



# Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds Newsletter

Volume 2008 Issue 2

Septmeber, 2008

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## Summer Excavation Yields New Fossil Discovery

by **Bret Buskirk** and **Herb Meyer, Phd, FFB Paleontologist**

Early in the afternoon on July 11th, a species new to the Fossil Beds was discovered during a test excavation by the Paleontology crew at the monument. A *Ginkgo* leaf was found preserved in the 34 million year old lake shale. Having no prior ginkgos described here makes it a first for the park. This specimen helps to provide an enhanced view into the ancient forest that grew at Florissant just before the Eocene-Oligocene boundary, when a major climate cooling took place. It also provides evidence for a wider geographic range than previously thought for ginkgos during the Eocene. They have currently never been found from Eocene floras farther

east than south-western Montana. Finding this fossilized ginkgo has given the monument one more piece to the puzzle that is the Florissant Fossil Beds.

*Ginkgo biloba* is the only known surviving species of the *Ginkgoales*, a group of primitive gymnosperms. *Ginkgo* exists today solely in cultivated stands of trees and or as an ornamental used in landscaping. Although there are reports of possible natural occurrences of *Ginkgo* in China, it is uncertain whether the trees would have



survived without cultivation over the millennia. Trees were commonly planted in temple

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## Redwood Relics of Bygone Years

by **William A. Dexter, PhD**

Looking to the west from along Teller County Road One, two miles south of the town of Florissant, one can see a remarkable degree of dimension contrast. Across part of the Florissant valley just north of the visitor center of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, a large fossil redwood tree

stump can be seen silhouetted against living ponderosa pines. Here, this huge redwood (*Sequoia*) stump stands out against the stark hillsides. When alive, it grew to a height of 300 feet and had a diameter of 14 feet, and was 37 feet around! In contrast, the ponderosas of today are perhaps 2 feet in diameter and grow to a maximum of 60 feet high.

Thirty four million years ago, during a geological epoch called the Eocene, early trembling and eruptions from a volcano near what is now the town of Guffey, flowed down and into an ancient Florissant stream valley. These massive mudflows inundated a forest of giant redwood trees, entombing their bases up to 15

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## Summer Seminars 2008

The Summer Seminars are over for 2008. We had nine seminars on a wide variety of topics, with the highest number in attendance at *Treasures in the Basement*, led by Dr. "Bud" Wobus from Williams College. 24 seminar participants learned about pegmatites, climbed to the top of Crystal Peak, collected samples, and were treated to a lovely lunch served by Nell Carnein and Sheila Vaviasky.

For three days, 16 participants led by Doug Coleman from the Wintergreen Research Center in Virginia and assisted by Shawn Frizzell from Florissant Fossil Beds NM, went "over hill and dale" identifying, listing, and photographing over 200 species of



wildflowers and trees. Even though everyone thought that there wouldn't be many species because of the lack of rain, we were all pleasantly surprised.

This summer, one of our seminars was held at Colorado College. Dr. Louise Mead from the National Center for Science Education in California presented a full day seminar on evolution starting with a discussion on the nature of Science.



How many of you have driven through South Park and wondered what is at the end of many of those dirt roads? Dr. Susan Bender from Skidmore College opened up a whole new world of archeology down one of those dirt roads. The artifacts left behind by prehistoric humans about 6,000-7,000 years ago is being excavated by Skidmore, the Forest Service, and a private organization.

The geology and paleontology of Florissant, spiders, basic map and compass and GPS, Teacher Excavation at the Florissant Fossil Beds and Railroading rounded out the offerings for the summer. Many teachers were able to earn Adams State graduate

(Continued on page 8)

## Friends Group Tells Kids to Take It Outside

by Heidi Bailey

We have all seen advertisements that show a grandpa lovingly teaching his grandchild to use a fishing pole or a grandma picking berries with her grandchild for a homemade pie. The ads work because these experiences are the stuff that childhood memories are made of.

Now imagine the same ads, but with the grandpa holding a video game controller instead of a fishing pole or the grandma selecting a plastic container of berries at the local super store. Such an ad just wouldn't create the same feeling. What it lacks is the setting of the first – the great outdoors.

Our children and grandchildren are spending less time outside. This is having an adverse effect on their health and emotional well-being. In response to this, the Friends of Florissant Fossil is leading an initiative aimed at getting kids outside.

