



Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

#5—May, 2012

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25th Anniversary of the Friends



The Board of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc., hopes that you will join us for some or all of the activities planned for Saturday, August 18, 2012. We are excited for this milestone in the life of the Friends and wish to share many memories and stories of the past 25 years. The day will be filled with opportunities to see old friends and all of the many changes at the Monument.

Here are some of the planned activities:

- *A tour of the new visitor center
- *Special programs at the Scudder pit, Homestead, and the science lab in the yurt
- *A special book signing and book talk
- *A showing of the film "Green Fire" (Aldo Leopold)
- *Concert at The Nature Place by Jeff Wolin
- *Silent Auction
- *Banquet at The Nature Place

Our e-newsletters will continue to inform you about the final plans for the 25th. If you haven't been receiving the Friends e-newsletter (we have sent out 4), it is either because we don't have your e-mail address or the e-mail address we have for you is incorrect. Please make sure that you include your e-mail address on the enclosed registration form.

The Board of the Friends hopes that each of you have received your formal invitation to the 25th Anniversary Celebration to be held on Saturday, August 18, 2012. We would like to thank one of our Board members, Linda Laverty, for her generous donation of time, energy and supplies for making the invitations. A thank you goes to the 25th Anniversary committee for doing the mailing and to Keith Payne, Superintendent and Paleo tech Lindsay Walker for the 25th logo design.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us for some or all of the activities that day. Please make sure that you send in your reservations for the banquet as there is limited seating.

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends and the Monument.

Sincerely,

The Board of the Friends

(Print and mail to:
Friends of Florissant
Box 851
Florissant, CO 80816

Name (s): _____

I/We will be attending the 25th Anniversary of the Friends Banquet on August 18, 2012.

___Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$_____ (\$40.00 per person) for _____ guest(s).

I/We would like to make an additional donation to the Friends. Please find my contribution of \$_____ enclosed.

I/We are unable to attend, but I/we are enclosing a donation to support the Friends efforts . \$_____

Donations can be specified for a certain program such as support of an intern, wagon wheels, Post to Parks, education programs, Sexi, Peru museum or other things of interest to you.

(E-mail address) _____

(phone number) _____

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Florissant.

Contact Sally McCracken with questions 719-687-9204.

We have reserved 12 rooms at The Nature Place for those who may wish to stay overnight after the banquet. The price is \$104.00 (per person) which includes the banquet, the room

and Sunday breakfast.

Please call Sally to reserve a room ASAP (719-687-9204)

Upcoming Area Events

1. Seminars - July 7, 13, 14, 19, August 4, 2012
See article below on page 6.
2. Saturday, June 2, 2012 - National Trails Day -
See article below on page 5.
3. Saturday, August 4, 2012 - Ute Dancing - at the
Monument at 7 PM
4. Saturday, August 4, 2012 - Dedication of the Lake
George Charter School - for info go to Igschool@lgcsco.org
5. Saturday, August 18, 2012 - 25th Anniversary
See article on pages 1-3.
6. Friday - Sunday - August 17-19, Lake George
Gem and Mineral Show in Florissant
7. Saturday, August 18, 2012 - Tractor Pull -
in Florissant
8. Sunday, September 23, 2012—The Annual Membership meeting and Pot Luck at 12:00
noon.
9. Don't forget to visit the Farmers' Market in Woodland Park starting in June on Fridays from
7:00a—1:00p. The Monument and Friends will have a booth there every other Friday. Come
Visit!

NEW VISITOR CENTER CONSTRUCTION UP-DATE

On Friday, May 4th, the excitement was high as the cement trucks rolled into the Monument parking lot. As the cement pouring began into the footings Dr. Herb Meyer, the Park paleontologist, was heard to say, "I'm a believer." For many years, as plans were discussed, he maintained that until he saw the cement trucks, he wouldn't believe that we would get a new visitor center. Pictured below is Dr. Meyer smiling as he admits that is now going to happen.

The footings and utility connections are done. Soon we will see the SIPS (Structural Insulated Panels) go up. Both water and septic will soon be completed. The Coastal Environmental Group is the prime contractor.

Don't forget to watch the construction on the webcam at

nps.gov/flfo or come and visit in person to see all of the activity and catch the excitement from everyone there.



Armed Forces Day

On Saturday, May 19th Armed Forces Day, Intermountain Region's Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument teamed with staff from the Pacific West Region to roll out the new America the Beautiful Annual Military Pass at the Fort Carson, Colorado, Commissary and PX. These Fort Carson facilities are utilized by all five local area military installations which include Fort Carson, the Air Force Academy, Schriever AFB, Petersen AFB, and Cheyenne Mountain Air Station (NORAD). Florissant staff members Troy Fuhrman and Keith Payne teamed with Troy's wife Allison, FLFO Operation Guardian intern Robert Trujillo, Junior Ranger Keegan Key, Pacific West Region Volunteer Coordinator Peggy Dolinich, and Peggy's daughter Courtney to distribute 450 new NPS Military Passes to active duty soldiers, spouses, and their dependents. They also distributed nearly 200 Access Passes to persons with permanent disabilities.



