



Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds e-Newsletter

November 17, 2011

Friends Board Members

Eric Bailey

Vice-President

Heidi Bailey

Membership

Jeff Brandt

Treasurer, Newsletter

Dennis Burr

Chamber of Commerce

William Dexter

Jane Enger

Premium Donations

Patty Glatfelter

Secretary

Wayne Johnston

Web Master

Harold Kaelin

Sally Maertens

President

Jerry McLain

Linda Laverty

Membership

Jean Rodeck

John Schwabe

Project Coordinator

Steve Veatch

Laine Weber

Paleo Interns at Florissant Fossil Beds

Written by Lindsay Walker the 2011 Paleo intern sponsored by the Friends of Florissant through the GeoCorps

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](http://www.geocorpsamerica.org) 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.



SCIENCE • STEWARDSHIP • SERVICE

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.



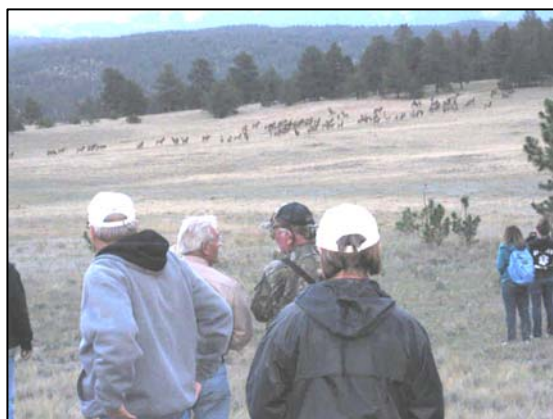
Adrian Maxwell (right) was responsible for establishing an inventory and monitoring program (I&M) for the Indian Springs Trace Fossil site in Cañon City, CO. Indian Spring's monitoring program is based on Florissant's I&M method, but tailored to the challenges specific to trace fossil preservation. Lindsay 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.

USFalcon Volunteer Day

Taking advantage of the USFalcon Volunteer Day benefit, **Jeff Proper** of the Air Force TEN-CAP office at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs volunteered to help lead an "Elk Walk" for visitors to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. A member of the "Friends of Florissant", Jeff spends time throughout the summer months in activities that support the 6000 acre national monument located south of Florissant, Colorado, located in the Rocky Mountains approximately 50 miles west of Colorado Springs. At an 8600 ft elevation, the park is a local favorite for people escaping summer heat from around the country and from countries abroad and for area elk herds seeking safe haven during the fall hunting seasons. The park relies heavily on local volunteers to help conduct the elk walks to let visitors see elk in their natural habitat and experience the thrill of listening to bull elk bugling. Each walk begins with an instructional talk on elk, their habits and the importance of conservation efforts. Jeff teamed with Park Naturalist Allan Studer and Ranger Robyn Proper to lead 20 visitors on Sept 30th. After locating a heard of over 100 elk (including four mature bulls each bugling to impress the ladies to join his "harem") they were able to approach to safe camera range and take "once in a lifetime" photos. For more information on Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument visit <http://www.nps.gov/flfo/index/htm>.



THE NEW VISITOR CENTER AT THE FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS



What an exciting time for everyone at the Florissant Fossil Beds!! After 2-1/2 years of planning, meetings and more meetings, the construction of the new Visitor Center is about to begin. The temporary Visitor Center is in place and up and running. The trailer for the construction company is in place. Fencing for the construction area has been delivered and will soon be up. Even as this info is being sent for inclusion in our first e-letter and the website, the scene is changing.



Temporary Quarters

Please visit our website at fossilbeds.org or view the live [webcam](#) to follow the construction of the new building. Future e-letters will keep you updated on the construction. From the day that the digging begins, it will be at least a year before the building opens. We will try to keep you updated on all aspects of the project including the date for the dedication in 2012.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There are several exciting events coming up over the next year. Please mark your calendars and join us for some great events for members and friends.

Great Backyard Bird Count - Will be held February 17-20, 2012. Two of our life members, Sara and Bob Miner, and the Audubon Society will be helping us with this event at the Monument. Date and time TBA.

Spring Trail Work Day - #2 - TBA - Our first one in June was lead by Board member and volunteer John Schwabe. It was very successful and fun was had by all.

Summer Seminars 2012 - Work is already being done on offering some great seminars for you. The Snow mastodon Project based at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science will be one of our special seminars to be held at Colorado College. TBA (Will be in the summer).

25th ANNIVERSARY of the FOUNDING of the FRIENDS

The initial planning for the 25th Anniversary of the Friends has begun. The celebration will be held on Saturday, August, 18, 2012. During the day, there will be 1 or 2 events at the Monument followed by a dinner banquet at The Nature Place in Florissant where we had the 40th Anniversary celebration for the Monument in 2009.

The banquet at the Nature Place will start at 5:30 with light refreshments and a silent auction. The dinner and program will begin at 6:30.

5 rooms have been reserved for those who may wish to spend the night. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to celebrate with us.

Watch the website and your e-letters for more information as the planning continues. We will be looking for items for the silent auction and people to help with various jobs. If you would like to help, please contact Sally at 719-687-9204.

DON'T FORGET TO: Visit our website: www.fossilbeds.org Send your e-mail address to the Friends if you haven't so that you will receive communications from us.

