Steve Veatch Elected President

Steven Veatch was elected President at the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds.

Steve conducts educational geoscience programs throughout the Pikes Peak region. Steve is an adjunct professor of earth science at Emporia State University where he received an MS in earth science. Steve’s special interests include geologic processes operating at the surface.

Steve credits his intense passion for the earth sciences to his family. His great-great grandfather, a hard-rock miner, grew up in Caribou, a mining camp near Boulder in the early 1870s. On the other side of the family, his great-grandfather came to work at the Elkton Mine, one of the big producers in the Cripple Creek District. His grandmother was born in a small house in Elkton, and his grandfather was Spencer Penrose’s private personal secretary.

Steve’s grandfather told him many of the Penrose adventures in gold and copper mining. Steve, coming from a mining family, was destined to build a rock collection and spend a lifetime searching for rocks.

Steve is a member of the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Colorado Scientific Society, Colorado Archaeological Society, Western Interior Paleontological Society, Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, the National Association of Lake Management, the National Association of Geoscience Teachers and the Geological Society of America.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds was held at the Education Center. Sally Maertens presided over the meeting. Steve Veatch was elected as President, Sally Maertens as Vice President, Laine Weber as Secretary, and David Atkins as Treasurer.

Board Member Harold Kaelin works very hard on fund raising and developing community seminars. He is the owner of Twin Rocks Ranch near Florissant.
Modern and Fossil Forests: The Link to China

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds start Fall Community Program Series at Colorado College.

Dr. Herb Meyer, Paleontologist for the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, presented a slide lecture at the new Tutt Science Center at Colorado College on October 7, 2003. In fact, this was the first event to occur in this new science building.

Dr. Meyer discussed his two trips to visit fossil and living forests in China. The talk emphasized efforts that are being made to collaborate with the Chinese on issues related to conservation of both paleontological sites and modern forest communities.

Many of the modern trees and forests of China are similar to those that inhabited western North America 35-15 million years ago. Understanding the modern forests in China helps us to understand the ancient forests of America.

New Board Members

The Board of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds has two new members.

Please meet these members:

Andy Weinzapfel is a consulting geologist and lecturer. He is a certified petroleum geologist, and holds a professional degree in geological engineering from the Colorado School of Mines. A former Conoco Geologic Fellow, he has 33 years domestic and international experience in minerals and petroleum exploration in diverse settings from the Arctic to South American rain forests. His interest in the geology of the Pikes Peak region began in 1984, with the purchase of undeveloped land used for family camping. In 2002, he moved full-time to the area, and is currently pursuing field investigations. He is married and has three adult children.

Laine Weber was born in Columbus, Ohio and attended Ohio State University. She moved to Colorado in 1979. She received her B.A. in Biology / EPOB (Environmental, Population, and Organisms) from CU Boulder. She worked at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument as a fee collector and eventually directed the environmental education program. She left the monument in 1996 to go back to school to obtain a MAT (Masters of Arts in Teaching) and a secondary science teaching certificate from Colorado College. Laine has taught sixth grade earth science from 1997 to the present at the Woodland Park Middle School. She has one daughter, Melanie, in sixth grade at Ute Pass Elementary.

Bill Dexter—Past president and now an active board member. Bill is currently working on several committees including the Summer Seminar Series and the Community Programs.
Board Diggins'

Board members Nancy Anderson and Toni Clare (of the Florissant Quarry) will be spending the winter starting at Christmas in Hawaii. We will miss them and wish them a safe journey.

Board member Bill Dexter is in Japan for the second time in a year. We look forward to hearing about this trip.

David Atkins, our treasurer, is very busily engaged in completing the paleontology certification from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Sally McCracken, our Vice President, was married to Hank Maertens on January 1, 2003 in New York.

We regret that Dick Keefe had to resign from the Board. We wish Dick good health and peaceful days.

Board Challenge Match to Our Membership

The Board is starting a $775 match to raise funds for the production of a film for the Monument. The film will be used in the Visitor Center for offsite programs and to sell in the Visitor Center. The funds must be raised by January 15, 2004.

This is a great non-profit donation before the end of the year to honor someone or in memory of someone. At the present time we have set aside $9,000 for this film and have chosen the company that will be doing the filming.

More New Members from Afar

The Friends continues to attract members from distant places. George and Karen Jakubas from Traverse City, Michigan, attended the Annual Meeting and have now become members.

Welcome!

