



Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

#20— July 7, 2013

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Senator Udall visits The Florissant Fossil Beds

Senator Udall visits The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and meets on the trail...a few military kids, backpackers.

Reported by Alyssa, A Backpack Journalist Intern/military youth/Navy, A Backpack Journalist, Interns,

Eight military children from A Backpack Journalist “Nature Storytelling Workshop” sat down in the middle of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in an outdoor seating area with Senator Mark Udall standing in front of them. Shaded by



ponderosa pines the eight kids looked at him with excitement in their eyes. He started speaking and it was if they hung off every word.

He spoke with confidence. “I think my favorite thing about Colorado is that people in Colorado are active. People here are fit, they are outdoors oriented,” said Udall.

Senator Udall has a deep connection with the outdoors, which leads him to stay strongly involved in the National Park System. Senator Udall worked for Outward Bound for twenty years, taking on the challenges of Mother Nature in order to grow as a human being.

“Some people say America’s National Park system is America’s Best Idea,” Udall said. “I tend to agree with them. It’s a phenomenal system.” Senator Udall is a member of the National Parks Subcommittee and is highly involved with the National Park System. Senator Udall helped establish a national park in Colorado, Black Canyon of the Gunnison.

“What you really get from a place like this is a connection to each other, the world, and yourself.” Udall said on the wonder of nature and national parks.

He strongly believes that national parks are important to everyone. “They are

important because I believe that we don't inherit the earth from our parents, but we are borrowing it from our children," Udall said. He also believes we need to preserve nature so children of the future can experience the same beauty. "We have a responsibility to protect some of the national landscapes so future generations can be inspired by them."

Senator Udall also considers that national parks also have economical and environmental benefits. People are drawn to towns to view parks and in turn this helps boost the economy. Not only do parks bring visitors, they also save the environment. Senator Udall speaks on the beneficial values of parks on the environment. "As well, if you think about the clean air, the clean water, and the wildlife that are generated and protected by our national parks that's another important reason to have national parks," said Udall.

"It's interesting how a senator can be so active with nature. Without "Post to Parks" I wouldn't have had this amazing opportunity," said Cheyenne, one of the youth.

Note: "Post to Parks" was developed and piloted at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



Senator Udall, Park Rangers with Backpack Journalist Youth – Military Kids!

"I think that there seemed to be a perfect match with his visit because he is known to be very supportive of the military, preservation, youth programs, and sustainability and Florissant Fossil Beds has the same alignment with his goal," Ranger Jeff said.

Senator Udall also took the time to share with us his feelings about PTS (not the "d"). He, as many of our backpackers believe that nature can help the healing process for service members or veterans with TBI or PTS. Before leaving, Natalie did raise her hand and ask about sequestration.

Senator Udall responded quickly and smiled with, "Ah, the 's' word. Well, I am now working on a bill, with the Senator from Maine, to help bring some sense to sequestration."

What an experience this was! These groups of military youth, ages 12-17, were from Colorado Springs and Atlanta, Georgia and Houston, Texas and this was their first interview. Thank you Senator Udall for your time and sharing your love of Colorado and the outdoors! The Senator's final piece

of advise to the backpackers, now a part of the Post to Park program at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument was:

“Be sure you find time to sleep under the stars once in your life!”

NOTE: The A Backpack Journalist’ Nature Storytelling Workshop was funded by a grant from the National Park Foundation, and supported by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds. See more at: <http://www.abackpackjournalist.com/testing/#sthash.1NGVRVAO.dpuf>

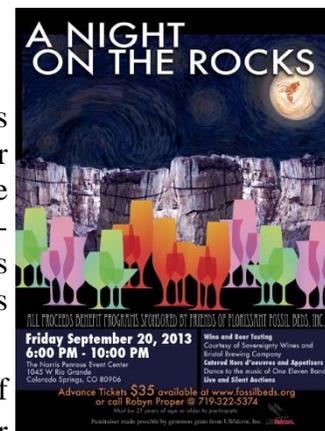
Call to Action!

We need your help! Please help publicize this event by sharing with friends and family, buy tickets and solicit donations. Contact Jeff Proper (jeffproper@hotmail.com or Patty Glatfelter (apsg@live.com) if you have comments or questions. Encourage all to attend, but for those willing to purchase tickets but can’t attend, we will donate their tickets to local firefighters and military members. Enter the comment “please donate” in the comments section of the Paypal form when purchasing.

