



Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

Every Fossil Needs a Friend

#32—November 2016

Art Among the Fossils



The Centennial Celebration Festival weekend of August 27th and 28th celebrated our Monument's extraordinary beauty. Artwork from the Pikes Peak Plein Air Painters was on display. Sale of the artwork raised \$1,207 for the future work of the Friends. Artist demonstrations drew visitors into the world of the painters. Kids' activities included sidewalk chalk murals, fossil theme clay play and face painting.

Expenses for this inaugural show were covered by a generous donation from Sanborn Western Camps for the display Pro Panels. The F. Martin Brown Trust and Sally McCracken-Maertens donations helped with miscellaneous supplies needed and gift cards from a prior Energizer grant supplied food for the artists' luncheon.

Ken Shanika, coordinator of the Pikes Peak Plein Air Painters, helped the Friends and NPS staff plan and produce the event. It would have been impossible without the leadership of Karen Ports, Plein Air Committee Chair; Michelle Wheatley, Superintendent; Ranger Whitney (master poster designer) and the creative contributions and labor of the NPS staff and numerous Friends volunteers.

Keep your eyes open for the announcement of the 2017 event with to include visiting renowned wildlife and landscape artists. If you would like to help with next year's event please contact either Karen Ports at klports@gmail.com or Patty Glatfelter at jspg@live.com.

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Lighter Side of Christmas Parade

The parade theme for The Lighter Side of Christmas parade for 2016, **“Rockin’ Around Your Favorite Park”**, celebrates the National Park Services 100th Anniversary and The City of Woodland Parks’ 125th Anniversary.

In March 2015, The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc., was selected as the 2016 beneficiary of the Lighter Side of Christmas (in Woodland Park, CO) parade fund raising efforts. For the last 19 months, your Friends Board has worked very closely with the LSOC parade committee helping to organizing this year’s parade while actively soliciting advertising funds from local Teller County and El Paso county businesses. These businesses have been very generous their donations. The Lighter Side of Christmas website : www.lightersideofchristmas.com provides the names of these businesses. Please log to the website so you can see all the these stores, restaurants or offices and let them know as a Member of the Friends you appreciate their support.

Join us on Saturday, December 3, 2016 to celebrate “Rockin’ Around Your Favorite Park” with all day events and the parade at 6:00 pm. If you would like to join in on the fun, please email Patty president@fossilbeds.org or Linda membership@fossilbeds.org . We could use a few good Friends to help man the bum barrels along the parade route to keep our revelers and warm. The fire department and volunteers will assist. We would love to have you!

We each set our own personal goals as we set out on this fundraising trail – stay tuned to see if we reached them!!



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Hikes for Health Program—Starting January 24

Is getting more exercise one of your New Year’s Resolutions? Do you enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking or snowshoeing or would like to try? Do you enjoy visiting national parks? Have you ever considered a national park area as a place to get healthy? On Sunday, January 24, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument will begin a “Hikes for Your Health” series.

Hikes for Your Health will run every Wednesday and Sunday from January 24 to Wednesday, March 16, 2016.

These ranger-led hikes will vary in length from 2 – 5 miles. Depending on conditions, the hikes may either be on foot or by snowshoe. Participants must provide their own snow shoes and safety gear such as layered clothing, appropriate footwear, water, food. It is recommended to check with your physician before beginning any fitness program. Participants must be 10 years or older. The fee for the program is \$5.00 per adult (16 years or older) or free with one of the many federal land passes.

The first hike will begin at the visitor center at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument at 10:00 AM on Sunday, January 24 and will go on the Sawmill Trail (2.3 miles).

For additional information, please call (719) 748-3253 or visit our website: www.nps.gov/flfo or on [Facebook at /FlorissantNPS](https://www.facebook.com/FlorissantNPS)

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 409 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.

Great Backyard Bird Count—2017

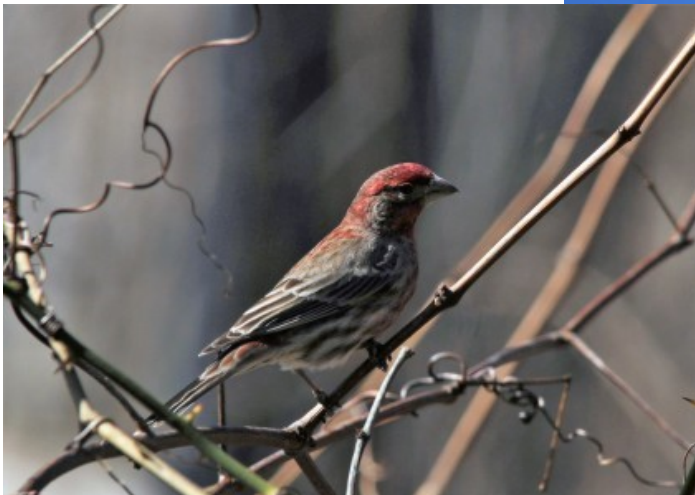
The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds will sponsor the 5th [Annual Great Backyard Bird Count](#) at the Florissant Fossil Beds NM on Saturday, February 18th from 9 AM to 12 noon. The sign-in area will be in the yurt where each activity will begin. There will be 2 separate counting times, one from 9 AM to 10:30 AM and the second one will run from 10:30 – 12 noon. Light refreshments will be available during the morning in the yurt.