Message from the Superintendent

Let me begin by thanking the Friends for all their support over the many years that they have been in existence. I can't tell you how thankful I am to have a group such as the Friends who are dedicated to both the resources and the mission of the Monument. Recently we've had generous contributions from members who have donated a new drinking fountain and a large screen TV for interpretive use. The excitement associated with our new administration building grows daily. Testing in the proposed site location has revealed five previously unmapped fossil Sequoia stumps. This new data will be valuable to current research about the ancient Sequoia forests. And we are of course most thankful for the generous contribution from the Friends earmarked for additional space in the new building.

Jeff Mow, Superintendent
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
Life Members

We would like to recognize and thank those who have become Life Members. The Board of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds deeply appreciate your support.

David Atkins
Kent Borges / Stephanie DiCenzo

Robert Landgraf
Jon Lavasque
Estella B. Leopold
Hank and Sally Maertens
Stephen M. Nelson
Jean H. Rodeck
Vim Crane Wright (deceased)

Message from the President

There are many new things happening with the Friends. The community programs will continue next year. The 2004 series, starting in just a few months, will be held at the new Tutt Science Center at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Details on these great programs will be coming to you soon. There are some exciting changes in our summer seminar series which will be announced later next year. We will also be taking advantage of several opportunities to help the Monument with funding. Some of these opportunities will include our annual fund campaign and obtaining grants and matching funds. The Board is working on several new events and additional programming for the members, the community, and Park visitors. We are pleased with the new look of our newsletter, and plan to issue it quarterly. The newsletter will be one of several ways to stay connected to you.

Updated Web Site

We would like to encourage each member to visit the site to provide comments or contribute to it.

The website is currently being maintained by Chris Fleischhacker.

David Atkins is the newest addition to the list of Life Members. David also serves as the Treasurer for the Friends.
New Members

Tammy Adams  
Andrea Arthurs  
Dr. & Mrs. R.W. Baxendale  
Carol Bowers  
Jeff Brandt  
Marilyn & Bob Callan  
Paul A. & Clare Callender  
Jack Case  
Dan & Laura Clegg  
Tom Coxe  
Patty Dennard  
Lisa DiPaola  
Barbara C. Farhar, PhD  
Leslie Faust  
Chris Fleishhacker  
Anita Flindt  
Shawn Frizzel  
Michael Halla  
David Hazlett  
Cheryl Kammerer  
John Kerr  
Julie Lawson  
Diane Leganza  
Shellie Luallin  
Christine Macias  
Donald P. McGooley  
Linda Metzgar  
Robert & Sara Ann Miner  
Jeff & Amy Mow  
Amy Murrel  
Michael Nichols  
Tim & Jane Nicoll  
Robert Nuttelman  
Ron & Cheryl Osmon  
Donna Paderewski  
Jan Perry  
Toni Ratzlaff  
Jean Shircliff  
Dara Siegmund  
Jean C. & Vickie R. Smith  
Richard Stevenson  
Dr. Robert Substad  
David Syndergaard  
Teresa Voilan  
Phil & Kathrene Waltz  
Andy & Susan Weinzapfel  
Elaine West-Fry  
Diane Williams  
Katie Wilson  
Cindi Witmer  
Jeff Wolin  
Jonathan Woods  
Jim Yagmin

Renewing Members

Nancy Anderson  
G. David Atkins  
Richard & Linda Beidleman  
Charles & Marcia Bonwell  
Richard & Dorothy Bradley  
Terry Bramschreiber  
Maj. Joseph & Lois Cancellare  
Jean V. Christopher  
Col. Outdoor Ed. Center, Inc.  
Deane S. Dixon  
Robert & Ann Erickson  
Brian Kachel  
Ross Krummel  
Joy Miller  
Bill & Claudia Miller  
Jeff Petrie  
Elizabeth L. Simmons  
David Valier  
Phyllis Weaver  
Wynne J. Whyman  
Steven Wilkinson  
Reinhard A. Wobus

Homestead Holidays

Start your holiday season with a visit to an 1880’s homestead, Florissant

Fossil Beds National Monument celebrates Homestead Holidays with an open house at the Hornbek Homestead on Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th from 10 am until 3 pm. Staff and volunteers dressed in period costumes will serve refreshments and conduct tours of the historic 1878 Hornbek Homestead, which will be decorated for the holidays. Come and stand around a warm woodstove as delicious smells of baking bread take you back to a simpler, quieter time. Local artisans will be demonstrating quilting, weaving, and other period crafts. Kids will be able to participate in making butter and doing craft activities reminiscent of life in the 1800’s.

You may also want to visit the bookshops at the Homestead and the Fossil Beds visitor center. There is a wide selection of natural and local history, children’s nature books, as well as maps, nature videos, audiocassettes, CD’s and games. Items purchased from the non-profit Rocky Mountain Nature Association Bookshop support the interpretive and education programs of the Fossil Beds. There is no charge for this event beyond the normal park entrance fee of $3 per person over the age of 16.