“Help protect Colorado Springs’ closest national monument! The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds will hold a Wine, Beer, and Food Tasting fundraiser on Friday, September 20th. It will be a gala event at the Norris-Penrose Center in Colorado Springs with live music, a professional MC, and both silent and live auctions. Tickets are now available on the Friends website, at \$35 per person (www.fossilbeds.org). Enjoy excellent wines from Sovereignty Wines, beer from Bristol Brewing Company, other premium beers from Rocky Mountain Distributors, and food from Summit Catering. Participants will get more than their money's worth!! All proceeds from ticket sales and auctions will benefit programs the Friends sponsor at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Programs include the Post to Parks program helping military families and veterans of the Pikes Peak Region visit and enjoy our parks. The Junior Ranger program encourages future generations to learn, explore, and enjoy their parks and earn patches and badges. Florissant’s educational programs serve over 3,000 school children in the region on field trips and activities.” We yearly support one Paleo Intern.

Correction

Oops! Our June 19th eNewsletter article about ten-year-old Gabrielle “Gabby” Linden’s May 20 find of an Eocene epoch fossilized bird failed to properly credit the story. We noted it was written by Debbie Kelly (Debbie Kelley@gazette.com), but we failed to obtain the Gazette’s permission to reprint the article here. After bringing the matter to our attention, the Gazette graciously gave us “after the fact” permission. We appreciate their understanding of our excitement to get the story out to our members and the Gazette’s continued support to informing the Colorado Springs community of significant Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument news.



A Good Time Was Had by All

Friends' Board members recently hosted a delegation from Peru and staff members of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument to dinner at a local restaurant in Woodland Park. Visiting were Santiago Asenjo Davila and Diana Pajuelo Aparicio, accompanied by Dr. Deborah Woodcock of Clark University and her husband. Santiago, a native of Sexi, is a long time supporter of the research at the petrified forest at El Bosque Petrificado Piedra Chamana. Diana is a geologist with INGEMENT, a Peruvian government agency. She studies volcanology in Peru and has completed geologic mapping at the petrified forest. Together, they visited Dr. Herb Meyer and spent a week with the paleo staff at Florissant, conducting field research and visiting numerous sites throughout the local area. Santiago spoke to Friends members about the need to improve access for visitors coming from outside Sexi and to develop infrastructure in the village to support increased visitorship. Diana is anxious to help create a Friends organization for Sexi modeled along the lines of the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds. Both expressed gratitude for the Friends' hospitality and support over the years. We are the only Friends group in the National Park Service that has a relationship with an international Friends group.



Summer Paleontology Projects

by Herb Meyer

The Paleontology Division has had an extremely busy summer this year, and we want to show the members of the Friends some of the things that have been happening. We have six interns on the paleontology staff, and each of them is completing a special project. In June, we moved the fossil collections into our new Paleontology Research Lab. Right after that, we sponsored the Paleontology Open House, which was attended by hundreds of guests including many scientists from around the state and the country. The Friends helped sponsor a Paleontology Reception for these scientists on June 15th during the opening celebration for the new Visitor Center. In July, we spent a week hosting two visitors from Peru, who came to see how fossil sites are managed in the United States so that they can get new ideas for the petrified forest in Sexi, Peru, which is a project that the Friends have helped support for several years. We have other ongoing projects to finish the fossil exhibits in the new Visitor Center, monitor the park's fossil sites, develop a new method for stabilizing the fragile shale, create new outreach about our paleontology program for the park's website and exhibit area, photograph and digitize the collections, reorganize the fossil collection in the new building, process the park's paleontology archive collection, and conduct new scientific research. If you came to the Paleontology Open House, you may have seen some of these projects in action. We have also hosted several researchers who are working on projects such as the stratigraphy of the Florissant Formation and the examination of fossil leaves, wood, and mammals. Some of our projects are directly funded by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, and we are very grateful for the support that the Friends provide! Read on to hear more about what's been happening!

