



## March 2026 Newsletter

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### This month, March 21st at 9:00 AM:

#### **Continuous Environmental Tracking**

How Organisms Actually Adapt to their Environment



**Michael Calcagno**

This month's presentation will describe a model for how scientists, researchers, and every-day observers can study how organisms, both plants and animals, adapt to their respective environments, utilizing basic engineering principles as a starting-point. Understanding how adaptation actually operates with living organisms points unmistakably to our awesome Creator who designed life on planet Earth to "... be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth."

**\*Michael Calcagno** currently serves as President of the Arizona Origin Science Association, and directs operations for the Gila and Navajo Divisions. He is a veteran of the US Navy and Oregon Army National Guard. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree With Honors in Elementary Education from Portland State University in 1986, taught in Oregon public schools for 17+ years and he speaks regularly on Creation and Biblical Apologetics. He and his wife Michelle live in Heber, Arizona.

Our meeting starts at **9:00 AM Saturday, March 21** at Greater Portland Bible Church, [2374 SW Vermont St.](#)

For those who cannot attend in person, the meeting will also be livestreamed from a link on our website at <https://designsciencenw.org/livestream>

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**Reminder: Daylight Savings Time**  
**Starts Tomorrow, March 8**

Unrelated to DSA, yes, but as this newsletter is going out the evening most folks set their clocks forward, we thought of including a reminder.

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**An Example of Continuous Environmental Tracking**  
**Will your car brake for a tree in the road?**

Automakers are busily developing self-driving automobiles which are capable of sensing danger and instantly reacting to it. Imagine that you are in such a car and it senses that a large tree has fallen across the road, blocking your path forward. The response from such a vehicle would be to slam on the brakes and come to an immediate stop.

Now think about that response. Why did the car stop? Did the fallen tree in some way communicate with the car and cause it to stop? Not at all. The car had internal sensors to identify the barrier and internal programming to adapt to the changing circumstances. To believe that the tree caused the car to stop would be both naive and misguided. Yet, this is

exactly how biologists are trained to think about life. Their literature is filled with examples that imply that the environment in which an organism lives causes it to adapt and change. The idea that the presence of drugs causes a bacteria to evolve or a sooty environment caused the peppered moths population to shift from light to dark coloration is the common perception among biologists. This is as misguided as believing that the fallen tree caused the car to stop.

Life adapts to changing environments because it has been designed with programming that allows it the flexibility to adapt. It is the organism, guided by prior programming, that adapts to changes, not the environment that causes the changes to happen. The primary reason biologists do not think in this manner is because it implies that a source of this programming is required, and they are trained to believe the environment made the organism. Thus, they miss the One who did the programming. God, the great programmer!

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## **Homeschool Outdoor School**

**June 1 - 5, 2026**

**{Overnight Monday – Friday – Designed for ages 9-16}**

**Camp Tadmor, near Lebanon, Oregon**



**Kids Need Camp!!!** And where can they go for outdoor learning sessions like fire building, outdoor cooking, and activities such as fishing, archery, canoeing, disc golf, volleyball, gaga ball, swimming? We stay in cabins and meals are prepared for us. Find full details at [www.homeschooloutdoorschool.com](http://www.homeschooloutdoorschool.com)

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**Coming up at our April 18 Meeting**  
**Dave Bisbee** of [Genesis Apologetics](#) will be speaking  
on two family-friendly topics **good for all ages:**  
**7 Evidences for Biblical Creation**  
and  
**Ape Men: Real or Pretend?**

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Check out DSA's website <https://DesignScienceNW.org> for additional events.

**Our mailing address is:**

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**Portland, OR 97230**

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