



Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

#12—December, 2012

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Wagon Wheels!

by Rick Wilson, Chief Ranger, Florissant Monument National Park

Last Friday morning, 11/30, Justin Doyle and I were headed to Gunnison for firearms qualifications with Curecanti staff. As we drove south from Buena Vista, I saw a small group of wagons for sale in a farm yard next to the highway. One wagon was a freight wagon that appeared to be very similar to the freight wagon in need of wheels at the Hornbek Homestead. After our firearms qualifications were over, we stopped to have a closer look on our way back to Florissant. The wagon turned out to be **very** similar to the Hornbek freight wagon. The running gear has been newly restored and the entire wagon seems to be in very good condition.



The wagon is for sale by Woolly Bear Trading Company.

The proprietor, Charlie Abel, does historic carriage and wagon restorations and repairs. He is asking \$2800 for the wagon, plus a minor delivery fee.

Replacing the wagon wheels on the old wagon could cost about \$1000 per wheel for all four wheels to be custom made to fit the old wagon - plus shipping; and then we would still have additional work to do to restore the box and running gear.

I discussed the purchase of the wagon with Eric and Sally, and we have decided to use the funds collected by the Friends for the replacement wheels to purchase this wagon. I have also asked for a quote on repainting the wagon to what would have been the historic color scheme.

Here's a picture of the wagon we will be purchasing and a picture of the old wagon for comparison.

Multiple security measures will be put in place with the replacement wagon



New (Old) Wagon Delivered on 12/12/12

wagon cannot be moved and the wheels cannot be removed.

to ensure that the

We will also continue to take donations for the restoration of the second wagon at the Home-
stead.

The staff at the Fossil Beds is extremely excited about this new wagon!



Ranger Rick Wilson, Charles & Barbara Abel of the Woolly Bear
Trading Company

Thanks to all those who donated to the Wagon Wheel Fund!

Saved in Time Update

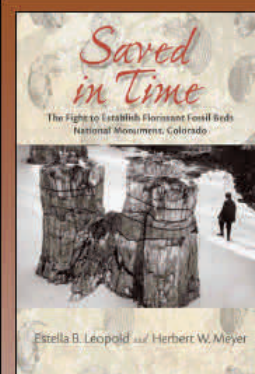
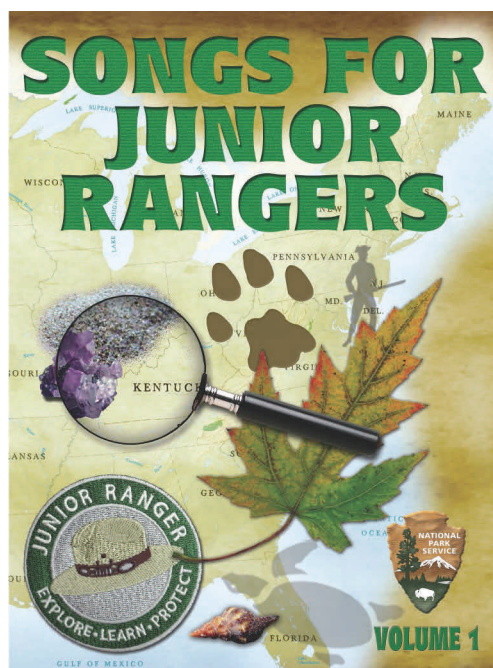
The new book authored by Estella Leopold and Herb Meyer is now available to the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds. The Friends Board voted to purchase 75 copies of the book as a fund raiser. The 75 copies went to Estella Leopold for her autograph and then came back to the Monument for Herb Meyer's autograph. To read a review of the book click [HERE](#). We are very excited to be able to offer this special book to all of our members for \$35.00. There are only these 75 to be offered to anyone with the autographs. Please remember that all proceeds go to benefiting the Monument. If you wish a copy, please send your request and check to:

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
% the Friends of Florissant
PO Box 185
Florissant, CO, 80816.

We will also have these available for donations at all the Friends events while supplies last including the Great Backyard Bird Count on Saturday, February 16, 2013

It will also be available at the WIPS Symposium in March.

DON'T FORGET: We will also have copies of the CD produced by Jeff Wolin, Lead Interpreter at the Monument, at all Friends events with Jeff's autograph for a \$10.00 donation. If you wish one of the CD's, please use the same request as the book.



In the summer of 1969, a federal district court in Denver, Colorado heard arguments in one of the nation's first explicitly environmental cases, in which the Defenders of Florissant, Inc. opposed real estate interests intent on developing lands containing an extraordinary set of ancient fossils. This book, the first account of the fight to preserve the Florissant fossil beds, tells a story of environmental activism that remains little known more than forty years after the coalition's victory.

