



# Think & Believe

A Publication of *Alpha Omega Institute*

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## Some Exciting News!

By *Dave & Mary Jo Nutting*

It's official. God has not only moved a mountain, but **a mountain, valley, and stream** into our lap! Papers have been signed giving Alpha Omega the use of 60 acres of fantastic mountain property for a creation training center.

How did this happen? Several years ago, we were on our way to a seminar in a small town in western Colorado when it dawned on us that even if we could speak every day of our life, we'd only be able to reach a tiny fraction of the churches even in our own state. The Biblical mandate given in II Timothy 2:2 began to sink in: **train others!**

Meanwhile "back at the ranch," a friend of ours had been praying for a suitable organization to develop a Christian camp on his property. We had known of his desire for almost 25 years. After having introduced three parties to the owner with nothing taking shape, I was puzzled why this beautiful property was still waiting for a ministry to develop a camp. One day while praying about this, I sensed a small voice saying, "What about you, Dave? You want to develop a training center to train others to spread the message of creation, don't you?" I thought, "Me? HUH? Ohhhhhh"

Immediately, the "giants of the land" began to rise up. "You're just a small organization! How are you going to raise the finances? Where will you find the time? What do you have to teach anyone? You have a hard enough job managing Alpha Omega as it is, let alone a training center." I had to agree with most of these "giants," but the Scripture says, **"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD."**

Do we have finances? No. Do I have something to teach? Yes, when God gives a message, you have something to teach. But, what about the time and management "giant?" We sure do need a "David" to take on this one!

Well, wouldn't you know it? God has already raised up a "David" to "slay this giant" and spearhead development of the training center -- David Harper from Pinedale, Wyoming. He has recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management where he was the real estate manager overseeing 760,000 acres of public land. He is God's provision!

The sparkle in Dave's eyes and his genuine love for people strike you immediately. When you get to know him better, you'll discover his tremendous depth of character as well as his lighter side as a cowboy poet with a tremendous talent on the harmonica. **Most of all** you will find him to be a man who loves the Lord and His Word. He knows the battle is the Lord's, not his. As a man used to **not** standing on his own legs, Dave's learned to rely on the power of God. When asked what we need to do to get the training center up and running, he says: "There are three essential things we must do: Pray! Pray! Pray!"

Will you "pray, pray, pray" with us that God will put this training center together? Also join us in praising God for his provision of land and people, for vision and the major challenge it brings. There are truly many "giants" ahead, but as God moves, they'll tumble to the ground. He's the God of the impossible.



*Dave Harper and his trusty "Horse," Ironsides*

# Notes & Quotes

■ We are so grateful for the people that God sends our way. It's great to see so many people getting involved in this ministry. We asked some of them, "Why do you do it? Why do you volunteer precious time to help AOI? Why do you think the creation message is important?"

“It seems like such a small part that we can do. We know God calls all of us to help out and it's something we can do.” (Terri Huot, Newsletter)

“Mostly, because I like you guys, and I believe strongly in what you're doing. We like to help out in some way, and it's something we can do. You've opened my eyes to something I had no clue about before. ... It helps tremendously in my beliefs for everything.” (Gene Huot, Newsletter)

“Ever since I've been a Christian, I've enjoyed being involved in ministry. I've always prayed that the Lord would show me where He's working and where I could join Him in His work. For several months I had seen the request in **Think & Believe** that you needed help. That's what drew me to consider getting involved. I would like to say that it's a wonderful blessing to me to be able to be involved with AOI. I believe that creation is foundational to our Christian faith because it gives mankind irrefutable evidence that there is a Creator and leads us to God Himself. This essential relationship with Almighty God fills every human need and insures life everlasting with Him.” (Helen King, Seminar Coordinator)

“It's something I feel is very worthwhile. I like to support things I believe in with my time and effort. Why Alpha Omega? Because Marilyn's so nice to work for! I believe creation is important because it makes so much more sense than the evolution fantasy, not only because it's God's Word, but from the logical, common sense point of view. I am just amazed at the size of your mailing list — it speaks volumes for the effectiveness of this ministry. I'm just very, very happy that I can help out in some way.” (Barbara Baker, Newsletter)

“I'm volunteering because my mom [AOI Secretary, Donna Henderson] has lots to do and I want to help out. I think this work is important because a lot of people have never even heard of it. It's important that everybody knows about creation because it's the first step toward believing in God and having your faith strengthened. It makes the Bible more real to us — brings it alive. I'd like to tell the readers of **Think & Believe**: Keep praying for us. Your support is very much appreciated and needed.” (Deborah Magel, Office)

“I feel that this is a very good organization to volunteer for because I feel it's such a good message to the community and every place you serve. I've heard real good reports on the seminars, and also the Science Fair for Christian kids. I think that's been a very effective tool for the community. I enjoy working here. I've learned a lot and it's been a very pleasant experience for me. I enjoy working with Christians in a Christian atmosphere.” (Edna Stevens, Library)