*Ranger Troy Fuhrman, his wife Allison and Jr. Ranger Keegan Key (Keith Payne's Grandson).
At the Fort Carson Commissary handing out Military Passes.*

Junior Ranger Keegan and Courtney brought their valuable energy and perspectives to the effort. Keegan amplified the program by introducing the younger family members to the Florissant Fossil Beds Junior Ranger program and activities, and encouraging them to visit their national parks, because all the JR programs are different for each park. Courtney, college student home for the weekend, came to "help my mom", meet people, and help with the pass distribution. She succeeded easily on all counts. Together these two provided insight to the new pass holders about the family- and youth-oriented programs available at all national parks and public lands.

Army Specialist and Florissant Fossil Beds intern Robert Trujillo explaining and issuing the Military Passes to Fort Carson soldiers.



National Trails Day - Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Saturday, June 2nd 9 am-3 pm

Join us for National Trails Day at the **Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument**, sponsored by **The Friends of the Fossil Beds** and **The Coalition for the Upper South Platte**. Help complete trail maintenance on a one mile section of the **Hornbek Wildlife Loop Trail**, to include:

- construction of rolling dips and rock water bars
- bridge maintenance on Grape Creek
- rock staircase construction
- building an elevated retaining wall

When completed, the **Hornbek Wildlife Loop** will be restored to a safer trail with less erosion - a culmination of two year's work by numerous volunteers, partners and park staff. This is a free event and great learning experience. Tasks will range from moderate to strenuous. Participants will receive free admission to the monument **on that day** and a guided interpretative tour of the Hornbeck Homestead following the project. Minimum age: is 10, and must have adult supervision – pets are not allowed. **Registration is required**, please contact: Lisa@uppersouthplatte.org or call CUSP at: 719 -748-0033.



Florissant Fossil Beds

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument



Summer Seminar Series and Fees

The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. 2012 seminars are dedicated to the 25th Anniversary of the Friends. The "Alive at 25 – A Quarter Century of Supporting the Monument," celebration will be held on Saturday August 18th, 2012. Due to the intense work involved with the 25th Anniversary and the construction of the Monument's visitor center, this summer will offer a limited number of seminars.

The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. offers one day seminars in a variety of geology, biology, humanities, and paleontology courses. The regular fees for each seminar are \$50.00 per person for a one -day seminar. Reduced rates are available for members of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc (See section on Friends group below). A special rate is available for teachers who join the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds and sign up for seminars by June 1, 2012. This can be by phone or mail postmarked by June 1, 2012. This special rate is \$30.00. Registration information will be available on the Monument's website after the first week of May 2012 at <http://www.nps.gov/ffbo> and go to the link for Seminar Programs.

Teacher Friendly Graduate Credit

Teachers can earn undergraduate and graduate credit through the Division of Extended Studies of Adams State College. Adams State charges \$27.50 for a ½ graduate credit for a one -day seminar. BOCES recertification credit is available for \$5.00 for ½ credit. (No discounts are available for tuition). Undergraduate credit will also be available.

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds N.M.

If you join the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. either as an individual or family, you will receive a \$10.00 discount on the seminar fee. A one -year, individual membership to the Friends is \$15.00 and a one-year, family membership is \$27.00. Seminar discounts are only available to current members or those who join with their seminar registration. If you are no longer a member, you may wish to renew. Remember, if you are a teacher AND a Friend member AND you register early (See first section) you get a special rate of \$30.00 for a one day seminar.

Schedule

Saturday, June 7, 2012	7am – 3:30 pm*	Birding 101 – The Bluebird of Happiness and Other Bird Stories	Debbie Barnes
Fri/Sat, July 13-14, 2012	9am – 5 pm	Wildflowers of the Rockies Part II Knowing Your Grasses Part II	Doug Coleman
Thursday, July 19, 2012	9am – 5 pm	Easy Fossil Making in the Classroom	Toni Ratzlaff
Saturday, August 4, 2012	8am – 5:30pm*	Landmarks in the History of Paleontology in central Colorado	Herb Meyer Dan Grenard

**** note time differences
8/4/12 has driving times added in

Contact Information

For more information about prices, logistics, registration, or any other questions, please look at our website: <http://www.nps.gov/ffbo> and go to the link for Seminars. Should you need to register by phone please call the Monument at (719) 748 – 3253 and ask for extension 109 and leave a message or fax at (719) 748-3164 or email ffbo_information@nps.gov, or send a letter to PO Box 185, Florissant, CO 80816.

