

TRUASSIC TIMES

Akron Fossils and Science Center's Quarterly Newsletter



Total Solar Eclipse

An exciting celestial phenomenon is happening in our community this spring. For the first time since 1806, Ohio will experience a total solar eclipse. On Monday, April 8th, a solar eclipse will cross North America, with the path of totality passing through Northeast Ohio, beginning around 3:12 pm. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, as the next total solar eclipse will not pass through Ohio until the year 2099.

A total solar eclipse happens when the moon passes between the sun and the Earth, blocking the face of the sun entirely. If you are lucky enough to be in the path of totality, the sky will darken, and the sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, will be visible. We encourage everyone to participate in this spectacular event, but following all safety standards while viewing the eclipse is important. It is unsafe to look directly at the sun without specialized eye protection designed specifically for solar viewing, except during the brief phase of the total eclipse, when the moon's shadow is completely blocking the sun. If you remove your protective eyewear at that time, put your eclipse glasses back on before totality ends, as it only lasts a few minutes. Experts warn that viewing an eclipse through a camera lens, telescope, or binoculars without solar filters can cause severe injury to the eyes.

What an exciting time to live in Northeast Ohio! Now we just have to hope for clear skies and good weather. AFSC wishes you all a happy total solar eclipse day! We would love to hear how you plan to celebrate this cosmic wonder with your family and friends.

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Founder's Fodder

By Bill Sanderson



It is always with great pleasure that I write this section, just to stay in touch with all of you. Although the outdoor park is closed for the most part during the winter, we are able to get outside as the weather permits. Our homeschoolers take full advantage of this throughout the entire semester. Before we know it, the blossoms will be budding and spring will be upon us. Most of you have seen the release of next year's course offerings and schedule for the upcoming cycle, and have taken advantage of early registration. Our course offerings fill up to capacity fairly quickly, so please plan accordingly. The camp schedule has also been released, so please enroll for those offerings as soon as possible as they fill up quickly as well. The sailing class and canoe trip schedule will be coming soon, as we are in the process of making arrangements for times and permits.

Last year was a strong year for the Center. We finished 2023 very close to the same way we finished 2022, which was our best year ever. The Gala, Golf Outing, and the Silent Auction/Carnival Day helped bolster our revenue sources, as the regular programming does not quite keep up with our expense patterns. We rely upon those events to maintain our profitability. We will finalize our upcoming schedule for these fundraisers in the coming weeks. Unfortunately, as with most everything else, our expenses continue to rise, especially our liability insurance, so we must make adjustments to our fee schedules appropriately. We still contend that we bring the highest value in everything we do, at very reasonable levels of expense. Our commitment is to remain debt-free and be responsible stewards of all the resources we have been given. Thank you for your willingness to give and to support our efforts. We pray that we have been able to provide value

to everyone who is connected with us. Thank you also to everyone who pitches in for special projects and work days.

The next Lecture Series event features our Board Member, Dr. Al Gotch, as he presents his remarkable talk about the singleness of genetic information. The date for that is March 15th. We also would like to thank Nick Reinfeld, who has agreed to join the Executive Team as one of our Corporate Officers. There are only a handful who are corporate officers. Dr. Gotch, Jodie Brewer, myself, and now Nick. Nick has been with us from the beginning and has not only provided a tremendous amount of labor, artistic banners, and printed items, but has also provided excellent leadership and counsel since we opened in 2006. It's hard to believe it has been almost 18 years!

I have been invited to speak to the Akron Rotary on March 5th. Pray that I will represent us well. On a side note, I performed my "Highland Bill" show here in Florida. It is a show where I talk about the pipes, kilts, and the history of Scotland which at one point was known as the "Land of the Book". The performance is laced with humor and audience participation. It was held at the church we attend here and was sponsored by the "Library Lecture Series". We had 80 people attend, which was the largest crowd they have had to date. It was great fun.

Thank you for your continued prayerful and personal support for the Center. Let's make it another exceptional year!

Bill Sanderson

THE CREATION CONNECTION

A new year means new beginnings at the Creation Education Museum! After a very profitable work day at the beginning of the year, many of the exhibits have been improved and repaired to ensure you, our guests, have the best possible experience touring through the twenty-five exhibits. We have been blessed with several booked tours throughout the first part of the year, and we look forward to sharing with everyone the evidence pointing towards the Creator.

On March 15th, our first speaker series event of the year kicks off right at Akron Fossils and Science Center. You won't want to miss out on Dr. Al Gotch as he presents the DNA research that has led scientists to discover the truth of the Biblical claim; that we are all from one large extended human family. Come hear about the fascinating evidence that only recent scientific discoveries were able to unlock - proving once again that God got it right the first time, and His Word is completely trustworthy. Also, be on the lookout that month for a radio interview from WCRF detailing more exciting news about the ministry of the Creation Education Museum!

