing their work in print. All entries submitted become the property of the Altamonte Springs City Library. The published book will be available to check out.

Essays must be delivered to the Altamonte Springs City Library by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2017. Judges will select the three top essays and award prizes in December before school breaks for the holidays. For complete contest details, go to www.Altamonte.org/EssayContest.

2017 Writing Prompt:

Surprises come in all shapes and sizes. They can be happy or even a little scary. Have you ever received a surprise gift or party? Have you ever surprised someone else with an act of kindness or a special visit? Write an essay about a time you were surprised or you surprised someone else. Explain what happened and how it made you feel.

Science Partners Classes: October and November Reminders

TUITION:

- Tuition for **weekly, Tuesday Longwood classes** is due on the first day of the month and overdue on the 10th with a \$5 per student late fee. Tuition for grades 3-8 is \$75 (meeting 1 ½ hours per week). Tuition for high school biology is \$85 (meeting two hours per week).
- Tuition for **monthly Marine Science at SeaWorld** (\$85) is due on each class day and overdue one week later.



TUESDAY CLASSES: REMEMBER - FALL BREAK CANCELLED: Please note that there will be no "Fall Break" for weekly Tuesday Longwood classes because of Hurricane Irma. On Tuesday, October 17, we will make up the class that we missed during the hurricane.

THANKSGIVING BREAK: There are no classes on Tuesday, November 23. Happy Thanksgiving!

See page 4 for 2017-18 Creation Adventures and "How to Schedule a Creation Adventure for a Homeschool Group or a Christian School."

2017-18 *Creation Adventures*



The following *Creation Adventures* are open to all homeschool families. They have been scheduled through The Classical School at The First Academy and/or Science Partners and are open to everyone!

Our goal is to provide participants with a unique and fascinating creationist perspective of God's great design in nature and to teach them how to see God's handiwork in all of creation!

We hope you can join us!

- **October 6 (Friday): Creationist Guide to SeaWorld**
- **November 3 (Friday): Central Florida Habitats, Blue Spring State Park & Lyonia Preserve.**
- **December 2 (Saturday): St. Augustine – FL History Tour, Old Florida Museum, Fountain of Youth, Castillo de San Marcos, Historic St. George Street. (Consider staying overnight on your own for St. Augustine's award-winning "Nights of Lights" festival.)**
- **January 26 (Friday): Manatee Snorkel Encounter, Crystal River and Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park.**
- **January 31 (Wednesday): For the Birds, Orlando Wetlands Park.**
- **February 16 (Friday): Day of the Dinosaurs, Dinosaur World and Mulberry Phosphate Museum.**
- **March 16 (Friday): Florida's Water Systems, Canaveral National Seashore, Merritt Island NWR, Indian River Lagoon, St. Johns River.**
- **April 16 (Monday): The Heavens Declare!, Astronomy workshop – STARLAB portable planetarium.**

How to Schedule a *Creation Adventure* for a Homeschool Group or a Christian School

1. Go to Science Partners' website, www.sciencepartners.net.
2. Click on the "Creation Field Trips" and "Creation Workshops" tabs to review the field trips and workshops that we offer.
3. Go to the "Calendar" tab to see what dates are available.
4. Contact us when you have decided on an event and a date, so we can begin our scheduling process and make reservations with our vendors.
5. We will contact you for final approval once everything is confirmed. Then, your event will be added to our website calendar. For homeschool groups, an information/registration form will be linked to your event date. For Christian schools, a form is not needed for each participant.
6. Questions? Contact Merilee Clifton at sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com or 407-808-4458 (cell / text).

