



SCIENCE MATTERS

Science Partners Newsletter

April 2024 – In This Issue:

- **LAST CALL: Florida's Water Systems – Friday, April 26, 2024**
Learn about Florida's salt, brackish, and freshwater systems as we explore:
Canaveral National Seashore – beach activities;
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge – film and educational displays;
Indian River Lagoon – seining (capture and release); and
St. Johns River – airboat ride and hold an alligator!
Register soon! Deadline for the minimum number is April 5.
- Spring Fever in the Garden 2024, Winter Garden – April 6 and 7
- Plan a **CREATION ADVENTURE** for Your Group!
- **Without Excuse: Evidence from Biology – The Luna Moth**
- On a Personal Note: For Rent – Cliftons' Timeshare in Lake Lure, NC – June 21-28, 2024



LAST CALL: Florida's Water Systems: Friday, April 26, 2024

Come enjoy the great outdoors of Florida with the Cliftons! They'll lead our group from Canaveral National Seashore to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, the Indian River Lagoon, and the St. Johns River, exploring Florida's Water Systems from the perspective of God's design in creation.

At Canaveral National Seashore, we'll begin with an orientation, beach walk, and sea bean hunt at this saltwater ecosystem. Then, we're off to Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, where we'll look at their educational displays and see a film on the ecology of the area. After lunch, we will get into the brackish water of the Indian River Lagoon with seining nets. Our *Capture and Release* permit allows us to study the marine specimens we catch in our nets and then return them to the water. We never



know what we might find, but have caught fish, shrimp, crabs, seahorses, jellyfish, puffer fish, horseshoe crabs, stingrays, and more! Sometimes we see dolphins and manatees. Our last stop is the St. Johns River where we'll observe the plant and animal life of this freshwater habitat from an airboat! Watch for alligators, bald eagles, many other birds, turtles, and more! There's an awesome gift and snack shop at the airboat place.



Register soon!
Deadline for the minimum number is
Friday, April 5!

For an information / registration form, click here (or see email attachment):

https://www.sciencepartners.net/uploads/9/8/8/0/9880494/2024_-_04-26_floridas_water_systems.pdf

Spring Fever in the Garden 2024, Winter Garden – April 6 and 7

Presented by the Bloom and Grow Garden Society, this two-day **Spring Fever in the Garden** festival with many plant, nature, and wildlife related vendors will be held on Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 7, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Free admission.

KID ZONE is always the happiest place at the **Spring Fever in the Garden** festival! There will be booths and activities geared to children with fun ways to learn about nature and the environment. There will be hands on crafts, face painting and balloon animals made by a stilt walker and more.

The **Ask the Expert** booth is your chance to get your questions answered on a variety of topics from some of the best horticulturists and nursery people in the Central Florida area.

The **Avian Reconditioning Center** that specializes in raptor reconditioning and education will be at the corner of Lakeview and Plant Street. You can view owls and raptors up close and learn to appreciate Florida's magnificent birds of prey and the natural habitats in which they live. The birds and their handlers will be there from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday to answer questions.

There's also **free entertainment!** Enjoy area musicians and singers. For more info, check out this link: www.springfeveringarden.com.



Plan a CREATION ADVENTURE for Your Group!

Join the Cliftons as we take a hike, snorkel with manatees, ride an airboat, go beachcombing, seine in a lagoon, go birding, earn a birding certificate, see the heavens in a portable planetarium, learn about bears, bugs, dinosaurs, marine science, Noah's ark, and much more!

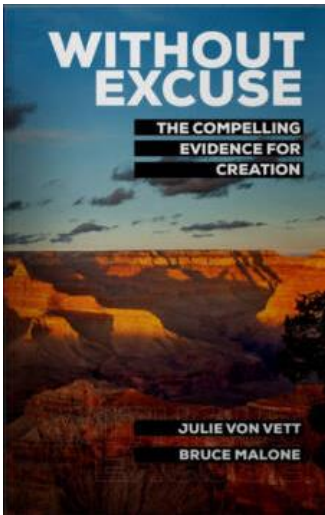
To Schedule Your Creation Field Trip or Workshop:

1. Go to www.sciencepartners.net. Click on the “**Creation Field Trips**” and “**Creation Workshops**” tabs to review the field trips and workshops that we offer.
2. Go to the “**Calendar**” tab to check on available dates.
3. Once you've decided on an event and a date, contact us so we can begin contacting our vendors and making reservations.
4. Once everything is confirmed, we will contact you, and your event will be added to our website calendar. For homeschool families, a registration form will be linked to your event date (unless your event is “closed” for your group only). Christian school classes do not need a registration form for each participant.



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!

The Compelling Evidence for Creation



Have you considered the Luna moth of North America? This beautiful pistachio-green moth comes out at night. Its 4-7 inch wingspan allows room for a beautiful black eyespot on each wing. Evolutionists teach that artistic designs like this evolved to scare off predators. But moths fly at night, not during the day. And predators cannot even see the eyespots at night. So, this is just storytelling, not science.

