



Friends Board Members

Jeff Brandt

Patty Glatfelter

Leadership Team

Wayne Johnston

Web Master

Linda Laverty

Rick Wilson

Membership

Sally Maertens

Leadership Team

Jerry McLain

Cheryl Petersen

Jan Beals

Treasurer / Leadership
Team

Jean Rodeck

Member Emeritus

John Schwabe

Project Coordinator

Wendie Warner

Secretary

Gary Censoplano

Troy Ruiz

Newsletter

Patrick Glover

Bev Harms

Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

Every Fossil Needs a Friend

#49—December 2021

2021 Membership Meeting

On Saturday, October 16th, The Friends' Board hosted the Annual Membership Meeting for the second time using Zoom. The meeting started at 10 AM. The meeting began with a welcome by Patty Glatfelter who is part of the leadership team. She then introduced the first speaker, Mariah Slovacek, who is an intern through the Science in Parks (SIP) program. She gave a tremendous program about the work she is doing and has done. From reviewing all 11,000 items in the Monuments collection to the wonderful drawings that you can see elsewhere in this newsletter. Mariah's position was funded by the Friends (\$8000) as well as supplying her with Adobe Illustrator so that she can do the work you will see in her short article. We would like to thank everyone who made donations to fund Mariah's internship.

The next speaker was Therese Johnson, the Superintendent who gave a wonderful review of all that the Monument's staff has been involved with this year. Therese Johnson retired at the end of October. We are happy for her and wish her the best in many new adventures. We will miss her. She has been great to work with and we hope to see her around town.

At the end of Therese's presentation, Jeff Wolin, lead interpreter discussed the special news in the last couple of months about the Monument's designation as a Dark Sky Park. Jeff discussed the process that took over 2 years to complete. In conjunction with the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society with help from Park volunteers and staff, the process was completed earlier this year. All of the data which included much data collection about the amount of light in the Park and other paperwork was sent in and the Monument received the designation of a Dark Sky Park a couple of months ago.

Following Jeff's presentation, Sally McCracken announced this year's recipients of the Visitor Service Award. Both Stu Ferguson and Steve Petersen received the award this year for their help in the collection of data and other things that lead to the designation of Dark Sky Park. (See the article on Visitor Service Award)

Board member Cheryl Petersen presented the highlights for this year for the Friends. She informed membership that we finalized the Philanthropic Partnership agreement with the Monument. We have procedures in place for sending letters of thanks to donors and are discussing with the Monument about having a "wall" where we can recognize donors. We provided critical financial support to the Monument providing funds to help with the new waterline for the A-frame. The completion of the renovation of the A-frame will give the Monument a place where researchers and interns can stay. We also provided the Monument with \$8,675 for the support of a paleo intern through the Science in Parks program. We had 5 virtual seminars and we thank Wendie for helping with the technical side of all virtual endeavors. We used the year to organize our procedures in ways that will allow us to

proceed more efficiently. We have set up several different committees to handle all our various activities and developed better record-keeping processes. Finally, we wish to recognize all the wonderful work done by the Trail Crew led by John Schwabe, a Board member. The new picnic area is impressive. Many of the trails have new gravel and stairs.

Board member elections which are held each year re-elected Jan Beals, Patty Glatfelter, Wayne Johnston, Sally McCracken, Cheryl Petersen, Troy Ruiz, John Schwabe, and Wendie Warner. Terms for all Board members are for 2 years. There were no nominations from the floor.

Board member Bev Harms presented our thoughts on future endeavors with the hopes that we can again begin fund raising events in 2021 and offering seminars in person. We look forward to getting back to normal with in-person meetings and events such as gem and mineral shows, seminars, and Farmers Markets. We also would like to return to fundraising events such as the Suds, Stars, and Stumps event. We had 5 virtual seminars. We have had a wonderful relationship with the Superintendent, Therese, and look forward to working on having the same kind of relationship with the new Superintendent. We look forward to 2022 and further refining our organizational structure and seek new Board members.