For three days in October, businesses, parks and education centers will sponsor outdoor activities for children and their families. The highlight of the weekend will be a visit from best-selling author Richard Louv.

### Who is Richard Louv?

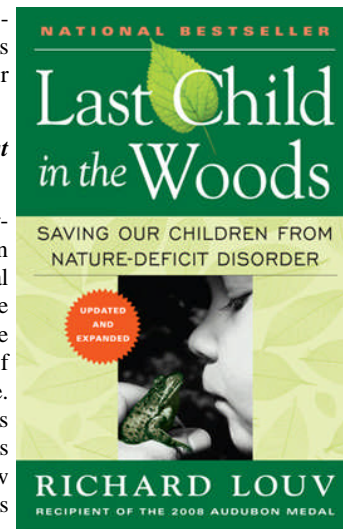
Richard Louv writes books and articles about family, community and nature. He has served on the editorial advisory board for *Parents* magazine, been a frequent guest on national TV, and appeared before the Domestic Policy Council in the White

House. He speaks to people all over the world about the importance of reconnecting children to the great outdoors.

People are listening to what Louv has to say because they are concerned about the rise in obesity, attention deficit disorders, depression, violence, declining test scores, and the other problems plaguing today's children. Louv explores possible reasons for these issues and proposes solutions for combating these problems.

### What is the book *Last Child in the Woods* about?

This book explores the ever-increasing divide between children and the natural world. Louv discusses the benefits of spending time outdoors and the costs of being alienated from nature. He talks about the obstacles that children and parents face and shows adults how they can share in a child's discovery of nature.



(Continued on page 3)

## No Child Left Inside Weekend!

Please join Richard Louv, best-selling author of the book *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, at the Pikes Peak Center in Colorado Springs on Friday, October 3, at 7pm. This program is presented as a public service by a partnership which includes The National Park Service, The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, and Catamount Institute among others. Tickets are available through Tickets West, just call 719-520-SHOW.

In conjunction with this event, the weekend of Oct 3-5, 2008, has been officially designated "No Child Left Inside Weekend!" with regional events celebrating our connections with nature. On Saturday, October 4, Pikes Peak Historical Society will contribute to the excitement with special activities for children of all

ages. From 10am to 4pm, Patti Amgwert will offer an extraordinary experience in Garbage Can Archaeology at the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum. The Museum is located in Florissant, across the street from the Post Office. A mile away, at the Florissant Pioneer Cemetery, Jan Allen will offer a special experience among the gravestones from 1:00pm to 2:30 pm. She will guide children in discovering the nuggets of historical and personal information available on the historical granite markers throughout this 1874 cemetery.

For more information, please call the Museum at 719-748-8259 or 748-3562.

## Take it Outside (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)

The book offers suggestions for using a child's surroundings as an outdoor classroom, even in cities and suburban areas. The newest edition of Louv's book (released in April) provides practical actions for parents and teachers as well as a list of discussion points for book groups.

The book's success is due in large part to its readability – Louv translates the results of several research studies into a compelling story about childhood and family. The book is so popular that it has been translated into six languages and has won many awards.

### What does *No Child Left Inside* mean?

This is the name given to a campaign to encourage children to spend more time outside. The governors of several states have taken legislative action to provide funding for outdoor education programs. There are currently over 40 state and regional campaigns in progress and as people learn about the project, more are sure to follow.

On a national level, a bill has been introduced in both the Senate and the House that, if passed, will expand environmental education in America's schools. The campaign is supported by both liberal and conservative interests, including religious leaders, private developers, health associations and conservation groups.

Most public land agencies have implemented their own versions of the campaign. The U.S. Forest Service started *More Kids in the Woods*, the Bureau of Land Management has *Take It Outside*, and the Fish and Wildlife Service has *Let's Go Outside!* The National Park Service and the National Association of State Parks joined together to create the *Children in Nature* effort. These are different names for essentially the same campaign.

### What is the Children and Nature network?

The Children and Nature network is a behind-the-scenes advisory group for the No Child Left Inside campaign. The network pro-

vides resources to anyone interested in reconnecting children and nature.

The group uses a website ([www.childrenandnature.org](http://www.childrenandnature.org)) to post the latest research, report on campaign activities, and provide resources such as a community action guide. Anyone can sign up for their monthly e-newsletter to keep track of the campaign's progress.

