



# SCIENCE MATTERS

## Science Partners Newsletter

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### Summer Bucket List – Recommendations from the Cliftons

Summer is a great time to compile a "Bucket List" of interesting places nearby to visit. We are very fortunate here in Central Florida to be close to so many fun, fascinating, and educational places. Below is a list of a few of our favorite places. We hope you'll be able to check some of them out this summer. Have fun!



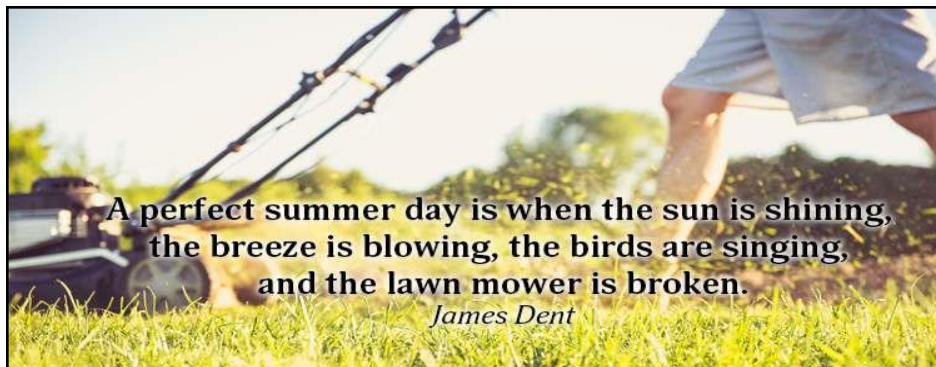
**The Dinosaur Store:** <http://www.dinosaurstore.com>. Located in Cocoa Beach, this may be the largest collection of fossils you'll ever see. It is awesome! They are labeled "millions of years" old, so don't forget to take your "baloney detector!" But, don't let that stop you from seeing these incredible fossils. They also have a huge collection of Egyptian artifacts.

**Canaveral National Seashore and Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge:**

<http://www.nps.gov/cana/index.htm> and <http://www.fws.gov/merrittisland/>. CNS has the most beautiful beaches on Florida's Atlantic coast. There is nowhere in Florida like CNS / MINWR for great hiking trails, birding, scenery, kayaking, canoeing, and more. Check out their Visitor Centers for special events, and click here for info about their summer "turtle watch" tours: <https://www.recreation.gov/ticket/facility/10112064>.

**De Leon Springs State Park & The Old Sugar Mill Restaurant:** [www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/de-leon-springs-state-park](http://www.floridastateparks.org/parks-and-trails/de-leon-springs-state-park). This great park offers a break from the summer heat while swimming or snorkeling in the cool springs as well as a wonderful restaurant with a pancake breakfast that you cook yourself on the grill at your table. Canoe and kayak rentals are available, and you can enjoy an eco / history boat tour of the area. It is best to go during the week and not on weekends because of crowds!

**The Florida Aquarium:** [www.flaquarium.org/](http://www.flaquarium.org/). At Florida Aquarium in Tampa, you can get up close and personal with many of Florida's land and sea animals and habitats. Florida Aquarium has thousands of animals under their care and has rescued hundreds since they opened in 1995. They are "working to protect and restore our blue planet on many conservation fronts, including research and rescue efforts that help restore Florida's sea turtle and coral populations and to ensure that sharks continue to swim our seas."



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining,  
the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing,  
and the lawn mower is broken.

*James Dent*

## Institute for Creation Research's *Creation Kids: Butterflies*

by Renée Dusseau and Susan Windsor

You're never too young to be a creation scientist and explore our Creator's world. Kids can discover fun facts about God's creation with ICR's special *Creation Kids* learning and activities page. (Links below.)

Our Lord Jesus created all kinds of buzzworthy insects – like butterflies! From metamorphosis and pollination to scaly wings and migrations, butterflies are beautifully designed.

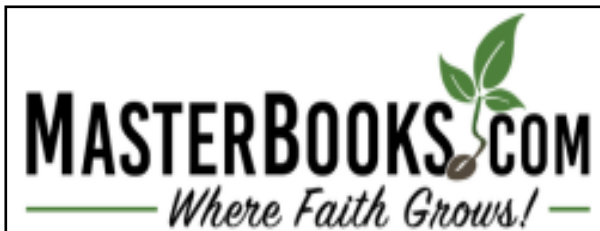
Click [HERE](#) to download the July-August 2024 activity page.

Click [HERE](#) for all of ICR's *Creation Kids* activity pages.

For lots more "*Creation Information*," go to [www.ICR.org](http://www.ICR.org).



## Florida Families – Save on Master Books Curriculum with ESAs



Master Books is excited to share a fantastic opportunity for your homeschooling journey – [Education Savings Accounts \(ESAs\)](#). ESAs provide families with financial flexibility and support for education expenses. **And here's some great news: Master Books curriculum is now eligible for purchase through Florida's Step Up for Students Educational Savings Program!** Purchases will be made at MyScholarShop.

