



Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

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Every Fossil Needs a Friend

#25—May 2015

Climate Change Institute

Florissant Fossil Beds

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument



Save the Date!

**2015 Climate Change Institute June 22, 23, 24
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
Florissant, Colorado**

The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. are pleased to host the 2015 Climate Change Institute, June 22nd through June 24th. The Institute will be based at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, with off-site field trips in the Pikes Peak region.

The goal of this Institute is to give participants a working knowledge and an understanding of Climate Change. Various partners at the Institute will share their policies, issues and the ways their agencies are meeting the challenges of Climate Change.

Partners presenting during this Institute with the National Park Service are the University of Colorado Boulder, the US Forest Service, Catamount Center, Geological Society of America, CUSP, NCAR, and BLM. The various agencies and educators will present within the disciplines of Geology, Paleontology, Biology and Atmospheric Sciences. The concepts to be covered are: "What is Climate Change?", "What is the Effect of Climate Change on Organisms?", and "How Can the Past Inform us About Climate Change in the Present and Future?"

STEM objectives are inherent in all presentations and activities.

The registration fee for the 3 day Institute is \$150.00. For members of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, the 3 day fee will be \$125.00. A daily registration fee will also be available for those who only wish to attend one day.

Various presentations will also be open to the public for a small fee.

Housing is available for an extra charge. Graduate credit will be available through Adams State University and/or CE credit through Pikes Peak BOCES.

For details, contact the Florissant Fossil Beds NM at 719-748-3253, ext.109 Registration will begin on April 24, 2015. Space is limited.

FIND YOUR **PARK**

National Trails Day at the Monument

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

June 6, 2015

9am-3pm

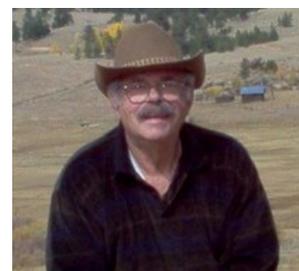
The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) are inviting all members and interested folks to volunteer on National Trails Day, Saturday June 6, from 9am-3pm at the Monument. We will be doing general trail maintenance on the Monument's most heavily used trails preparing for this summer's visitation. Depending on how many volunteers attend; the work sites will include the Petrified Forest, Hornbek Wildlife and Boulder Creek Loop trails. We will meet at the Visitor Center for volunteer sign up between 8:30 and 9am. All hand tools, hard hats and safety gear will be provided by the National Park Service and CUSP. Please wear sturdy work boots /shoes (no sandals), pants, sunscreen and long sleeve shirts. Bring a lunch, water bottle and a back pack as some work areas could be a mile or two from the Visitor Center parking area. Additional drinking water will be available. It should be a fun on the trails. Come and enjoy your park.

For more information Contact Ranger Jeff Wolin 719-748-3253 or CUSP 719-748-0033

For youth groups or larger organizations Please RSVP with the Monument or CUSP

Bill Dexter Leaves Us

It is with great sadness that the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds inform you of the death of Bill Dexter, a long time member of the Friend's Board, a past president of the Friends' Board and employee of the Monument from 1992 until 1994. He was very passionate about the Monument and supported so many events over the years, including doing several of the Summer Seminars for us. Our sincere sympathy goes to his family including especially his daughter Shelley who was raised here and attended the Woodland Park Schools. He leaves 4 other children and his wife Tynee who has gone back to China.



William A. "Bill" Dexter, 82, died in his Divide, CO home on March 19th following complications of chronic hypertension. He was born June 2, 1932 in Columbus, OH to Charles Hamilton Dexter and Grace P. Newarell. Bill was the first in his family to attend college and earned degrees from Ohio State University in Environmental and Natural Resources in 1954 and Education in 1959.

Early in his career, he worked as a museum curator for the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and was part of the discovery of a Stegosaurus skeleton at the Cleveland Quarry near Canon City, CO. Later he and his family relocated to Dallas, Texas, where he taught Astronomy and other earth sciences at St. Mark's School of Texas, where the William A. Dexter Planetarium and Observatory was named in his honor. He taught summer courses at various universities throughout the US and Canada and traveled internationally with his students, teaching them about subjects ranging from South American volcanos to celestial navigation. Following his tenure at St. Mark's, he was the planetarium director and professor of Geology at Richland College.

After he retired in 1992, he moved to Colorado and worked as a park ranger for the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, where he lead tours, gave lectures and shared his knowledge and love of science and nature. Bill was the author of numerous books, newspaper columns and scientific television specials and held patents for several of his inventions, including a spectroscope and magnetic model of the earth. He had an interest in Asian culture and was an active member of the Japan America Society of Southern Colorado. He was also a past board member of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds group, a past president of the Lions and Rotary Clubs and enjoyed giving back to the community.

