SCIENCE MATTERS

Science Partners Newsletter

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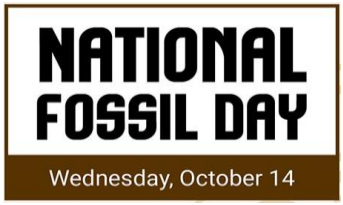
NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14



So, you've heard that fossils prove that the earth is millions of years old. Actually, they refute gradual evolution and slow fossilization, and they give evidence of purposeful design and rapid burial in the catastrophic global flood of Noah.

Fossils are simply described as "bone to stone." What was once a living organism (plant or animal) is now that same organism, but turned to stone. A process occurs that converts living tissue into non-living minerals (stone). Most scientists (called paleontologists) attribute this process to "millions of years" as organisms died and their remains slowly absorbed minerals from water around them. Their premise hinges millions of years. But if we believe the Bible, that God created everything in six 24-hour days about six thousand years ago, the long time factor necessary for fossilization could not have happened. For example, at the Florida Fossil Fair we once saw a fossilized jelly fish. Living, soft-bodied jellyfish are 95% water. That's the same as the water content of a cloud. Yet this jellyfish had turned into solid stone with all its body features still present and visible! It would have to fossilize quickly for all its parts to remain intact. Two of our prized authentic fossils are actually dinosaur "poop" (called coprolite). Do you think poop would remain intact for millions of years before it turned into stone? We also have photos of fossilized fish with fossilized fish inside their stomachs. These specimens are completely intact. Their swallowed food didn't have enough time to be digested before fossilization. We have many other examples of fossilization including photos of a cowboy boot found with a fossilized leg bone and ankle inside it and a fossilized felt hat found in a mine in Australia. Our favorite fossil that shows it doesn't take "millions of years" is our fossilized teddy bear. At Mother Shipton's Cave in England, cloth teddy bears are hung in a waterfall so full of minerals that ***it takes four months to turn them to stone.*** That's right – four months! (See photos.) So, there goes the "millions of years" theory out the window.

FLORIDA FOSSIL HUNTERS' *FOSSIL FAIR* - OCTOBER 3-4, SANFORD

Florida Fossil Hunters

Florida Fossil Hunters' 35th Annual Fossil Fair
Sanford Civic Center, 401 E. Seminole Blvd., Sanford FL 32771.
Saturday, October 3, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 4, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Admission is $6.00 for adults and $2.00 for children.

Besides fossils, rocks, minerals, artifacts, books, and supplies, there will be silent auctions, children's activities, educational displays, and more! For more information, you may call 407-721-0481 or 407-699-9274 or visit: https://floridafossilhunters.com/fossil-fair/.

CREATION SPEAKERS COMING TO CENTRAL FLORIDA

These are two great opportunities to hear world-renowned creation science speakers who are coming to our area for FREE meetings:

Dr. Jonathan Sarfati of Creation Ministries International:
https://creation.com/en/people/dr-jonathan-sarfati
Grace Presbyterian Church, 1 Church Lane, Cape Canaveral.
Saturday, October 10, at 4:00 p.m. Topic: "Six Days…Really?"
Sunday, October 11, at 9:45 a.m. Topic: Jurassic Reality: Dinosaurs & FAQ's,
11:00 a.m. Design, Deluge, & Dilemma, and 6:00 p.m. The Christian Roots of Real Science.

Dr. Randy Guliuzza, President of Institute for Creation Research
https://www.icr.org/randy_guliuzza/
Bayside Community Church, 3333 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33629.
Sunday, November 1, at 10:00 a.m. Topic: Is Creation a Salvation Issue? Does it Matter?
11:00 a.m. Topic: The Image of God: Why it Matters.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME - "FALL BACK" ON NOVEMBER 1

Don't forget to set your clocks back!

"Daylight Savings Time" officially ends and "Standard Time" begins on Sunday, November 1, at 2:00 AM. So, don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night. ***And, enjoy that extra hour of sleep!***

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven,"
Ecclesiastes 3:1

PLAN A CREATION ADVENTURE FOR YOUR GROUP!

