



SCIENCE MATTERS

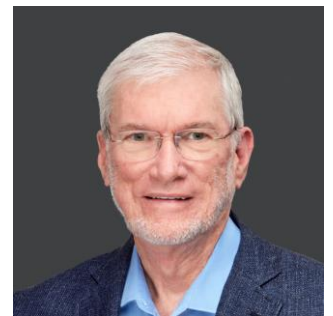
Science Partners Newsletter

January 2025 – In This Issue:

- **Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis:** Speaking in Winter Garden on January 26.
- **Creation-based STEM Workshop:** Friday and Saturday, January 31 - February 1.
- **St. Augustine – Florida History Tour:** Friday, January 17. **LAST CALL! We still have space for you!**
- **Manatee Snorkel Encounter:** Friday, February 21, 2025. **Minimum number deadline: January 24.**
- **Plan a CREATION ADVENTURE** for Your Group!
- **Senior Adult Ministry:** by Bill Clifton.

Ken Ham of *Answers in Genesis* Speaking in Winter Garden, January 26

Don't miss this opportunity to hear Ken Ham speak in Winter Garden! This event is free, and no registration is required. Ken Ham is the Founder CEO of **Answers in Genesis**, a worldwide ministry, and its two popular attractions: the acclaimed **Creation Museum** and the internationally known **Ark Encounter**, which features a life-size 510-foot-long Noah's Ark – sometimes described as the "8th Wonder of the Modern World."



Where: The Grove Bible Chapel, 5835 Citrus Village Blvd., Winter Garden, FL

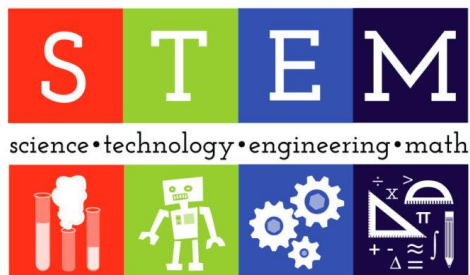
When: 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.: Topic – Genesis 1-11: The Foundation for Everything.
6:00 p.m.: Topic – Gospel Reset.

For More Information: Phone: 407-614-3255; Website: www.thegrovebiblechapel.org.

Creation-based STEM Workshop: Save the Dates: Jan. 31 – Feb. 1

Creation Education Resources is sponsoring the upcoming **Creation-based STEM Workshop** on Friday, January 31, and Saturday, February 1, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Hibernia Baptist Church, Fleming Island, near Jacksonville. **Special keynote address will be given by Mike Riddle on Friday at 7:00 p.m. Keynote address is free and open to everyone.**

Speakers: The six speakers listed below will focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math from a biblical, creation perspective, presenting three or four topics in their respective areas. Workshop sessions will be at Jr. High, Sr. High, and adult level.



- Bill Clifton – Biology
- Danny Faulkner – Astronomy and Physics
- Joe Laughlin – General Science
- Alfred Menendez – Aerospace Engineering
- Jim Mirabella – Math
- Mike Riddle – Worldviews and Apologetics

Cost: Adults: \$20.00; Children grades 1-12: \$10.00.

Pre-school child care Friday night service only: \$10 per child, not included in family minimum.
Maximum \$60.00 per family, including parents and children - if registered before Jan. 1, 2025.

To Register: <https://give.cornerstone.cc/creationeducation+stem>.

For more information: go to this link: <https://www.creationeducation.org/creation-stem-workshop>.



St. Augustine – Florida History Tour

Friday, January 17, 2025

Creation Adventures by Science Partners



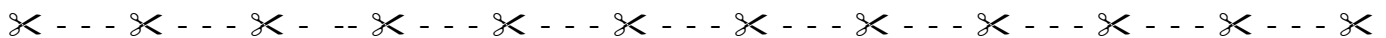
Jesus said, “Whosoever drinketh of the water I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” *John 4:14*