At night, the Luna moth's predator is a bat. The bat hunts with sonar, not by sight. That's where the elongated, ruffled tail of the Luna moth comes in handy. These twisted tails spin as the moth flies – like a spinning whirligig in the wind. This causes the bat's sonar to become scattered. As a result, the bat often misses the moth completely or just gets part of the tail.

Did this type of tail happen by accident and chance as evolution states? How would the Luna moth know it needed a twisted tail? Did it know that a bat uses sonar to catch it? So, did it create a way of making the sonar to be deflected? Does a moth have the ability to add a spinning tail to its body? How many moths were eaten before they evolved this specialized sonar-confusing mechanism?

When we see such engineering, we know there must be an engineer behind it. And who is that great Engineer? God Himself!

***“Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel,
Who alone does marvelous deeds,” Psalm 72:18***



Note: This daily devotion was taken from the book, **“Without Excuse”** by Julie Von Vett (a homeschooling mom teaching creation science to homeschoolers since 2003) and Bruce Malone, and published by *Search for the Truth Ministries*. It offers awesome evidence, primarily scientific – yet easily understandable, for the existence of a Creator. Arranged in an enjoyable daily devotional format, each provides yet another reason to trust God's Word. It is organized into different subject areas: age of creation, anatomy, astronomy, biology, botany, design, flood geology, genetics, history, and truth. There are also 42 YouTube video links spaced throughout the book that are wonderful visual reinforcements for parents and teachers sharing the creation science concepts with students. We highly recommend this book, and are using it as part of our daily devotions. To purchase your own copy, go to <https://searchforthetruth.net/store/>.

“Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.” Anonymous



PLEASE NOTE: The information below is personal and not related Science Partners.

Spend a week this summer in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains!



We (Bill & Merilee Clifton) have a timeshare week in Lake Lure, NC near Asheville. It is a very nice single-family unit in a beautiful setting where we have enjoyed memorable vacations for many years. But, we have other plans this summer and plan to rent it out. We thought about listing it on Craig's List or with an agency, but felt a little uncomfortable dealing with "strangers." So, we thought we'd put the info out to family and friends who receive our email newsletter to see if anyone is interested in renting it. If your family might be interested, please let us know!

Our Week: Our 2024 week at Wyndham Resort at Fairfield Mountains / Rumbling Bald Resort is June 21-28 (Friday to Friday). It is a "red week" which is considered in the greatest demand. Check in is after 4:00 p.m., and check out is by 10:00 a.m. The nearest airport is 40 miles away in Asheville, NC. It is about a ten-hour drive from Longwood where

we live. Similar units rent for between \$1,500 and \$2,000. We are asking \$1,200 for the week (8 days, 7 nights). If needed, rent may be paid in three payments of \$400, payable by April 7, May 7, and completed by June 7.

Our Unit: Mountain Loft #1 is a 1200+ square feet, two-story, single-family unit that sleeps six. From the family room, you can look out the back picture window through the trees to the lake below. The unit has a kitchen, living room, dining room, two bathrooms, three bedrooms (a king bed in the downstairs master bedroom, two twin beds in the other downstairs bedroom, and a double bed or couch that makes into a bed in the upstairs loft) and two small porches overlooking the lake (one off the dining room and one of the master bedroom). It has everything you need except your clothes, personal items, and food. It has a completely outfitted kitchen with dishes, pots, pans, coffee maker, microwave, toaster, dishwasher, as well as linens, vacuum cleaner, washer / dryer, iron, ironing board, televisions (in family room and each bedroom), DVD player, fireplace, etc.



The Resort: Wyndham Resort at Fairfield Mountains / Rumbling Bald Resort is a 3,000+ acre hideaway on scenic Lake Lure in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Scenes from several movies have been filmed here. Twenty-seven miles of shoreline and private Bald Mountain Lake offer boating, fishing, and water sports. There are 40 miles of hiking trails. Two 18-hole, Dan Maple-designed golf courses are crisscrossed with trout streams. There is a full recreation center with indoor pool, sauna, and whirlpool and many other amenities onsite including three restaurants. Nearby Asheville is a mecca for country crafts and the magnificent Biltmore Estate.

Amenities Onsite (subject to change, and some have a fee): Sandy beach, boating, fishing, children's water park, two golf courses, two lakes, three restaurants, picnic / BBQ area, convenience store, Internet, movie rentals, miniature golf, marina (boat rentals, sailing, water skiing, canoeing), basketball, and outdoor tennis courts. The Wellness Center has an indoor heated pool, hot tub, sauna and spa, fitness equipment, plus two additional outdoor pools.

Amenities Nearby: Horseback riding, gem mining, the Biltmore House and Gardens, Chimney Rock Park, Linville Caverns, Blue Ridge Parkway, Great Smoky Mountains Railway, and much more.

Location: Lake Lure is located in western North Carolina, not far from Asheville, Hendersonville, Flat Rock, Lake Junaluska, Maggie Valley, Black Mountain, Waynesville, Chimney Rock, Bat Cave, etc.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if you are interested in renting our Mountain Loft #1 timeshare week. Our contact information is below. You may also want to check out this website: <http://www.rumblingbald.com/>.