

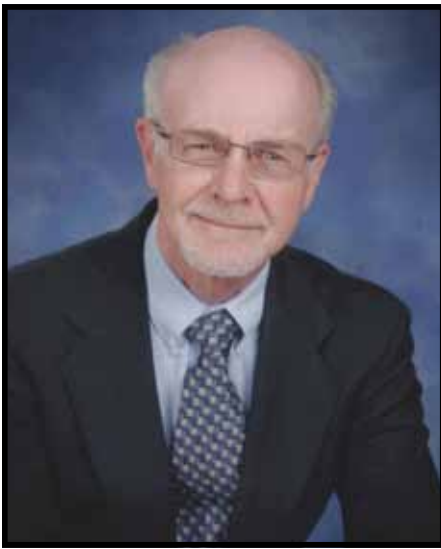
Creation Matters

Volume 24 Number 4
July/August/September 2019

A publication of the
Creation Research Society

In Honor of Dr. Glen Wolfrom

by Don DeYoung, President, Creation Research Society



Glen W. Wolfrom
1947–2019

A faithful Creation scientist moved on to glory on July 9, 2019. Dr. Glen Wolfrom dedicated much of his life to the Creation Research Society, serving on the Board of Directors for 36 continuous years. Glen's CRS titles included Membership Secretary (1985–2017), Fellow (1994) and Editor of *Creation Matters* publication (1995–2019). He was also cofounder and past president of the Missouri Association for Creation.

Before his retirement, Dr. Wolfrom worked as principal research scientist for Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Inc. Various projects took him to nearly every state in the U.S., as well as Germany, England, and Mexico. ("Just enough travel to

keep it interesting," he would quip.) His degrees included a B.S. from Western Illinois U., M.S. from Southern Illinois U. and Ph.D. from U. of Missouri. Glen held several patents, and was a member of the American Society of Animal Science, and numerous other professional organizations.

In 2014, Glen hosted the annual CRS Board meeting in Kansas City, his home area. He went the "extra mile" in arranging a positive experience for board members including a fossil field trip, an evening reception with area creationists, and a group dinner featuring Kansas City cuisine.

I counted Glen as a close friend. In 2017, he and I co-authored *Mathematics: The Language of Creation*. This e-book is a

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Full House at the 2019 CRS Conference

The Conference Committee

Over 150 people gathered at the recent Creation Research Society Conference (July 26–27, 2019), held on the campus of Concordia University Wisconsin (Mequon, WI). This was CRS' 8th conference, the first being in 2009. This year's included a reception Thursday evening, morning plenary talks, concurrent sessions during the day, and the Henry M. Morris Memorial Lecture on Friday evening.

The Thursday evening reception has quickly become a favorite for many conference attendees, providing a casual and fun time for reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. For many, the reception also serves as an opportunity to register for the conference, see who is in attendance, discuss upcoming talks, and interact with some of the



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Dots and Dashes

Samuel Morse (1791–1872) was the son of Massachusetts pastor Jedidiah Morse. Maintaining his father’s Calvinist faith, Samuel attended Yale University and became an accomplished artist and inventor. While he was away on a portrait painting commission, his wife Lucretia died suddenly at the young age of 25. During this time of slow news travel, several days passed before Samuel learned of his loss.

In his sorrow and recovery, Morse worked with colleagues on refining the telegraph to improve communication.

He wrote an early version of a code using electrical dots and dashes to signify letters. Morse learned from print shops that E was the most often-used English letter, so it was given the single dot symbol. The next letter in frequency of occurrence is T, symbolized by a dash.

The Morse Code with its dots and dashes is a binary language. It is analogous to today’s digital electronics which use high and low voltage signals, signified mathematically as one and zero. The Morse Code is still used worldwide, and short wave radio hums with its transmit-

ted signals. Over time, the international distress signal SOS was also recognized (. . . - - - . . .). This code is popularly thought to stand for “save our ship” or “save our souls.” Actually, the signal was chosen because it is simple and does not form any word or abbreviation.

The first telegraph message was successfully sent by Samuel Morse on May 24, 1844, connecting Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. The short message was taken from Numbers 23:23 in KJV, “What hath God wrought!” The biblical reference is to God’s care for Old Testament Israel. This text is also a fitting tribute to the technical achievements of mankind, including the telegraph, gifts from the Creator for our wellbeing. Within a decade of the first telegraph signals in America, 20,000 miles of wire were strung. Communication was quickly advanced and the era of slow news sharing was past.