Thanks from a Friends-sponsored Paleo Intern

My name is Heather Falkner and I am an intern at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. I received my internship through the GeoCorps program of the Geological Society of America, but it is funded by the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds. I am currently a graduate student at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota. My thesis research is determining which consolidants will be best to use on the Florissant fossils, and what techniques are necessary to apply these consolidants.

The fossils at Florissant Fossil Beds are mostly preserved in thinly laminated shale, called paper shale. This paper shale is very fragile and prone to flaking. This makes it very difficult to handle, work with, and store properly. I am testing 4 types of acrylic polymers that are usually used in fossil preparation. These polymers come as pellets that are then dissolved in acetone and ethanol. Also, I am testing varying concentrations of each consolidant to see which may penetrate the shale better. The consolidants, when dissolved in the acetone or ethanol, are suspended as microscopic polymer beads. When the mixture is applied to a shale specimen, it soaks into the shale. The acetone or ethanol evaporates, leaving the polymer beads in the shale to strengthen it.



For techniques to apply the consolidant, I am testing a vacuum impregnation method, a humidity chamber method and a tabletop method. For the vacuum impregnation, the shale samples and consolidant are put into a vacuum chamber, which theoretically will help the consolidant penetrate the shale. Another technique I am testing is seeing if putting the shale with consolidant applied in a sealed bag with a high concentration of the solvent inside the air in the bag will help the consolidant dry more slowly, thus allowing more penetration into the shale. The last technique, used as a control for the other techniques, is to apply the consolidant to the shale and let it sit in the open air while it dries. After the best technique and consolidant are determined, I will be using them to stabilize part of the Florissant collection.

I would like to thank the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds for funding my internship here this summer. Since the internship gives me a chance to work on my thesis project, it is very useful to be here. I hope that my findings will help to preserve the beautiful fossils kept at the National Monument for future research and future generations to enjoy.

Paleontology Open House – Paleo Lab Tours A Smashing Success

By Kelly Hattori and Selva Marroquin

The paleontology department at Florissant Fossil Beds was excited to be able to offer tours of the paleontology lab for three days during the Visitor Center grand opening celebration. The big day was during the Paleontology Open House on June 15th, when hundreds of people including many scientists came to see our new facility. The lab tours provided a unique opportunity to show visitors what happens behind the scenes. Any and all were welcome to take the tours and visitors included scientists, prominent NPS employees, government officials, people influential in the development of Florissant Fossil Beds as a national monument, and the general public. Visitors were walked through four stations in the lab that each featured a different aspect of research at the park. A paleontology intern at each station gave a short 5-minute talk about research projects and the process of adding new fossils to the park's collection.

The first station reviewed the process of stabilizing a fossil once it had been brought in from the field. Heather, whose internship consists of research regarding the preservation of Florissant's delicate fossils, talked about the experiments that she is conducting to find the best consolidants and adhesives to preserve the fossils within the fragile shale. The results of her research will be analyzed and reported in her graduate thesis.

The second station continued to follow the progress of a fossil and featured the management of the park's collections and the ongoing digitization project. Alison Dernbach, the museum collections intern at Florissant Fossil Beds, explained the process of organizing the park's fossils. She spoke about assigning a catalogue number to each fossil that can then be referenced in the database if necessary. She also briefly detailed the move of the fossils and her post-move reorganization process. Kelly Hattori, the digitization project intern, then went on to speak about the necessity of creating a digital record for each fossil through photography. It is important to ensure that there is a digital photo of every

fossil so that a copy is available to researchers and the public in the event that the original specimen cannot be viewed. The digitization project will eventually culminate in the creation of a searchable public database.

The third station, headed by paleontology outreach intern Lindsey Yann and archival intern Taylor Hayes, featured the outreach and education programs that are currently being improved upon. Lindsey's primary focus is updating the paleontology portion of the Florissant Fossil Beds website to include more educational information and fossil photos. A video version of the paleontology lab tour will be available so that other visitors who were not able to visit during the grand opening can still see what goes on behind the scenes. Taylor focuses on the archival aspect of outreach and explained how he is currently working to scan important archival documents.

The fourth and final station focused on the park's inventory and monitoring program. Selva Marroquin, whose summer internship includes this project, explained the purpose of the program and why it is important. The project is conducted every summer in order to assess the condition of various paleontological sites around the park. It was a good opportunity to show the public that there is more to the park than meets the eye, and to impress upon them the necessity of maintaining its resources.