JOIN BILL & MERILEE CLIFTON, creationists, authors, Florida Master Naturalists, and science educators, as we look for God's great design in nature. For details such as minimum and maximum numbers, costs, destinations, and more, each event has a dedicated web page at www.sciencepartners.net under the ***"Creation Field Trips"*** or ***"Creation Workshops"*** tabs. **CREATION ADVENTURES** information / registration forms are linked to calendar summaries at www.sciencepartners.net/calendar.html. Contact Merilee Clifton if you have questions or you'd like to schedule a **CREATION ADVENTURE** for your group. See next two pages for summaries of Creation Field Trips and Creation Workshops.

2027 "OPEN" CREATION ADVENTURES

Join **Science Partners** on **CREATION ADVENTURES** that are **"*OPEN*"** to any homeschoolers, their families, and friends. The "*Deadline for Minimum Number*" date is when we need to meet our minimum number. Later registrations may be accepted, space permitting.

Questions? Contact Merilee Clifton at 407-808-4458 or sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com.

FIELD TRIP SUMMARIES:

Friday, January 22, 2027 - *ST. AUGUSTINE – FLORIDA HISTORY TOUR:*
Deadline for Minimum Number is December 25, 2026.
For more information, go to: https://www.sciencepartners.net/st-augustine---florida-history-tour.html.

- **Fountain of Youth Programs**: Spring House, Discovery Globe, Navigators Planetarium, canon firing, Timucuan Village and more (based on availability).
- **Colonial Kids Program**: Learn about kids in Spanish Colonial times with hands-on activities like loom weaving, making a whirligig, shoe sewing, making a shell necklace;
- **Red Train Tour**: Narrated tour of dozens of sites in the historic downtown district;
- **Historic St. George Street**: Explore historic sites and shop;
- **Optional Visit to Castillo de San Marcos** (the "Fort"): Explore 300 years of Florida history in this unique national monument. Free passes available for families of 4th graders. (See information / registration form.) Kids 15 and under free at fort.

Friday, February 12, 2027 - *FOR THE BIRDS:*
At Orlando Wetlands, Christmas, FL
Deadline for Minimum Number is January 15, 2027.
For more information, go to: https://www.sciencepartners.net/for-the-birds.html.

- **Introduction to Birding Class**: Learn about birds from a biblical, creationist perspective. Learn how to use binoculars, how to use a bird field guide, and how to identify birds;
- **Nature Walk**: Take a nature walk observing birds and other animals like deer, raccoons, otters, and alligators;
- **Earn Florida Fish & Wildlife "Jr. Birding Certificate"**: When you identify 15 Florida birds;
- **Birding Craft**: Families "Create a Bird."

Friday, March 19, 2027 - *MANATEE SNORKEL ENCOUNTER:*
Deadline for Minimum Number is February 19, 2027.
For more information, go to: https://www.sciencepartners.net/manatee-snorkel-encounter.html.

- **Crystal River**: Take a pontoon boat ride in search of manatees. When we find them, we'll join them in their natural habitat as we swim / snorkel with manatees.
- **Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park**: Tour this showcase for native Florida wildlife. On our "Wildlife Walk," we'll observe many examples of native Florida animals, some threatened or endangered, in their natural habitats.

Friday, April 9, 2027 - *FLORIDA'S WATER SYSTEMS:*
Deadline for Minimum Number is March 12, 2027.
For more information, go to: https://www.sciencepartners.net/floridas-water-systems.html.

- **Canaveral National Seashore**: Orientation and beach activities at this saltwater ecosystem;
- **Indian River Lagoon**: Seining activity to capture marine specimens, study them, and release them back into the brackish water environment;
- **St. Johns River**: Airboat ride to observe plant and animal life of freshwater habitat; hold baby alligator.

