



# Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

#21—September 13, 2013

## Friends Board Members

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Treasurer, Newsletter

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Chamber of Commerce

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Secretary

Sheena Grabski

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Project Coordinator

## On the Rocks—Wine and Beer Tasting Fund Raiser Time to Buy Your Tickets

**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](http://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.

The Big Event is Here!

## Where will you be Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>??

At the Norris Penrose Event Center at 6:00 pm with all your friends, we hope!! The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds' "Rocks Committee" has been busy planning and organizing this event, which will be our premier fund raiser for the year. In addition to tasting Sovereignty Wines' fine wines, premium beers from Bristol Brewery and Rocky Mountain Distributors, the event will be catered with hors d'oeuvres from Summit Catering. Dance the evening away to live music provided by the One Eleven Band, stopping only to bid on the amazing donations the Rocks Committee has solicited. A partial list of items being auctioned includes: *(The list keeps growing. See more complete descriptions at the end of the Newsletter)*

A midweek room at The Broadmoor

The entire Tihsreed Lodge (sleeps 20+) for three days and two nights

Cripple Creek casino hotel room, dinner, and Butte Theater ticket packages

Tickets for four on the Scenic Road Grand Railroad along with hotel and dinner

Tickets for four on the Cripple Creek and Victor Rail Road

Power lunches with CO Rep Landgraf, Commissioner Steen and Mayor Turley

Tuition for a child to attend Sanborn Western Camp

Lift Tickets to Ski Areas

Photo session with Sheena Harper Photography

Nature Photography by noted artists

Cool Collectibles including jewelry, mineral specimens, sports items, and books and much, much more!!

You can purchase tickets online at <http://www.fossilbeds.org/test-winefest-page/>

If you can't attend, buy tickets anyway to support the Friends and mark "pls donate" in the comments section of PayPal; we'll donate them to local firefighters and military members.

## The Board of Directors Welcomes Sheena Grabski

Sheena Grabski was nominated at the August Board of Directors to fill a vacant board position. After a unanimous vote of approval Sheena accepted the Board's invitation. In addition to youth and enthusiasm, Sheena brings considerable social media and web expertise to the board.

## Annual Meeting Notice

The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds' annual meeting will be held at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument at 1:00 pm on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Yurt. All members are invited to join for annual reports, election of Board of Director members and discussion of upcoming events. This is a potluck so be sure to bring a dish to share. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

## Songs for Junior Rangers Wins Again

Dear Friends, Contributors, and Supporters of the Songs for Junior Rangers Album,

Thank you and congratulations to all! Our album was just named the Silver Winner for the NAPPA awards (see message below). This is one of the most well-respected awards for children's products, and is a great addition to the Gold Award from the Parents' Choice Awards. Last year, the Silver Winner went on to become the 55th Grammy Award Winner for Best Children's Album.

Jeff Wolin

Lead Interpreter

Florissant Fossil Beds N.M.

Congratulations from NAPPA!!

The results are in for the 2013 National Parenting Publications Awards (NAPPA) Children's Products competition, and Songs for Junior Rangers has been named a SILVER winner in the Music category! As a SILVER winner, you will be featured on [NAPPAawards.com](http://NAPPAawards.com) as well as on the cozi app ([cozi.com](http://cozi.com)), the #1 organizational tool for busy families with over 4 million users!

## Paleontology Interns Digitize Collections and Update Paleontology Website

Paleontology interns Kelly Hattori and Selva Marroquin made significant progress on the monument's project to digitize the fossil collection during the summer of 2013. This digitization project is funded by visitor fees and aims to create a record of every fossil in the monument's collection through photography. The project began in the summer of 2012 and is expected to continue for the next few years, as it will take quite a while to photograph all of the monument's on-site fossil collection. Over the course of two summers, more than 6,000 of the monument's 12,000 fossils have been photographed.

The photography process has been standardized to ensure that all fossils are well represented so researchers can use the photograph if they are unable to access the specimen itself. Each fossil is positioned so that it is as large as possible in the image without any parts of it missing from the frame. After it is properly positioned, a scale bar is included in the side of the image to indicate the size of the fossil without obstructing any of its details. The camera is linked to the computer so the photographs can immediately be reviewed for clarity and edited. Once properly adjusted, each photograph is saved as a high-resolution file and a low-resolution file.

The primary purpose of the high-resolution file is to act as a digital record in the event of degradation of the original specimen. They are also available to researchers for scientific study upon request. In the future, the low-resolution file will be incorporated into the collection database. Many of the images will be accessible to the public as well as researchers and will help to increase public knowledge and education beyond the visitor center walls. One of the huge benefits of having an online database is that fossils that are too small, delicate, or rare to showcase on exhibit can still be viewed by the public.

