

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument has hosted nearly 30 paleontology interns since 1997. The Geological Society of America's GeoCorps America Program usually recruits applicants for summer paleontology positions in addition to providing logistical support. The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds generously sponsor one GeoCorps intern at Florissant on an annual basis.

At the monument, GeoCorps interns participate in a variety of tasks, generally taking the lead on one long-term project while collaborating with peers to accomplish others. These internships not only provide invaluable practical experience for current geology students and recent graduates, but sometimes also lead to graduate level projects. Among others, examples of completed intern projects include annual inventory and monitoring of fossil sites, preparation and management of the monument's collections, and design of interpretive and Web site materials for Florissant and its partner sites.

Visit the [GeoCorps America](#) Web site to learn more about the application process for internships at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Applications for summer positions are posted in December.

Adrian Maxwell, Laura Clarke, and Lindsay Walker were GeoCorps interns at Florissant during summer 2011. Here is a small glimpse into their three month work term at the fossil beds.



Laura Clarke splitting shale and preparing new specimens in the fossil yurt. Laura plans to include fossil insects from Florissant in her graduate project at the University of Colorado.



Adrian Maxwell (right) was responsible for establishing an inventory and monitoring program (I&M) for the Indian Springs Trace Fossil site in Cañon City,

CO. Indian Spring's monitoring program is based on Florissant's I&M method, but tailored to the challenges specific to trace fossil preservation. Lindsay Walker (left) assisted Adrian with taking photographs for the project.



Left to right: Bret Buskirk, Laura Clarke, and Dr. Herb Meyer conducting authorized field work for scientific research. Bret first arrived to Florissant as a GeoCorps intern in 2008, and has since returned to study Florissant's mollusks as a graduate student at the University of Washington.