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Newsletter

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

Every Fossil Needs a Friend

#41—May 2019



The Senate Hearing of May 29, 1969: Scientists Testify for Florissant

By Herb Meyer, Paleontologist

As we approach the monument's 50th anniversary on August 20th, there are a number of significant events from 1969 to look back on and celebrate. One of those was the Senate hearing for public comment on Senate bill S.912 for the establishment of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The hearing was held May 29, 1969 in the Colorado Springs City Auditorium. Senator Alan Bible of Nevada presided, and Senator Gordon Allott of Colorado was also present.

The legislation being considered would set aside 6,000 acres of private land for the new monument. It stated that the purpose was "for the protection, controlled collection, and scientific interpretation of the unique insect and leaf fossils." Paleontology and geology were the sole purpose of the monument stated in this legislation. The bill specified that a paleontologist, superintendent, and part-time seasonal naturalist were the highest priority positions, to be filled immediately upon the monument's creation. Yet, once the bill had actually passed, the National Park Service failed to fulfill the mandate for a paleontologist for another 25 years. The scientists who testified that day made it clear why paleontology was such high priority. Their statements provided some very eloquent testimony in support of Florissant's paleontology. All of this is recorded in the published Senate transcripts, which provide 121 pages of delightful reading. Only a few of the special excerpts are cited here.

Professor Peter Robinson of the University of Colorado, who is now emeritus there, said: *“As curator at the university museum in Boulder, I have sent out Florissant materials to a greater number of scientists than any other fossil deposit in our collections. That we and other museums [already] have large collections from Florissant is only part of the story. Detailed scientific excavations using modern techniques have not been made there, and because of the limits of the deposit, such work would be impossible if the deposit were destroyed by development.”*

Dr. Harry D. MacGinitie, who was retired and a research associate with the University of California at Berkeley, gave some of the most insightful testimony that day. He was one of my mentors when I was a graduate student at Berkeley, long before I started at Florissant, and I’ve always wished I could go back in time to tell him that I ended up becoming Florissant’s first permanent paleontologist. The Senators expressed particularly high regard for MacGinitie, and they respectfully recognized his expertise as they looked at his monograph on the fossil plants of Florissant that had been published years earlier. His testimony to the hearing covers seven pages in the recorded transcripts. Here are some of those quotes: *“The fossil beds are widely known over the world for the wealth of fossil plants, insects, and fishes which they contain. The combination of life forms, their abundance and their beautiful preservation is unique. There is nothing quite like it...The contrast between the environment of the present and that shown by the fossils, the climate and vegetation, is practically absolute. It is one of the best examples I know of change, almost absolute change through geologic time.... [But] this brings us to face a question of values. The land occupied by the lake beds is not of particularly great value for housing or agriculture, but as a page of Earth history from the dim past it is priceless. There isn’t anything else like it. The area is unique and unrivaled... There is hardly an elementary geologic text that does not mention the Florissant fossil area.”*

Senator Bible and Dr. MacGinitie then engaged in a brief but amusing diversion. Senator Bible: *“That is a splendid statement, Doctor, you give to the hearing – don’t run away. I want you to tell me what age and how many millions of years ago prehistoric man roamed here.”* Dr. MacGinitie: *“Well, they have had recent discoveries in Africa that tell us that man-like creatures that we would recognize as man-like creatures probably lived 2 or 3 million years ago.”* Senator Bible: *“How many, 2 or 3 million?”* Dr. MacGinitie: *“Yes.”* Senator Bible: *“Well, I am glad to have that additional fact. I was wondering when all of those Homo sapiens came on this earth. I had forgotten. Senator Dominick says he is not positive they have arrived yet. He might be right, after some of our actions.”* Dr. MacGinitie: *“I think the term sapiens is a misnomer.”* Senator Bible: *“Well, you are undoubtedly correct, if I remember my Latin.”* (In Latin, sapiens means wise.)

