

# EARTH

## Australia Beckons

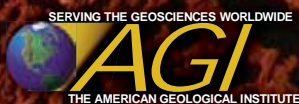
Exploring from the Blue Mountains to Modern and Ancient Reefs

### Plus:

- Is there a minerals crisis?
- Airlines work with scientists to avoid volcanic ash
- Mysterious sinkholes in the Great Lakes
- The LHC: Massive machine ISO God Particle
- Water quality benchmarking for fracking

STORMY SPRING  
ON  
SATURN

August 2011  
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## FEATURE

### IS THERE REALLY A MINERALS CRISIS?

Reports suggest that the world is running out of crucial supplies of minerals, from copper and lead to the rare earths. But shortages have more to do with sociological and political issues than actual geology.

**Carolyn Gramling**



## FEATURE

### GREAT LAKES GEOLOGIC SUNKEN TREASURE

Just beneath the surface of Lake Huron lie several sinkholes full of mysterious microorganisms that may hold clues to early life on Earth and to new medicinal drugs.

**Lindsey Doermann**



## FEATURE

### TRAVELS IN GEOLOGY:

Twin Coral Reefs Separated in Time in Western Australia

Take advantage of the chance to explore similar-looking reefs in Western Australia: one from the Devonian and one forming now off the coast.

**Terri Cook and Lon Abbott**



## FEATURE

### TRAVELS IN GEOLOGY:

Australia's Blue Mountains Delight the Senses

The Blue Mountains just west of Sydney are known for their sweeping vistas, cool microclimate, wildlife, Aboriginal history and towering rock formations.

**Meghan Miner**



## FEATURE

### TRAVELS IN GEOLOGY:

Glacial Pools to Sea Caves: A Tour of New Zealand's South Island

New Zealand has a reputation for extreme adventure, but you'll also find unique geologic features in landscapes ranging from volcanoes to alpine peaks to glorious beaches.

**Laurie J. Schmidt**



## TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS

### ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The 7,000 scientists working on the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest particle accelerator, hope to answer key questions about theoretical physics.

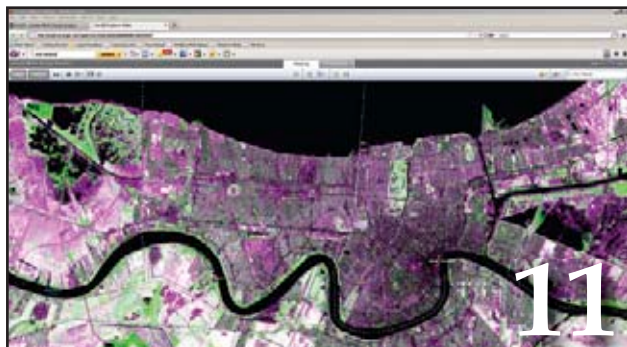
**Meg Marquardt**



**ON THE COVER:** The red, craggy rocks of Western Australia's Gantheaume Point, where at low tide, dinosaur tracks left some 120 million years ago can be seen. ©Richard l'Anson, Lonely Planet Images.

## NEWS

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- 9 CLEAN WATER FOR CARBON CREDITS PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN KENYA
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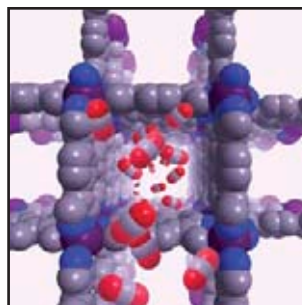
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## VIEWS

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DOES BIG BROTHER KNOW BEST?  
EVOLUTION VERSUS CREATIONISM  
In thinking recently about some of history's older, smarter brothers, including John and Alfred Russel Wallace, the debate over evolution versus creationism came to mind.  
**Stephen M. Testa**
- 87 **A COMMENT**  
A GROWING NEED FOR GEOSCIENCE DIPLOMACY  
Science cooperation wins friends. Strategic cooperation among geoscientists, scientific societies, industry and the government could go a long way toward better relationships.  
**Farouk El-Baz**
- 88 **GEOLOGIC COLUMN**  
SNOW GLOBES, LIGHT SHOWS AND T-SHIRTS  
What is the most commercialized geologic site? Niagara Falls, Howe Caverns and the Grand Canyon certainly make the list. But where else, and what exactly defines commercialization?  
**Lisa A. Rossbacher**

## DEPARTMENTS

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