

Think & Believe



A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

March/April, 2006; Vol. 24 No.2

Dr. Henry Morris: A Faithful Man

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

Many of you have heard by now that Dr. Henry Morris, founder of the Institute for Creation Research (ICR), died on February 25 at the age of 87. For some, his passing will go totally unnoticed. For others, it will be noted as a few lines in the obituary section of a newspaper, or a short comment on a Christian radio station. For those of us who have been deeply impacted by his life and teaching, it is cause for reflection and deep gratefulness.

Dr. Morris has often been called the “Father of the Modern Creation Movement.” His writings (over 60 books) and his diligent, obedient service to the Lord through ICR have truly been foundational in restoring the Biblical and scientific truth of creation to modern-day believers. Our own lives have been deeply touched by this humble, dedicated, godly man.

We first got to know Dr. Morris when he came to the college in Alaska where we were teaching in the fall of 1975. Our eyes had recently been opened to the scientific problems with the theory of evolution and the evidence for creation through an early ICR publication, *Evolution: The Fossils Say No!* by Dr. Duane Gish. Dr. Morris’ visit to our college fanned the flame of our new-found discovery of the scientific accuracy of the book



of Genesis, and set us on the road for a change in life’s direction.

That change came after seeing first-hand the impact of the creation message on one of our students.

Dave had been talking to Jeff about the Lord, but one day he said, “Dave, I just can’t buy this Jesus stuff.”

When Dave asked why not, Jeff said, “Because evolution is a fact. That means Genesis is false! If God can’t get the first book of the Bible right, why should I trust Him to get anything else right?”

After hearing Dr. Morris’ presentations, Jeff said

to us, “If evolution isn’t true, that doesn’t leave much, does it? I’d

better start doing some thinking.”

Within just a couple months, Jeff became a Christian – and we saw the “deeper” implications of this “scientific” debate. God used this incident to direct us into full-time creation ministry.

Our relationship with Dr. Morris deepened when we went to the graduate school he had established at ICR. There we received top-quality instruction in biology, geology,

and science education, while at the same time absorbing the influence and lifestyle of godly men like Dr. Morris and others. Their integrity, dedication, and faithfulness to both the scientific data and the Word of God deeply impacted our lives, and prepared us for ministry. We are so grateful for that time, and for the continuing relationship over the years since then.

Dr. Morris was truly faithful in committing what God taught him to others. Now our challenge is to be faithful – to continue to pass on what we have learned to others who will faithfully pass it on. With God’s help, this is our desire and goal at Alpha Omega Institute, and the thrust of our seminars, camps, publications, and training programs. Please pray with us, that we will be faithful, and that God will lead us to faithful men and women to train, to carry this mes-

sage to coming generations. Pray also for the family and for ICR in the transition.

We will miss Dr. Morris, and his quiet, steady, prayerful encouragement, but we are so grateful for his example of

steadfast faithfulness to the end. His race is over -- his victory won. Meanwhile, we are still in the race, encouraged to run well by his tremendous example. May we be found faithful! To God be the glory **T&B**

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” (II Tim 2:2)

Intensive "Discover Creation" Training Week

by Mary Jo Nutting

Six enthusiastic individuals recently completed a week of intensive training at AOI's Grand Junction facility. The week included times of worship, prayer, Bible Study, and science topics, as well as practical sessions on teaching tips, dealing with "tough issues," using local resources, and developing your personal creation ministry. Field trips to Dinosaur Journey and Colorado National Monument, and practice teaching time with evaluation and encouragement rounded out the week. The diverse group included Dub Warren (retired engineer from Texas); Dan Kaspar (business man from

Texas); Dan's wife, Lynda Kaspar (Bible study leader and intercessor); Scott Liesner (university campus missionary in Costa Rica); Steve Austin (AOI's volunteer librarian and botanist); and Bob Cameron (science educator and AOI board member).

