



# Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

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Every Fossil Needs a Friend

#27—July 2015

## When is the last time YOU discovered a fossil???

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds will hold the Summer General Membership Meeting on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Starting at 10:00 am, Friends members (only) will join Park personnel in the yurt for a special shale splitting demonstration and fossil identification learning session. Upon completion, join the Friends' Board of Directors for a potluck lunch under the trees. After lunch (around noon), we'll drive to the Florissant Fossil Quarry where, the Clares have generously waived their fee for the Friends of the Fossil Beds for the day. Try splitting shale yourself and see what life as a field paleontologist is like. And just maybe, you will get lucky and discover something really cool!!

For lunch, the Board will provide BBQ & lemonade; you are requested to bring a side dish and your favorite beverage if you are not a lemonade fan. See you at the Yurt at 10:00 am on August 1<sup>st</sup>!!



## Old Intern Starts New Project, Learns New Tricks

### Kelly Hattori, GIP-GeoCorps Paleo Intern

My name is Kelly Hattori – some of you may remember me from previous newsletters going back as far as 2012. This is my third time back at FLFO. My previous two appointments have been summer jobs, but this time around I was hired to work autumn through mid-summer. I've had a lot of projects to work on and it has been quite the exciting winter!

One of my biggest accomplishments was the completion of the photography for the digitization project. I've been working on this project since summer 2012 so it has been quite a long time coming, but I finally got all of Florissant's macro fossils photographed! Photographing all of our specimens goes a long way towards bringing our collections into the "digital age" so it has been a priority for Paleo.

Photographing all of those fossils really got me interested in the variables that influence quality of preservation in Florissant fossil leaves. Some of Florissant's leaves are spectacularly preserved with all venation intact, but others are mere shadows. I photographed hundreds upon hundreds of leaves in every state of preservation. So using those photographs, I began working on a project aimed at isolating factors that most influence preservation quality in *Cedrelospermum*, one of Florissant's most common leaves. I analyzed over 800 leaves from one locality in Florissant's collection and intend to determine if lithology (paper shale, shale, or mudstone) affects their preservation. The results will hopefully shed some light on the conditions needed for the best fossil preservation. They could also help us narrow down the best layers to dig in for the best fossils, which would improve excavation efficiency.

In addition to my research, I have been devoting a lot of time to Florissant Paleo's newest latest greatest project: the production of cutting-edge virtual exhibits that will put Florissant on the technological map. This project, which is being worked on in conjunction with Mike Kelly of Northern Arizona University, will include the development of a virtual paleontology lab tour, a touchscreen kiosk for the exhibit hall, and a smartphone application to be used as a walk-along on the Petrified Forest loop trail! We are really working hard to bring more science (especially paleontology) and cool technology to the general public. Over the past few months I have been working on building the framework for this project. I've been sourcing equipment, testing new technology, brainstorming ideas for content, and writing scripts and storyboards for featured sections and tours. This summer's interns will be assisting me in development of the actual content to be featured in the application and kiosk. They will also help me test out and refine the virtual paleontology lab tour, which will serve audiences in the theater as well as potentially over the Internet. There's a lot of exciting stuff coming to Florissant soon, so stay tuned for an update later this summer!



Kelly photographing the last of the fossils in Florissant's collection.



Kelly holding a mock-up of equipment to be used to broadcast the virtual paleontology lab tour.

## 25 July—A Full Day for The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds

One thing about the members of The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds - we stay busy keeping involved in the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and local community events. This year, July 25<sup>th</sup> will provide multiple opportunities for excitement.

Spend the day with The Friends during the “Follow a Fossil” seminar in the paleontology lab at the monument. From 9am to 5 pm participants will get a behind the scenes look at the work of Dr. Herb Meyer and the paleontology staff. Details and registration can be found at [www.fossilbeds.org](http://www.fossilbeds.org). PRE-REGISTRATION is a must!

Between 10 am and 4 pm, the Friends’ board members will set up an informational booth in front of the CC&V Mine Visitor Center on Bennett Ave in Cripple Creek to promote the Fossil Beds and to seek additional members. Come out to see us or to help provide information!

Also on the 25<sup>th</sup> is the Florissant Heritage Day (<http://www.pikespeakmuseum.org/florissant-heritage-day-july-25/>). Lots of neat activities going on throughout the Florissant area. Stop by the PPHS museum and the Grange (<http://www.florissantgrange420.org/>) to see it all!



## Summer Seminars

We have 8 great seminars left for this season. Consider joining us for a great day of learning and fun. There is still plenty of room available.

# 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](http://www.fossilbeds.org)

### Schedule

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	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](http://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.