### What is happening in Colorado?

Many of Colorado's parks and natural areas have linked their nature programming to the *No Child Left Inside* initiative. The widespread interest in the initiative has provided these places with a new avenue for attracting visitors to their sites. This is good news for places that have seen declining numbers in recent years.

Colorado is not currently one of the states taking legislative action to promote the campaign – most of the work is being done by local citizens. In the Pikes Peak area, a group of people has banded together to promote a *No Child Left Inside* weekend aimed at getting children and their families outside. The woman primarily responsible for jump-starting this event is Friends' member Sally McCracken.

On October 3 at 7 pm, Richard Louv will kick off the weekend of family-oriented activities with a presentation at the Pikes Peak Center. Ticket prices are Adults \$10, Educators \$7, and Students \$5. Visit the ticket office at the Pikes Peak Center or World Arena or call 719-520-SHOW (an extra fee of \$2 is charged for phone orders).

For a complete list of the weekend's activities, visit [www.nps.gov/flfo](http://www.nps.gov/flfo) and click on Leave No Child Inside Weekend.

## Windmills: Capturing the Energy of the Wind

by **Steven Wade Veatch**

People have been using the energy of wind for thousands of years—Egyptians used sailboats to capture wind power for transportation 5,000 years ago; the Chinese started flying kites 2,000 years ago; and wind furnaces were used in Sri Lanka over 1,300 years ago. Windmills, according to archaeologists, were first built in Persia (Iran) around A.D. 600 to use the power of the wind to grind grain and pump water.

Historically, windmills have been important in farming and industrial applications. They appeared in Europe around the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and by the 18<sup>th</sup> century there were thousands upon thousands of windmills across Europe. The use of windmills also became popular in the New World.

Windmills work by catching the power of the wind and using this natural force to turn the windmill's blades. The turning blades then spin a shaft that turns a wheel and gears—converting the kinetic energy of the wind to mechanical energy that runs various applications such as a pump, a grinding stone, a saw, or an electric generator.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, ranchers in Teller County, Colorado, relied on windmills to pump water and run sawmills. A ranching operation on what was to become the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, built a sturdy windmill in the late 1800s to pump water from a deep well to irrigate their lettuce and potato fields (Fig. 1). Although the once sprawling farm, located in a very scenic part of the fossil beds, is gone, the well-built windmill remains.

Today there is a revival in the use of windmills to produce elec-

tricity. The mining industry, which is power intensive, uses wind power at remote mining sites where commercial electrical power is not available or too expensive to deliver.

With increasing concern over using nonrenewable fossil fuels to generate electricity—a practice which releases the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide—the use of wind-generated electricity is becoming a viable alternative. The wind farms that appear in the landscape produce clean energy that makes the world just a little brighter and the air a little cleaner.



This sturdy windmill stands watch over a formerly active lettuce and potato farm located south of Florissant, Colorado. This historic farm property is now a part of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Photo date 3/2008 by S. Veatch.

## Thank You

Bret Buskirk  
2910 Park Terrace SW  
Albany, OR 97321  
August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds  
PO Box 851  
Florissant, Co 80816

Dear Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds,

My name is Bret Buskirk and I was the Paleontology intern at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument during this past summer under the Geological Society of America Geocorps program. I cannot even begin to express my heart felt thanks for the support that you and your organization have given me. The opportunities available to gain experience in the field of paleontology were vast. And not only did I grow as a scientist but I also learned important life lessons while working with other people of different backgrounds. My time spent here has been amazing and I want you to know that without your organization my sum-

mer would not have been as educational or exciting as this one has been.

As many of you know, the Florissant Fossil Beds is a National Monument that protects and preserves countless fossil specimens preserved in lake shale and mud flows from 34 million years ago. Working as the paleontology intern this last summer I was fortunate enough to work closely with these fossils and in some cases I was able to participate in test excavations to discover more specimens. One of the most exciting things about my summer was the discovery of a fossilized *Ginkgo* leaf; I unearthed it during one of the paleontology crew's test excavations. To be the first ever to discover a ginkgo here at the park is quite exhilarating and has only served to fuel my passion for paleontology that much more.

The main project that I worked on during the summer was a resource management project called Inventory and Monitoring. This job kept me outside most of the days hiking; requiring me to visit most of the paleontology sites here at the monument,

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## Save the Date—40th Anniversary of the Fossil Beds

SAVE THE DATE: Please mark your calendars for the weekend of August 21-22nd, 2009 to join in helping us celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Many exciting activities and events are being planned. On Saturday evening, the banquet will be held at The Nature Place which is part of the Sanborn Western Camps.