What does this mean for you? You can enhance your children's education with Master Books' gospel-infused, homeschool curriculum materials while maximizing your savings through state-sponsored education funds. It's a win-win situation, empowering you to tailor your child's learning experience without breaking the bank.

### ***Here's how you can make the most of this opportunity:***

- [Explore Master Books Curriculum:](#)** Browse Master Books' extensive collection of curriculum materials designed to meet the needs of Christian homeschooling families. From foundational subjects to enriching electives, they've got you covered.
- [Utilize ESAs:](#)** Tap into the benefits of Education Savings Accounts by using them to purchase Master Books curriculum. Stretch your educational dollars further while giving your children an exceptional faith-based, educational experience.
- [Florida's Step Up for Students Educational Savings Program:](#)** Take advantage of this program specifically tailored for homeschooling families in Florida. It has never been easier to access high-quality educational resources while optimizing your budget.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to elevate your homeschooling journey [with Master Books curriculum and ESAs](#). Empower your children with knowledge, values, and a love for learning that will last a lifetime.

☆ GET THE DETAILS HERE ☆

## ***It's Time to Plan a 2024-2025 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, Noah's Ark, and more in a Creation Workshop at your location!



### **Creation Field Trips: All-day trips out in the field!**

1. **Central Florida Habitats** – Blue Spring State Park and Lyonia Preserve.
2. **Creationist Guide to SeaWorld** – SeaWorld Orlando.
3. **Florida's Water Systems** – Canaveral National Seashore, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Indian River Lagoon, St. Johns River.
4. **For the Birds** – Orlando Wetlands Park, Christmas.
5. **Manatee Snorkel Encounter** – Crystal River and Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.
6. **St. Augustine – Florida History Tour** – Historic Downtown St. Augustine.

### **Creation Workshops: Three-hour programs at your location!**

1. **The Bear Essentials**
2. **The Heavens Declare!**
3. **Hidden Kingdom – Insects & Arachnids**
4. **Marine Science – A Sea of Evidence**
5. **Noah's Ark and the Worldwide Flood**
6. **Walk with the Dinosaurs**

### **How to Schedule Your Creation Field Trip or Workshop:**

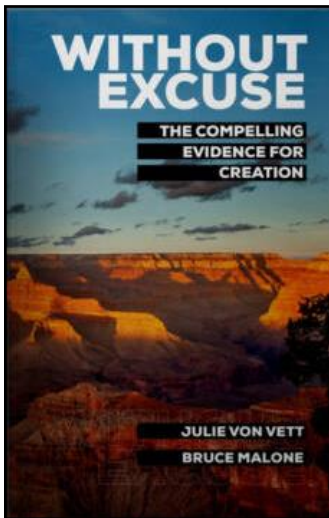
1. Go to our website: [www.sciencepartners.net](http://www.sciencepartners.net). Click on the “**Creation Field Trips**” and “**Creation Workshops**” tabs to review the field trips and workshops that we offer.
2. Go to the “**Calendar**” tab to see what dates are already scheduled and check on available 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 [sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com](mailto:sciencepartners@cfl.rr.com).

P.S. If your small homeschool group can't meet the minimum number for the event, with your permission we can “open” the trip to other homeschoolers.

***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!***

## **Without Excuse: Evidence from History – The First Moon Landing**

### **The Compelling Evidence for Creation**



On the morning of July 16, 1969, an estimated one million spectators watched from the highways and beaches in the vicinity of Cape Canaveral, Florida as Apollo 11 lifted off to take men to the surface of the moon for the first time. The launch was televised live in 33 countries, with an estimated 25 million viewers in the United States alone. Apollo 11 was manned by Neil Armstrong (the first man to walk on the moon), Buzz Aldrin (the second man to walk on the moon), and Michael Collins (in charge of piloting the orbiting Command Module).

Buzz Aldrin, a strong Christian believer **took communion while sitting in the lunar lander** and read Jesus' words from John 15:5. He was forced by NASA to keep this ceremony a secret because of a lawsuit over the reading of Genesis on Apollo 8! In 1970, he commented: *"It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the Moon, and the first food eaten there, were communion elements."* In response to his actions on the moon

being censored by NASA officials, Aldrin hit upon a more universal reference to his faith on the voyage back to Earth by publicly broadcasting the reading of Psalm 8:3-4, *"When I consider the heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained, what is man that Thou art mindful of him."*

These great explorers and men of science saw no conflict between their belief in God, their trust in God's Word, and the achievements of science. Their words and actions indicated that they actually depended upon and credited God for mankind's greatest achievements.



***"I am the vine. You are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for you can do nothing without me," John 15:5***

Note: This daily devotion was taken with permission 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 we are using it as part of our daily devotions. To purchase your own copy, go to <https://searchforthetruth.net/store/>.

### **George Washington Carver Quote:**

***Reading about nature is fine.  
But, if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully,  
He can learn more than what is written in books,  
For they speak with the voice of God.***



## Bill Clifton's Senior Citizen Ministry

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 accomplishes 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 talents with your senior adult lunches / 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.  
Know ye that the Lord He is God:  
It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves;  
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise:  
Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.  
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;  
And his truth endureth to all generations,”***  
Psalm 100