The paleontology tours were a huge success and hundreds of visitors were given a glimpse into the greater depths of Florissant Fossil Beds' paleontology program. It was important to show the visitors that research is a highly active aspect of the park, and the tours highlighted this excellently and have resulted in a lot of supportive comments and positive feedback. The Florissant Fossil Beds paleontology staff was excited to finally be able to answer the question, "So what *do* you really do all day?" along with other queries about previous and ongoing research and its impact on the scientific community and the general public. The answers to some of the most frequently asked questions, in addition to the video version of the tour, will be added to the Florissant Fossil Beds website in the near future.

Monument Hosts Visitors from Peru

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds hosted two visitors from Peru during the week of July 14. The visitors are associated with the petrified forest at El Bosque Petrificado Piedra Chamana, which is a nationally designated site near the village of Sexi, Peru. The Monument's paleontologist, Dr. Herb Meyer, has been working on scientific research and conservation at this site for the past 13 years. Dr. Deborah Woodcock of Clark University, who has collaborated with him and has led the project in Peru, also visited from Massachusetts and contributed to the success of the week's events. This visit provided



opportunities for our guests to see and understand how paleontological sites are managed in the United States, and how educational programs and museums promote understanding about paleontology for the public. The village of Sexi is very remote and in need of better economic development. The people there see that the fossil site may help provide new opportunities for their livelihood. One of the



broader impacts of the scientific project that Herb Meyer and Deborah Woodcock are doing is to use science and conservation as a means to provide better opportunities for improving the economy of the village. This also helps to promote the National Park Service's defined mission to extend the benefits of conservation throughout the world. Our two visitors were Santiago Asenjo Davila and Diana Pajuelo Aparicio. Santiago is a retired accountant who lives in Lima, Peru, but still has family connections in the village of Sexi where he grew up. He is one of the major

promoters for the village and a long-time supporter of our scientific work there. During a reception dinner with the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, he spoke with visibly deep emotion about Sexi, the village that he loves, and their need for better opportunities. Diana is a geologist with INGEMMET, a Peruvian government agency comparable to our U.S. Geological Survey. As a young scientist who studies volcanology in Peru, she has completed some of the geologic mapping at the petrified forest at Sexi and is helping to manage that project for INGEMMET. Her visit to Florissant was her first time out of Peru, and she is seeking new opportunities and experiences from her visit here. Working with her agency, she plans to produce a publication about the petrified forest at Sexi in the near future.

During their week-long visit to Florissant, we showed them how we manage and conserve fossils and collections in the U.S. At Florissant, they saw our collections, our paleontology program, our interpretive program, and our methods for constructing trails. We also took them to meet scientists at the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver, the Bureau of Land Management in Cañon City, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, and the Cripple Creek and Victor Gold Mine. We went on field trips to see the National Natural Landmark fossil sites at Indian Springs, Garden Park, and Dinosaur Ridge. Santiago and Diana were stunned to see the huge scope of the Denver Museum's exhibits and fossil collections. Near the close of the week, we talked about the future goals for Sexi and how those might be accomplished. It is a challenge. We hope that the experiences from their visit here will provide new ideas for similar activities and functions in Peru. They certainly got a lot of new ideas, and Santiago alone filled 37 pages in his notebook.

The village wants to promote the petrified forest for education and tourism, yet they still lack all of the basic components of infrastructure such as a restaurant, a hotel, and transportation (there is not even a car in the village), which limits the possibilities. Overcoming this "chicken or egg" situation of determining what comes first – the tourist or the place to eat – is one of the pressing needs in moving forward. We are also concerned about assuring that the fossils are adequately protected before tourists begin to come.

The Friends have a partnership with a nonprofit organization in Peru that was established to conserve and promote the fossil site at Sexi. The Friends maintain a separate fund for donations to help with this



project. Donors to this fund have included members of the Friends, scientists, and even one of the astronauts who went around the moon on Apollo 8. The funds have been used to help improve the infrastructure of a small museum in the village, develop exhibit panels, and provide support to help cover the airfare for Santiago and Diana. There are many more needs both large and small, and contributions can be made to the Friends for this fund by indicating that the donation is for “Sexi, Peru.” A U.S. dollar goes a long way in Peru.