The Hornbek Homestead is located in Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument on Teller County #1 a mile south of the town of Florissant. From Colorado Springs, travel 35 miles west on US highway 24. The Monument visitor center is about a mile south of the Homestead. For more information call 719- 748-3253.

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, PO Box 185  Florissant, CO 80816.
Events Calendar

November 13  Board Meeting 6 pm Woodland Park Library
December 11 Board Meeting 6 pm Woodland Park Library
January  Community Program Series at Colorado College
(details to be announced)
January 8   Board Meeting 6 pm Woodland Park Library
February 15 Board Meeting 6 pm Woodland Park Library
March 11   Board Meeting 6 pm Woodland Park Library
April 8    Board Meeting 6 pm Woodland Park Library

Check the Friend’s website regularly for updates
www.fossilbeds.org

Calling all Teachers!

A note to our members who are teachers: The Gateway to Educational Materials is a Consortium effort to provide educators with quick and easy access to thousands of educational resources found on various federal, state, university, non-profit, and commercial Internet sites. Check it out today. http://www.thegateway.org/welcome.html

New Paleontology Center

A new dinosaur center is planned for Woodland Park, Colorado, the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center. This is a planned visitor and education center; construction has already begun and the planned opening is Spring 2004. You can see their website at http://www.rmdrc.com. The RMDRC is a project of Triebold Paleontology, Inc., a commercial company that makes and sells casts of dinosaur and other fossils.

Advertising Rates:

Business Card Size: $6.00
¼ Page   $12.00
½ Page   $24.00
Full Page $48.00

You may submit advertisements to: Steven Veatch, P.O. Box 5938, Woodland Park, CO 80866 or via email: sgeoveatch@att.net

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends and is governed by the by-laws of the organization.

Managing editor: Jeff Brandt (jeff@thebrandts.org)  Contributing and Science Editor: Steven Veatch (sgeoveatch@att.net)

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Membership Renewal

If there is a red dot on your address label your membership has expired and this will be your last newsletter.

Please renew today!

Renewal Information

Membership Categories (choose the membership level that is right for you and renew your membership).

( ) 1 Year $15
( ) 2 Year $27
( ) 1 Year Family $25
( ) 2 Year Family $40
( ) Lifetime $300
( ) Corporate $100

Name___________________Address___________________________________________________
City_______________________________State____________Zip__________________
Phone________________________ email____________________
Interests____________________________________________________

Mail this form with your check payable to the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.
P.O. Box 851
Florissant, CO 80816

Board Challenge Match!

The Board has a $775.00 challenge match to raise funds for the production of a film for the Monument. Matching funds must be raised by January 15, 2004. Send in your donation today for the educational film about the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to be used in the Visitor Center.

Donation Categories

( ) $10
( ) $25
( ) $50
( ) Other amount______________________

Name:___________________ Address:___________________________________________________
City:_______________________________State:_____ Zip:____ Phone_____________________
email:________________________

Mail this form with your check payable to the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.
P.O. Box 851
Florissant, CO 80816
Email Addresses Wanted

Please send your current email address to fossilbeds@yahoo.com. This will allow us to send you reminders or events and important news items as they occur.

Please provide us with feedback on the newsletter or any topic you are interested in. We would also like to know who is interested in serving on various committees or on the Board. You can reach us at the address to the left or by email at fossilbeds@yahoo.com.

In 1987, the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. was organized by a group of dedicated individuals interested in assisting the National Park Service in its mission to preserve and protect our national treasures. As a non-profit organization, the Friend's mission is to secure resources to help preserve the fossils and promote programs activities that enhance the Monument's educational, research, and scientific objectives.

Friends' groups help many of the National Park service areas in a variety of ways. Membership fees and donations to the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds are used for:

- Environmental education programs
- Field seminars
- Year-round interpretive programs
- Jr. Ranger programs
- Paleontological and geological resources
- Natural history resources
- Publications

Past accomplishments and ongoing support by the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds includes:

- Major funding of the yurt shelters
- Travel and research funding for the Monument's paleontologist
- Assistance in the purchase of an all-terrain wheelchair for handicapped visitors
- Financial support for the University of Denver's (fossil data) Digitization Project
- Purchase of furniture for the seasonal rangers and intern housing
- Planning, funding, and coordinating the Monument's 30th Anniversary Celebration (1999)
- Funding for other special Monument related celebrations and special events (such as the dedication of the new stump exhibit area May 11, 2002)
- Funding for one Monument newspapers annually
- Funding and coordination of annual Summer Educational Seminars Program