If you haven't been to the Monument in the last couple of years, it would be a perfect time to see the many changes and improvements that have been accomplished. Please consider contacting the Monument (748-9204) if you are interested in helping with the preparations.

## Field Studies in Paleontology

### Field Studies in Paleontology: Exploring the Shelf Road from Cripple Creek to Garden Park, CO

October 18, 2008

8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

Through: Cripple Creek Parks and Recreation

Park and Rec fee is \$69.00

A Colorado School of Mines 1/2 semester of graduate credit is available for \$45.

Register today by calling 719-689-3514.

Course description:

Starting in Cripple Creek, this outdoor-based class offers an unsurpassed opportunity to explore the geological and paleontologi-

cal wonders along the Shelf Road. The class will begin with a brief discussion of area mining, rocks, minerals, and fossils. The group will then set off for points south to explore geological features spanning millions of years. The field trip down the Shelf Road is a perfect route to investigate rocks, an ancient seabed, and incredible fossils. Participants will follow the old wagon roads used to haul dinosaur bones from Garden Park to Cañon City, explore a site where dinosaur bones were quarried, visit the paleontology lab at the Dinosaur Depot in Cañon City, and investigate nearby dinosaur tracks.

The basics of paleontology will be reviewed while in the field. Collection techniques and field photography will be demonstrated. Regional geology will be reviewed from overlooks in the area. Participants can collect fossils at several stops.

Transportation by bus will be provided by Cripple Creek Park and Recreation.

## More Richard Louv Visit Events

The best-selling author, Richard Louv, who wrote *The Last Child in the Woods* will be presenting at the Pikes Peak Center on Friday, October 3, 2008, at 7 P.M. The Rampart Library District in conjunction with the planning team for the event will be offering two book discussions on his book. The Florissant Library will hold its discussion on Monday, September 22 at 4:30. The Woodland Park Library will offer its discussion on Tuesday, September 23 at 4:30.

If teachers are interested in receiving Adams State graduate credit or BOCES continuing education (CE) credit, the attendance at a book discussion will be part of receiving credit. For more information on the Richard Louv event on October 3, 2008, the book discussions or applying for credit, please call Sally McCracken at (719)687-9204. Tickets for the evening event can be purchased at the Pikes Peak Center for \$10.00 for adults, \$7.00 for educators and \$5.00 for students.

Richard Louv has authored 7 books focused on family, nature and community. His most recent, *The Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* has stimulated a national conversation about the future between children

and nature. In January, he received the Audubon Medal for "exceptional contributions promoting the importance of connecting people to nature, especially children."

Richard has served on the *Parents* magazine advisory board and has been a frequent guest on national TV (most recent was *Good Morning America* in late July).

This book explores the ever increasing divide between children and the natural world, discussing a variety of reasons for why this is happening. He discusses the benefits of spending time outdoors and the costs of being alienated from nature, including health, physical and emotional issues. He cites the obstacles parents face in getting their children outside and offers suggestions for using a child's surroundings as an outdoor classroom. The book is on the bestseller list and has been translated into six languages.



**The Friends Annual Meeting and Potluck will start at noon on September 20, 2008. Please bring a dish to share. The Friends will provide drinks. We will elect board members and officers. Steven Veatch will also discuss new developments about the Florissant Mammoth.**

## **Annual Meeting**

**November 8 at 12 pm**

**“A” Frame**

**Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument**

**Friends of the  
Florissant Fossil  
Beds, Inc**

## Redwood Relics (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

feet! This hardened mud, called tuff, was gradually dissolved by groundwater, forming the silicate minerals to petrify the wood. This replacement process is more specifically called permineralization. Some experts have stated that the redwood trees were “breathing in silica.” These once-towering redwood trees are the most impressive attractions of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. About a dozen exposures of these huge fossil stumps are gradually being worn down by nature’s actions of weathering and erosion.