By Lindsey Yann, 2013 Paleontology Intern

Paleontology Open House – Exhibit Tours and “Meet the Scientists”

Both visitors and scientists came together in enormous numbers last month for the Paleontology Open House on June 15th during the grand opening of the long awaited visitor center. This provided a wonderful opportunity to learn more about recent research at the monument and to meet the scientists who are still actively researching at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Six active scientists featured in the new visitor center spent the day beside the exhibit panels, meeting the public and answering questions about their research. Four additional researchers who have worked to create a more detailed understanding of the region during the Eocene were also present. Other paleontologists from around the state, the country, and the world also joined in our celebration.

I had the opportunity to interview ten of these scientists while they were here to highlight some of their contributions and memorable experiences while researching at the Monument. In case you did not get to meet the researchers at the open house, you can “meet” the scientists below!

Dr. Estella Leopold, a paleopalynologist (studies fossil pollen), is Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington. She was instrumental in the court cases that ultimately led to the development of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Even before the court cases, while working for the US Geological Survey in the mid-1950s, she was given the task of trying to extract pollen from the Florissant Formation. Her work resulted in perfectly preserved pollen grains that could be used to reconstruct the ancient environment. While Dr. Leopold’s research focuses on pollen, one of her most memorable finds was a palm frond, which is indicative of a warmer climate.



Dr. Herb Meyer, a paleoaltimetrist (studies ancient elevation), has been the monument’s paleontologist since 1994. His research uses fossil leaves to reconstruct the temperature, and the rate that temperature changes, to determine the elevation of Florissant during the Eocene. While not all scientists agree, his research indicates that Florissant was at about the same elevation as today. One of his most memorable finds was a *Florissantia* flower found during an excavation in 2009, but his favorite experience has been the opportunity to sponsor 40 brilliant interns that have made significant contributions to paleontology at Florissant.

Dr. Elisabeth Wheeler, a paleoxylotomist (studies fossil wood), is Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University. Her re-



search focuses on angiosperms (flowering plants), more specifically the petrified wood of the monument. One of the larger stumps was identified as an angiosperm, but the petrified wood cannot be linked to any of the common leaves. Through her research, she tries to encourage curiosity and an understanding of how Florissant links to the present and how things have changed through time.

Dr. Jaelyn Eberle, a vertebrate paleontologist, is Curator of Fossil Vertebrates and Associate Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her research at

Florissant focuses on the small mammal fossils. While many expected the search to be fruitless, screening of sediments at sites like the “Loud Slobbering Dogs locality” tripled the number of mammals. One of her most significant finds was a mountain mole, which is the oldest record in North America. However, the whole fauna is vital to understanding the mammals and the environment at Florissant Fossil Beds.



Dr. Dena Smith, a paleontologist (studies fossil insects), is Curator of Invertebrate Paleontology and Associate

Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her work started at Florissant during her dissertation, and her research has focused on insect damage and the coevolution of plants and insects. One of her most memorable experiences includes the surprise of how obvious the insect damage was and how the preservation was great enough to link it to modern damage. She also loves the shared excitement of discoveries with students in the field.



Jenell Henning's master's thesis, with advisor Dr. Dena Smith, focused on the preservation of fossil insects from the Florissant

Formation. While many fossils have been found within the formation, her work indicated that they are not as abundant or as well preserved as many had assumed. Her favorite finds during the study were the weevils, a type of beetle. Her fondest memories include the fun times she had during field excavations while surrounded by great people. She is very excited about the data her project provided and that it broadens the possibilities for the future, including revisiting her work.



Dr. Emmett Evanoff is Associate Professor of Geology at the University of Northern Colorado—shown with Lindsey Yann in photo. His research at Florissant Fossil

Beds focuses on the stratigraphy, or studying the layers of rock, of the Florissant Formation. Some of the most memorable experiences while working at the monument include the discovery of the fossil mammal sites and discovering that the petrified stumps were on the same ancient surface, representing one forest. Through his research, he tries to highlight how unique this site is in the geologic record and how important it is to understanding the late Eocene world.





