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Newsletter

# Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

Every Fossil Needs a Friend

#43—October 2019

## A BIG Thank You for a Great 50th!

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds Board of Directors wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who provided assistance to the celebration of the Monument's historic 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Our special thanks include the owners of the Fossil Brewing Company of Colorado Springs who provided the excellent brews for The Suds, Stumps and Stars fundraiser and our tasty food vendor Brain Freeze and More. The music generously donated by the One Eleven Band kept the event hopping. We also recognize all the efforts of the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society and the lucky stars overhead that entertained us after the sun went down. Their ongoing presentations throughout the year make the Fossil Beds stellar all the time.

Our daytime event on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> was graced by the participation of an all-star speakers line up. They included in order of appearance:

Kate Hammond, National Park Service Intermountain Region Deputy Director and Therese Johnson, FLFO Park Superintendent; Norm Steen, Teller County Commissioner, Dr. Herb Meyer, Paleontologist, Dr. Dena Smith, National Science Foundation, and an audio message from Dr. Estella Leopold, Co-founder of Defenders of Florissant, Inc. Ranger Wolin and Youth Campers from Fountain Fort Carson District 8 entertained with the sounds "We Got Stumps Y'all", an original song by Ranger Wolin. A recording from Hip Hop Boot Camp of the original song by Joey Lovett and Nehe-miah Vaughn entitled "Defenders of Florissant" delighted and surprised attendees.

The latter half of the program entailed three panel presentations by People Who Lived on the Land, People Who Fought for the Monument and People Who Worked Here.



The crowd for the daytime gathering of the 50th Celebration

Closing remarks were offered by US Representative Doug Lamborn.

The evening dinner event was hosted at our always supportive partner, Colorado Outdoor Education Center, in their welcoming environment. Shelly Churchill, Jerry McLain and the staff of The Nature Place made it a venue to be remembered. There were inspirational speeches given by Victor Yannacone, Attorney at Law, who fought the case for the Monument in court; Dr. Herb Meyer, Monument Paleontologist who has led the research efforts for the past 25 years, and Dr. Dena Smith, Director for Sedimentary and Paleobiology of the National Science Foundation. The artists and Friends who donated so generously to the silent auction enabled the Friends to raise nearly \$2000 for ongoing Monument programs to enhance the visitor experience all year long. Donors to the auction include: Jan Beals, Brian Bowen, Jeff Brandt, Mike Britten, Natalia Brothers, Rita Dye, Stu Ferguson, F.Martin Brown Fund, Florissant Fossil Quarry, Barb Gulder, Ruth Gulliver, Ellen Hinson, Therese Johnson, Wayne Johnston, Darlene Kaskie, Linda Laverty, Hank Maertens, Sally McCracken-Maertens, Jeff McCammon, The Nature Place, Cheryl Petersen, Steve Petersen, John Schwabe, Michelle Speck, Steve Veatch and Jeff Wolin. If you weren't able to make the silent auction you missed out on some incredible buys of artwork, outdoor gear, books, minerals, and jewelry.

Coffee and Cake Day with a Ranger was enhanced with excellent coffee donated by Raven Roast Coffee Roasters of Florissant. Many visitors for this birthday celebration got their burning questions answered and had a special one-on-one experience.

Professional video and audio recordings of both the daytime events by HEX Audio Visual Corp. and evening events by Watered Down Productions were generously funded by the F. Martin Brown Fund. The archival recordings are available on the Friends website under the Gallery tab at: [www.fossilbeds.org](http://www.fossilbeds.org) Feel free to share.

We are forever grateful to all of you who joined us for the events whether it was physically or with a cheering spirit from afar. It was clear how many people gave birth to the Monument and continue to give of their time and talents to make this a very special place.

Thanks to all the Friends and the staff of the National Park Service who make this a place to cherish!