Though AOI has trained numerous people over the years in a variety of settings, this is the first time we have done a coordinated, intensive week of group training using our Discover Creation Curriculum as the

core. We were encouraged by the quality and enthusiasm of this pilot group, and are excited about the opportunity to extend the ministry of AOI by training others to take the creation message to their home churches and communities. Please pray



Enthusiastic group of trainees from TX, CO, and Costa Rica with Dave & Mary Jo Nutting

for these people as they pass on what they have learned, and pray for us at AOI that we may

faithfully teach and train many others. **T&B**

A Trade-off in the Church

by Lanny Johnson

While on a recent trip to Alaska teaching Creation to families, Marilyn and I were invited to teach at a Russian church. The message was so well received that the pastor set up another meeting with other Slavic churches in the area. Because there were a lot of children showing up for the program that night, I felt I needed to change the program and teach about dinosaurs and the Bible. The pastor was reluctant. "Lanny, he said, "I don't think that is a good idea. Most of the older people here tonight were taught in their former church that dinosaurs are not real. They were taught those bones they find were put there by Satan to deceive us."

After some discussion, the pastor hesitantly allowed me to teach about

dinosaurs. The children and young people were excited, but I could see looks of disbelief on the older people. Many of those began to change as they learned from the Bible that land animals and man were created together on day 6 of Creation. Dinosaurs were land animals! As I taught on Behemoth (Job 40:15) and Leviathan (Job 41), more and more heads began to nod in agreement. I then shared just some of the many evidences of, not only man and dinosaurs living together, but some of the recent findings that indicate they did not die out 65 to 70 million years ago as evolution teaches.

At the end of the talk, most of the skeptical looks were replaced by enthusiastic smiles. One grandmother shuffled up to the front and, through an interpreter, told me, "I didn't even believe in dinosaurs, yet my grandchildren were always talking about them. Now I can believe!" Another evening a woman shared, "When I came, I was an evolutionist. I

am now a Creationist!"

Because of what evolution (disguised as science) teaches, many churches throughout the world have tried to make concessions for the Bible. By embracing long-age scenarios, ideas such as the Gap Theory, Progressive Creation, and even Theistic Evolution, some churches are promoting a trade-off between the word of man and the Word of God. No compromise is necessary! We can believe the Bible for exactly what it says! **T&B**

Please help spread the creation message!

Your donations help AOI:

- Keep speakers on the road.
- Train others.
- Produce teaching and training materials.

You can make a difference!

Design in the Trigger Plant

by Stephen B. Austin, AOI volunteer Librarian/Botanist

Evolutionists, in their efforts to explain the existence of everything without having to give God the credit, theorize that plants gradually evolved over millions of years – from simple forms to complex ones. However, there are many aspects about plants that defy the theory of evolution.

One quandary for evolutionists is pollination. There are many unique and special pollination systems that leave evolutionists scratching their heads for an explanation – especially the more unique systems.

For example, consider the genus *Stylidium*. There are about 130 species in the genus, which is a member of the family *Stylidiaceae*. This itself is composed of six genera and about 150 species. These plants are found in the southern hemisphere, primarily in and around Australia.

The family consists of herbs or small mini-shrubs, and their floral characteristics include irregular flowers that are five-lobed. One lobe is smaller and is directed downward; this downward-pointing lobe is called the “labellum.” The other four lobes ascend in pairs. There are two anthers (the male pollen-bearing part), which are fused with the style (the female part)

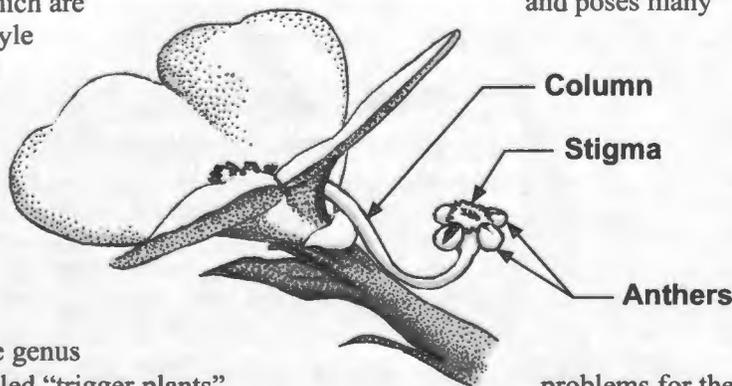
to form what is called the “column.”