The dinosaurs of *Jurassic Park* captured our imagination and created amazement with their gargantuan dimensions. The fossil redwood trees of Florissant were even more spectacular! These sky-seeking sequoias exceeded the dinosaurs in every category: they grew to be 20 times taller than the tallest dinosaur, 2000 times heavier, and were 70 times longer! One tree could have produced enough lumber to build 40 five-room houses, with enough wood left over to house a battleship, or make a wooden crate to cage all known dinosaur bones! Although the dinosaurs all died 65 million years ago, the redwoods lived before the age of dinosaurs and are alive in California today! Perhaps some dinosaurs were inhabitants of the first redwood forests. Some experts suggest that there may be as many as 100 more petrified redwood stumps in the Florissant Valley. A detailed seismic study may confirm this guess one way or the other. The Florissant redwoods show no evidence of adventitious roots or bottleneck growth, a shape common to some California redwoods. This appearance suggests that the Florissant redwoods were entombed and killed in place by the ensuing volcanic mud flows.

Although plants do not have skeletal tissues *per se*, their cell walls are rigid with cellulose. This rigidity provides strength and durability to the woody tissue, allowing for plant tissues to be easily preserved. After the woody tissues of the redwood trees were buried in the mud flow sediment, the spaces inside the cell walls gradually became replaced with dissolved silicate minerals from the surrounding rock. For perhaps thousands of years, the redwood stumps, being underwater, were subjected to acidic

waters, which in time, attacked and dissolved the silicate minerals in solution, forming silicic acid. Some of the silica solution may precipitate on the cell walls, but it is known that silicic acid bonds with hydrogen in the cell walls. This filmy material forms on the cell and the silica simply fills in the empty spaces in the wood. Permineralized silica is surprisingly detailed and delicate. Some of the tiniest internal plant structures are preserved, including “fiber growth” and “cross-field pits”, the telltale means for exact species identification.



Lee Snap

After the mudflows killed the giant redwoods, it is thought that further mud flows either from the Guffey volcano or from the Thirty-Nine Mile Volcanic Field (southwestern part of South Park) blocked the ends of the Florissant Valley, forming a lake, one which lasted for thousands of years! In and around ancient Lake Florissant teemed an abundance of living organisms: over 135 species of fossil plants, nearly 1200 species of insects, 55 types of spiders, and other invertebrates flourished about this ancient lake. There were also several types of fish that lived in the lake. A few other vertebrates, including early horses, oreodonts, and brontotheres (all now extinct) and a few birds, have been found in Florissant’s shale beds.

Why don’t these redwoods and extinct fossil types live here today? There have been many geological events that have taken place in the past 34 million years, between the Late Eocene epoch and today. The uplifting of the mountains and changing climates are the two biggest factors. Florissant Fossil

Beds National Monument includes 6,000 acres of National Park land, designated to protect and preserve a variety of natural resources. It was designated a national park in 1969, with a mandate “to preserve and interpret for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations”. The fossil beds hold one of the world’s richest, most diverse records of past life. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is one of eight units within the National Park service, set aside specifically for the protection of fossil resources. These resources aid greatly in our understanding of the history and the nature of past life on earth.

## Summer Seminars (Continued)

(Continued from page 2)



credit or BOCES continuing education (CE) credit.

We are already beginning to plan for next year's seminars with two already planned. If you have any ideas for topics

you would like to see offered, please call the Monument and leave a message with Jeff Wolin (748-3253)

*All photos from the Flower and Tree Seminar, courtesy of Michelle Bechtel*





## Fossil Discovery (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

gardens, perhaps because of their medicinal qualities. Their survival has relied purely on human intervention. The Ginkgoales have existed since the Late Paleozoic, over 250 million years ago, and they were widely distributed and more diverse during the Mesozoic. They are commonly found among temperate climate fossil floras and thrive in temperate and subtropical areas today.

There are abundant *Ginkgo* fossils found on the West Coast of North America from places like the Miocene Ginkgo Petrified Forest outside of Ellensburg, Washington, and the Eocene and Miocene formations of the John Day Fossil Beds in eastern Oregon. Both areas have fossil floras that exemplify temperate to subtropical climates. As well, the Late Eocene to Early Oligocene Beaverhead Basins, in Southwestern Montana, have floras that are most similar to Florissant's and previously had the easternmost *Ginkgo* fossil found in the continental United States from the Eocene. The new fossil *Ginkgo* from Florissant demonstrates that the geographic extent of *Ginkgo* was far larger than previously thought. The fossil is indistinguishable from the modern *Ginkgo biloba* and is the first fossil record for this species from Colorado.