An advantage of projects such as this, funded by visitor fees, is that they provide a direct connection to a greater visitor understanding of the monument. To fulfill the requirement, paleontology intern Lindsey Yann has completely overhauled the paleontology section of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument website. As part of the project, she interviewed researchers during the open house, wrote the content for new pages, incorporated approximately 200 digital photographs of the monument's fos-

sils, and updated the website. As a consequence, there is now a lot more information about our paleontology activities on the website. Be sure to take a look! It can be found at the following link: <http://www.nps.gov/flfo/naturescience/paleontology-program.htm>. In addition to the website, Lindsey also created the content and a detailed outline for a video following a fossil from discovery and excavation to cataloging and research. Working closely with Herb Meyer, Jeff Wolin, and Post Modern

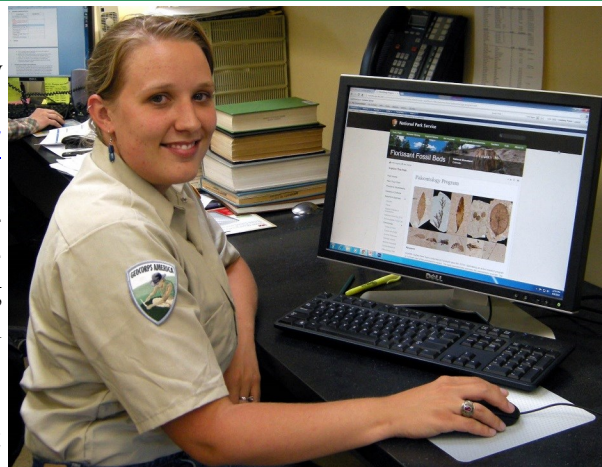
Company, the video was filmed at the monument on July 30<sup>th</sup> and is

currently being edited! Once completed, it will be available on the monument's website (<http://www.nps.gov/flfo/naturescience/follow-a-fossil.htm>). Lindsey says of her internship, "this summer has given me an opportunity to learn more about the Florissant fossil beds while giving visitors a look into what goes on in the paleontology division."

Lindsey, Kelly, and Selva were three of six paleontology interns at the monument during the summer of 2013. Because of their hard work, many projects were completed, helping to protect the fragile fossil resources and provide better content and understanding for scientific researchers and visitors about the paleontology of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



*Kelly and Selva Photography*



*Lindsey Yann Intern Website Project*

New Paleontology Website: <http://www.nps.gov/flfo/naturescience/paleontology-program.htm>

Find a Park Discover History Explore Nature Get Involved Working with Communities Teachers Kids About Us

**Paleontology**

- Visitor fees fund overhaul of paleontology website
- Follow a Fossil
- Fossils and FAQs
- Eocene Florissant
- Geologic History
- Meet the Scientists
- Current Research
- Paleontology Staff
- Intern Program
- Paleontology Facilities
- Archives
- Peruvian Sister Site

**Explore This Park**

- Park Home
- Plan Your Visit
- Photos & Multimedia
- History & Culture
- Nature & Science**
  - Animals
  - Plants
  - Natural Features & Ecosystems
  - National Fossil Day 2013
  - Demonstration Fossil Lab
  - Paleontology**
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    - Archives
    - Peruvian Sister Site
- For Teachers

**Florissant Fossil Beds** National Monument Colorado

**Paleontology Program**

**Research**

Scientific studies have been conducted at Florissant since the 1870s. Maintaining an active research program is a primary part of the monument's mission. The park paleontologist oversees the paleontology program. The program conducts scientific research, inventories and monitors fossil sites, publishes information and provides education to the public, produces books about the monument's paleontology and history, provides scientific oversight for new exhibits, and oversees research done by other institutions.

**Current and recent research about Florissant includes:**

- 1) Preservation of petrified stumps
- 2) Conservation of petrified stumps
- 3) Preservation of fossil insects (University of Colorado, Boulder and Florissant Fossil Beds Natl Mon)
- 4) Changes in fossil plant composition and preservation in different rock layers (Denver Museum of Nature & Science)

10:49 AM 8/9/2013

## Partial List of Auction Items at the Fund Raiser

### Mid Week Couple's Getaway at The Broadmoor



Modern furnishings blend seamlessly with luxurious details in The Broadmoor's beautifully appointed rooms. Intimate seating areas with overstuffed chairs and ottomans set the stage for quiet reflection while fine marble vanities, a lighted make-up mirror, and spacious closets provide a plush retreat perfect for relaxation or romance.

One night stay for two (Sunday thru Thurs) in a standard guest room located in the Broadmoor West Building complex.

**Value: \$300.00**

## **Take a Ride on the Scenic Rio Grande Railroad**



**Tickets for four on the Scenic Rio Grande Railroad, a night's stay (one room, two beds) at the beautiful Hampton Inn in Alamosa and \$100 dinner credit at San Luis Brew Pub.**

**Retail Value: \$350.00**

## Power Lunches

Enjoy lunch and the opportunity to spend time with our elected officials. Winning bidders will enjoy one-on-one lunchtime conversation with state, county and Woodland Park officials. Get to know them, discuss politics, the weather, the Skysox, or seek their advice. The choice of topics is yours!