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Creation Matters

ISSN 1094-6632

Volume 24, Number 4

July/August/September 2019

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Creation Matters is a publication of

Creation Research Society

6801 N. Highway 89

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Creation Matters can be addressed to

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Articles published in *Creation Matters* represent the opinions and beliefs of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the CRS.

Wolfrom

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compilation of sixty Math Matters articles that have appeared in *Creation Matters*. It was a pleasure to work with him on this writing and compilation project. He had a special ability for editing and writing clarity. Glen began *Creation Matters*, and

over the next 23½ years, nurtured it as a popular and helpful CRS publication. In fact, with his typical tenacity, though in great pain, his final act on this earth was the finishing touches on his last *Creation Matters*. Always complete the job!

Glen's wife Becky (Rebecca) also served the CRS for many years as membership

assistant. In addition, daughter Cindy Blandon continues to help professionally with the CRS Quarterly production. It has been a privilege and blessing to have the Wolfrom family as a key part of the Creation Research Society. We miss Glen dearly and will carry on his legacy of gracious service in promoting biblical creation.



CRS Conference

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presenters. In fact, unlike some larger conferences, where speakers come and go during the course of it, the size and style of the CRS Conference provides frequent opportunity for attendees to talk to many of the presenters.

Friday morning began with some introductory comments from Don DeYoung (President of the CRS Board of Directors), and a video of Concordia University Wisconsin President, Patrick Ferry, welcoming attendees to the campus. This was followed by a plenary talk delivered by Nathaniel Jeanson. He discussed his analysis of the human Y chromosome sequence data, and explained how his findings are fully consistent with a recent origin for humans.

Saturday morning began with *CRS Follies*—a humorous look at some fictitious abstract topics that were “rejected” by the conference committee. Some of these have become running “gags” from conference to conference. Door prizes were also given to honor the oldest attendee and the one who traveled the furthest, as well as the first person to have registered and the first to have submitted an abstract. Special awards were given to the only two people who have attended all eight CRS Conferences.

Kevin Anderson presented the Saturday plenary talk. He provided an update of the iDINO project, showing some of



the protein decay studies that are being completed. Since evolutionists claim that certain conditions can preserve protein for millions of years, the iDINO work has been investigating the biochemical basis for such claims.

Following each plenary talk, two speaking sessions were held concurrently each day. These included talks on a variety of subjects, such as genetics, cosmology, and flood geology. Speakers had previously submitted abstracts for approval by the conference committee. Regret-

tably, limited time allotments prevent the committee from accepting all submitted abstracts, but the presentations at this year's conference reflect the overall quality of abstracts that were submitted. Abstracts of these talks will be published in a future issue of the *Creation Research Society Quarterly*.

A purpose of the CRS conference is to gather creation scientists; providing

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CRS Conference

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a framework where they can present new models, challenge old models, and even offer incomplete ideas and unfinished research. It is even appropriate for presenters to acknowledge that they do not yet have complete data or conclusions. Because the conference encourages investigators to present cutting-edge and potentially controversial concepts (even some “wild” ideas), no recordings are made or proceedings published. In this atmosphere, researchers are encouraged to discuss, exchange ideas, cordially disagree, build collaborations, and ultimately work to more fully develop a creation model of origins.

In keeping with these objectives, this year’s conference format allotted a longer

period for Q/A. This extended time resulted in more questions and a greater interaction of the speaker with the audience. More time was also given between presentations, allowing a less “rushed” atmosphere, with more time for personal discussions, visiting with the previous speaker, and—most important of all—journeying over to the snack table.

Don DeYoung delivered the 8th Henry M. Morris Memorial Lecture. Dr. DeYoung spoke of his own career as a creationist and recalled his frequent interaction with Dr. Morris. He also honored George Howe (former CRS Board member) and Glen Wolfrom (current CRS Board member), both of whom passed away in July. While part of the CRS Conference, these memorial lectures are also open to the public.



Next Year’s Conference

The 2020 conference is tentatively scheduled for July 31–Aug. 1. Dr. Russ Humphreys is scheduled to deliver next year’s Henry M. Morris Memorial Lecture. Further information, instructions for abstract submission, and registration will be posted on our website soon (www.creationresearch.org).