The column hangs downward close to the labellum.

Species in the genus *Stylidium* are called “trigger plants” because of their amazing method of cross-pollination that utilizes an unsuspecting visiting insect. When an insect visits the flower to gather

nectar, the column rapidly – quicker than the blink of an eye – flips upward from its position against the labellum and comes to rest on the back of the insect. During this speedy travel, the apex of the column, containing the anthers and stigma, forces the exchange of pollen between the insect and the plant. Afterward, the column slowly resets to its previous position. This resetting of the column varies from species to species, but usually takes several minutes or more. This prevents the insect from revisiting the same flower and redepositing the same pollen. If that were to happen, cross-pollination would not occur. Cross-pollination is vital to maintain genetic variability in the species, enhancing its ability to adapt to changes in its environment over time.

The pollinating mechanism in the trigger plant shows obvious signs of design and poses many



problems for the evolutionist.

First, the plant would need to develop the “trigger” mechanism. But what benefit would that be without the

pollination system already in place? Why not utilize a more conventional pollination system, as is found in so many other plants?

Second, the anthers/stigma would need to be properly positioned on the column so that when it is triggered, the pollen would be transferred directly onto the visiting insect. Evolution does not have the luxury of generations of trial and error. The “trigger” must work correctly the first time or it won’t work at all.

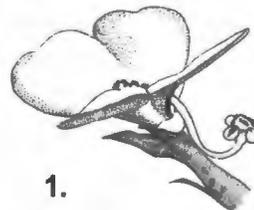
Third, there would need to be some method for the “trigger” mechanism to reset, so the pollen from a different flower could be deposited.

Fourth, there would need to be a time differential between the initial “triggering” of the “trigger” mechanism, so that the visiting insect wouldn’t simply return to the same flower, to prevent self-pollination.

So, how can anyone look at the trigger plant and not believe that it was created? The Apostle John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made (John 1:1-3).

It is as though God Himself has placed His personal signature on this group of plants, challenging those who believe in the theory of evolution to try and match it – “Try to do this, if you can!”

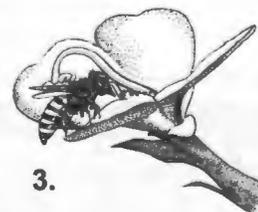
You can observe several trigger plants in action by logging onto www.gdaywa.com/wildflowers/triggerplants.php. Several illustrations show the column being “triggered” and/or then gradually resetting. **T&B**



1.



2.



3.

Director's Column

by Dave & Mary Jo Nutting



This is our 20th year of family camps at Redcloud and close to that at Twin Peaks. This year we have even added a weekend retreat at

Mt. Elim. (No, we don't own the camps, but only rent the camps for those weeks). Why do we do these and why should you come?

It is not just for a great vacation. It is not just to be in the beauty of the mountains. It is not just for the horseback riding, fishing, or other great activities. These things are tremendous perks, but the real reason we do these camps is that lives are changed.

We have seen families that were disintegrating become united. Because of the creation message, skeptics have come to the Lord and

others have been encouraged in their faith. One youth pastor recently said that one of our camps was what preserved his faith through his college days.

The camp setting has allowed us time to build relationships. It allows for sufficient time to get to know you and also answer any questions about creation, evolution and other issues or concerns. Many lasting friendships have developed between campers as well as with AOI staff members.

Besides that, we really do enjoy giving you a GREAT vacation! Space is filling so act now. Grab your family, grandkids, friends, or come by yourself and join us for a special week.

Call 1-800-377-1923 to register today or visit www.discovercreation.org for more information and great color pictures. Ask for our free brochure. 