The fossil itself is no larger than a deck of cards. It is 2 by 2.5 inches, and both part and counterpart of the fossil were collected. Having been preserved in lake shale, the fossil is incredibly fragile and prone to breaking, and because of this, careful stabilization techniques have been used. Since the discovery of the specimen, it was mounted and reinforced on additional pieces of shale and has been nested into a bed of conservation sheet foam that was cut and molded to its shape, helping to ensure that no disturbance or destruction should befall the specimen.

Paleontology at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is an ongoing endeavor in which amazing discoveries are still being unearthed. New information is constantly being gathered, detailing how life existed here more than 34 million years ago. To discover a fossil so rare and finely preserved as the *Ginkgo* is quite an extraordinary find. Scientific collecting at Florissant over the past 135 years has amassed more than 40,000 specimens, yet even with such huge collections, this summer's find represents Florissant's first and only fossil *Ginkgo*! We can only hope to continue finding such amazing fossils here at the Monument in the future.

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## Thank You

(Continued from page 4)

the job kept me outside on most days. My job was to capture photos at each of the paleontological sites. The purpose of this project was to record how each of the sites was faring each year and if there should be any measure taken to better protect these sites. This was a great job and I enjoyed it thoroughly. It definitely taught me valuable resource and data management skills and I especially enjoyed it since it kept me active outside all summer long.

Working as part of a team here at the Florissant Fossil Beds has as well been a great lesson in understanding and dealing with people of different backgrounds. The experiences and lessons that I have gained over the summer have been some of the best in my life. I want to thank you again, without the support of organizations like yours, programs and internships in the sciences would be next to non-existent. Your continued support insures that the future of educational programs in the sciences will be strong for years to come. By simply working in a retail position I certainly wouldn't have had all these amazing experiences and opportunities. Thank you again and I hope that you continue supporting those like me!

Sincerely,

Bret Buskirk

## 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: [sveatch@fossilbeds.org](mailto:sveatch@fossilbeds.org).

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*Friends of the Florissant  
Fossil Beds*

P.O. Box 851  
Florissant, CO 80816

PHONE:  
(719) 748-5010  
(Steve Veatch)

E-MAIL:  
[sveatch@fossilbeds](mailto:sveatch@fossilbeds)

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.fossilbeds.org](http://www.fossilbeds.org)

## Email Addresses Wanted

Please send feedback on the newsletter or any topic you are interested in to Melissa Barton ([webmaster@fossilbeds.org](mailto:webmaster@fossilbeds.org)). If you are interested in serving on a committee or the Board, please contact Sally Maertens at the address to the left or by email at [smaertens@fossilbeds.org](mailto:smaertens@fossilbeds.org).

Please send feedback on the newsletter or any topic you are interested in to Melissa Barton ([webmaster@fossilbeds.org](mailto:webmaster@fossilbeds.org)). We would also like to know who is interested in serving on various committees or on the Board contact Sally Maertens at the address to the left or email her at [sammckind@aol.com](mailto:sammckind@aol.com).

For questions, contact the Editor.

Staff:

**Editor:** Jeff Brandt ([jbrandt@fossilbeds.org](mailto:jbrandt@fossilbeds.org))

**Managing Editor:** Melissa Barton ([webmaster@fossilbeds.org](mailto:webmaster@fossilbeds.org))

**Assistant Editor:** Jonathan Huie ([jonathanhuie@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathanhuie@hotmail.com))

**Science Editor:** Steven Veatch ([sveatch@fossilbeds.org](mailto:sveatch@fossilbeds.org))

**Production Manager:** Don Miranda ([donaldmiranda@elpasoco.com](mailto:donaldmiranda@elpasoco.com))

**Send contributions via email as a Word document or in rich text format (rtf) to Melissa Barton at [webmaster@fossilbeds.org](mailto:webmaster@fossilbeds.org).**

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds newsletter is published quarterly by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds and is governed by the by-laws of the Friends. Articles appearing in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Monument, officers, members, or sponsors of the Friends.

## About Our Organization....

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 and activities that enhance the Monument's education, research, and scientific objectives.

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
- Funding for other special Monument related celebrations and special events (such as the dedication of the new stump exhibit area on May 11, 2002)
- Planning, funding, and coordinating the Monument's 30th Anniversary Celebration (1999) and 35th Anniversary Celebration (2004)
- Funding for the Monument's newspapers each spring
- Funding and coordination of annual Summer Educational Seminars Program



**FRIENDS OF THE FLOISSANT FOSSIL BEDS**  
P.O. Box 851  
Florissant, CO 80816