- Robyn Proper, President, Patty Glatfelter, Vice-President and the entire board of the Friends



Ranger Jeff Wolin with a panel of various individuals who have worked at the Monument

# JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20TH AT 1:00 P.M.  
FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT**



**HEAR REPORTS FROM THE MONUMENT  
SUPERINTENDENT AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
FRIENDS**



**RECEIVE A STAINED FOSSIL CAST AS A TAKE-HOME  
GIFT, TAKE A GUIDED HIKE AFTER THE MEETING, AND  
ENTER FOR PRIZES INCLUDING AN OVERNIGHT STAY  
AT BRONCO BILLY'S**

**COME SEE THE FOSSILS AND ENJOY THE  
BENEFIT OF HAVING FRIENDS**



## Every Fossil Needs a Friend...To Renew Their Membership!

Just a reminder that the membership committee will be mailing out membership renewal forms shortly. Please remember to provide us with your new contact information should it change—especially email or mailing address.

Show your support by renewing your membership to The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. **On page 5**, Please find the membership renewal form and an application form designed to let you provide us with information that is important to you. We will use this information as a tool to provide more events such as wild-flower hikes, lectures on local history, or children's activities that are more appealing to you. Print these forms and mail them to:

Membership Committee  
Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds  
PO Box 851  
Florissant, CO 80815

Or you can renew your membership application online at [www.fossilbeds.org](http://www.fossilbeds.org) using Pal Pay. The application is also available to download from the website.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Thank you!

-The Membership Committee

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### Friends Volunteer Efforts May Include (but are not limited to):

**Programs**-Teach or providing auxiliary support for educational or recreational programs that support the mission of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument or the Friends

**Publicity**- Assist the Friends across all forms of media for community outreach with photography, information technology support, website design, and maintenance of the publicity efforts

**Outings**-Lead and support outdoor recreational and educational activities for Friends membership, military members, their families and visitors to the Monument

**Membership**-database support, recruit and develop new Friends, network with the non-profit and for profit sectors

**Leading hikes**-for fitness, birdwatching, geology or wildlife education

**Guest Speaking**-either in the community, at the Florissant Fossil Beds Friends' events in your area of expertise that can further the Monument's mission

**Fund Raising**-Develop ideas, help with an event, help with the publicity, recruit individual or corporate donors

**Event Planning**- support educational or recreational events, fund raising or National Park Service special events with labor or material support

**Trail Maintenance**-assist in maintaining the mild to moderate incline trail system under the supervision of the National Park System staff with labor or material support



BE A FRIEND

## Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.

*Every Fossil Needs a Friend*

The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. is a non-profit organization that secures resources to promote activities in preservation, research, and education. The Friends are a group of dedicated people interested in assisting the National Park Service in protecting our national treasures for future generations.

The Friends support children's programs such as Junior Ranger and educational outreach to school, youth groups and local military families. The Friends also fund summer internship opportunities for college age students and foster partnerships with organizations like the Geological Society of America and a fossil site in Sexi, Peru.

Members receive a subscription to our digital newsletter, email updates, invitations to events, a discount on our popular summer seminar series, and a 10% discount at the Monument bookstore and other Public Land Alliance outlets at NPS sites (see Friends website). Members also have the benefit of knowing they are helping to preserve one of the most amazing fossil sites in the world!

*Please print clearly*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Check all that apply* **I am interested in:**

- |                                       |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife     | <input type="checkbox"/> Local History         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fossils      | <input type="checkbox"/> Plants/Wildflowers    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birding      | <input type="checkbox"/> Orienteering | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Others _____ |                                       |  |

*Check all that apply* **I am interested in volunteering for:**

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs             | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity            | <input type="checkbox"/> Leading Hike  | <input type="checkbox"/> Event Planning    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outings              | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Speaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service on the Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |  |

**\*To mail form and payment, or to apply online,  
please use contact info below:**

**Membership type:**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student                 | \$10    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual       | \$20    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual       | \$35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family           | \$30    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family           | \$50    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paleovespa-1 Year       | \$500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brontothere-3 Years     | \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sequoia Affinis-5 Years | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Donation     | _____   |

