

SunRiser/SunSetter

Rotary
Club of Sun Lakes
Arizona, USA

January 14, 2020

www.sunlakesrotary.com

A weekly publication of the Rotary Club of Sun Lakes

Meeting New Week
5:00 pm — on Zoom

ZOOM 'n Along—

DYNAMIC GEOLOGY OF THE NATIONAL PARKS OF THE GRAND CIRCLE

Our very own **Dick Thomas** introduced Scott L. Burns, Ph.D., who presented an overview of the “Dynamic Geology of the National Parks of the Grand Circle.” These are eight spectacular Parks close to Arizona, including, the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Canyonlands, Arches, Mesa Verde, and the Petrified Forest. All are part of the Colorado Plateau. Here, you will see shale, sandstone, and limestone. The #2 visited park is the Grand Canyon, with 5.5 million annual visitors. Its first canyon explorer was John Wesley Powell in 1869. Zion was established

as a park in 1919 and has 3.6 million visitors per year; its name comes from Mormon pioneers. Checkerboard Mesa, which is old sand dunes, is his favorite viewing spot there. Bryce Canyon, established in 1928, has 1.75 million annual visitors. It's really an amphitheater, with erosional fins and pinnacles. It's the highest elevation of the eight parks. The Queen's Garden there has lots of hoodoos. Cedar Breaks National Monument is also near there. Capitol Reef Park, established in 1931, has 0.9 million annual visitors. It has the only folded rocks (Waterpocket Gold) of the eight parks; his favorite site there is the Hamburger Buns. Canyonlands Park, established in 1964, has 0.6 million annual visitors. Three sections/areas in it include: Island in the Sky, Needles and Maze. All rocks are subaerial (not in sea). Paul Bunyan's Potty is one of his favorites there. Arches Park, established in 1971, has 1.4 million visitors each year. It has the highest density of arches in the world. Wind, ice and water erosion caused the arches. Mesa Verde Park in Colorado, is the oldest park in the Grand Circle, established in 1906 with 0.57 million visitors annually. It is the best preserved ancestral Puebloan site. It's the first park started because of archeology. Mesa Verde has the Chapin Mesa, a “green table”. The Petrified Forest is in AZ, established in 1962, with 0.6 million annual visitors. It's all badlands and has the Painted Desert as part of the park.

GO VISIT THESE NATIONAL PARKS!

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Among the Missing!



Not really

If you don't want to see your picture here, show up!

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE: Scott is a Professor Emeritus of Geology and Past-Chair of the Dept. of Geology at Portland State University where he just finished his 30th year of teaching. He was also Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at P.S.U. from 1997-1999. He has been teaching for 50 years, with past positions in Switzerland, New Zealand, Washington, Colorado and Louisiana. He is a 6th generation Oregonian who grew up in Beaverton and is very happy to be "home" after a 25-year hiatus! Scott specializes in environmental and engineering geology, geomorphology, soils, and Quaternary geology. In Oregon, he has projects involving landslides and land use, environmental cleanup of service stations, slope stability, earthquake hazard mapping, Missoula Floods, paleosols, loess soil stratigraphy, radon generation from soils, the distribution of heavy metals and trace elements in Oregon soils, alpine soil development, and the terroir of wine. He has been active in mapping landslides in the Pacific Northwest since his return to Portland. Scott has won many awards for outstanding teaching with the most significant being the Faculty Senate Chair Award at Louisiana Tech University in 1987, the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Portland State Alumni Association in 2001, and the George Hoffmann Award from PSU in 2007. He has authored over 100 publications and has had over 25 research grants. His first book, Environmental, Groundwater and Engineering Geology: Applications from Oregon, came out January of 1998. His second book, Cataclysms on the Columbia, the Great Missoula Floods came out in October of 2009 and is co-authored by Marjorie Burns, a friend and professor at PSU. Scott has been the president of the Faculty Senate at three different universities: Louisiana