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Geosciences Bulletin Board – 26 October 2015 - compiled by Elaine J. Hanford

In honor of BTTF, if Marty McFly was a geologist, how would his thoughts have changed?

- <http://www.earthmagazine.org/article/bare-earth-elements-back-future-day-few-things-geoscientists-were-thinking-1985>

The process of evaporation plays a key role in global climate

- <http://www.technology.org/2015/10/24/evaporation-for-review-and-with-it-global-warming/>

Want to find gold? Then follow the trisulfur ion (S₃⁻)

- <http://phys.org/news/2015-10-trisulfur-anion-gold-deposits-earth.html>

“Geospeedometer” suggests super-eruptions have short fuses

- <http://phys.org/news/2015-10-geospeedometer-super-eruptions-short-fuses.html>

Life on Earth may have started about 4.1 billion years ago, earlier than previously thought

- <http://phys.org/news/2015-10-life-earth-billion-years-ago-much.html>

Better understanding of North Pacific Ocean circulation may lead to improved global climate models that recognize importance of coastal sea ice

- <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/10/151020144838.htm>

Study of zircons may mean revising timeline of early history of Earth and the Moon

- http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Study_questions_dates_for_cataclysms_on_early_moon_Earth_999.html

Massive rockfall in the Alps in photos and in video

- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3286195/Incredible-moment-HUGE-Swiss-mountain-breaks-plummets-1-000-feet-destroying-forest.html>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mSLVhNI4YxY>

Salt content of the North Atlantic is a balance between melting ice and Mediterranean outflow

- <http://phys.org/news/2015-10-climate-responsible-salt-north-atlantic.html>

Massive landslide on Mount Steele is one of the largest of the year

- <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/mount-steele-landslide-2015-1.3284918>

NASA prediction of an M5.0+ EQ in Los Angeles within 2.5 years causes controversy

- http://www.christiantoday.com/article/jolting_news.nasa.predicts.99.9.percent.chance.of.5.0.or.greater.magnitude.quake.in.los.angeles/68514.htm
- <http://www.latimes.com/science/la-me-quake-prediction-20151023-story.html>
- http://www.terradaily.com/reports/USGS_questions_studys_alarming_LA_earthquake_prediction_999.html

Risk of mega-tsunami comes from potential collapse of submarine volcano as evidenced in the geologic record

- <http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2015/10/traces-of-an-ancient-mega-tsunami/411970/>

A study that attempts to define who counts as a climate scientist also raises questions

- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/steven-newton/who-counts-as-a-climate-scientist_b_8332374.html

Hurricane Patricia sets record with low pressure reading as storm quickly intensified & then quickly weakened

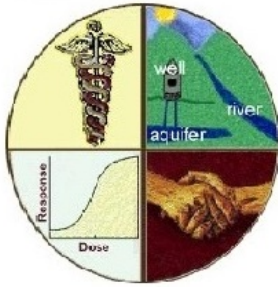
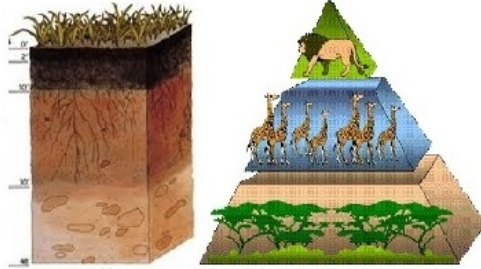
- http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-10/nsfc-nar102315.php
- <http://www.technology.org/2015/10/24/patricia-eastern-pacific/>
- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/world/hurricane-patricia-explainer-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-monster-storm-20151023-gkhg0e.html>
- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/world/hurricane-patricia-tops-list-of-worlds-strongest-storms-20151024-gkhh3c.html>
- <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/world/hurricane-patricia-downgraded-as-it-hits-mexico-pacific-coast-20151024-gkhq7a.html>