Join Bill and Merilee Clifton as we **tour St. Augustine, our nation’s oldest city**. Our day begins in the downtown historic district. (Parking at the Historic Downtown Parking Facility is \$20 per vehicle, per entry - cash, VISA, or Master Card - and subject to change.) **Group activities** downtown will include **Colonial Kids** program and **Red Train Tour**. With our St. Augustine guide, we’ll learn about kids in colonial times in St. Augustine and participate in activities like loom weaving, making a toy (whirligig), palm leaf weaving, knot boards, shoe sewing, and making a shell necklace. On the Red Train, we’ll enjoy a fully-narrated tour of dozens of historic sites downtown. Then on our own, we’ll explore **historic St. George Street**, stepping back in time to see the **Huguenot Cemetery, the City Gate, and the Oldest Wooden Schoolhouse in the USA** as well as displays in the St. Augustine Visitor Information Center (VIC). We have the option of a **self-guided visit to Castillo de San Marcos** to explore 300 years of Florida history in this unique national monument. Please note: At CdSM, ages 16+ must pay the entrance fee (\$15, subject to change) or have a pass. **Free passes** for **FAMILIES of 4th graders** are available at everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm, but must be printed **ahead of time**. Then, we’re off to the **Fountain of Youth (FOY)** (approximately one mile away), a National Archaeological Park, located at the site of the ancient Timucuan Village 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. We’ll tour **the Spring House** where we can **sample water from the spring** that Ponce de Leon thought was the Fountain of Youth. We’ll also see the **Discovery Globe, Navigators Planetarium, Timucuan Village of Seloy**, and **canon firing** (based on availability).

Meet between 8:45 and 9:00 AM between the Historic Downtown Parking Facility and the VIC, 10 S. Castillo Drive, St. Augustine. Check in with the Cliftons for driving directions and schedule. **Our day as a group will end at the FOY at 4:00 PM. Be sure to bring a picnic lunch.** It’s always a good idea to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, water, and rain poncho. **Minimum number is 40. Maximum number is 56 (Red Train capacity).** A responsible adult must accompany and supervise all children. **Minimum age: 5 years is recommended** (however, younger children may attend). Cost for ages 3 – 15 is \$41 and for ages 16 – adults is \$46. **Deadline for minimum number is December 20. Late registrations accepted, space permitting.**

You may register two ways:

- (1) Make your **check or money order** payable to **Science Partners** and mail it along with your registration form below to **343 Allison Ave., Longwood, FL 32750**. (Checks will be held until minimum number is reached.)
- (2) Make your **Zelle** payment to **Science Partners** at **407-808-4458**. **Also send the information requested on the form below** to Science Partners by email to info@sciencepartners.net or text 407-808-4458.



Registration Form: **ST. AUGUSTINE – FLORIDA HISTORY TOUR, Friday, January 17, 2025**

Family’s Last Name:			Cell Number:	
Homeschool Group:			Email:	
Adult Names:		Children’s Names and Ages:		Children’s Names and Ages:
1.	1.	1.	4.	4.
2.	2.	2.	5.	5.
3.	3.	3.	6.	6.
Cost: (Ages 2 and under are free)				
# Ages 3 - 15 years = ____ @ \$41 = \$ _____			# Ages 16 years + = ____ @ \$46 = \$ _____	
Total: \$		Circle Payment Type: Check Money Order Zelle		

MANATEE SNORKEL ENCOUNTER



Friday, February 21, 2025

Creation Adventures by Science Partners



Let heaven and earth praise Him, the waters and everything that moves in them. Psalm 69:34

Join Bill & Merilee Clifton - creationists, authors, Florida Master Naturalists, and science educators - as we **focus on "Florida's Gentle Giant" - the West Indian Manatee**. Our destination is Crystal River on *Florida's Nature Coast*. In the morning, outfitted with **wetsuits, snorkels, masks, and fins**, we will **take a pontoon boat ride in search of manatees**. When we find them, we'll join them in the crystal clear, spring-fed waters – the only place in Florida where it is legal to swim with manatees! During our **manatee encounter**, we'll observe these sociable, threatened mammals "up close and personal." We'll study them in their natural habitat, learn what threatens their survival, and find out how we can help. Then, we'll have our picnic lunch and tour **Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park (HSWSP)**. This 166-acre park, located at the headwater of the Homosassa River, is a **showcase for native Florida wildlife**. We'll see many examples, some endangered or threatened as we take the **"Wildlife Walk"** through natural wildlife habitats, keeping an eye out for alligators, snakes, deer, Florida black bear, bobcats, otter, Florida panthers, manatees (underwater viewing), and a variety of birds including endangered whooping cranes.

We will meet at American Pro Diving Center, 821 SE US Hwy. 19, Crystal River 34429, between 7:45 and 8:00 AM. IF YOU ARE LATE, YOU WILL LITERALLY MISS THE BOAT! Our day as a group will end at HSWSP around 3:00 PM. **Be sure to bring a picnic lunch.** It's always a good idea to bring sunscreen, insect repellent, water, rain poncho, and camera. If you have any questions, please email Merilee Clifton at sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com or call / text 407-808-4458. **Cost includes pontoon boat ride, wetsuit / snorkel / mask / fins rental, gratuities for pontoon boat crew, and entrance to HSWSP.**

Minimum number is 20; maximum is 41 (capacity for two boats). A supervising adult must accompany and swim with all children. **Minimum age is five years. Deadline for minimum number is January 24, 2025. Later registrations may be accepted, space permitting and with dive shop's approval.**

You may register two ways:

- (1) Make your **check or money order** payable to **Science Partners** and mail it along with your registration form below to **343 Allison Ave., Longwood, FL 32750**. (Checks will be held until minimum number is reached.)
- (2) Make your **Zelle** payment to **Science Partners** at **407-808-4458**. **Also email or text the information requested on the form below** to Science Partners at sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com or 407-808-4458.