Visit the Creation Education Museum website at www.creationeducationmuseum.org for more information.

Kid's Corner



Meet Athena

Athena is one of our beautiful corn snakes. She has a vivid reddish-orange hue and is around 3.5 feet long. Corn snakes can be mistaken for copperheads, but they are non-venomous and beneficial to humans. Corn snakes can live over 20 years in captivity. Athena loves to move and explore, but her favorite place is hiding under her water bowl! For \$5/month, you can sponsor Athena or any of our other animal friends.

Learn more about sponsoring this animal by visiting our website at: www.akronfossils.org/animal-sponsorship

Camp Registration - Now Open



Sign-ups have already begun for our 2024 Summer Camps. Visit our website for more info.

- Dinosaur Adventure Camp - June 10-14, 2024
- Wacky Science Camp - June 17-21, 2024
- Creature Feature Camp (Fuzzy Wuzzy) - June 24-28, 2024
- Space Exploration Camp - July 8-12, 2024
- Aspiring Artists Camp - July 15-19, 2024
- Creature Feature Camp (Creepy Crawly) - June 22-26, 2024
- Crime Scene Investigation Camp - July 29-August 2, 2024
- STEAM Camp - August 5-9, 2024

www.akronfossils.org/day-camps-registration

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Can you spot the differences between these two pictures?

DIY Science Experiment - Elephant Toothpaste

Materials: Clean Plastic Bottle, 1/2 Cup Hydrogen Peroxide, 1 Tbsp Dry Yeast, 3 Tbsp Warm Water, 1 Tbsp Liquid Dish Soap, Food Coloring, Mixing Bowl, Safety Goggles, Tray

Instructions: Place the water bottle on a tray or washable surface. With safety goggles on, pour hydrogen peroxide into the bottle. Add 8 drops of food coloring to the bottle. Add dish soap to the bottle and gently swish the bottle to mix. Mix the warm water and yeast in a bowl for 30 seconds. Pour the yeast mixture into the bottle.

The Science: When yeast is added to the hydrogen peroxide it acts as a catalyst. A catalyst is used to speed up a reaction, in this case, to release oxygen rapidly. The dish soap traps the released oxygen, which creates the foam. The reaction is exothermic, meaning it produces heat. Use caution; hydrogen peroxide can irritate skin and eyes and the "elephant toothpaste" should not go in the mouth.



For more tips or to download a PDF visit www.akronfossils.org/downloads

Funder Spotlight

Akron Fossils and Science Center is excited and humbled to accept a recently awarded \$2500 grant from the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation! Our hearts are full of gratitude as we celebrate this honor.

Thank you to the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation for your generous support of our Community Enrichment Program. Because of your gift and your belief in us, AFSC will continue to grow and thrive in our mission to bring quality, hands-on, fun, and engaging educational programming to Summit County and surrounding communities, impacting the next generation for years to come.

The Million Dollar Round Table Foundation gives to charitable organizations worldwide, demonstrating the generosity, service, and impact of MDRT members. This year, the MDRT Foundation will award over \$1.8 million in MDRT member-endorsed grants to over 350 charitable organizations worldwide.



UPCOMING EVENTS



- 1 March: Camp Registration Opens
- 15 March: CEM Speaker Series
- 16 March: SSS - Building Bridges
- 30 March: AFSC Closed - Happy Easter
- 20 April: SSS - Crazy Chemistry
- 10 May: Simply EOY Potluck Celebration
- 25 May: AFSC Closed - Memorial Day

Puzzle

SUDOKU

Medium

		6			4			
1		5	2		6			
8				3				
6	8							
5	7		1		8		4	9
							7	8
				9				6
			5		1	2		7
			4			3		

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To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column, and 3 x 3 box contains every number uniquely. Glance at the solution to the right for help.

5	8	3	2	6	7	4	1	6
7	6	1	2	8	5	3	9	4
6	4	1	7	4	3	9	8	2
8	7	3	1	6	5	2	9	4
9	6	4	8	1	2	3	5	7
6	9	5	2	3	7	4	8	1
8	4	2	9	3	5	7	6	1
1	9	5	2	7	6	8	3	4
2	4	9	5	8	1	4	6	3

REMINDERS



Don't forget to scan your receipts to earn cash for AFSC's Simply programs. If you haven't done so already, download the Box Tops for Education app.

Scan the QR code to download the app now. Once downloaded, search "Akron Fossils" to start earning.