Colorado State Representative Lois Landgraf



Teller County Commissioner Norm Steen



Woodland Park Mayor Dave Turley



**Retail Values: Priceless!!**

## Send your Child to Sanborn Western Camp



Receive full tuition for a two-week session at Sanborn Junior (boys and girls, grades 1 through 4) OR half tuition for the month-long session (boys and girls, grades 3 through 9).

Since 1948, Sanborn Western Camps have been creating outdoor experiences of exceptional quality and depth. The fun, relaxed atmosphere and caring staff provide a supportive environment for individual growth in self-confidence, independence, and awareness of others.

Surrounded by spectacular wilderness areas and stunning peaks, Big Spring Ranch for Boys and High Trails Ranch for Girls are situated in 6,000 acres of open pine forest, wildflower meadows and rocky bluffs, 35 miles west of Colorado Springs.

Each year the camp community consists of campers and staff members from over 40 states and 10 countries, providing opportunities to make new friends from many places.

**Value: \$2,200**



## Sheena Harper Photography



### Family Portrait Session

Includes a per-portrait consultation and 2 hour on-location outdoor session, a 16x20 wall print for your home and 2 accordion mini books (3x3in, 7 panel book), personal web gallery after your ordering session, online for 2 weeks, and 10 watermarked files for sharing online with friends and family. Limited to 10 people & 2 pets

May be used for the following types of portrait sessions: Family or children, High School Senior, or Pet.

A unique, custom photography experience guaranteed to thrill you!

**Value: \$350**

## Lose the Crowds; Not Your Friends Monarch Mountain Ski Resort With Two Lift Tickets



Located on Highway 50 in south central Colorado, Monarch Mountain is only 2 hours from Colorado Springs. Walk from your car right to the lifts, and the runs flow naturally back to the base area. Monarch Mountain has more of an old time ski area feeling than that of a modern ski resort.

**Value: \$130.00**

## Biarritz Wall Lighting Sconces from Niermann-Weeks of Maryland



Joe Niermann drew his inspiration from nature for this interpretation of the classic Biarritz wall lighting fixture. It recalls a stylized leaf outlined in silver leaf finish. Many strands of crystal, resembling the soft veins in a leaf, complete this simple yet stylish design.

The Company's designs borrow elements from the past and reinterpret them to fit current lifestyles, aesthetically relating to both traditional and contemporary interiors. All the Company's products are handmade and finished in their studios outside Annapolis. Much their business is custom-designed to meet the special needs of professional architect and designer clients.

**NOTE:** The actual fixtures to be auctioned have silver, not gold finish as in photo.

**Retail Value: \$2,770 each**

# Experience the Narrow Gauge Cripple Creek and Victor Rail Road



Tickets take four on a 45-minute trip through the gold mining district, an exciting journey on the Cripple Creek and Victor Narrow Gauge Railroad. A scenic adventure into yesteryear... backward in time to the lusty pioneer days of railroading during its greatest era. It is a spectacular trip of beautiful colors and fascinating experiences... the old steam engine with its pillaring smoke, sounds of steam and working steel.

**Retail Value: \$52.00**

## Enjoy a Room and Dinner at Bronco Billy's Casino and take in a play at the Butte Theater



Stay at Bronco Billy's Hotel



Dine at the Steakhouse



Take in a Melodrama at The Butte Theater

Since the town's early days, theater has always been a part of the rich heritage of Cripple Creek. The "Butte Concert and Beer Hall" premiered in 1896. Cripple Creek's opera house went on to have many lives over its 100+ year history – it was a skating rink, a dance academy, and an auto garage, to name a few. It even housed the Cripple Creek Fire Department

## Enjoy a Cripple Creek Weekend



Stay at the Midnight Rose  
Hotel and Casino



Dine at the Down Under Steakhouse or The Pint Platter

With historic brick, a rich oak floor, and low light. Enjoy the pleasing  
and romantic ambiance!

**Retail Value: \$160.00**

## **Stay and Play At the Wildwood Casino in Historic Cripple Creek Enjoy Dinner for two at Mavericks Buffet or the Saddle Bar and spend the night at Gold King Mountain Inn**



Visit the Wildwood Casino in Cripple Creek, where the thrill of gaming action never sleeps. You will find hundreds of your favorite slots and video poker machines, along with Poker, Blackjack, Craps, and Roulette.



The Gold King Mountain Inn overlooks a stunning panorama of the mountains surrounding historic Cripple Creek. Enjoy the fitness facility, spa services, pool, hot tub and sauna

**Value: \$200.00**

## Stay at Tihsreed Lodge For Three Days and Two Nights!

Hold a destination wedding, family reunion, or  
business event!