~~ Membership Committee Use ~~

Postmark: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Type: ☐ Check \_\_\_\_\_ (Check No.)☐ Pay Pal (web) ☐ Cash ☐ Money Order

**Friends of the  
Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc.**

P.O. Box 851  
Florissant, CO 80816

Email: [membership@fossilbeds.org](mailto:membership@fossilbeds.org)Website: [www.fossilbeds.org](http://www.fossilbeds.org)

## Volunteer Trail Crew

It was an unseasonably warm mid-September day as the all-volunteer Trail Crew finished the last of the rock work on the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument's Geology Trail (aka) the Hornbeck Wildlife Loop Trail. The four-hour shift was just right. We worked through the lunch hour. We know if we stop, we won't get started again. The five-person senior citizen crew has the collective knowledge of when to stop and call it a day.



With a little training the crew has become a much-needed asset for the Fossil Beds. They have completed the Petrified and Ponderosa Loop trails and the Geology Trail. Trail maintenance is quite physical work. Trail maintenance includes opening and cleaning trail drains, grading, smoothing trail tread surfaces, installing rock water bars and steps. Trailside brush management is part of maintaining a usable trail.

Currently the crew is working with Park staff on sections of the old Sawmill Trail. The crew plans to continue work through November or until the ground freezes. Crew members include Mary and Corky Capp, Ron Harmon, Ruth Gulliver and John Schwabe. We work every Tuesday 9 am to 1 pm or a little longer if a longer distance hike to the worksite is needed. Come see us in action and if you are interested in joining the happy crew contact Ranger Jeff Wolin at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument or John Schwabe, volunteer at [jspg@live.com](mailto:jspg@live.com).

- John Schwabe,  
volunteer/Friends board member



## A Message from the President

It has been a very busy summer!! The board members and others worked very hard this year to make the celebrations for the Monument's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary so special. We did everything from making beer for our Suds, Stumps, and Stars event to listening to the amazing Victor Yannacone tell the story of saving our land. It has been quite an experience. I hope you were able to join us for some of the amazing events of the summer. Happy 50<sup>th</sup> to all the supporters of our Monument!

As things slow down for the season and the leaves begin to turn, our group members now reflect on our past year and begin to plan for the future. All our wonderful members are invited to attend our Annual Meeting on October 20 at 1:00 at the Monument. The board members will be providing snacks and drinks. There will be a State of the Monument style report given by the Park Superintendent and myself. After the meeting reports and the election of board members, we will stain casts of our famous wasp fossil for take home gifts. Each person will leave with a fossil replica and possibly one of our door prizes. We have Christmas ornaments, beer mugs, and an overnight stay for two with a meal at Bronco Billy's in Cripple Creek for our lucky winners. I am planning to lead a hike for any interested parties after the meeting ends. Please consider joining us. We would love to see you and hear your thoughts on our plans.

I am always available to listen or answer questions regarding our organization. It would be wonderful to find more ways for our members to participate at various levels. I want all of the members of our group to feel informed and included. I can be reached at [robynproper@gmail.com](mailto:robynproper@gmail.com).

Happy fall to all of you! It is my favorite time of the year in beautiful Colorado. Thank you so much for being a part of the efforts to support such a lovely and educational environment.

- Robyn Proper, President,



Friends President, Robyn Proper (left),  
and Victor Yannacone (right)