Why Geology Matters

What Uniformitarian Interpretations Should Creation Scientists Accept?

by Michael J. Oard, MS and John K. Reed, PhD

Uniformitarianism was an arbitrary assumption developed to discredit and replace biblical history (Oard and Reed, 2017; in press). It seemed plausible in the 1800s, based mainly on three specific geological arguments that supposedly contradicted the Flood. These were: (1) volcanic deposits, (2) the erosion of valleys, and (3) the presence of thick sedimentary rocks. In retrospect, those arguments were simplistic, false, and better explained by the Flood (Oard and Reed, 2018).

In addition to significant logical shortcomings (Reed, 2010), uniformitarianism has run afoul of reality from its inception. Evidence of catastrophes in the rock record are indisputable, including the Ice Age, the Lake Missoula flood, and meteorite or comet impacts. After first rejecting these catastrophes, geologists now claim they are a part of the “uniform history” of earth, proving that self-contradiction is alive and well today. Despite such evidence, rocks and fossils are interpreted within a uniformitarian framework.

But many characteristics of rocks and fossils demand a catastrophic interpretation. Sandstones are a good example (Reed and Oard, in press). Are there any aspects of the rock record that demand uniformitarianism? We might see a few. We must weigh possibilities using the principle laid down in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 (NASB): “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.”

Ice Age interpretations

The Ice Age is a reasonable interpretation of an abundance of field data. Geological evidence does support one post-Flood Ice Age, such as abundant terminal and lateral moraines that often lie on top of Flood strata (Figure 1). Only the Flood

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provides a reasonable cause for an ice age over roughly 700 years (Oard, 2004, 2013).

However, the uniformitarians propose dozens of ice ages based on the astronomical or Milankovitch theory. This evidence comes from interpretations of deep-sea cores. Numerous problems plague the very small Milankovitch mechanism (Hebert, 2017a,b; Oard and Reed, in press). We can safely reject this interpretation of multiple ice ages.

We also accept conclusions tied to empirical evidence, like the new idea that the ice sheets were drained by ice streams, as observed on Antarctica and Greenland. These streams produced a progression of landforms: ribbed moraines transverse to flow; drumlins (elliptical mounds elongated with flow); and mega-scale glacial lineations (MSGLs), long thin ridges or grooves parallel to flow (Eyles et al., 2018; Margold et al., 2015; Stokes, 2018). These streams move rapidly within the uniformitarian paradigm, often surging, and probably causing the lobed appearance at the boundaries of the ice sheets. Ice streams on Greenland and Antarctica descend steep valleys, but those that drained past ice sheets traversed flatter terrain (Margold et al., 2015, 2018; Winsborrow et al., 2010). Although it seems



Figure 1. The horseshoe-shaped end and lateral moraines around Wallowa Lake in the northeast Wallowa Mountains, Oregon.

difficult to account for ice streaming of past ice sheets, the interpretations of the data seem reasonable to us within the biblical Ice Age model, based on current data.

What about the geological column?

But not all interpretations are so straightforward. Geologists in the early- to mid-1800s developed a sequence of changing organisms with time, reflected in the geological column. The time scale with its millions and billions of years was added later by various dating methods. The column was first developed mainly in the United Kingdom and then applied to the whole world. The geological column makes a lot of sense locally and regionally, but it must be shown to be a *global* sequence, including the ocean bottom sediments. We need to get away from the Grand Staircase and the Grand Canyon as the “proof area.”

Modern science has shown that the fossil changes between layers in the geological column is not an evolutionary progression, as secular scientists once hoped, assuming fossils changed from simple to complex with time. Modern science has shown that all these organisms are very complex—they are just different organisms, although a few general patterns are revealed. For instance, one of the earliest organisms in the geological column, the trilobite, had very complex eyes. Moreover, there is a lack of transitions between major kinds of organisms, as expected in the creation model (Bergman, 2017). The fossil record merely shows sudden appearances, stasis, and then disappearances.