2026-2027 CREATION ADVENTURES: FIELD TRIPS

CENTRAL FLORIDA HABITATS: Our first stop is Blue Spring State Park, home to hammock, marsh, swamp, and flatwoods habitats. We will cruise the St. Johns River and enjoy a fully narrated introduction to the wildlife and vegetation of this fragile ecosystem! We'll test river water for temperature, salinity, and turbidity; dip, collect, and identify marine specimens; and keep a look out for manatees, gators, otters, snakes, deer, bears, turtles, birds, and more. We'll have the opportunity to earn a birding certificate from Florida Fish and Wildlife. On a boardwalk hike along Blue Spring Run, we'll look for manatees. Then, we're off to Lyonia Preserve where we will hike into a scrub habitat looking gopher tortoises and one of Florida's most threatened birds, the Florida scrub-jay. We'll learn about plants and animals created specifically for the scrub habitat. We'll end with a visit to Lyonia Environmental Center.

CREATIONIST GUIDE TO SEAWORLD: Mr. Clifton, former head of SeaWorld Orlando's Education Department, knows his way around the park and will provide a unique and fascinating perspective of SeaWorld as we learn about the sea and the animals 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? Find answers to these questions and more exploring SeaWorld from a creationist viewpoint! After creation tour, you may stay on your own until the park closes.

FLORIDAS WATER SYSTEMS: At Canaveral National Seashore, we'll begin with an orientation, beach walk/clean up, and "*BINGOcean"* scavenger hunt at this saltwater ecosystem. After our picnic lunch, we will wade into the Indian River Lagoon's brackish water environment with seining nets. Our Capture & Release permit allows us to study the marine specimens we catch and return them to the water. On previous trips, we 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 gators, eagles, turtles, and more!

FOR THE BIRDS: Join us as we focus on Florida birds at Orlando Wetlands. On this "Introduction to Birding" field trip, we will learn how birds were specifically designed by their Creator to do what they do. We'll cover the basics of birding: how to use binoculars, how to use a field guide, and how to identify birds. Then, we will take a nature walk observing birds (and possibly other animals) in the wild. We'll have the opportunity to earn a birding certificate from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and also learn how to continue earning advanced birding certificates on our own. Our day will include information on birding resources, how to start a bird "life list," where to see birds around Florida, bird crafts, and more!

MANATEE SNORKEL ENCOUNTER: We'll focus on "Florida's Gentle Giant" - the West Indian Manatee. We'll meet at the dive shop in Crystal River. Then, outfitted with wetsuits, masks, and snorkels, we will take a pontoon boat ride in search of manatees and join them in the crystal clear, spring-fed waters of King's Bay. During our manatee encounter, we'll observe these sociable mammals "up close and personal" in their natural habitat. After lunch, we'll head for Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park, a showcase for native Florida wildlife including alligators, snakes, deer, Florida black bear, bobcats, otter, Florida panthers, manatees, birds including endangered whooping cranes. After our "Wildlife Walk," you may stay in the park until it closes.

ST. AUGUSTINE FLORIDA HISTORY TOUR: Our tour of St. Augustine, our nation's oldest city begins at the Fountain of Youth, a National Archaeological Park. We'll see the Spring House, the Discovery Globe, Navigators Planetarium, Timucuan Village of Seloy, and canon firing (based on availability). Then, we're off to the historic downtown district. Group activities downtown include Colonial Kids where we'll learn about St. Augustine kids in colonial times; a fully-narrated Red Train Tour of dozens of historic sites. On our own, 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. And 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 along with unique shopping opportunities.

Bill & Merilee Clifton · Cell/Text 407-808-4458 · www.sciencepartners.net · info@sciencepartners.net

2026-2027 CREATION ADVENTURES: WORKSHOPS

THE BEAR ESSENTIALS: What is a bear? Where do bears live around the world? Could they be living in your neighborhood? We'll look at the eight bear species of the world in general, and then we'll focus on our own Florida Black Bear. This bear is our state's largest mammal. Through a variety of activities including a teaching time, crafts, and a game, we will learn bear anatomy and physiology, behavior, seasonal activities and movement, life cycles, habitat requirements, and limiting factors. We'll see bear skulls, claws, tracks, fur, scat, and more as well as learn ecological concepts to help us understand how our actions impact the Florida Black Bear's survival. We will learn to "Be Bear Aware."