17 USGS streamgage records set during October 2015 flooding in South Carolina

- <http://cenews.com/post/7761/floods-in-south-carolina-set-17-usgs-streamgage-records>

From US BuRec: "Technical Evaluation of the Gold King Mine Incident" San Juan County, Colorado

- <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/2475483/technical-evaluation-of-the-gold-king-mine.pdf>



Enviro-Sciences Bulletin Board – 26 October 2015 – compiled by Elaine J. Hanford

Celebrating the beauty of the remarkable plants that humans call weeds

- <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/unique-flower-show-weeds-are-stars-180957015/>

Lineage of *Yersinia pestis* predates the Black Death of the Middle Ages by about 3,300 years

- <http://www.technology.org/2015/10/24/plague-infected-human-much-earlier-previously-thought/>

And is another plague in our future?

- <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/ask-smithsonian-world-due-another-massive-plague-outbreak-180957001/>

New global wind atlas released...is that a good thing for energy production?

- <http://www.technology.org/2015/10/24/new-wind-atlas-promote-sustainable-global-power-generation/>

Ecological restoration projects, especially of old mining regions, should consider climate change to be more successful

- <http://phys.org/news/2015-10-account-climate-reclamation-billions.html>

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), commonly used as coolants, have measureable deleterious impact on the ozone layer

- <http://phys.org/news/2015-10-nasa-common-coolants-contribute-ozone.html>

Use of sunscreen products protect us from skin cancer, but are toxic to ocean coral reefs

- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/10/20/after-sunscreen-protects-humans-it-massacres-coral-reefs/>

PCBs were banned in the 1970s but still pollute our environment and pose health risks

- <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2015/oct/long-banned-chemicals-still-in-paint-contaminating-chicago2019s-air>

PCBs are among persistent organic pollutants (POPs) that threaten wildlife in the Arctic

- <http://www.takepart.com/article/2015/10/20/remote-arctic-island-civilizations-impacts-are-persistent>

Changes in the shape of the Tree of Life

- <http://www.earthmagazine.org/article/tree-life-reshaped>

Perspective: Are more studies of BPA really needed to confirm toxicity?

- <http://montrealgazette.com/technology/science/the-right-chemistry-the-research-on-bpa-has-been-sufficient>

Ecological paradox: more rain leads to fewer trees in the African savanna

- http://www.terradaily.com/reports/More_rain_leads_to_fewer_trees_in_the_African_savanna_999.html

Fires in the Alaskan boreal forest release more carbon than the forests can absorb

- <https://news.illinois.edu/blog/view/6367/265408>

Massive slash & burn fires in Indonesia create worst air pollution in a decade in Thailand

- http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Worst_haze_in_a_decade_blankets_S_Thailand_999.html

Dead trees are very important for the health of the forest

- http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=136524&org=GEO&from=news

Leaked map suggests O&G industry wants to develop in the Amazon, including in Manu National Park

- <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/andes-to-the-amazon/2015/oct/24/leaked-map-reveals-big-gas-eyeing-most-biodiverse-place-on-earth>

Saving forests means protected watersheds for many purposes, not just better beer

- <http://www.treehugger.com/clean-water/saving-forest-beers.html>

The dilemma of relying on “renewable energy” derived from burning wood

- <http://reports.climatecentral.org/pulp-fiction/1/>

Many species in the Caribbean survived the last Ice Age, but succumbed to the arrival of humans

- <http://www.treehugger.com/climate-change/22-caribbean-species-survived-ice-age-went-extinct-when-humans-arrived.html>

20 goals included in new Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for restoring & protecting Long Island Sound

- <http://cenews.com/post/7758/epa-and-partners-release-new-blueprint-to-protect-and-restore-long-island-sound>

Abandoned gas wells become environmental liability for states

- <http://www.npr.org/2015/10/19/449976530/with-abandoned-gas-wells-states-are-left-with-the-cleanup-bill>