Creation scientists view most fossils as having been buried in Noah’s Flood. Then is the geological column a useful interpretation? Creation scientists are divided on this issue. Even we are divided on the issue. That is why we at-

tempted to resolve the issue, or at least start to resolve this issue, by publishing a forum on the subject (Reed and Oard, 2006). In this forum, advocates who believed the geological column was a precise, global burial sequence of Noah’s Flood; those who believed we should reject the geological column; and those in between, all wrote up their evidence. Then each participant read the papers of the others, and they were required to provide answers to their challenges. It was all done in charity, the way it should work, but unfortunately the question was not resolved. The project showed how to approach such problems. It will take much work and an ability to separate the wheat from the chaff in the literature. At a minimum, respecting each other’s opinions is required until more progress is made. Maybe another published forum is in order?

Paleoenvironmental interpretations

Another controversial subject is uniformitarian paleoenvironmental interpretations. Using clues in the rocks and fossils, geologists attempt to determine the environment in which they were deposited: marine, terrestrial, fluvial (river), lacustrine (lake), intertidal environment, etc. This is termed the paleoenvironment and is a crucial part of geology today. Old-earth creationists, theistic evolutionists, and even a few creation scientists take these paleoenvironmental interpretations far too seriously. The interpretations are driven by the *assumption* of uniformitarianism. Making rocks appear to be products of modern environments satisfies both. For that reason, creationists should question any paleoenvironmental interpretation. Use the data; reject the presuppositions of uniformity

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and deep time. Fit the data into a Flood framework.

Paleoenvironmental interpretations have diverted creationists. Steven Robinson (1998), a young earth creationist, accepted paleoenvironmental interpretations (Oard, 1998), which led him to conclude that the Flood occurred only in the Precambrian (Robinson, 2000). It would have been simpler to find a new interpretation of the rocks in terms of the Flood. Similarly, and more recently, Philip Budd's *Earth in Cataclysm* (2014), reviewed in the *Journal of Creation* (Whitmore, 2014), did the same thing. Robinson and Budd are intelligent men. Like Robinson, Budd is forced to a Precambrian Flood because he believes most uniformitarian paleoenvironmental interpretations and fails to "see" the diversity of local conditions and environments in the Flood that might produce features such as "evaporites," fossil "reefs," and dinosaur tracks and eggs.

We must analyze paleoenvironmental deductions carefully

Deciphering uniformitarian literature requires skill and care. It is primarily an ability to identify hidden assumptions and see their influence. Uniformitarianism has been accepted for so long that there are multiple layers of interpretation. The key is to correctly identify data, then use the assumptions of the Flood and biblical history to interpret it (Oard, 1999). For instance, Allen (1991) considered the abundant auriferous, exotic quartzite gravels on top of the Wallowa Mountains of northeast Oregon as a product of a torrential paleoriver. The nearest source of this quartzite is about 60 km to the east, across Hells Canyon, the deepest canyon in North America. Figure 2 is a 200 kg