"Reads like a mystery thriller wherein a handful of committed environmentalists forestall the destruction of America's premier fossils beds." — Jack Loeffler, author of *Adventures with Ed: A Portrait of Abbey*

SAVED IN TIME
The Fight to Establish
Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument, Colorado

Estella B. Leopold &
 Herbert W. Meyer

978-0-8263-5236-1
\$24.95 paper

The University of
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 800.249.7737
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Visitor Center Update

The Visitor Center work is progressing still, but we are at the end of the major construction items. As of this week, the contractor has requested that we take temporary occupancy. Before that can happen, the building must be able to function on its own for the purpose it was built. Given that requirement, there are several small items to be addressed this week and there will need to be a final inspection of the facility before any temporary Certificate of Occupancy will be issued. Weather events have caused the usual winter trauma to contractor scheduling, but it is our hope that we can be out of the temporary VC building and operating marginally in the new VC by year end. There is not yet a schedule for that to happen because the final inspection has not been completed and, of course, the weather will always be a factor.

We are getting close, however, and we're getting more excited. We will keep you posted on progress.

You can watch the Visitor Center on our web-cam by clicking [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, from February 15-18 will be an international event this year for the first time. The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds will be holding its count on Saturday, February 16, 2013 from 9 - 12 noon at the Florissant Fossil Beds. The event will be based in the Yurt where the fire will be going and hot drinks and snacks will be available. If you wish more information on the International just click on [The Great Backyard Bird Count](#) or go to the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#). Please call for reservations for the day as we already have at least 25 people who will be joining us for all the fun.

Last year there were 104,151 checklists submitted from the U.S., Mexico and Canada. 17.9 million birds were counted which represented 623 species. Join us for fun to help with this very important count. Please call Sally McCracken at 687-9204 if you are going to join us.

WIPS ([Western Interior Paleontological Society](#)) is holding the 2013 Founders Symposium at the Colorado School of Mines on March 16-17, 2013. The focus this year is "Ice Worlds and Their Fossils." Everyone knows about "The Ice Age"; usually a reference to Earth's most recent global cold snap that abated 12,000 years ago. Fewer people know that the last 2 million years may have hosted 50 or more glacial advances and retreats and glacial climates are far from a recent phenomenon in Earth's history. Go to www.westernpaleo.org for info about this fascinating topic and the Symposium. The Friends and the Monument will have an exhibit there. Join us for the fun in Golden.

SOUTH PARK SYMPOSIUM - Will be held in Fairplay June 21 and 22, 2013. It is always a very informative and interesting symposium which is usually held in the schools. More info will be available as we get closer to the date.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a wonderful New Year.





Conservation

Home

Recognizing the scientific, economic, and cultural significance of the petrified forest, the Peruvian government prohibited the disturbance of fossils in The Petrified Forest Piedra Chamana in 1997. However, illegal fossil collecting is not the only threat to Sexi's natural resources. Both government and local involvement is necessary to ensure the longevity of the forest's fossils and flora.

Fossil Inventory & Monitoring

In 2005, researchers surveyed and photographed the fossil sites at Sexi. At the time, it appeared the forest was relatively undisturbed. Just four years later, monitoring detected some loss of fossil material. While fossil monitoring continues, cooperation between researchers, the citizens of Sexi, and government and nonprofit organizations is essential to the successful preservation of the fossils for future generations.



2005

Routine monitoring of the fossil sites detected the loss of a palm trunk between 2005 and 2009. The exact cause of the fossil's disappearance is currently unknown.



2009

Peruvian law provides for the conservation and protection of the petrified forest. The fossils are part of the Patrimony of the Nation and fall under the jurisdiction of the Peruvian Ministry of Culture. Fossil collecting is prohibited by law.

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

Modern Flora

The results of a preliminary inventory of the modern flora at Sexi were published in 2006. Among other conclusions, Aragón et al. (2006) found that "urgent measures" were necessary to protect the modern flora of Sexi, which the local people depend upon for its useful plants, pastorage for animals, and firewood. Conservation efforts, such as reforestation, should help maintain the modern forest's biodiversity while remaining sensitive to the lifestyles of the citizens of Sexi.



Clusia cajamarcensis is a plant species in danger of extinction. The fruit of this shrub is shown above.

Threats

Natural and human threats to the preservation of the fossils and flora at Sexi include:

- Disturbance and trampling by animals and humans
- Illegal fossil collection (nonprofit and commercial)
- Weathering of fossils by wind and rain
- Deforestation



Last Updated: 08/04/2011
<http://peru.fossilbeds.org>