## Campers and Composers - FLFO Summer Camps

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, for the second year in a row, offered a free geology and paleontology camp for upper elementary students. The camp was started in 2017 by a MOSAICS in Science Intern (now Education Specialist at PEFO), Ricardo Escobar. The camp meets Colorado state standards for science and provides opportunities for underserved populations of youth to appreciate, understand, and care for geologic resources. It is a fun-filled week, full of hands-on activities and experiences. This year's camp leaders were Karleen Mays, an intern with the Environment for the Americas program and Kevin Jauregui, a Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Intern. The project was funded by the Youth Partnership Program. This year, the Monument targeted military youth from Fountain Fort Carson School District 8 in Colorado Springs. There were three sessions of camp in 2019. Each session lasted for 5 days and each day lasted about 6 hours. The camp focused on a different theme each day based on geology or paleontology. The beginning of the week focused on broad geologic concepts like the structure of the Earth, plate tectonics, and geologic processes. As the week continued, the students focused more on the specific geologic processes that led to the formation of the Florissant Fossil Beds. Each day, the students brought home something tangible, whether it was a handmade fossil replica, a play-doh model of the Earth's layers, or even a real fossil that the students found from a nearby privately-owned quarry. Students loved camp and the staff enjoyed seeing the kids running around in their bright green Paleo-camp t-shirts. The activities engaged and motivated students and generated great questions. Some students even continued to research on their own at home (at least that is what they told their teacher). A few of the students were inspired enough to bring their families back later in the summer on their own. It was fun to see them leading their families around and spouting off their knowledge. Countless hours have gone into the planning and organizing this camp, which will continue in 2020.



A group of students enjoying a presentation during camp

During the summer of 2019, Florissant Fossil Beds hosted another camp, which was called Hip Hop Boot Camp. Hip Hop Boot Camp was inspired by the work of the Youth Ambassador Program (YAP) which started at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. The goal of YAP is to connect youth to the NPS and its mission through hip-hop music. Through the Interpretation and Education fund, FLFO was able to fund a project this year. The park collaborated with Ben Gilbarg of Big Picture Anthems (BPA) in Oakland, California. BPA utilizes the power of music and video to produce communication movements that have an educational and social impact on society. Ben Gilbarg was one of the founders of the YAP program. Another partner was the National Council for the Traditional Arts. The goal was to find two high school aged youth hip-hop artists, provide opportunities for them to deeply connect to Florissant Fossil Beds, and have them compose and record two hip-hop songs about their experience at the Monument. Jeff Wolin, Lead Interpreter for the Monument, and Education Intern, Kevin Jauregui (Geoscientist in the Parks Intern) led the efforts. In late July, Ben Gilbarg along with Nehemiah Vaughn and Joey Lovett embarked on a journey to Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Joey Lovett, also known as Cangaroo, is a 19-year-old Hip Hop artist from West Oakland who was inspired to write music at the age of 15 when one of his closest friends was murdered and turned to music as a healthy way to find healing. Nehemiah Vaughn, also known as Nuisance, is a 19-year-old Hip Hop artist from Oakland who started rapping as an outlet for his anger and painful obstacles he was facing and

