

August 3, 2011

Greetings in Christ!

We praise God for the strength that He continues to give us despite many challenges to our efforts. We are obviously getting closer, because the devil is throwing more and more arrows at us, but we are so blessed through our donors, our volunteers, our investors, and those wonderful people who continue to shield us with their prayers.

[Creation and Life issues in the news:](#) **Opals Can Form in Weeks**

by Brian Thomas, M.S. *

Modern geology is based on the notion that the physical properties of earth developed over long ages. But coal and oil can form quickly, even in hours.¹ Mount St. Helens made mudstones in months.² Amber hardens from tree resin fast enough to preserve insects.³ Diamonds roughly develop in weeks.⁴ Fossils formed fast enough to "freeze" live births.⁵ Lava and magma begin cooling into igneous rocks as soon as they near earth's surface.

And now Australian researchers have shown evidence that opals formed rapidly.

According to their scientific report, the right conditions—not long time spans—are all that is needed to make opals. Opals are unique among precious gems because they do not take a regular crystalline shape but are instead amorphous. They are composed of silica, the same essential compound as glass, but are valued both for their unique and often stunning bright color swirls and their "play of color" outer sheen.⁶ They have been found as sheets or nodules, sometimes as a coating overlaying fossil bones or as intrusions into sedimentary rock layers.

To read more: <http://www.icr.org/article/6242/>

Polar Bear Researcher Suspended, Under Investigation for 'Integrity Issues'

A leading [climate scientist](#) whose report in 2006 of drowning polar bears in Arctic waters galvanized the global warming movement -- and was highlighted in Al Gore's Oscar-winning climate-change documentary -- has been suspended, possibly over the accuracy of his observations.

Charles Monnett -- who manages as much as \$50 million worth of [climate research](#) on Arctic wildlife and ecology -- was told on July 18 that he was being put on leave pending an investigation into "integrity issues," according to a letter posted online by the advocacy group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), which is questioning Monnett's suspension.

The complaints against the Anchorage-based scientist with the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) remain unclear, and the connection to his seven-page 2006 peer-reviewed paper on the drownings are unknown, despite a months-long or longer investigation.

PEER charges Monnett's suspension amounts to a witch hunt.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/07/29/polar-bear-researcher-under-investigation-for-integrity-issues/#ixzz1Tw0LiIgD>

Nature Watch: Our geese continue to grow. This week they took flight – well sort of. When one comes up to them they take a few running steps and then go into the air for 10 or 15 feet. They are not quite ready to take off, but they are figuring out what the next steps will be. We had quite a blow this past weekend. There was a micro-burst of wind that took out about 20 trees, some quite large. Storms continue to blow through, dropping lots of rain and pushing trees to the brink. Days are starting to get shorter by about 3 minutes every day. We've actually started to see some color among sumacs. Grain is getting ripe and ready for harvest. The first potatoes are coming out of the ground. Sweet corn is now available. Apples are ripening, just needing some more size and color before some are ready for harvest. First cucumbers have been picked and the first squash are starting to show. We've even seen some ripe tomatoes. If you spend time looking, you can spot lots of wildlife, especially young birds and deer. We've also spotted some young fox, raccoons, and a skunk or two. Enjoy nature, it won't be long before we'll be enjoying winter.

Program Information: We continue to plan programs for our Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center. What we would like to do in this space of the next few months is to share some of the program ideas that our Task Force members have been working on. The first is Teaching Creation- This program is designed for pastors, teachers, DCEs, and other professionals to help them better understand how to make sure that creation is being taught in their Sunday Schools, parochial schools, and other programs. It will be led by a faculty of professors and pastors.

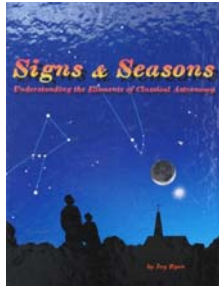
Bulletin insert: God's handiwork is very evident in the stars and the heavens. Take some time to enjoy the summer skies.

From the Task force: the Task Force met this past Monday with nearly all members present. The Task Force received updates on the finances for purchasing the property and authorized a select committee to work on the next steps including contracts, agreements, and other details. They also asked that a series of information meetings be done to inform Lutheran Island Camp board, District board, LLC, and others about the programs, budgets, etc. The task force has received an official appraisal of the property. This was done to meet concerns of some who thought the property might not be valued correctly. We were pleased to see that the 4 different comparables along with at least 5 other properties we've identified show that we are looking at a correct valuation of the property.

God's Word: The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all peoples see his glory. Psalms 97:6

Prayer List: 1.) Please continue to remember Pastor Randy Maland in your prayers. He will have a very long road to recovery. 2.) Rejoice with us as the Moldenhauer family is able to join us a Lutheran Island Camp this week. Both have been under treatment. 3.) Give thanks to God for yet another significant gift that we are aware of coming next week. 4.) Praise God for keeping everyone safe during the recent weather events. 5.) Thank God for His continued guidance of the Task Force.

Link of the week: <http://www.4thdayalliance.com/>



Resource of the week:

Lavishly illustrated and extensively quoting ancient sources, Signs and Seasons teaches the traditional, Biblical basis for timekeeping and navigation. This book sets the record straight about "pagan influences" in astronomy, and offers challenging Biblical explanations that distinguish the legitimate science of astronomy from the ancient superstition of astrology. It also includes 40 pages of field activities that enable homeschoolers to document work hours for high school credit.

Question and Answer:

Question: Does the Creation-Science Environmental Learning Center plan to do anything with astronomy?

Answer: Yes, we've received the gift of a beautiful telescope and also have had Pastor Carl Noble volunteer to do some things with his telescope and his vast knowledge of astronomy. As a matter of fact, some of his breathtaking photos will be available at the Quilt Auction this Saturday.

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A program of Lutheran Island Camp, Henning, MN.