Space is limited this year on many of the field trips! Register early...

REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL ON OR AFTER May 7th, 2012

The seminar series is sponsored by the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

National Park Week, April 21-29, Features Free Admission at Florissant Fossil Beds

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The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, invite people everywhere to enjoy, explore, learn, share, and give back to America's nearly 400 national parks during National Park Week 2012.

Celebrating the theme, "Picture Yourself in a National Park," National Park Week will run from Saturday, April 21 through Sunday, April 29. Throughout the country, visitors can enjoy the beauty and wonder of 84 million acres of the world's most spectacular scenery, historic places and cultural treasures for FREE! Florissant Fossil Beds, Colorado Springs' closest national park area will be free during this time. What better way to picture yourself in a National Park than to visit one? Come join the Rangers at Florissant Fossil Beds to learn about an ancient redwood forest and a 34 million year old landscape. Explore over 14 miles of peaceful hiking trails and experience a wealth of cultural and natural history to be enjoyed by the whole family. Be sure to bring a camera to capture your memories in a National Park.

- On Saturday, April 21 join Naturalist Allan Studer for a bear and mountain lion talk, followed by a nature hike at 12:00 PM (noon).
- On Sunday, April 22 join Ranger Shawn Frizzell on a 2-hour long ranger-led hike beginning at 1:00 PM.
- On Saturday, April 28 Junior Rangers can join Ranger Michelle Stewart on a 1-hour long Junior Ranger hike to earn a Junior Ranger badge (beginning at 1:30 PM).
- On Saturday, April 28 join Dr. Bob Carnein in the fossil lab between 1:00 and 3:00 PM to discover how paleontologists find fossils.

"America's national parks have something for everyone," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "Take a break and experience something new, enjoy some fresh air, get some exercise, and see where history happened. And, since admission is free to all 397 parks, all week long, National Park Week is a great time to get up, get out, and explore a park."

"This is our annual celebration of America's best idea – our national parks," said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "We are proud to stand with our partners at the National Park Service and encourage people everywhere to enjoy, learn from and support our nation's greatest treasures."

Follow us on Twitter @FlorissantNPS or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FlorissantNPS

Contact(s): Ranger Shawn Frizzell or Ranger Michelle Stewart, (719) 748-3253

Thanking America's Armed Forces

Active Duty U.S. Military Offered Free Entrance to All National Parks

To show our appreciation for those who serve in the U.S. Military, on May 19 – Armed Forces Day – the National Park Service will begin issuing an annual pass offering free entrance to all 397 national parks for active duty military members and their dependents. “We all owe a debt to those who sacrifice so much to protect our country,” said Florissant Fossil Beds Superintendent Keith Payne. “We are proud to recognize these brave men and women and hope that a visit to this or any national park will offer an opportunity to unwind, relax, rejuvenate, and just have fun with their families.”

On Saturday, May 19th, in honor of Armed Forces Day, Florissant Fossil Beds will be issuing the annual military passes on Fort Carson at the Post and Commissary between the hours of 10AM and 2PM or until supplies run out. Lifetime Access Passes for persons with disabilities will also be available.

Active duty members of the U.S. Military and their dependents can pick up their pass at Florissant Fossil Beds during regular operating hours (9AM – 5PM) seven days a week. They must show a current, valid military identification card (CAC Common Access Card or DD 1173) to obtain their pass. More information is available at www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm. This military version of the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands

Pass also permits free entrance to sites managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Forest Service. The pass is also available from those agencies.

“Through the years, military members, especially those far from home in times of conflict, have found inspiration in America’s patriotic icons and majestic landscapes, places like the Statue of Liberty and the Grand Canyon that are cared for by the National Park Service and symbolize the nation that their sacrifices protect,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “This new pass is a way to thank military members and their families for their service and their sacrifices.”

National parks and the military have strong ties going back to the establishment of Yellowstone as the world’s first national park in 1872. The U.S. Cavalry watched over America’s national parks and also served as the first park rangers until the National Park Service was created 44 years later. During World War II, many parks were set aside for the training and care of military personnel. Today, dozens of national parks commemorate military battles and achievements.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 397 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Junior Ranger Album Moves Forward

Jeff Wolin returned to New Orleans to continue work on the Junior Ranger Album. The Junior Ranger Album is a 20 song children's music album that Jeff is helping produce for the entire National Park Service. During this trip, Jeff was joined by Friends board members Jeff and Robyn Proper.