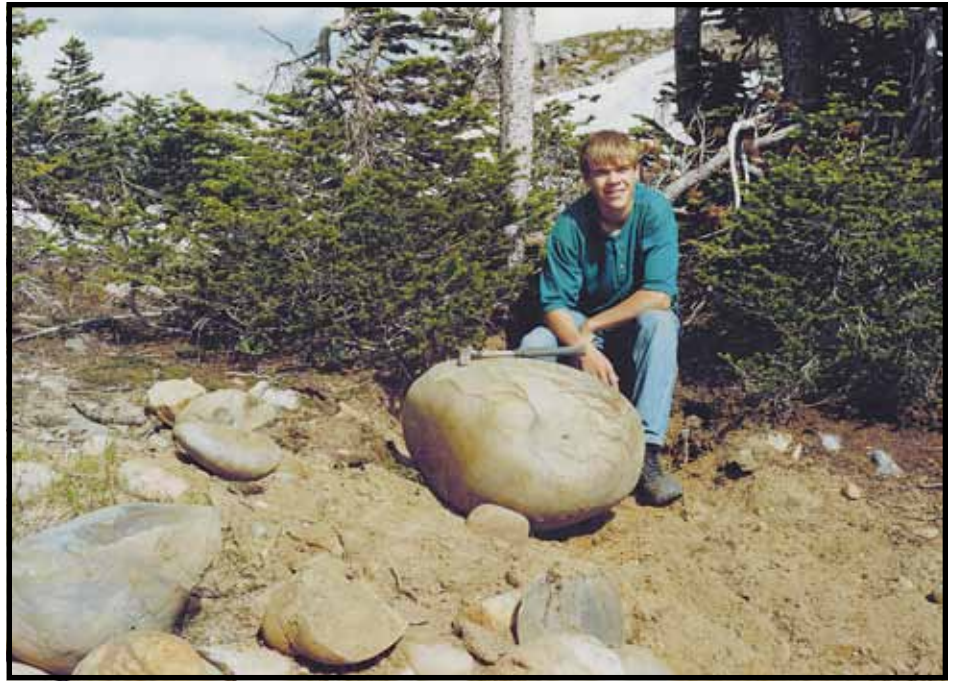


Figure 2. Polished quartzite boulder weighting about 200 kg (440 pounds) from just southeast of Lookout Mountain, 2,500 m (8,200 feet) msl high, Wallowa Mountains of northeast Oregon (photo by Paul Kollas with Nathan Oard as scale).

well-rounded boulder from the top of the Wallowa Mountains.

However, the deposits of modern rivers are complex, vary widely in short distances, and can be ephemeral. There are well over sixteen models of such "fluvial" deposition:

As Dott and Bourgeois (1983) remarked, fluvial facies models have "multiplied like rabbits", and this undoubtedly makes facies studies more difficult. However, it also makes them more realistic (Miall, 1996, p. 201, quotes his).

If one ignores the rhetorical wizardry of uniformitarians and focuses on the data, anomalies in paleoenvironmental interpretations quickly appear. For example, many "fluvial" sandstones and conglomerates are of large scale and thickness: "It is being shown that many clastic successions consist of sequences that are basin-wide or regional in

extent..." (Miall, 1996, pp. 55–56). How does a river deposit sand and gravel over a huge area, over a considerable vertical thickness, such as the Ogallala Formation across much of the Great Plains states? Uniformitarians claim that channel migration accounts for the difference, ignoring an obvious explanation that such channel migration would have a much more chaotic depositional sequence.

Despite the stated desire to use present day examples to interpret the rocks, geologists often end up finding "unusual" exceptions, though it does not stop them from assigning them to convenient pigeonholes of modern environments. In fact, modern fluvial environments are so far from what is found in the rocks that it is the sedimentary rocks (sand and conglomerate) that determine what is a

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“fluvial” paleoenvironment, not modern river environments:

It is important to note that almost all the development of the two- and three-dimensional architecture of fluvial systems have relied on studies of the *ancient record*, and several of the fluvial styles described in this section are based almost entirely on studies of the ancient (Miall, 1996, p. 202, emphasis ours).

There is circular reasoning in this procedure. So, just because a secular scientist claims a fluvial paleoenvironment in the sedimentary rocks, that does not mean that it is a river environment like today's. Such interpretations must be analyzed in depth.

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How Noah's Flood Shaped Our Earth

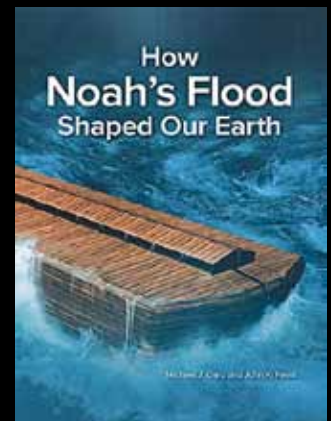
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Prayer Matters

Praise: We thank God for each one of you who contributes through prayer, finances, and service as we seek to glorify God through understanding his Creation.

Prayer: Please continue to pray for the society. 1) The loss of our *Creation Matters* editor, Glen Wolfrom, leaves a huge hole that only God can find the people to fill. 2) Our ongoing research projects need continued financial and prayer support; we desire the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth (John 16:13), even as it pertains to understanding His creation. 3) We long to expand our ability to support new research projects, which requires funding and healthy collaborations with researchers; please ask God to help develop those relationships, so Christ-honoring research with thrive.

Thanks again!

Paleontological Paradox: Dinosaur Soft Tissue

David Rives Ministry

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The discovery of tissue and protein fragments remaining inside dinosaur fossils has presented the evolutionary community a direct challenge: How to explain the unprecedented survival of such fragile biomaterial. In an interview by David Rives, Dr. Kevin Anderson provides a brief overview of the subject and explains why this tissue continues to challenge the evolutionary paradigm.

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