MacGinitie was followed by Dr. Beatrice Willard, who was one of the “three women” activists in support of Florissant. She stated: *“As I sat here and listened to Dr. MacGinitie, I was deeply moved, and I still am... Consider for a moment the rarity of the juxtaposition of physical conditions that occurred at Florissant to accomplish this preservation [of fossils]. We all know how infrequently we find erupting volcanoes on the earth. And how few lakes there are. And how few volcanoes spew forth fine ash. This brings into its proper, immensely rare proportion, what happened in Colorado 38 [sic] million years ago... The Florissant fossil beds are comparable in the record of life on this planet to the Dead Sea Scrolls of Biblical fame, the Rosetta Stone that unlocked the secrets of Ancient Egyptian civilization, and the Gutenberg Bible that records the first Western printing. Incidentally, in 1964 Congress appropriated more money to buy one copy of this Bible than it is estimated will be needed to buy the 6,000-acre library that lies locked in the Florissant lake shales.... It has taken 48 years to reach this field hearing – the first national park proposal was in 1921. Will we be too little and too late? We certainly face this eminent possibility, with one third of the land now sold to land speculators.”* Senator Bible replied, *“That is an unusually fine statement, Dr. Willard. You speak with great authority.”*

And then came the testimony of Dr. Estella Leopold, who was spearheading the effort to save Florissant. She testified: *“It may seem unpopular to bother with saving a priceless scientific field library like the Florissant paper shales with all of their fine print. But I ask you, how can man keep a perspective on his direction and*

life's path if he loses track of the routes that life has followed before him?" As a side note, the testimonies that were given that day preceded by only a few weeks the launch of Apollo 11 and the much-anticipated landing of the first people on the Moon. Playing on this, Leopold continued: *"How can man evaluate his planetary environment and visualize his historic place in it if he does not keep and cherish a few touchstones with the past. When we have studied the Moon, will we throw it away? What you do about the proposed Florissant National Monument, gentlemen, will be a matter of history... If Florissant is not given national monument status this year, I fear all we will have left is its old address."*

Dr. Richard Bradley of Colorado College, who later became one of the founding members of The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, testified: *"The preservation of prehistoric fossil beds may be deemed an insignificant issue compared to other desperate problems. But it is not insignificant, for the greatness of America lies not just in its genius to get men to the Moon and back, but rather in the sum total of all the experiences and opportunities it can offer its people. The freedom or opportunity to decipher the story of the Earth from the message encoded in rocks is as important to our culture as the freedom to use a public library."*

Twenty-five people gave testimony to the Senate that Thursday morning in 1969, and another 158 wrote letters, nearly all of them unanimously in support of the bill to establish Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Following the hearing, a field trip was taken to Florissant that afternoon. Everybody was still dressed in their suits and ties, or dresses, to visit the place that was only three months away from becoming a national monument. But a major battle still loomed as the land had just been sold to developers less than a week before the hearing. The struggle to save Florissant would soon be in need of lawyers and judges as the effort heated up in July 1969.



Field trip to Florissant on May 29, 1969 with Senator Alan Bible (left) and Dr. Harry D. MacGinitie (right) swinging a rock hammer.



Field trip to Florissant on May 29, 1969 with Dr. Estella Leopold (left), Senator Alan Bible (center), and Dr. Beatrice Willard (right).

A Message from the President

Dear Friends,

Each time I travel throughout our great state, I am constantly amazed by the beauty of it all. The meandering rivers, the snow-capped mountain peaks, and the various colors of the rock formations just take my breath away. I fell in love with the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument during my first job there as a Teacher Ranger Teacher. I hope you each have the opportunity to come back during our 50th anniversary celebration and fall in love with our amazing park all over again.

Our members have been busy spreading the word about the fascinating history and science to be found at the monument. Representatives from our board have attended functions with the Western Interior Paleontological Society, the Westerners, and the Nonprofit Cooperative of Teller County. We have been very busy working on plans for the anniversary celebrations. It is an exciting time for all of us!

Please check our website (www.fossilbeds.org) for events that are in the planning stages. New things will be added throughout the summer. If you have not already done so, please “like” our Facebook page as well. We will have more to add as the summer gets closer.

Thank you all for being a part of our group. We could not fulfill our mission without your support. If you have any questions or would like to become more involved and join us in our outreach efforts, please feel free to contact us. We would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Robyn Proper, President



50th Anniversary Banquet – Florissant Fossil Beds NM

What an exciting event coming up this summer! Many people have been working very hard on the 50th Anniversary Celebration events for the Florissant Fossil beds NM. August 17, 2019 will be the day of exciting speakers during the day and the banquet in the evening.

The evening events will be held at The Nature Place in Florissant where we had the 40th Anniversary Banquet. From 4:30 – 5:30, we will start with a Social Hour. All are invited to join us. At the same time, we will open the Silent Auction for bids right up until 7:30 which will be the end of the banquet. The banquet will be held from 5:30 – 7:30.