Upcoming Events

- 3/19-20, Goodland, KS, Goodland Bible, Chad DeJong, (785) 899-6400, RS
3/20, Kerrville, TX, 7th Day Adventist, Mrs. Bennett, (830) 895-3935, L&MJ
3/21-23, Grover, CO, Grover Community, Mike & Ellen Stotts, (970) 895-2240, RS
3/22, Pasadena, TX, 1st Baptist Christian Academy, Joyce Harding, (281) 991-9191, L&MJ
3/24, Sugarland, TX, Faith Lutheran School, Gordon Stone, (281) 242-4453, L&MJ
3/24-25, Sugarland, TX, Faith Lutheran Church, John Weesner, (281) 494-2478, L&MJ
3/25, Gering, NE, Homeschool Group, Scott & Jenny Eckberg, (308) 783-2499, RS
3/26, Gering, NE, Calvary Memorial E-Free, Brad Kihlhau, (308) 436-5554, RS
3/26, Alamo, TX, Boot Camp, Rick Ramiez, (956) 380-3311, L&MJ
3/26, Alamo, TX, Antioch Bible, Charles Lancaster, (956) 781-8676, L&MJ
3/26-27, Castaic, CA, Betty Peters, (661) 702-0424, D&MJN
3/27-31, Hot Springs, SD, Cornerstone Bible School, Becci Stout, (605) 745-6878, RS
3/29-31, McAllen, TX, Calvary Baptist, David Chan, (956) 928-3200, L&MJ
3/31-4/3, Eugene, OR, 1st Baptist, Ed Heaton, (541) 746-1697, D&MJN
4/2, Hot Springs, SD, Calvary Baptist, Matt Lim, (605) 745-5663, RS
4/3-7, LaGrange, WY, LaGrange Bible, Laban Moslee, (307) 834-2215, RS
4/3-7, LaGrange, WY, Frontier School of the Bible, Shelby Hanson, (307) 834-2215, RS
4/8-9, La Pine, OR, Cascade Bible, Jack Ebner, (541) 536-9310, D&MJN
4/29-5/5, San Antonio - Pending, Dub Warren, (210) 490-3757, D&MJN
5/7-17, Fredericksburg, TX - Pending, Velna Jackson, (830) 644-2380, D&MJN
5/18-20, San Antonio, TX, FEAST, (210) 342-4674, D&MJN
5/21, Spring Branch, TX, Hillside Fellowship Church, Sandy Schroeder, (830) 228-4673, D&MJN
5/21-22, Stratford, IA, 1st Baptist, James Mead, (515) 838-2152, RS
5/24-25, Manitou Springs, CO, Summit Min., (719) 685-9103, D&MJN
5/28 Balaton, MN, Skandia E-Free, Joe Tutt, (507) 658-3538, RS
6/4-8, Sac City, IA, Brian Krause, (712) 662-6234, RS

Looking for a life-changing vacation?

Creation Mountain Adventures 2006

Twin Peaks Family

Mountain Adventure July 2-7

State-of-the-art creation seminar with hands-on science! Dig fossils, tour the CO National Monument and a dinosaur museum. Enjoy all this, plus camp activities, guided plant walks, and fabulous scenery.



Mount Elim

Weekend Retreat July 14-16

Join us Friday evening to Sunday noon for fun, fellowship, and creation sessions designed to help the whole family stand strong in a non-believing world.



Redcloud Family Mountain

Adventures July 30-Aug. 4 • Aug 6-11

Solid Biblical and scientific family-oriented teaching, horseback riding, 4 wheel drive trips to old ghost towns, fishing, climbing, rappelling, world-class accommodations - all in the majestic Lake City region of the Colorado Rockies.



For more information, call: 970-523-9943 or visit www.discovercreation.org



ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE

PO Box 4343 • Grand Junction, CO • 81502 • (970) 523-9943 • www.discovercreation.org

Think and Believe is published by Alpha Omega Institute, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Editors: Dave & Mary Jo Nutting. Single copies are free upon request. Please write for permission to reprint material in this publication. Your donations are much needed and appreciated. © Alpha Omega Institute 2006