THE HEAVENS DECLARE: At our "out of this world" workshop, we'll compare and contrast the biblical and secular worldviews of astronomy. Topics include astronomy versus astrology, astronomy in the Bible, the earth, moon, stars, constellations, meteors, planets, our Solar System, galaxies, and the universe. Mr. Clifton will present a fascinating astronomy program, and we will make astronomy crafts. The highlight of this workshop will be an exciting astronomy presentation in the StarLab, a portable planetarium. PLEASE NOTE: This workshop is best suited for ages 5 and up. The presentation inside the StarLab is not suitable for preschoolers.

HIDDEN KINGDOM INSECTS & ARACHNIDS: Buzz on by as we learn about the "Hidden Kingdom" of insects, spiders, and other creepy things! You'll be bug-eyed when you see preserved specimens of the world's longest insect, the world's heaviest insect, the insect with the largest eyes, and more! Learn about the butterfly and its life cycle – from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly. Do butterflies grow? How do they smell things? Do they migrate? What is "metamorphosis?" What does the Bible say about metamorphosis? Discover much about creepy crawlies during our teaching time, by playing a game, viewing a short video, and making creepy, crawly crafts.

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? Mr. Clifton will share with us his knowledge of the sea and its awesome creatures. We'll enjoy a fascinating visual presentation / teaching time, see marine artifacts (shark jaw, megalodon tooth, horseshoe crab, stingray barbs, and more!), and participate in a game and crafts to reinforce what we learn about the sea.

NOAHS ARK AND THE WORLDWIDE FLOOD: The story of Noah's ark and the worldwide flood has been told for centuries with variations in cultures all over the world. Is this story really true? Could one man build a floating wooden structure that big? How could all the animals fit on the ark? What about dinosaurs? Did the flood destroy every living thing? Was it global or just local? Where did the flood waters come from - and where did they go? Is there any evidence of a worldwide flood? What about fossils? How are they formed? What can we learn from them? And what does all this mean to me today? Find answers to these and other questions during this workshop that includes a teaching time, artifacts including a scale model of the ark and fossils, crafts, and a game.

DINOSAURS, DRAGONS, AND FOSSILS: Are dinosaurs and dragons mentioned in the Bible? Did they live along with man or did they die out "millions of years ago"? Why did they become extinct? Are they all extinct? What can we really know about them? Mr. Clifton will share surprising information about dinosaurs and dragons with us. We'll also learn about dinosaurs through a game and crafts. We'll see actual fossils of dinosaurs and other animals, learn how fossils form, and much more!

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Senior Adult Ministry by Bill Clifton

While serving as Minister of Education at First Baptist Church of Altamonte Springs (later to relocate and become WaterStone Church in Longwood), Bill developed a special desire to minister to, entertain, challenge, and spiritually engage older adults. He does this through leading group singing of old Gospel hymns accompanied by his banjo *Harriette*, storytelling, and Biblical devotions.

Also, as a science teacher for 50 years, Bill also offers Biblically-based programs for senior adults. Each program lasts about 45 minutes and includes a PowerPoint presentation and artifacts. Topics include:

- *The Relevance of Genesis*;
- *Noah's Ark and the Worldwide Flood;*
- *Dinosaurs, Dragons, and Fossils;*
- *The Heavens Declare;*
- *Marine Science - A Sea of Evidence;*
- *For the Birds;* and
- *The Hidden Kingdom - Insects & Arachnids*.

Some of the churches that Bill has ministered to are Downtown Baptist Church (Orlando), Orlando Baptist Church, Lockhart Baptist Church, WaterStone Church (Longwood), and Ascension Lutheran Church (Casselberry)**.**

Bill and his wife Merilee look forward to sharing their God-given gifts, talents, and experiences with your senior adult gatherings. Contact us if you love to sing the old Gospel hymns, laugh 'til you cry, and reflect on God's Word and His world.

"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 schedule Bill to share at your event, contact Bill or Merilee Clifton at 407-808-4458 or sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com.