The Banquet dinner will cost \$40.00 per person. Should you wish to attend the banquet, you can make a reservation on the Friends website. You may register on the website with Pay Pal or send a check for the amount to Friends of Florissant, PO Box 851, Florissant, CO.80816. Seating is limited so please make sure that you register early.

We have reserved a limited number of rooms at The Nature Place for those who may wish to stay overnight after the banquet. The price for the room is \$155 (per person –single) or \$110 per person for 2. Please contact The Nature Place directly for a reservation at 748-3475. Please mention the event you are calling to reserve a room. All room reservations must be completed by August 1, 2019.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE BANQUET WHEN PAYING BY CHECK

Name _____

I/We will be attending the 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Florissant Fossil Beds NM on Saturday, August 17, 2019 at The Nature Place.

____ Enclosed please find my check in the amount of _____ (\$40.00 per person) for _____ guests.

I/We would like to make an additional donation to the Friends. Please find my contribution of \$ _____ enclosed.

I/We are unable to attend but are enclosing a donation to support the Friends efforts. \$ _____. (Donations can be made for a specific program such as intern support, exhibit production, education programs or things of your particular interest.

e-mail address _____ phone # _____

Please make checks payable to: Friends of Florissant. Mail to Friends of Florissant, PO Box 851, Florissant, CO 80816
Should you have any questions, please contact Sally McCracken at sammckind@aol.com REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE BANQUET WHEN PAYING BY CHECK

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Florissant Fossil Beds

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument



Summer Seminar Series 2019

Summer Seminar Series 2019 and Fees

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Florissant Fossil Beds, The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. is offering five seminars focused primarily on the Florissant Fossil Beds and the Pikes Peak region. These day long seminars cover a variety of subjects such as geology, biology, humanities, and paleontology. The registration fee for each seminar is \$25.00 per one -day seminar. For more details call (719) 510-5518. Reduced rates are available for members of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

Teacher Friendly Graduate Credit CDE Cert.

Teachers can earn undergraduate and graduate credit through the Division of Extended Studies at 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 is also 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	Saturday, June 29	9AM – 5PM	Project Learning Tree	Rose Banzhaf
	Tuesday, July 13	9AM – 5PM	The Big Flat**	Dr. Reinhart Wobus
	Thursday, July 18	9AM – 5PM	Discovering, Observing, and Telling Nature's Stories for Children and Adults	John Stansfield
	Saturday, July 20	9AM – 5PM	Water: Our Precious Resource	Dr. Bob Raynolds
	Wednesday, July 24	9AM – 5PM	Creating a Deep Map of the Florissant Fossil Beds	Toni Ratzlaf

** The Big Flat Seminar is a higher-level geology seminar. A solid science background is recommended.

Registration and Information

For more information about prices, logistics, registration, presenters' bios, and seminar descriptions or other questions please go to the Friend's website www.fossilbeds.org and click the link for seminars. Online registration is available through PayPal at www.fossilbeds.org. If you need to register by phone, please call the Monument at (719) 748-3253 extension 109. You may also pay by check addressed to: Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, PO Box 851, Florissant, CO 80816.

REGISTRATION STARTS on Monday, May 13, 2019.

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

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



"The information about these 5 seminars, including a description of each and a bio on each presenter, will be on our website (www.fossilbeds.org) by May 13th. You will be able to register for any or all of the seminars on the website."

Slimy Diatom Mucus and the Preservation of Florissant's Fossils: The Contributions of Neal O'Brien to Florissant

By Herb Meyer, Paleontologist

Until a couple of decades ago, it was thought that the preservation of Florissant's fossils in delicate paper shale was the result of voluminous outbursts of volcanic ash that had overcome and buried the plants and insects, and that this, alone, had caused their fossilization. A new scientific model for Florissant's exceptional fossilization was developed by Neal O'Brien beginning in 1994, soon after my position as the paleontologist had started.

Neal was a geologist on the faculty at the State University of New York (SUNY) Potsdam, and his specialty was shale. He had a scanning electron microscope (SEM) in his lab, and with the aid of his undergraduate students, they began taking images of the Florissant shale. I recall many early morning phone calls of excitement from Neal as he described the discoveries of each new SEM image.

