



**Cataclysms on the Columbia:
the Great Missoula Floods**

Scott Burns

Professor of Geology, PSU

Thursday, November 19, 2009, 7:30 pm

294 Smith Memorial Student Union

Portland State University

Free, public invited



This lecture tells two stories. One follows geological research that challenged the scientific paradigm of the early 20th century, and the other chronicles the results of that research: the discovery of powerful prehistoric floods that shaped the Pacific Northwest. The cataclysms at the end of the last Ice Age left a scab land of buttes, dry falls, and rocky gorges, but it took the detective work of geologist J Harlen Bretz to prove it to the world. His lifetime of research and unshakeable belief changed geology forever.

Marjorie Burns and Scott Burns have re-written a book on the subject that first came out in 1986. Marjorie, a professor of English at Portland State, has organized and written the section on the evolution of the theory. Scott Burns, a professor of geology at Portland State, has updated all of the science on the floods that has developed in the last 25 years. This book has been published by PSU's Ooligan Press. Join Marjorie and Scott for a book signing at 7:00 and after the talk.