



**Learning From Catastrophe:
Biological Recovery at Mount St. Helens**
**Dr. Keith Swenson speaking
at the AFSC meeting at
Atonement Free Lutheran Church
6905 172nd St NE, Arlington, WA
Friday March 24 at 7:00 PM**

Description: Noah's Flood left the entire earth biologically devastated. Creationists believe that over the thousands of years following the Flood, living organisms recovered, eventually producing the ecosystems seen on the modern earth. But is such a belief reasonable? Is the biota really that resilient? And if so, by what ecological mechanisms could such remarkable transformation take place?



Since there is no detailed information on biological changes which transpired following the Flood, creationists must look elsewhere for information. One source is the study of recovery from modern disturbances, such as the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens which produced a 230 square mile area of biological devastation termed the blast zone. The responses of organisms to this eruption have now been intensely studied for over 35 years generating hundreds of articles.



Speaker: Dr. Keith Swenson is a retired medical doctor who now teaches courses in biology and geology at Multnomah University in Portland, Oregon. He also served for twenty years as President of Portland's Design Science Association and was on the board of the Seven Wonders Museum near Mount St. Helens.

Keith especially enjoys leading field trips and has taken thousands to Mount St. Helens, the Columbia Gorge, Northwest forests and the Grand Canyon. He co-leads, with Dr. Steve Austin, periodic trips into the "Little Grand Canyon" at Mount St. Helens. Keith has a B.S. in Zoology from the University of Idaho and an M.D. from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. He and his wife, Connie, have four grown children.

A good summary of the recovery of the Mount St. Helens area after the devastation of the eruption in May 1980 is described in this [article by Swenson and Catchpoole](#) on the [creation.com](#) website. The unexpected rapid bounce back provides us insight into how the world recovered from Noah's Flood.

Refreshments plus books, DVDs, and pamphlets at the resource tables afterwards.

The **Apologetics Forum of Snohomish County (AFSC)** helps equip Christians in the defense of The Faith in the postmodern world in three related areas: 1) Creation vs. Evolution, 2) Christian Apologetics and 3) Biblical Worldview. **AFSC** provides a local Forum for lectures and DVD programs by knowledgeable presenters on these topics. All presentations are given with the presupposition that the Bible is God's inspired Word and is accurate and inerrant in its original autographs. The Bible is a total worldview that speaks to all disciplines and areas of our life. More on **AFSC** at [ApologeticsForum.org](#).