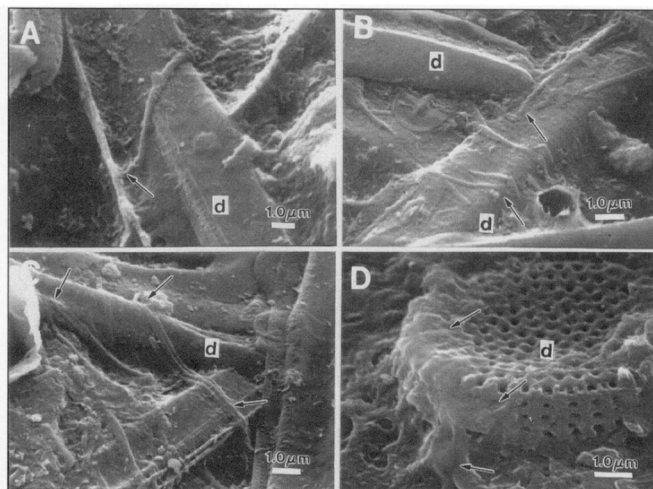
What he discovered is that the shale has micro-thin layers of diatoms that were oozing slimy mats (see photo), and the fossil wings of insects were enveloped by this slime. As the idea developed, he proposed the hypothesis that these slimy mats helped prevent decay of the organisms and were important agents in their fossilization. This was published in the journal *Rocky Mountain Geology* in 2002.

But this was a novel idea, and like every new idea in science, there was reluctance to accept the hypothesis. Neal suggested that we needed to look at other similar fossil sites, so he and I went on several field expeditions to other well-known fossil shale localities in Nevada, Colorado, Oregon and Montana to test his hypothesis.

When Dena Smith and I organized the Florissant symposium for the Geological Society of America in Denver in 2004, and published the Special Paper following that in 2008, Neal's research was one of the highlighted topics. The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds helped cover his travel expenses so that his work could be presented.

Neal's work with us at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument brought innovative new insights to our understanding about how the fossils were preserved by mucus mats in shale. It is still a working hypothesis, and although perhaps not universally accepted, Neal presented compelling evidence in his SEM photographs. The concept has become widely used in the way the fossils are interpreted by the National Park Service for hundreds of thousands of visitors.

Innovation is what science is about, and Neal challenged our way of looking at things. He once wrote me in an email, "I hope the world was ready for our mucus hypothesis – regardless, the work allowed me to be creative and to be a geologist." Dr. Neal R. O'Brien passed away on March 26, 2019 at the age of 81.



Neal O'Brien's scanning electron microscope (SEM) photos showing fossil diatoms secreting strands of mucus. Published in *Rocky Mountain Geology*, 2002, vol. 37.

Florissant Fossil Beds 50th Anniversary



Events and Activities for 2019

Fee Free Day, Saturday, April 20, 2019

Celebrate the first day of National Park Week and Florissant Fossil Beds' 50th Anniversary year for fee. On that day, Florissant Fossil Beds as well as all other NPS areas that charge fees will be free.

15 for 50 Hiking Contest (June 1 - Labor Day)

Hike all 15 miles of trails and earn a prize. Details coming soon to www.nps.gov/flfo

Science Open House and Junior Ranger Day, Saturday, June 29, 2019, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Learn about the ongoing research taking place at Florissant Fossil Beds including geology, paleontology, biology, hydrology, astronomy and much more. Get a behind the scenes tour of different science projects.

History and Culture Open House, Saturday, July 27, 2019, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Learn and celebrate the history and culture of the Florissant valley. Take a tour of a homestead, learn why someone once tried to saw apart a petrified stump, and learn about tribal connections with the area.

50th Anniversary Celebration - Saturday, August 17, 2019, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

Take part in a ceremony with keynote speakers and panel guests including scientists, people who lived here, people who fought to make it a Monument, and people who worked here. Enjoy refreshments and community.

Coffee and Cake with a Park Ranger, Tuesday, August 20, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and a piece of 50th Anniversary Cake and celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the bill that made Florissant Fossil Beds a National Monument. Throughout the day, a variety of rangers, interns, volunteers, and former staff will be serving up coffee, tea, and cake. This drop in opportunity offers a chance to learn about the different people and jobs that are involved in operating Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. You will also have an opportunity to sign the 50th Anniversary Card.