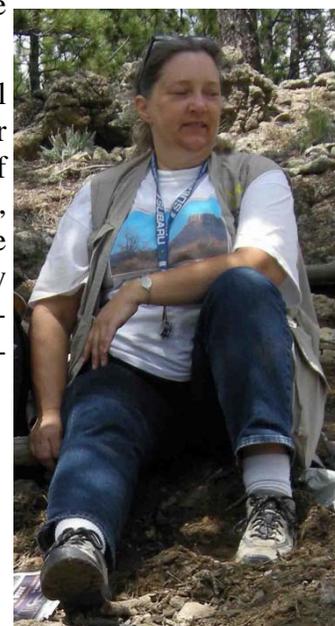
Dr. Steve Manchester, a paleobotanist (studies fossil plants), is the Curator of Paleobotany at the Florida Museum of Natural History—shown in photo with Lindsey Yann. His first experience with fossils of the Florissant Formation was in high school while visiting the University of California, Berkeley, where some of the Florissant collections are held. One of his most memorable projects was working on the association of leaves and fruits of *Fagopsis*, one of the most common plant fossils. He also linked isolated fossils to an extinct member of the elm family, *Cedrelospermum*, which can also be found in Germany and France. These projects are research puzzles that help to reconstruct climate and can help to better understand the evolution and diversification of trees.

Dr. Mary Ellen Benson, currently at the US Geological Survey, began her research at Florissant Fossil Beds while working on her doctorate from the University of Colorado, Boulder under the direction of Dena Smith—shown in photo with Toni Clare. She published a monograph describing the fossil diatoms of the Florissant Formation, which resulted in the naming of five new species and one new variety. Dr. Benson's research put Florissant on the map for freshwater diatoms, as this assemblage is the most diverse early diatom flora reported from the geologic record.



Dr. Libby Prueher, a faculty member at EcoTech Institute, became interested in the Florissant Formation through Emmett Evanoff while lecturing at the University of Northern Colorado. Her work focuses on identifying the source of the volcanic material that dammed Lake Florissant. Her favorite memory of working at the monument was the collaboration of the researchers. She collected volcanic ash samples alongside geologists studying sedimentary rocks and paleontologists discovering insect fossils. While the research is still in progress, she hopes that it will help to tie together the regional geology.

Other people who came for the Paleontology Open House included several past Paleontology Interns, past Superintendents, affiliates of the Denver Museum and the Western Interior Paleontological Society, museum staff members from the University of Colorado and the University of Florida, and other paleontologists from Colorado, Texas, China, and Germany. The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds and the Pikes Peak Historical Society sponsored a Paleontology Reception at the Florissant Library to help celebrate the big turnout of paleontology enthusiasts, and to recognize the paleontologists who contributed to the Monument's new exhibits.



Fossil Collections Move into New Paleontology Lab

By Alison Dernbach, Paleontology Intern

During the week of June 3, the huge task of moving the paleontology collection was completed. Many weeks of tedious but important work led up to the move. First, the other paleontology interns and I packed each and every fossil in the collection in foam. Each box that held a specimen got a layer of thin foam on the bottom and top to cushion the fossil against any vibrations during the move.



We also packed almost all of the specimens in “cavity nests” within the foam so they wouldn't slide around inside their box during the move. Small, scrap pieces of foam held the less fragile specimens in place in each box while the more fragile pieces received custom fit foam stabilization. The process of packing each of the 10,000+ specimens took several weeks even with the help of many people. More people joined in as the week of the move approached until all six interns as well as staff from Florissant and three other National Park units were involved in cutting

foam and packing the fossils. Once we packed all the boxes of fossils and placed them neatly but tightly in a collection drawer, the next part of the move could take place.

We used two moving trucks with custom-built shelves to move the drawers of fossils from the old collection building to the new paleontology lab. In order to reduce the amount of vibration in the drawer as much as possible, we wrapped each drawer in bubble wrap. Once a drawer of fossils was sufficiently packed in foam, more foam, and bubble wrap, we loaded it onto the truck and began the slow but short journey to the new lab. On the other side, more staff and volunteers took off the protective bubble wrap and the top layers of foam (both of which were recycled back to the drawer packing area to make packing and wrapping more efficient) and placed the drawer in a cabinet in the new collection room.