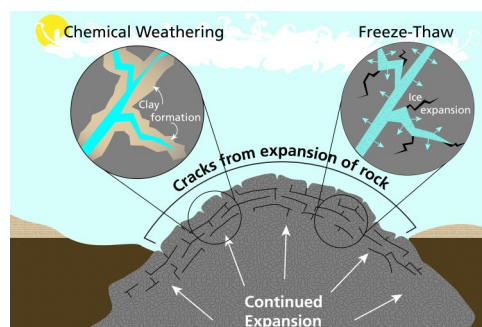
Board member Gary Censoplano thanked Troy (newsletter) and Wayne (website) who play very essential roles. Troy is responsible for most aspects of the newsletter, sends out email blasts, and notifies the membership about virtual seminars. Wayne manages the website and serves as the conduit for the contributions that come in, we also need to thank our members who have continued to contribute generously during COVID. Visitors also have been very generous; we have received over \$4500 since January of 2021.

We also thanked the Monument staff who are a pleasure to work with from all divisions. We deeply appreciate Bev Harms for joining us and pitching right in to become our secretary. Finally, we, again, wish to express a big THANK YOU to Therese for her support and collegiality. We wish her the best in retirement.

The Annual Membership meeting ended at 11:40 with the hope that this annual event can be in person next year.

Science in the Parks Intern

After the Friend's Membership meeting, Mariah sent us this additional information with some of the artwork they have done. Despite challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, several projects were completed during the 2020-2021 terms. Notable among those: creating imagery for the new mobile application, Florissant Explorer; a comprehensive inventory of the collections; eight artist reconstructions of fossil organisms found at the Monument; and the construction of a virtual wayside tour. Mariah is thankful to the Friends of Florissant for providing funding for Adobe Illustrator so that she could work remotely and, especially, for her internship.



2022 Seminars

As we end the year, we have presented 5 virtual seminars in the last 12 months. We have been working on adding 2 more before the end of the year, but the people who were going to present are now committed to doing the seminars in 2022.

Dr, "Bud" Wobus, a recently retired Geology professor at Williams College in Massachusetts after 55 years, will be presenting a virtual seminar early in 2022. In that role, he was a long-time proponent of the value of research as the signature element of an undergraduate science education. He was the founding member of the Geology Council on Undergraduate Research in 1988. He facilitated collaborative field-based research opportunities among students and staff in small geology departments at liberal arts colleges. In the mid-1980s, along with Bill Fox, he submitted a proposal that established the Keck Geology Consortium which involves 17 colleges from coast to coast which has supported undergraduate research and innovations in geoscience for nearly three decades. Additionally, for more than 40 years, he was a member of the summer staff at the Colorado Outdoor Education Center in Florissant, CO. He directed many geology/natural history field weeks for William's alumni at The Nature Place Conference Center at COEC. WE look forward to being able to offer a virtual seminar by Dr, Wobus early in the new year.

In addition to Dr, Wobus' presentation, we are planning a virtual and in-person seminar to be done by Mr. Frank Matero who is a Professor of Architecture and directs the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at the University of Pennsylvania. Mr. Matero has shaped architectural conservation in the US and abroad for over 35 years. He has been an Architectural Conservator for the National Park Service at many locations. His research addresses the conservation of historic buildings and sites, and this work is expanding into the realm of paleontology as he applies these principles to the conservation of the stumps at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Mr, Matero will do a virtual seminar on "Conservation Strategies for the Fossil Stumps of Florissant Fossil Beds NM" early in 2022 and will then do an in-person seminar later in the year at the Monument when his students come back to finish their research.

We look forward to offering these seminars and more throughout 2022. If you have any ideas for topics that we might present, please feel free to contact the Seminar Committee through Sally at 719-510-5518.



Dr. Wobus receiving the Neil Miner Award in 2016

The 2021 Visitor Service Award

Each year, the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds NM sponsor the Visitor Service Award that is presented to a Park employee, volunteer, or intern who exhibits the highest level of providing visitor service in their everyday job. Nominations are made by anyone who is at the Park in any of those designations and wishes to give a peer recognition.

The recipient should be a person who exhibits enthusiasm for the job, is pleasant and professional to all visitors, and is helpful to visitors to the point that they go "above and beyond" in providing outstanding visitor service or performs exceptional work that dramatically improves visitor service. The recipient will receive a small Visitor Service Award plaque and their names will be added to the VSA plaque permanently displayed in the FLFO Admin building.

This year, two volunteers were the recipients of the award. The nomination read as follows: "Stu Ferguson and Steve Petersen led the Monument's efforts to plan and develop a nomination packet for the Monument to send to the International Dark Sky Association to receive certification as an International Dark Sky Park. Their hard work did in fact lead to the Monument's certification. Their efforts included helping run monthly night sky programs, coordinating with the Colorado Springs Astronomical Society, putting together an almost 80- page nomination packet, working with the Facilities Division at the Monument to develop a lighting spreadsheet and lighting plan which also included documenting all of the lights at the Monument. The Night Sky Program was also the first interpretive program to return this year, and as a result of the certification, led to increased visitation and visitor enjoyment and understanding."