Located in central Colorado at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, you will find a wide array of activities to amuse and entertain everyone.

The property has many features you are sure to enjoy: accommodations for 20+ guests, walking trails, barn gathering and event area, wildlife, hot tubs, fireplaces and more.

The executive lodge offers 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, bar area, 2 great rooms, formal dining area, indoor and outdoor fireplaces, hot tub, decks, patios, porches, and a loft.

The barn houses a 2 bedroom, 1 bath retreat with hot tub, wood burning stove, full kitchen, private patios, and more.

The bunkhouse above the barn holds 6 twin beds and is a favorite of the younger set.

This coupon is good until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

<https://sites.google.com/site/tihsreed/>

**Value: \$1,500.00**





## Nature Photography

- “Herman Gulch Hike Lake”* in 11 x 14 frame by Connie Friesen  
*“Dahlia, Butterfly”* in 11 x 14 frame by Connie Friesen  
*“Maui Sunset”* in 11 x 14 matte by Connie Friesen  
*“Florissant Green Aspen Grove”* in 8x 10 frame by Connie Friesen  
*“Tiger Swallow Tail Butterfly”* in 8 x 10 frame by Connie Friesen  
*“Shrine Pass in Snow”* in 8 x 10 matte by Connie Friesen  
*“Cabin Edge and Gold Aspen”* in 8 x 10 matte by Connie Friesen  
*“Columbine”* in 11 x 14 frame by Betty McLain

## Collectibles

Football signed by 2004 Oklahoma Sooner Heisman Trophy winners Jason White (2003), Billy Sims (1978), and Steve Owens (1969) with photographs of each in uniform

Gold necklace from the Molly Kathleen Mine in Cripple Creek

Pike Petrified Forest Hatchet – a souvenir from the days before the national monument!

Mineral Specimens

Petrified wood petrified with copper minerals

4” x 8” pottery bowl from Shawnee Mountain Pottery

## Publications on Florissant Fossil Beds, local geology and local history from Search Publication/ COEC

Publications of children's activities for parents and teachers Value: \$70.00

*101 Nature Activities for Kids*, Jane Sanborn and Elizabeth Rundle

*Bag of Tricks II*, Jane Sanborn

*Teachers Field Guide, Colorado Outdoor Education Center*, Jane Sanborn, Barbara Rowley, and COEC Staff

*Swim Free*, Lorraine Eberhardt and Laura Sanborn

Publications concerning insect fossils Retail Value: \$15.00

*Chasing Butterflies in the Colorado Rockies with Theodore Mead in 1871,*

*As Told Through His Letters*, Edited by Grace H Brown, Annotated by F. Martin Brown

*The Tsetse Flies of Florissant, Colorado*, F. Martin Brown

Publications concerning plant fossils Retail Value: \$35.00

*Fossil Plants of the Florissant Beds, Colorado*, Harry D. MacGinite

*Plants of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument*, Mary E. Edwards & William A. Weber

Publications concerning geology and Native American history

Retail Value: \$27.00

*Precambrian Igneous and Metamorphic Rocks in the Florissant Region, Central Colorado: Their Topographic Influence, Past and Present*, Reinhard A. Wobus

*Jicarilla Apaches, The Forgotten People of Pikes Peak and Southern Colorado*, Jack R. Williams

*American Indian Culture Trees*, Jack R. Williams

A separate item Value: \$30.00

*Florissant Butterflies -- A Guide to the Fossil and Present-Day Species of Central Colorado*, Thomas C. Emmell, Marc C. Minno, Boyce A Drummond

## **Family Activities & Entertainment**

**Four tickets to Garman Galleries “Magic Town”**

**Four tickets to Cave of the Winds**

**Family Pass to the Dinosaur Resource Center, Woodland Park**

**Passes to Historic Cripple Creek Mining District Museums**

**Tour of historic Teller County for three with Steven Veatch. Visit selected locales to look at geology, history, mining, and general sights of interest followed by a picnic and end the day around 4 pm.**

**Riding Lessons from Prairie Winds Horseman Center**

**Horseback Riding for two with Triple B Ranch**

## **Home Décor**

**Deer Horn Wine rack from Williams Furniture**

**Handmade broom from Rocky Mountain Broom Works**

## **Other Neat Stuff**

**Two month free membership to Woodland Park Fitness Center**

**\$50 Gift Certificate to Image by Design Beauty Salon**

**\$25 Gift Certificate to Fermentations Wine & Beer Making**

**Oil Change at Subaru Import Motors**

**\$50 Gift Certificate to Mountain Equipment Recyclers**

**Beatle Kill Bench from Reclaimed & Rustic Furniture**

**Mineral Board Game from Gibson's at the Broadmoor**