Fee Free Day, Sunday, August 25, 2019

Celebrate the 103rd Birthday of the NPS and the 50th Birthday of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Fees are waived all day at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and all other NPS areas that charge fees.

Florissant Fossil Beds has a daily entrance fee of \$10.00 per adult (15 and younger are free). Interagency passes are accepted. Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument offers 15 miles of beautiful, yet lesser-known, hiking trails to explore, a free Junior Ranger Program, three short self-guided trails, a park video and museum exhibits, and bookstore. During the summer a variety of ranger guided programs are offered. For additional information, please call (719) 748-3253 or visit our website: www.nps.gov/flfo or on Facebook or Twitter at /FlorissantNPS



Visit our website:
www.nps.gov/FLFO



Follow us on Twitter:
[@FlorissantNPS](https://twitter.com/FlorissantNPS)



Follow us on Facebook:
facebook.com/florissantnps

Supporters & Their Employers Helping the Friends

In today's corporate world, many employers recognize the benefit of assisting employees in their volunteer activities. Some provide paid leave for employees to spend a day volunteering their time and effort to support the 501(c)3 organization of their choice; others will allow employees to designate a charitable organization to receive a cash donation.

CoBank does both. CoBank, part of the US Farm Credit System provides loans and financial services to co-operatives, agribusinesses, rural public utilities and other farm credit associations who collectively own Co-Bank.

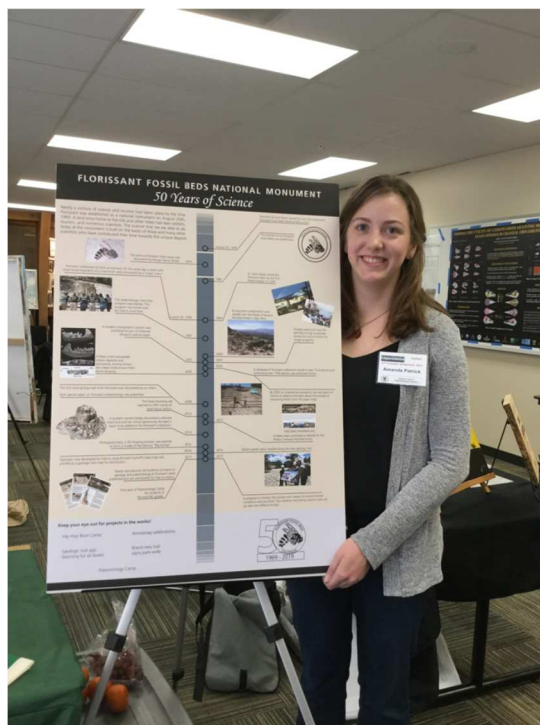
Brian Baldwin is the Director of Program Management at the CoBank National Office in Greenwood Village. A longtime supporter of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Brian has participated in Friend's activities the last several years. This year he designated the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds to receive a \$250.00 donation in his name from CoBank. This significant donation is sorely needed in today's austere Federal fiscal environment and will support the Friend's many different initiatives in supporting the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Brian's dedicated support and CoBank's generosity is greatly appreciated and a model for others.

THANK YOU COBANK and BRIAN!

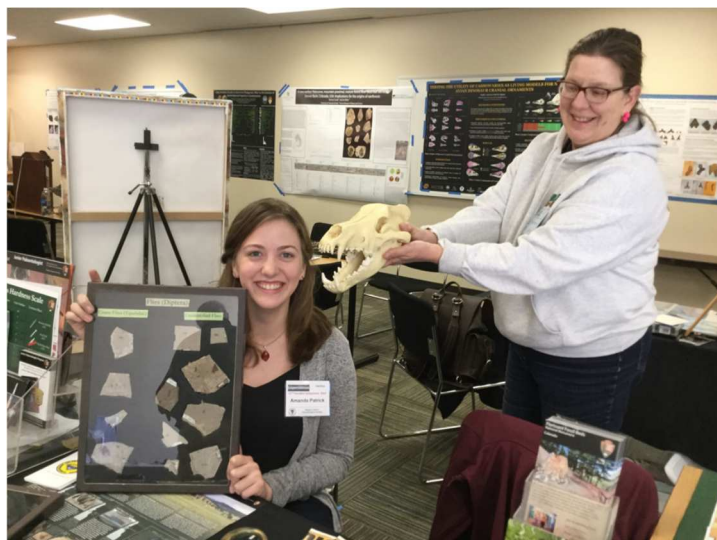


Meet Kacy Patrick, Paleo Intern - October 2018 to April 2019.