The event is open to Friend's members, the general public and students and families from 15 Pikes Peak area YES Clubs. The event will also host a "Birds of Prey" program for everyone 3 times during the day. In addition to that special event, we are planning a book signing by Debbie Barnes of her new book, "The Birds of the Florissant Fossil Beds NM and Surrounding Areas."

In the afternoon, the Friends will be holding their Annual Meeting (see article).

From 1 PM to 3 PM, there will be 2 other activities offered for YES Club members who remain for lunch. There will be a bird scavenger hunt and an opportunity to make bird feeders.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please call Sally McCracken at 687-9204 or e-mail her at sammckind@aol.com . There are a variety of ways to help, including leading a bird count group to helping make bird feeders.



Summer Seminar—2016

The summer seminars of 2016 began in June with a full day session on Climate Change held on June 14th at the Florissant Library. There were over 50 people in attendance. A variety of speakers and activities filled the day. After a welcome by Michelle Wheatley, Superintendent of the Florissant Fossil Beds NM and Patty Glatfelter, President of the Friends of the Florissant Beds, Inc., we began the seminar with 2 speakers from the National Park Service. Matt Holly and Pam Benjamin presented talks on how the NPS is reacting to Climate Change impacts on the NPS areas and the talking points that teachers and others can use in discussions about Climate Change.

Dr. Herb Meyer, FLFO’s paleontologist, started with a presentation on how fossils can tell us about Climate Change. Dr. Erin Lecky, a professor at UC Boulder, did an activity with participants using fossil leaves to determine the climate of an ecosystem leading to the understanding of Climate Change millions of years ago.

Dr. Brian Linkhart, biology professor at Colorado College, presented statistics about his 35 year study of Flammulated Owls in the Manitou Experimental Forest on Woodland Park, CO and what these studies show about how these owls have been affected by Climate Change.



The last presentation of the day, was given by Mike Britten from the NPS who spoke on “Pika’s in Peril.” Again, Climate Change is having an affect on the habitat of pikas leading to their possible extinction in this century.

As always, graduate credit was available for this seminar and all seminars offered from Adams State University. 6 participants for this seminar received scholarships from UC Boulder’s Office of Outreach and Engagement and 4 high school students received scholarships.

During the summer of 2016, we also had two other seminars which were well attended. “ The Butterflies of Florissant” was presented by

Dr. Boyce Drummond, a professor at both Colorado College and CSU. The “Birds of Florissant” was presented by Debbie Barnes using her recently published book “The Birds of Florissant Fossil Beds NM and Surrounding Areas which is available for purchase in the Visitor Center at the Florissant Fossil Beds NM.

We are already planning for the seminars for the summer of 2017. One of our favorite presenters over the years, Dr. “Bud” Wobus, geology professor at Williams College in Massachusetts. Be watching for information about next summer.



Don't Miss the Annual Meeting

Plan to attend our postponed annual meeting on February 18th with a potluck lunch and a demonstration of raptors on Great Backyard Bird Count day. Hopefully we will also be able to tour the newly renovated Cusack (potato) barn. Keep your eyes open for more details in upcoming newsletters. Your participation in brainstorming for ways to enhance the mission of the Fossil Beds and enjoy the many new developments at the Monument will make for a stimulating meeting. If you have any interest in serving on the board, a committee or for a special event please contact Patty Glatfelter, President at 719-689-3174 or jspg@live.com. There's always room for one more Friend.

Thanks....

A Special Thank You to the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Board of Directors

When I think of the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Board of Directors, I think of their personal time and energy graciously given to help make Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument a great place for all to enjoy and experience. We cannot buy, save, or even borrow time. It is a precious commodity that can be shared.

When people commit to becoming members of the Board of Directors, they choose to share their time to support activities that enhance and protect Florissant Fossil Beds. They value the scenic beauty, significance of the paleontology contributing to worldwide understanding, and relationships with the local community.

Here at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument the Friends Board of Directors work with staff and other volunteers in a variety of ways serving our visitors, working on trails, fundraising, friendraising, promoting the park through social media and community outreach, supporting scientific research, educational seminars and special events. Efforts include, but are not limited to: Climate Change Workshop for Teachers, summer educational seminar series, funding Yoga summer hiking series, centennial events- 100th B-Day party, Plein air art show & sale, new bird guide book, new geological trail map & guide, Ute Story Telling event, Lighter Side of Christmas Parade, publicity, and providing refreshments. Every task and job done by the Friends is an important contribution to making the success of this Monument happen. Your commitment and support are greatly appreciated.

As we wrap up the National Park Service's Centennial Celebration events, I would like to remind all of you just how much your efforts are appreciated by the National Park Service. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the staff at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, to formally express our gratitude to the Board of Directors and to give special recognition to "Friends" who inspire us. You are ensuring future generations will have access to this national treasure.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wheatley

Superintendent, Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