Robyn is from the New Orleans area and showed both Jeffs the best places to eat!!! Jeff and Robyn joined Jeff Wolin in the studio where work continued to record songs. The album is now over 1/2 way done. It is anticipated to be released in September. The park will be having a cd release party and will, no doubt, be asking the Friends for support. The Friends group is supporting the Junior Ranger Album in so many ways and Jeff Wolin wants to express his heartfelt thanks to everyone!!!

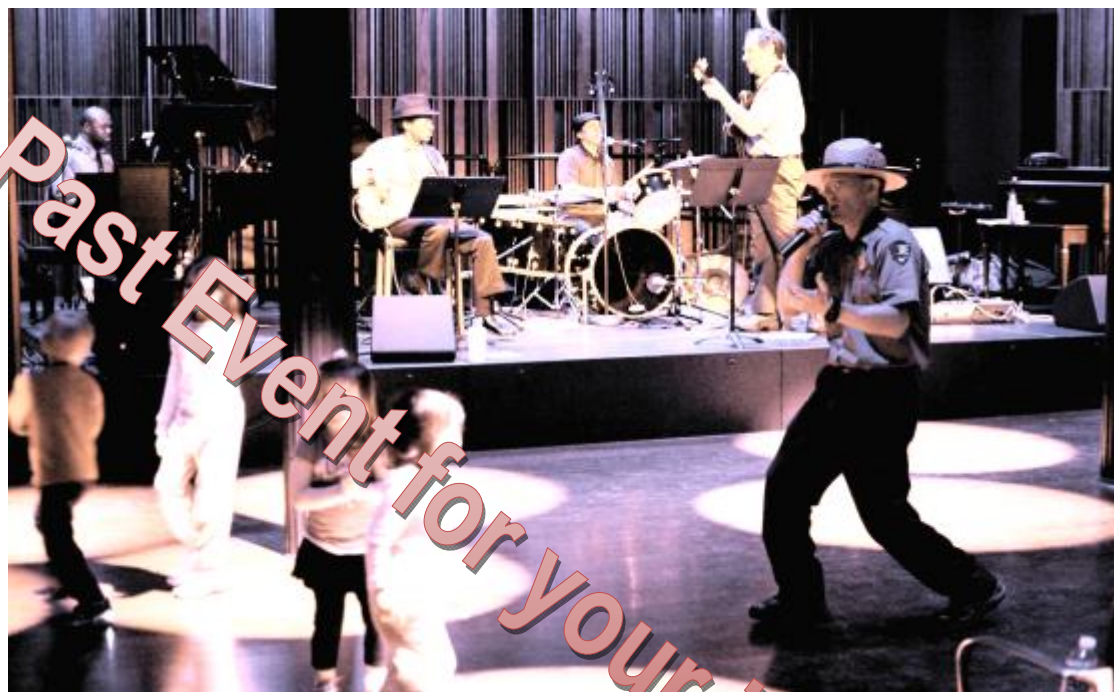


New Orleans Jazz

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Historical Park



**FREE Music Concert for
Kids!**

The Old US Mint

Saturday April 21, 2012, 12:30 – 1:15

**Sing, dance, have fun while celebrating National Park
Week**

Sexi, Peru Project



Modern Flora & Vegetation

[Home](#)

Biodiversity

The once-tropical climate at Sexi became cooler and drier with the formation of the Andes Mountains. Consequently, unlike the tropical vegetation represented in the fossil record, the modern plants in Sexi are well-suited to seasonally dry, high-elevation conditions. Many of the trees and shrubs are evergreen and have thick, hard leaves. The following images exemplify a few of the 119 plant species currently known in the district (Aragón et al., 2006).



The Chamana, *Dodonea viscosa*, is an evergreen shrub from which the petrified forest takes its name.



The Alamacha, *Oreocallis grandiflora*, produces a large and impressive flower.



Odontoglossum angustatum is one of nine orchid species found in Sexi.



Despite the seasonally dry climate at Sexi, water contained in fog makes life for some plants possible. The leaves of Bromeliads (*Bromelia* spp.) are specially adapted to funnel condensed water toward the plant.



A patchwork of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants dot the landscape near the town.

Environment

Sexi's location between the Pacific Ocean and Amazon River basin, combined with its elevation, influences the plateau's climate. Fog is an important source of water for the local flora, which has been described as a "dry cloud forest" (Aragón et al., 2006).

To learn more, visit:

Plants of the District of Sexi: A Photographic Guide

Aragón, S., Rimarachín, L., Ayasta, J., and Woodcock, D., 2006. Inventario Preliminar de la Flora del Distrito de Sexi, Cajamarca: Amaldoa, v. 13, no. 2., p. 360-369.



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<http://peru.fossilbeds.org>