“Well, the first time we kind of got conned into it, but we had fun so we've been coming back ever since. We had come to town to visit the Johnsons and they said, “Come on. Get in the car. We're going somewhere.” We ended up stuffing newsletters at your place. We even had pizza ... We appreciate Alpha Omega and what you guys do and we just like to do our part to help. I just realize the importance of taking the Bible literally from Genesis 1:1 all the way to the maps.” (Fred and Betty Kruse, Newsletter)

“I consider it a privilege to do the children's story hour at the Library. It's serving the Lord. I have to be involved. I'm retired from full time ministry but I just can't retire! Creation is such a necessary basis for Christian belief and it's never too early to start instilling it in kids. You've got the books — I've got the voice. It's kind of like Grandma reading to her grandkids.” (Marjorie Beebe, “Story Lady”)

“I wanted to assist a ministry I believed in and Alpha Omega Institute fits that description. The creation message is important because it reveals the meticulous nature of God in taking care of details. Christians need to know that because it strengthens their faith. Creation is like the missing piece to a puzzle that allows everything to fall into place. I feel firmly rooted. It gives me confidence when speaking to unbelievers. It's really been a blessing in my walk with the Lord -- more than any other aspect. Not that the others are not important -- they are -- but creation gives me confidence in the entire message of the Scriptures -- in all aspects of it -- from Genesis and the prophecies all the way to Revelation. I really feel sorry for people who can't grasp that -- They're missing something very precious.” (Steve Austin, AOI Botanist, Library, Newsletter, et.al. Steve is also the author of the article on the next page! Thanks, Steve!)

■ We want to say a big, THANK YOU to ALL our volunteers. We appreciate you all so much! We would have liked to include more comments, but space is limited. Know that your labor is not in vain! We love you! (For those not yet involved, there certainly is plenty of room for you!!)

# Spotlight On Science

## Plant Evidence of Creation

by Stephen B. Austin

Evolutionists writing about plants, contend that plants “evolved” over a period of millions of years. James Brackenbury, in his book, **Insects and Flowers: A Biological Partnership** (p. 9) wrote, “more than a hundred million years ago the plant kingdom *discovered* [emphasis mine] that as far as its relationship with insects were concerned, fair exchange was no robbery. Insects could be duped into rendering a service, i.e., pollination, as long as they were offered a suitable reward.”

Brackenbury documents a number of fascinating relationships between various plants and the pollinating insects that visit them. He implies that these unique co-dependent relationships “evolved” because the plants in some way *decided* to change. The author goes on to say, in his bewilderment, “There is no knowing exactly where this chicken-and-egg race began ...”

Another fascinating book, **Plantwatching**, by Malcolm Wilkins, discusses many additional remarkable plants, focusing on, among other things, their unusual life styles, pollination methods, and their sensitivity to touch. Wilkins, discussing the unique ability of Venus Fly Trap in capturing and digesting insects in its claw-like leaves, asserts: “...it appears that evolution has ‘tuned’ the plant’s capabilities very precisely indeed to its environment and needs.” (P. 139)

One exceptional pollination system he discusses (pp. 142-3) involves the Australian orchid, *Stylidium*, which ~~strangely resembles a female wasp~~. He chronicles the mating attempt of the male wasp with the orchid, describing the phenomenon.

It seems that the male wasps appear about two weeks prior to the females, and these males are ready to mate. Wilkins contends that the plant has “evolved” to take advantage of this difference in time, not only becoming similar to the female wasp, but also emitting an odor that strongly resembles that of female wasps seeking to mate.

These female wasps do not have wings, so they must climb to the top of a grass or similar plant, where they emit their alluring odor to attract the male wasps. However, before the females appear, the counterfeit odor *Stylidium* orchids emit attracts the male wasps.

The male wasp, deceived into thinking the plant is a female, lands on the part of the plant which strongly resembles his female counterpart. Instantly, a “spring-loaded

‘elbow’ joint reacts and hurls the bewildered wasp head-over-heels onto the orchid’s column, a part that contains both the male stamens and the female stigma.

When the bewildered wasp recovers, he gradually crawls out of his predicament and unwittingly carries with him the two pollinia, bag-like aggregates of pollen. These have become firmly attached to the back of the wasp’s head, and when it visits other flowers of this species, the pollen bags are transferred in exactly the same manner to the second plant’s stigmatic column. Pollination is effected.

When the female wasps finally emerge, up to two weeks later, they climb to the top of nearby vegetation and signal their desire to the male wasps. Reacting to the alluring fragrance of the females, the male wasps easily distinguish the genuine from the fake and totally ignore the orchids. Wilkins say, “... there can be no better example of the exploitation of animals by plants than this gigantic botanical confidence trick!”

Have these plants really “evolved” over millions of years, as these authors claim? We who believe in creation maintain that Earth is only thousands of years old, not billions as claimed by evolutionists. That leaves little, if any, time for so-called “evolution” to occur, even if it could.

No, it is easier and more logical to accept the Biblical account that tells us plants were created by God on the third day of creation (Genesis 1:11-12). Although the Bible doesn’t say for sure, insects were most likely created later, possibly on the sixth day, the same time land animals were made (Genesis 1:26-27). The pollination systems of plants and their insect visitors is logical evidence of creation by a Designer, rather than millions of years of evolution.