It is been such a pleasure and a great opportunity for the Friends Group to work with Kacy as she researched and designed this 50th years of science poster for the Western Interior paleontological society symposium which was in Aurora, CO March 2019.



Kacy also designed 2 display cases for the WIPS symposium highlighting a few of our Florissant Fossil Beds fossils. This was the first time we have ever exhibited display cases at these events. Going forward and with Kacy's guidance, we look forward to creating display cases for other events.



These shows are not all work and no fun, especially with our good friend Tracie with Paleo Bond.

We greeted many WIPS members and provided them with calendar of events and other planned events for the upcoming 50th Anniversary of Florissant Fossil Beds national Monument. The WIPS symposium is an every other year event so there is lots to get caught up on.



Kacy is now job hunting but agreed to do a Q&A for our newsletter:**Where did you grow up?**

“I grew up in a suburb of Houston, TX called Katy.”

When did you first know you wanted to be a geologist/paleontologist?

“Oh, man. I often describe my life as a series of happy coincidences. I Initially applied and was accepted at Texas A&M University as a Wildlife and fisheries Science major. I switched to Geology on a whim before classes had even started and I never looked back!”

Where did you get your undergraduate degree and what was your degree in?

“My undergrad degree is a BS in Geology and Geophysics from Texas A&M University.”

Where did you get your graduate degree and what was your degree in?

“My grad degree is a MS in Geology and Geophysics from the University of Wyoming.”

If you could change one thing about your academic career as an undergrad what would that be and how would you change that? How do you think this change would benefit you going forward?

“I didn’t understand that professors actually want to interact with their students and see them succeed. Attending a huge research university like A&M has a lot of advantages, but I never got the warm-fuzzies from my professors. I would go back and actually develop relationships with them. I think this would have given me a broader understanding of the field and helped my understanding of what research actually entails.”

If you could change one thing about your academic career as a graduate student what would that be and how would you change that? How do you think this change would benefit you going forward in your career?

“I’ve recently become focused on exhibit design as a career. I wish that I’d known about CU Boulder’s great museum studies master program before I went to UW. That being said, I got a lot of experience in UW’s paleontology museum, which is how I discovered my passion!”

You mentioned to me about a surreal moment when you saw Seagulls flying around on campus in Wyoming, can you explain that scene/scenario and the feelings you had? And how did that affect you?

“Haha! I love this story! So it was my first spring in Laramie, WY having lived my whole life in southern Texas. I was walking home from campus one day in April. It was snowing. In April. AND THEN I heard the familiar coastal sound of seagulls overhead. I was in an interior state in April and seagulls were flying through the snowy sky. I clearly remember the line “Toto, we’re not in Kansas anymore” running through my head as I just chuckled. This world is a crazy place and I felt so privileged to be able to experience this small moment in time.”

You’ve been an intern at Florissant fossil beds national Monument since October 2018, is there any one thing that you learned that you didn’t know before your internship? Was this experience what you expected? Have you ever worked for the national Park service in the past?

“My time at Florissant is my first experience working for the Park System, and it was not what I expected. I’ve learned so much, it’s hard to pick just one thing. I actually had never heard of FLFO before I applied for the internship, so it was completely new to me. I think the thing I love the most is Herb’s effort to virtually bring together all of the Florissant fossils that are stored across the world. This is a collections challenge that I had never experienced before my internship.”

You attended the WIPS symposium in Denver in March 2019. Can you share with me what you took away from this experience and was there any one thing that changed your outlook on your career or made you focus more in another direction?

“It’s always fun to attend these conferences, you come away energized and excited from nerding out with people in your field. I tend to get bogged down by the “business” of science, publishing papers and so-on. It’s so inspiring to be reminded that we do this out of child-like curiosity!”

In preparation for the WIPS symposium, the Friends of Florissant fossil beds reached out to you to help us create some materials to kick off the 50th anniversary of Florissant fossil beds national Monument. You created a beautiful 50 Years of Science poster. Did you do all the research for this poster, and what challenges did you have in creating this poster for the Friends use at the symposium?

“I did all of the research and put together a huge spreadsheet of over 200 dates of significant discoveries, events, programs, and others. It was a lot of fun! I read a lot of books and rifled through some historical papers. I got a lot of help from Herb’s memory as well as his book “Saved in Time”. Jeff Wolin reached out to past rangers and Superintendents, searching for things that they remembered too.”