Our congratulations to both Steve and Stu for receiving this award. They have both been volunteers for several years. Steve is originally from Logan Utah and came here by way of Utah and Texas. He says that they found just the right place to retire here in Florissant. He enjoys nature photography, amateur astronomy, astrophotography, and anything else that looks interesting. Stu, in addition to astronomy, is a woodcarver of children's toys especially. He says that he was privileged to work with interpretation and visitor services, and the Dark Sky Park team. He feels fortunate to spend so much time in such a wonderful environment.

At the November 6th Dark Sky Program at the Monument, Jeff Wolin recognized both Stu and Steve to the 150 attendees as the recipients of the award.



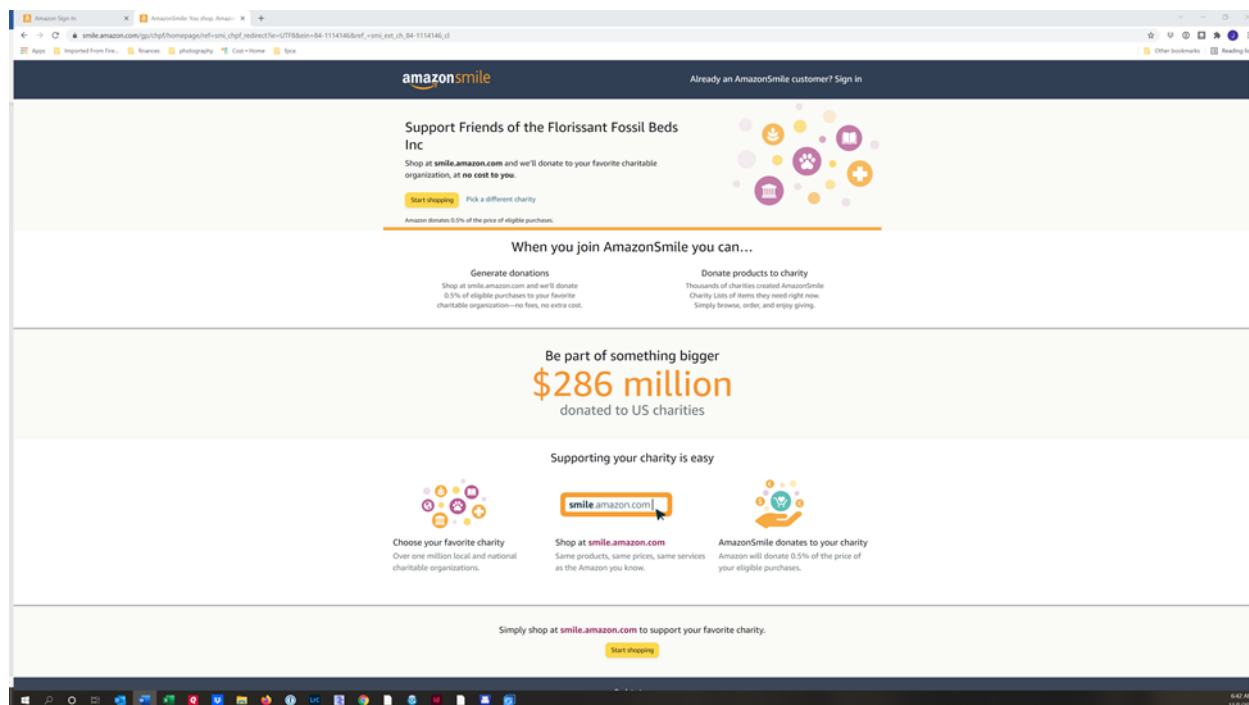
Shop AmazonSmile and Amazon Donates to the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds.

Do you regularly shop on Amazon? Your purchases could be automatically benefitting the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds – at no cost to you – when you shop using AmazonSmile!

When you shop with AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Support the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds by setting us as your preferred charity. This link will take directly to a page to sign up for our AmazonSmile account: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1114146> (example page copied in below). Use your existing Amazon sign-in credentials and, whenever you shop at Amazon, simply remember to type in www.smile.amazon.com

Thank you!



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

WISHING YOU & YOURS

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS

FROM