Romans 1:20 tells us: “*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.*” Those who have no room for God in their lives cannot see God in nature, and they must find some other explanation to explain this marvel; so they naturally gravitate toward the theory of evolution.

Thus, we can look at these “mysteries” that confuse the wise, and we can see in plants meticulous design — evidence there was a Master Designer. We can observe the beauty an omnipotent and loving God made for our enjoyment and enlightenment. We can see confirmation of His genius in creation. The design we observe in this pollination system and in other unique features of the plants **SCREAMS CREATION** rather than evolution.

## The Back Page...

### \*\* Upcoming Events \*\*

(N=Nutting; J=Johnson; S=Stepanek)

*Please pray for these events. Thanks!*

- June 1-3: Manitou Springs, CO:** Summit Ministries (N)  
Contact Summit 719-685-9103
- June 1-5: Greeley, CO:** First Assembly of God, VBS (J)  
Contact Theresa Sporange 970-395-9810
- June 3: Greeley, CO:** 1st United Presbyterian, Forum (N)  
Contact Margie Smith 970-352-3030
- June 8-12: Greeley, CO:** Greeley Wesleyan Church, VBS (J)  
Contact Nancy Buckingham 970-330-3600
- June 14-19: Cedaredge, CO:** First Baptist Church, VBS (J)  
Contact Brenda Anderson 970-856-7309
- June 22-24: Manitou Springs, CO:** Summit Ministries (N)  
Contact Summit 719-685-9103
- June 24-27: Denver, CO:** CHEC Conference (NS)  
Contact CHEC Hotline 303-388-1888 ext 6
- June 28-July 3: Colbran, CO:** Twin Peaks Family Camp (NJS)  
Contact AOI 970-523-9943
- July 5-10: Aurora, IL:** Central Baptist Church, VBS (J)  
Contact Tim Freizma 630-896-7571
- July 11-12: Pipestone, MN:** Faith Community Church (J)  
Contact Oliver Blosser 507-825-2394
- July 13-17: Slayton, MN:** Camp Shetek, Junior Camp (J)  
Contact Steve Harms 507-763-3449
- July 19-24: Lake Crystal, MN:** First Baptist Church, VBS (J)  
Contact Jerry David 507-726-6356
- July 20-24: Colbran, CO:** Twin Peaks Bible Camp, Jr High Camp (S)  
Contact Cal Shepard, 970-434-8308
- Aug 4-8: Pittsburgh, PA:** International Conf on Creationism (N)  
Contact Bob Harsh 412-452-9670
- Aug 9-14: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Family Mtn. Adventure I (NJS)  
Contact AOI 970-523-9943
- Aug 16-21: Lake City, CO:** Redcloud Family Mtn. Adventure II (NJS)  
Contact AOI 970-523-9943

### \*\* 1998 Creation Vacations \*\*

**INFORMATIVE -- AFFORDABLE -- FUN**

**for the whole family!**

**THERE IS STILL ROOM FOR YOU!**

**Don't Miss Out! Call TODAY for brochures!**

**Twin Peaks Science Adventure: June 28-July 3**

**Redcloud Mountain Adventure I: Aug 9-14**

**Redcloud Mountain Adventure II: Aug 16-21**

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### New Music Release

**by Tim Nutting**

Will challenge & bless you!

Your purchase will help support

Tim's ministry and AOI.

CD \$15; Tape \$12 (includes SH)

### \*\* Prayer and Praise \*\*

- Praise God for the Training Center property. Pray for Dave Harper for wisdom, favor. Pray for needed finances.
- Praise God! The Johnsons have a very full summer of VBS and Camps. Pray for stamina and fruit.
- Pray for Dave and Rich as they work on the Training Manual Project: wisdom, grace, perseverance.
- Praise God for meeting our daily needs. Pray for continued provision. Pray also for funds for waiting projects.

### \*\* Can You Help? \*\*

Praise God! The items ✓ed below have been donated since last time! Pray for those still needed. Call if you have or would be willing to purchase any of them for our use. Thanks to all those who prayed and/or provided!

- ✓ New!! VCR
- ✓ Encyclopedias (Still could use a recent set)
- ✓ Computers and monitors (Still need 1 good 586)
- ✓ Kodak Slide Projectors (Still need one more)
- Slide Duplication system
- Copy machine (Does anyone know how to service a copier? It costs us \$80-\$90 per hour for that.)
- Portable projection stands with telescoping legs
- Laser printer and/or color ink-jet printers
- CB radio units for communication on field trips
- Good quality office and stacking or folding chairs
- A 3-sided secretarial corner workstation desk
- Labeller (for attaching labels to newsletters)
- Bible study aids and reference books for library
- Creation books and magazines for library
- Good quality microscopes and microprojector
- High lumen video projector with computer capabilities to make our seminars multimedia.



**Alpha Omega Institute**

P.O. Box 4343, Grand Junction, CO 81502

970-523-9943