You also designed and put together two wonderful display cases to exhibit fossils found at Florissant fossil beds for the WIPS symposium, what challenges did you have in designing these display cases?

“This display case was a lot of fun. The challenge there was that a lot of our fossils are really tiny, so how do you display those? I ended up using some cool Riker boxes as well as some petrified wood and a couple fossil replicas. In the text I wanted to offer enough information, but also lead well into Herb’s talk at the conference.”

Now that your internship has come to an end at Florissant fossil beds national Monument, where do you see yourself in one year from now?

“I see myself at my dream job that I’ve applied for in Durham, NC! It’s Associate Exhibit Developer at the Museum of Life and Science, a gorgeous 84-acre campus for hands-on learning in topics from aeronautics to dinosaurs, to interactive mathematics. (They have treehouses!) I’m excited about using my science background and artistic nature to bring fascination wonder to everyone.”

I really appreciated all that Kacy has done to help us kick start our celebration of the 50th Year Anniversary of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. There are many other things Kacy designed such as the 50th Park Passport Stamp, the new 50th Anniversary logo and the poster for the Suds, Stumps and Stars event, just to mention a few so be sure to take note of these as you come help us celebrate this exciting milestone.

Kacy will be greatly missed but now that she has become a member of The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, we will be able to stay in contact with her and keep her informed of all the events and activities the Friends have planned for this upcoming summer. Best of luck to you in your career, Kacy Patrick, and we hope you land that Dream Job! Thank you for all you have done.

~ Linda Laverty

FLFO Activities & Events - May 2019



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument
15807 Teller County Road 1
Florissant, CO 80816

Release date: Immediate
Contact: Jeff Wolin
Phone number: (719) 748 – 3253 ext. 202
Date 4/24/2019

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument News Release

Activities Planned at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in May 2019

Friday, May 3, Night Sky Program, 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Join park staff and members of the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society to gaze at the dark skies above Florissant Fossil Beds in search of planets, galaxies, nebulae, and more. Meet at the visitor center.

Saturday, May 18, Kids to Park Day – Be a Scientist! , 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Celebrate Kids to Park Day (former kids welcome too). The Monument is celebrating with a fun science day. Join us for a variety of hands-on science activities such as birding, searching for fossils in our demonstration fossil pits, making fossils, visiting the Learning Lab, hiking with your family, or earning one of three different kinds of Junior Ranger Badges.

Memorial Day Weekend, May 25 – 27, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Throughout the day, a variety of ranger-guided activities will be offered including interpretive talks, ranger-guided talks, tours of the Hornbek Homestead, and the Fossil Learning Lab. Please call (719) 748-3253 ext. 202 for times.

There are no additional fees for any park programs beyond the daily entrance fee of \$10.00 per adult (15 and younger are free). Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument offers 15 miles of beautiful, yet lesser known, hiking trails to explore, a free Junior Ranger Program, three short self-guided trails, a park video and museum exhibits, and bookstore. For additional information, please call (719) 748-3253 or visit our website:

www.nps.gov/flfo or on Facebook or Twitter at /FlorissantNPS

About the National Park Service:

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national park units and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history, protect natural and cultural resources, and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov

Support the Friends When You Shop Amazon

Do you shop on Amazon? Did you know you can support the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds with little effort and without any additional cost to you? Just click, or copy and paste, the following link:

https://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ext_ch_84?encoding=UTF8&ein=84-1114146&ref=smi_chpf_redirect&ref=smi_ext_ch_84-1114146_cl28

Alternatively, you can follow these simple steps:

- 1.) Got to smile.amazon.com
- 2.) Enter your standard Amazon username and login and then click the “Accounts & Lists” tab in the upper right-hand corner.
- 3.) After you click, a drop-down menu will appear. In this drop down menu, click “Your AmazonSmile” and then select your charity.
- 4.) To find us, simply type in “Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds Inc” in the search bar and then click the “Select” button when the name appears in the results bar.
- 5.) Once you’ve selected Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, be sure to bookmark your link with “smile.amazon.com” at the beginning of the URL and shop from this link. If you do not shop from this bookmarked link, Amazon does not make a contribution to your selected organization.

Thank you for your support!



A Monumental View



Photo taken by Gary Censoplano while out on patrol in the Monument