## Campers and Composers

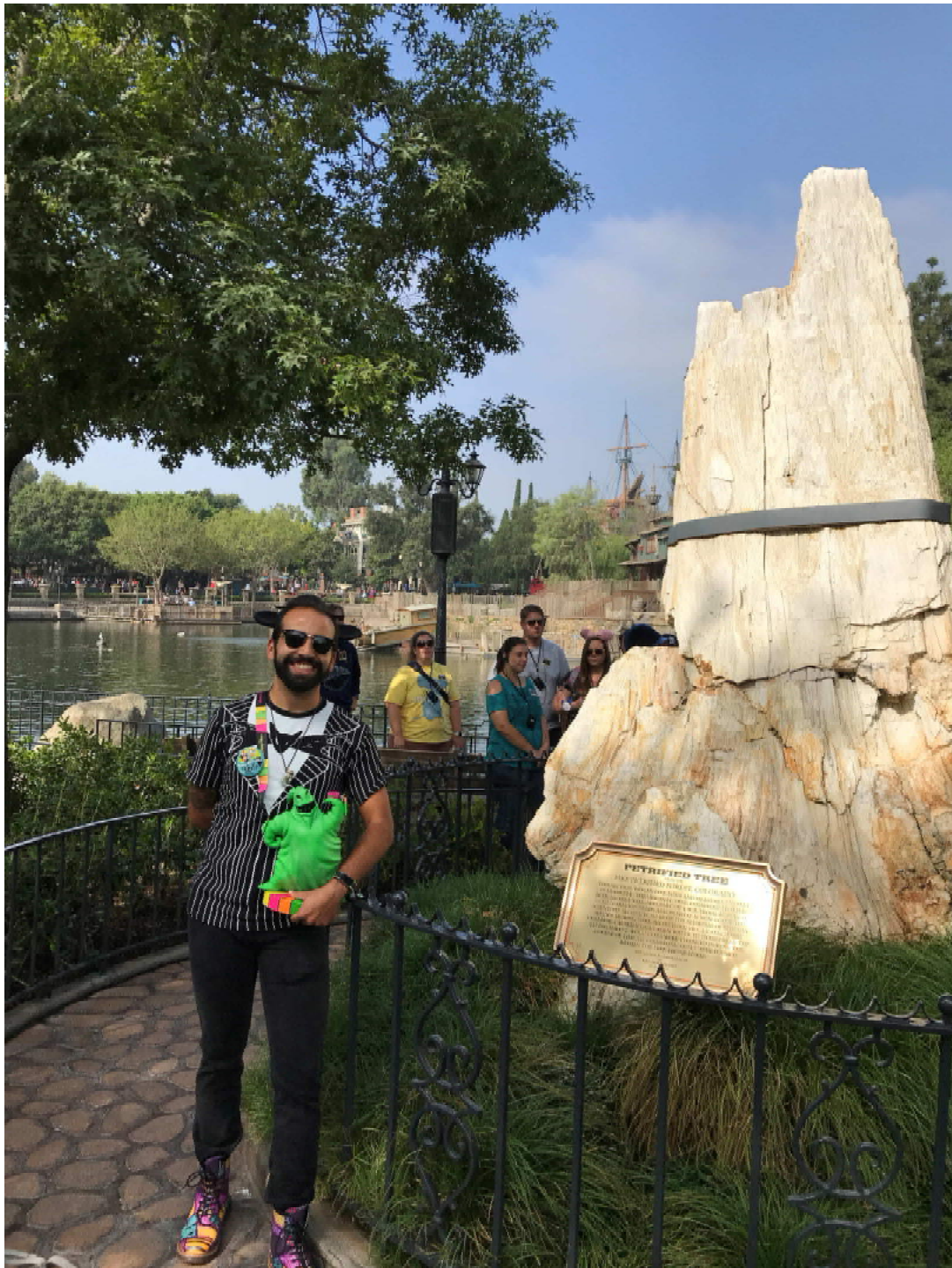
while informing others that they are not alone with any hardships they may be facing. For two full days, these three artists accompanied by Kevin Jauregui, took in a mind-blowing amount of information. Nehemiah, Joey, and Ben hiked on the Monument's trails, learned about paleontology, and searched for fossils at a nearby privately-owned quarry (an activity paid for by the Friends). They experienced wildlife and became absorbed in deep time, and they learned about the human history at Florissant. During their time at the Monument, Joey and Nehemiah began to free-style to beats provided by Ben. With beautiful mountain meadows and Pikes Peak in the background, they would pull out their laptop and just start rhyming. In mid-August, just days before the Monument celebrated its 50th anniversary, Ben emailed rough drafts of the two songs they created. The songs were amazing and even gave Jeff and Kevin chills! The two songs written by Joey and Nehemiah expressed the joy and freedom they experienced at the park. One of their songs called "The Defenders of Florissant" was inspired by the landmark environmental law case and grassroots effort, which saved the Florissant Fossil Beds from development in the late 1960s. The song was so amazing and inspirational, it was played at the 50th anniversary celebration and the crowd was in awe.

- Kevin Jauregui, GIP Intern, and Jeff Wolin, Lead Interpreter



Hip Hop artists Joey (left) and Nehemiah (right) and GIP Intern Kevin Jauregui (middle) finding inspiration at Florissant Fossil Beds

## A Piece of Florissant in Disneyland



Intern Kevin Jauregui with a stump from Florissant at Disneyland in California. The stump was purchased by Walt Disney before the Fossil Beds became a National Monument. The stump is located in Frontierland.

## 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](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](https://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!

