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High Adventures in the Wilds of New Zealand with a Stop or Three in Hawaii and Phoenix

Mr. Bill Schramm and Ms. Mary Flasch

Abstract: Traditionally, the December meeting has been the time to include our spouses at the monthly meeting and a time for a lighter look at geology and the fun things we do on field trips. This year I was fortunate that my most excellent spouse, Mary, the travel agent/writer/companion, coordinated our first foreign excursion to the Pacific "Ring of Fire". This talk will touch on the formation of the Hawaiian Islands, interesting geologic features, outstanding cultural topics (Menehune, Poi, heiaus), rainbows and fantastic vistas. Hawaii was only a stepping stone to New Zealand where we learned a little of its geologic history, pre-European settlement (Maori, hakas), modern cultural development and Hobbits. I doubt if we can convey the grandeur as seen in The Lord of The Rings movies, but we sure did walk the paths to Rivendell and Hobbiton.

Biography: Mary Flasch is a Licensed Respiratory Therapist with a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology and a Master of Public Administration. She loves to travel and seems to have inherited this desire from her mother who managed to talk her dad into a family trips with five children to Philadelphia's historic sights, Washington DC, the Canadian Rockies and many monuments and parks. Throughout her life she has enjoyed traveling throughout most of the United States, Mexico, a few countries in Europe and most recently New Zealand. She has a home care company that she hopes to close soon so she can spend time on travel writing and planning trips with her husband, the geologist, who teaches her a lot. The next trip to Europe will be in August to attend the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo with her husband and another couple. Bill is a Louisiana Licensed Professional Geologist and a retired 28-year veteran of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. He holds a BA and MS in Geology and a Teaching Certification for K-12 in Science and Earth Science. As a Geologist he worked closely with industry, consultants and private citizens to investigate and/or remediate over 3000 contaminated sites. He supervised a staff of 16 Geologists and Remediation Specialists in the Underground Storage Tank and Remediation Division. From 2005 to 2016 he was an Adjunct Instructor on the staff of the Department of Geosciences at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and served on numerous Graduate Thesis Committees. He has been a member of the Baton Rouge Geological Society since 1990 and has served for many years on the Board of Directors in many capacities. He also collects alphabets such as AAPG, GCAGS, LGS, NOGS, LEHA, NRA, USPA and EAA.