Despite the overwhelming idea of moving many thousands of fragile fossil specimens,

the move went incredibly smoothly and surprisingly quickly. Weeks of preparation, meticulous planning, and a great amount of help made it all possible. We all got pretty good at cutting foam and wrapping drawers in bubble wrap! But it's not over – the reorganization of the collection in the new cabinets will continue for the next several months.





The fossil moving team

Monument Processes Lost Archive Records

By Conni O'Connor, Museum Tech

Over 2 weeks during the summer of 2011, I dressed head to toe in a Tyvek suit and breathed through a respirator in order to clean out the upstairs of the mouse-infested Maytag barn. Five 4' x 3' x 3' wheeled-carts of personnel and obsolete administrative files from as far back as the early 1970s were destroyed because they were no longer relevant or appropriate. In the process, I discovered almost 52,000 archive documents and an additional 10,000 to 20,000 photos, negatives, and other media in the monument's outbuildings and library. These materials represent historical documents about the monument's history, former landowners, establishment, events, and research and construction projects.

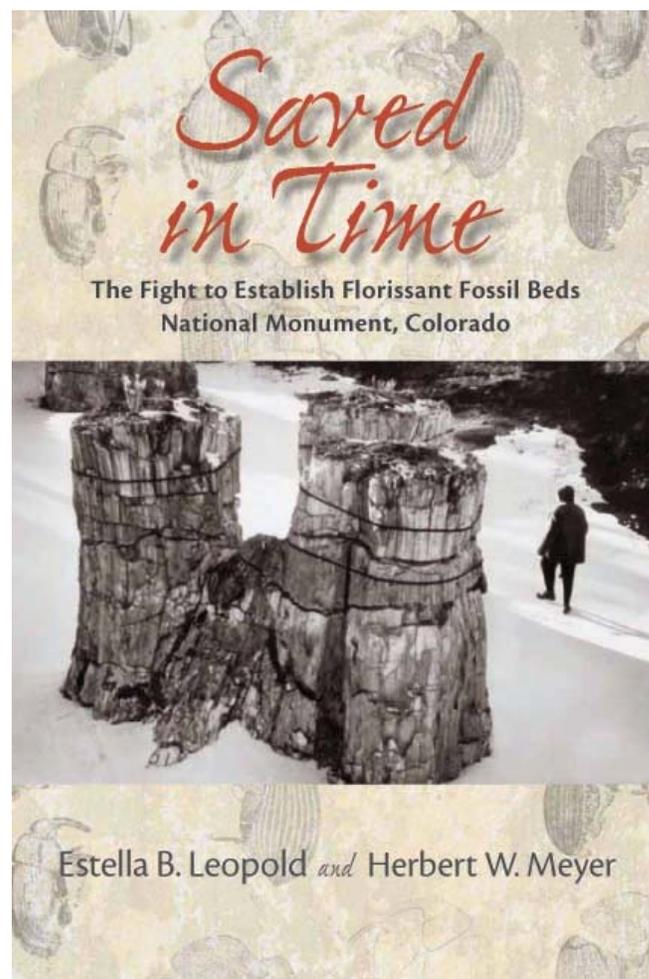
This summer will see the beginning of the processing of those newly discovered archives. Archive intern Taylor Hayes is assisting with the project. After the materials have been sorted and accreted, rehousing and digitizing can take place. Finding aids will ensure efficiency for future researchers and monument staff. This will assure that these important records will be preserved and accessible for decades to come.