Bill is survived by his wife, Yuhong Feng "Tynee", brothers Charlie and Tom, five children: Kathy Lehnhoff (husband Micky), Karen Shipman (husband Ralph), John (wife Beth), Scott (wife Esther) and Shelley (husband Avery), eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was laid to rest in the Divide Cemetery.

<http://www.mountainmemorialfh.com/obits/obituary.php?id=544250>

Summer Seminar Series

Florissant Fossil Beds

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument



Summer Seminar Series 2015 and Fees

The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. present the 2015 Summer Seminar Series.

The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. offer one day seminars in a variety of geology, biology, humanities, and paleontology courses. The regular fee for each seminar is \$25.00 per person for a one -day seminar. Reduced rates are available for members of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. **Pre-Registration Is Required for all Seminars.**

Teacher Friendly Graduate Credit CDE Cert.

Teachers can earn undergraduate and graduate credit through the Division of Extended Studies of Adams State University. Adams State charges \$27.50 for a ½ graduate credit for a one -day seminar. BOCES recertification credit is available for \$15.00 for ½ credit. Undergraduate credit will also be available. Pre-registration is required.

Friends Members and Discounts

If you are a member of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. or wish to join now the seminar fee is \$15.00 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. You can become a Friends member at www.fossilbeds.org

Schedule Summer Seminar Series 2015

Saturday, June 13	7am – 3:30pm	Birds, Their Nesting and Singing Life	Debbie Barnes
Friday, June 17	9am – 5pm	Discover and Create Fossils in the Classroom	Toni Ratzlaff
Wednesday, July 8	9am – 5pm	Parks Pioneers- Conservation Champions of Colorado National Parks and Monuments	John Stansfield
Sat./Sun., July 11-12	9am – 5pm	Wildflowers of the West: Botany at its Best	Doug Coleman
Thursday, July 16	9am-5pm	Mammals of Colorado	Linda Groat
Tuesday, July 21	9am -5pm	Geographic Understanding of The World Around us Of the Florissant Fossil Beds NM	Dr. Steven Jennings
Saturday, July 25	9am -5pm	Follow a Fossil: Behind the Scenes Of the Florissant Fossil Beds NM	Dr. Herb Meyer
Tuesday, July 28	9am – 5pm	GPS/Geocaching Skills	Bob Hickey
Wednesday, July 29	9am – 5pm	Project Archaeology	Linda Groat

Registration and Information

For more information about prices, logistics, registration, or any other questions, please look go to the Friend's website www.fossilbeds.org and go to the link for seminars. Online registration is available on this site. If you need to register by phone please call the Monument at (719) 748 – 3253 extension 109, or you may register by mail by printing off the registration forms and sending them to PO Box 185, Florissant, CO 80816.

Space is limited for several of the seminars. Register early...

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



Friends Mission Statement and Tag Line

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds has a new Mission Statement more closely matching our goals and activities.

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds are dedicated to assisting the National Park System in preserving, protecting and advancing knowledge about the natural and cultural resources of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. As a 501(3)(c) nonprofit organization, the Friends mission is to raise funds and promote programs and activities to advance the Monument's educational, interpretive and scientific objectives.

In addition we have a new "tag line": **Every Fossil Needs a Friend.** Feel free to use this whenever you have the chance.

Economic Benefit of the Park to the Community

Tourism to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument creates 3.5 Million in Economic Benefits

Report shows visitor spending supports 55 jobs in local economy

Florissant, Colorado – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 63,297 visitors to Florissant Fossil Beds in 2014 spent \$3.5 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 55 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$5.1 million.

"Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument welcomes visitors from across the country, and around the world," said Superintendent Michelle Wheatley. "We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. We also feature the park as a way to introduce our visitors to the Pikes Peak Region and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it's a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities."

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by U.S. Geological Survey economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas and Christopher Huber and National Park Service economist Lynne Koontz. The report shows \$15.7 billion of direct spending by 292.8 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 277,000 jobs nationally; 235,600 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$29.7 billion.

According to the 2014 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (30.6 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.3 percent), gas and oil (11.9 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.9 percent).

To download the report visit <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/economics.cfm>

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Colorado and how the National Park Service works with Colorado communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/colorado.

For additional information about Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, please call (719) 748-3253 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/flfo or follow us on Facebook/FlorissantNPS.