Registration Form: MANATEE SNORKEL ENCOUNTER – Friday, February 21, 2025

Family's Last Name:		Cell Number:	
Homeschool Group:		Email:	
Adult Names:	Children's Names and Ages:	Children's Names and Ages:	
1.	1.	1.	4.
2.	2.	2.	5.
3.	3.	3.	6.
Cost: (Ages 2 and under are free)			
# Ages 5-12 years = ____ @ \$75 = \$ _____		# Ages 13 years + = ____ @ \$80 = \$ _____	
Total: \$	Circle Payment Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Zelle		

See next page for important MSE information.

MANATEE SNORKEL ENCOUNTER (continued)

Please read entirely and contact us if you have any questions!

WHO: Manatee Snorkel Encounter participants.

WHERE: Meet at American Pro Diving Center, 821 SE US 19, Crystal River **between 7:45 and 8:00 AM**. It is critical that you be on time! **If you are late, you will literally miss the boat!** Manatees are early risers! Please check driving directions and driving time – and be sure to allow extra time from your home. Don't forget change or E-pass if you use toll roads.

WHAT TO WEAR: Please **WEAR YOUR BATHING SUIT** under your clothes to the dive shop. This will save us a lot of time as we "gear up" (put on wetsuits and get snorkels, masks, and fins).

WHAT TO BRING: ***Please read checklist below carefully. Everything has a specific purpose.***

Each Family / Car:	Each Person – <i>Bring the following items in a bag:</i>
Directions.	<u>On Boat:</u> <u>Sweat suit</u> (or something with long sleeves, long pants) to wear over wet bathing suit after snorkeling and then taking wetsuit off on the boat. Ride back may be chilly! <u>Shoes</u> that can get wet on boat. <u>Towel.</u>
Full Tank of Gas.	
E-pass/Change.	<u>After Snorkeling:</u> <u>Dry clothes and shoes</u> to change into at dive shop. These can be what you wear over your bathing suit to the dive shop in the morning. <u>Undergarments, toiletries...</u>
Sunscreen.	
Insect Repellent.	<u>Small plastic bag(s)</u> for wet bathing suit, clothes, and towel.
Water.	<u>Lunch / Water</u> in disposable bag (or something you can carry). You may bring a cooler in your car, but coolers are not allowed in Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.
Snacks.	
	<u>Optional:</u> Hat, rain poncho, and camera, etc. You might also consider a disposable underwater camera. Dive shop offers video for sale after trip.

SCHEDULE:

Be at the dive shop in Crystal River between 7:45 and 8:00 AM. (We have hotel information if you'd like to go over the day before.) Dive shop personnel will meet us and direct us as we gear up. We are required to view a short video, ***Manatee Manners***, on appropriate behavior in the water with the manatees. Then we'll drive to Pete's Pier and leave our cars (parking \$5 – subject to change). Driving directions will be provided. The pontoon boat(s) will pick us up there, and we'll head out in search of manatees. We'll snorkel with the manatees and then return to the pier around 11:00 AM. We'll drive back to the dive shop to change clothes. Then, we'll eat our picnic lunches and Mr. Clifton will give us a lesson on manatees. After lunch, we'll enter Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park where we'll take their "Wildlife Walk," enter a floating underwater manatee observatory, and observe many native Florida animals, birds, and plants in their natural settings. Our day as a group will end at HSWSP around 3:00 PM. You are welcome to stay in the park until it closes at 5:30 PM.

WHY: *"Ask the beasts and let them teach you; and the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you. Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; and let the fish of the sea declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind."* Job 12:7-10

FYI: There are nice gift shops at the dive shop and at the wildlife state park.

Blessings,

Bill & Merilee Clifton

SCIENCE PARTNERS

Plan a **CREATION ADVENTURE** for Your Group!

Join the Cliftons as we take a hike, snorkel with manatees, ride an airboat, hold an alligator, go beachcombing, seine in a lagoon, go birding, earn a birding certificate, learn about Florida history, and more on a **Creation Field Trip** in the great outdoors of Florida. Or see the heavens in a portable planetarium, learn about bears, bugs, dinosaurs, marine science, or Noah's Ark at your location in a **Creation Workshop**. *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!*



CREATION FIELD TRIPS: All-day trips out in the field!