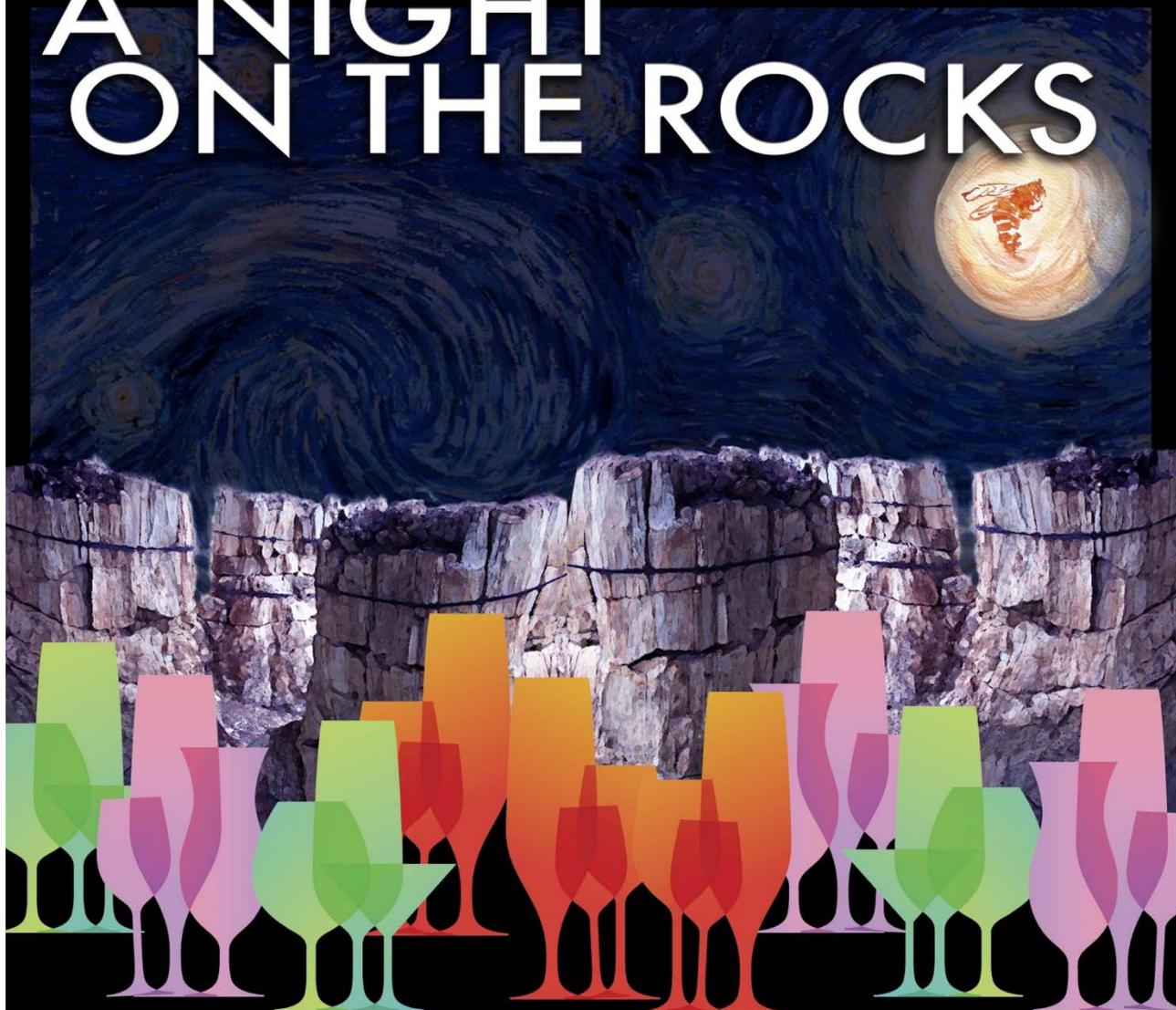
Denver Museum of Nature & Science to Host Lecture on Florissant

The Monument's paleontologist Dr. Herb Meyer will present a lecture about the history and establishment of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument on August 21st in the Ricketson Auditorium at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The talk will feature the new book "*Saved in Time: The Fight to Establish Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument*" by Estella Leopold and Herb Meyer. The event begins at 12:15 p.m. and is open to the public as part of the admission to the Denver Museum. More information is available at:

<http://www.dmns.org/learn/adults/lunchtime-lectures/saved-in-time-the-fight-to-establish-florissant-fossil-beds-national-monument/>



A NIGHT ON THE ROCKS



ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS, INC.

Friday September 20, 2013
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

The Norris Penrose Event Center
1045 W Rio Grande
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Wine and Beer Tasting

Courtesy of Sovereignty Wines and
Bristol Brewing Company

Catered Hors d'oeuvres and Appetizers

Dance to the music of One Eleven Band

Live and Silent Auctions

Advance Tickets \$35 available at www.fossilbeds.org
or call Robyn Proper @ 719-322-5374

Must be 21 years of age or older to participate

Fundraiser made possible by generous grant from USfalcon, Inc. 