**DSA Meeting Presentations for Sale by Mail**

Edited DVDs of past DSA meetings are now available to purchase by mail.

For more details, go to [www.pdxdsa.org](http://www.pdxdsa.org) click on: DVD Catalog to download a list.

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**Design Science Association Newsletter**

—Suggested donation of $5 per year covers cost of postage & photocopying—

DSA is recognized as a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization

Morning meeting 9am on the third Saturday, August 15, 2009

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**Michael Oard**

**Origin of the Grand Canyon by Late Flood Flow**

The Grand Canyon is a fascinating place. Its origin is important, considering which paradigm of earth history is more reasonable: the “little water over a long time” (uniformitarian) or “huge amount of water over a short time” (catastrophic). However, uniformitarian scientists have had over 150 years to decipher its origin, and despite several ideas—which will be summarized by our August speaker Michael Oard—he fall far short in explaining the origin of Grand Canyon.

Creationists possess two hypotheses: a post-Flood dam-breach or a late Flood channelized erosion. The dam-breach thinking comes in three versions but has numerous problems. Two of these problems seem fatal: (1) the lack of evidence for ponded lakes south-east and northeast of Grand Canyon and (2) the erosion of long, deep tributary canyons down to the level of Grand Canyon, both of which will be discussed. A new hypothesis for the late Flood channelized erosion will be described by showing from geomorphology that the Grand Canyon, being just another of over a thousand water gaps, very likely was cut late in the Flood. The erosion started with the great Denudation that eroded 6,000 to 10,000 feet of sedimentary rocks from the Canyon area during east to northeast flowing sheet currents. This event fits the Sheet Flow Phase during the early Retreating Stage of the Flood. Then the Flood current reversed, probably because of the rise of the Southern Rocky Mountains, and channelized, flowing vigorously westward. It was during this Channelized Flow Phase of the late Retreating Stage that likely carved Grand Canyon.

This month’s DSA meeting will be held on Saturday, August 15, 2009, from 9 to 11:30 AM. Be sure to join us as we consider the formative days of the Grand Canyon!

Michael Oard earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Atmospheric Science from the University of Washington. He retired after 35 years as a professional meteorologist with the National Weather Service. He also was a research meteorologist for 6 years at the University of Washington and has published several research articles in journals of the American Meteorological Association. He has been doing creation research in the earth sciences for about 35 years and has published over 100 articles in creationist technical and layman periodicals. Mr. Oard has also authored, coauthored, or been editor of twelve creationist books on the Flood, the Ice Age, weather, and geology. He is on the board of the Creation Research Society.

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**Answers for Darwin Conference Here in September...**

Answers in Genesis will be producing a Creation Conference to be held at Rolling Hills Community Church on Sunday and Monday, September 27 and 28, 2009. Featured speakers will be Ken Ham and Dr. Jason Lisle.

Note that Monday morning and the afternoon of September 28 will be free admission for home school and Christian school students. Volunteers will be needed and are requested to stay following the August DSA meeting for more information.

Please contact Craig Hubler at 503-968-5467 or cwhubler@msn.com for any promotional ideas or partnering churches.

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“The waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth...” Job 14:18
Grand Canyon: Is It Really ‘Exhibit A’ For Evolution And The Old Earth?

by John D. Morris, Ph.D.

Grand Canyon has a special place in my heart. I have spent a lot of time there, both on research trips and the ICR Grand Canyon Tours. To me, Grand Canyon is a clear testimony to the Biblical flood and the young earth.

In school, Grand Canyon was “Exhibit A” for evolution, uniformity, and billions of years. Radiosotope dating “proved” the old earth idea, and the rocks demonstrated slow and gradual processes over those eons. The fossils documented evolution’s march through time, with simple creatures at the bottom and complex ones at the top. The Colorado River took 70 million years to erode the Canyon. With such an authoritative story, who could doubt?

Well, there is room to doubt, and even many old-earth advocates are revising their views. Now many geologists who study the Canyon are talking about catastrophic deposition. They are postulating runaway erosion within the last one million years. They are not talking about Noah’s flood, but they might as well be!

Keep in mind, these events happened in the unobserved past. Scientists study the results of past processes in the present, and try to reconstruct the past. No one can scientifically “prove” any view of history, creation or evolution, old earth or young earth, uniformity, or Noah’s flood.

The best we can do is to identify our view of history, interpret the evidence within that view, and see which view does best job. In addition, when we do, I am convinced the Biblical view comes out on top. Let us take a brief look at some of the evidence in Grand Canyon.

Catastrophic deposition: Geologists of all persuasions are returning to catastrophism, and nearly every stratum has recently been reinterpreted as the result of water-related processes operating at increased rates and intensities in the past. Evidence of underwater turbidity currents is found in the Tapeats Sandstone, the Redwall Limestone, and others.

Widespread strata: Each stratum covers large areas of the western U.S. Depositional processes of the past covered the entire region, not local areas. The Supai Formation has traditionally been interpreted as a delta deposit, but has laterally extensive thin members, unlike modern deltas.

Fossils: The fossils at every level are extremely complex, but the ones in the bottom layers, such as the trilobites, are even more complex than the ones nearer the top, such as corals. No evolutionary sequence here!

Lack of erosion on the plateau: The Colorado Plateau is thought to have been uplifted some 70 million years ago, but the stratum on top at the time of uplift is still on top, a flat, featureless plain, hardly touched by erosion.

Erosion of Grand Canyon: The Canyon was eroded but the present Colorado River was not the erosive agent. Erosion was rapid, not so long ago according to dating efforts, and the waters carried the debris far to the west, not like the modern Colorado River.

Furthermore, the main erosional features are typically those of soft sediments, not hard rock.

Soft sediment deformation: According to the evolutionary view, many rocks were already hundreds of millions of years old at the time of uplift. However, the Tapeats Sandstone was clearly bent while it was still soft, unconsolidated sediment, not as hard rock.

Evidently, it was not very old.

Radioisotope dating: Results from radioisotope dating efforts are not at all consistent with the old-earth study. In fact, volcanic basalts on the rim date as older than Noah’s flood.

Other evidences could be cited. In fact, I recommend the book, Grand Canyon: Monument to Catastrophe, 1994, edited by Dr. Steve Austin of ICR, in which these and other points are fully discussed. Grand Canyon is not “Exhibit A” for evolution. Rather, it is better understood as the result of the great Flood.

Big Bottom & Big Trees Day Tour

Saturday, August 22, 2009

Over the years that Ralph Anderson has been leading old growth tours, several different locations have been visited, due in part to limitations resulting from road damage in the flood of 1996. Among them are Salmon-Huckleberry Wilderness Trail up Eagle Creek, Big Bottom (his favorite) by way of Timothy Lake, and the road beyond Indian Henry’s. This year the destination is once again Big Bottom, where 6 foot diameter trees are not considered large. After the tour you should recognize a native Oregon tree that is purported to be an evolutionary link between oak and chestnut (Chinkapin).

Come see for yourself

Meet to carpool at 9 AM: At Estacada Ranger Station off highway 224, entering Estacada from the west. Plan to be back to the ranger station by 6 PM. The tour area is about 40 miles southeast of Estacada.

Note: Some may want to carpool from Ralph’s home at 8 AM—call for info.

Bring: Sack lunch & water, clothing appropriate for both the weather and forest conditions.

Difficulty level: This is an easy 4 mile walk in the woods, but some cross country, log walking and path making is required. For more information, call Ralph Anderson at 503-658-3046.

Registration: No limit or registration.