1. **Central Florida Habitats:** Blue Spring State Park's wetlands habitat – river cruise on floating laboratory, earn a FL Fish & Wildlife birding certificate; Lyonia Preserve's scrub habitat – nature walk, environmental center.
2. **Creationist Guide to SeaWorld:** SeaWorld Orlando – creationist tour.
3. **Florida's Water Systems:** Canaveral National Seashore's saltwater ecosystem – beach activities; Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center – ecosystem film and displays; Indian River Lagoon's brackish water ecosystem – seining activity; and St. Johns River's fresh water ecosystem – airboat ride.
4. **For the Birds:** Orlando Wetlands, Christmas – learn about birds, hike, earn a FL Fish & Wildlife birding certificate.
5. **Manatee Snorkel Encounter:** Crystal River – snorkel with manatees; Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park – see many examples of native Florida wildlife, as we take the "Wildlife Walk" through natural wildlife habitats.
6. **St. Augustine – Florida History Tour:** See historic downtown St. Augustine on a Red Train Tour; explore St. George Street's historic sites; participate in Colonial Kids program, optional visit to Castillo de San Marcos; and learn about FL history at the Fountain of Youth's Spring House, Discovery Globe, Navigators Planetarium, and Timucuan Village.

CREATION WORKSHOPS: Three-hour programs at your location!

1. **The Bear Essentials:** Learn about the world's major bear species, and then focus on our own Florida Black Bear.
2. **The Heavens Declare!:** Compare and contrast the biblical and secular worldviews of astronomy. Topics include astronomy in the Bible, the earth, moon, stars, constellations, meteors, planets, our Solar System, and more. Enjoy a "Gospel in the Stars" astronomy presentation in the **STARLAB**, a portable planetarium.
3. **Hidden Kingdom – Insects & Arachnids:** See preserved specimens of the world's largest insect, heaviest insect, the insect with the largest eyes, and more! Learn about God's design in the hidden world of insects and arachnids.
4. **Marine Science – A Sea of Evidence:** Can a male sea animal give birth? Are there fish that actually have their own lighting systems? What sea animal has eyes as big as soccer balls? Get answers to these and other questions as we study the awesome creatures that live in the sea from a creationist viewpoint.
5. **Noah's Ark and the Worldwide Flood:** The story of Noah's Ark has been told for centuries in cultures all over the world. Is it true? Could one man build a boat big enough for all the animals fit on it? Even dinosaurs? Did the flood destroy every living thing? Was it global or local? What about fossils? Get answers from a biblical perspective!
6. **Walk with the Dinosaurs:** Are dinosaurs mentioned in the Bible? Did they live along with man? Why did they become extinct? Are they really extinct? How about fossils? Get scientific answers from a biblical perspective!

HOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR CREATION FIELD TRIP OR WORKSHOP

1. Go to our website: 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 see what dates are already scheduled and check on available dates.
3. Once you've decided on an event and a date, contact us so we can begin contacting vendors and making reservations. Now you can sit back and relax! We'll take care of all the details!
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.
5. If you have any questions, please contact Merilee Clifton by phone at 407-808-4458 or by email at info@sciencepartners.net.

PLEASE NOTE: If your small homeschool or other group can't meet the minimum number for an event, with your permission we can "open" your event to other homeschoolers.

Senior Adult Ministry by Bill Clifton

While serving on church staff at First Baptist Church of Altamonte Springs, Bill developed a special desire to minister to, entertain, challenge, and spiritually engage older adults. He does this through leading group singing of the old Gospel hymns accompanied by his banjo *Harriette*, storytelling, and Biblical devotions.

Some of the churches Bill has ministered to are Downtown Baptist Church, Orlando Baptist Church, Lockhart Baptist Church, and First Baptist Church of Altamonte Springs – although being a Baptist is not a requirement! 😊

Bill and his wife Merilee look forward to using their gifts and talents with your senior adult luncheons or other gatherings. Contact us if you love to sing the old Gospel hymns, laugh 'til you cry, and reflect on God's Word.



“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.”
Proverbs 17:22

***“Give thanks to the LORD with the banjo;
make melody to him with the instrument of five strings.”***
Psalm 33:2 (Clifton Version)

***Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: come before His presence with singing.”***
Psalm 100:1-2

***For more information or to have Bill share at your event,
contact Bill or Merilee Clifton at 407-808-4458 or info@sciencepartners.net.***

