



## Friends Board Members

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Leadership Team

**Wayne Johnston**

Web Master

**Linda Laverty**

**Rick Wilson**

Membership

**Sally Maertens**

Leadership Team

**Jerry McLain**

**Bev Harms**

Secretary

**Cheryl Petersen**

**Jan Beals**

Treasurer / Leadership  
Team

**Jean Rodeck**

Member Emeritus

**John Schwabe**

Project Coordinator

**Wendie Warner**

Technology Coordinator

**Gary Censoplano**

**Jeff Brandt**

**Therese Johnson**

**Troy Ruiz**

Newsletter

# Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds eNewsletter

Every Fossil Needs a Friend

#52—September 2022

## News from the Board

The Board of the Friends would like to welcome, Mrs. Penny Wagner, the new Superintendent who served as the interim Superintendent from January through April of this year. She and her family moved here in early August from Washington, where she had been the Information Officer for Olympic National Park. There was an article about her in our last newsletter when she was serving as interim Superintendent. Everyone attending the Annual Membership Meeting will have a chance to meet here.



Penny Wagner

During this year, we worked on enhancing our collaboration with the Monument by completing the necessary Philanthropic Partnership Agreement, which all Friends groups must complete every ten years. The process began with Therese Johnson, past Superintendent, and was completed and signed by Penny Wagner for the Monument and Patty Glatfelter for the Friends.

We completed our Donor Recognition Plan which is a mandated part of the Philanthropic Partnership Agreement. We are in discussions about the possibility of having a "wall" where we can recognize donors.

We have provided critical financial support to the Monument as needed. Recently, we provided financial support for the intern Adelaide Rich, both supplementing her summer housing stipend and her attendance at the Geologic Society of America's meetings where she presented programs. We greatly appreciate and wish to thank the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society for providing \$500.00 for Ms. Rich's housing supplement. We often receive financial help from many of our partners to supplement what we can give.

We had two virtual seminars this spring with very good attendance. We are very lucky to have Wendie Warner as our technology person to make these happen.



We will continue to offer both in-person and virtual seminars. See the article in this newsletter about upcoming seminars.

The Trail Crew, led by our Board member John Schwabe, has worked hard with the Monument Staff trails and stairs in critical areas. The new picnic area is impressive.

In our future endeavors, we look forward to getting back to normal with in-person meetings, events, and fundraising events, further refining the Friend's organizational structure, which includes, recruiting new Board members. We have gained three new Board members over the last year, including Bev Harms, Therese Johnson, and Michelle Speck. We encourage anyone who might be interested in serving on the Friends Board to contact one of us.

We would like to thank Troy Ruiz and Wayne Johnston for their exceptional work with our newsletter and website. Thanks also go to members and their generosity who, since December of 2020, have donated \$7,645. We have also collected over \$4500 since January in the donation box in the Visitor Center. We also wish to recognize the wonderful Monument staff, who are a pleasure to work with and provide a wonderful service for all of the visitors.

## Meet the Monument's Newest Interns

### Adelaide Rich

My name is Adelaide Rich and I'm a recent graduate of Southern Utah University with a degree in geology and a certificate in geographic information systems (GIS). My undergraduate research experience included aspects of stratigraphy, field mapping, and GIS processing. As an intern at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, I'm improving on the current geologic mapping using high-accuracy GNSS receivers, which can obtain an accuracy of several centimeters.

The two previous mapping projects completed in 1982 and 1992 utilized traditional mapping practices involving a topographic map and colored pencils, and features were located based on navigational skills for using these maps in field settings. Now, we are using high-accuracy hardware and software products to improve the resolution and usability of the map. We used Eos Arrow receivers, NPS NTRIP corrections, and Esri's suite of software products to collect data with an accuracy of several centimeters. Using the methods described, we have improved the accuracy of the location of geologic contacts by nearly 40 meters in portions of the monument. The improved accuracy and precision of the geologic map better support the park's mission to preserve and protect the paleontological and geological resources unique to the area. Precise data are also used in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluations, in monitoring resources, and with mobile and print maps available to visitors of the park to promote engagement and understanding.

I am excited to work in Florissant and am eager to fulfill the park's mission. I am incredibly grateful to The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds for supporting me in this internship. The work I do in the park is not possible without you. Thank you!



**Hillary Cephress-McLean**

My name is Hillary Cephress-McLean and I started as a collections intern at the Fossil Beds back in April of this year. I am working on a 2-year contract with Conni O'Connor, the Monument's Museum Technician to rehouse and photograph the Monument's extensive fossil specimens.

I am a Paleontologist that has extensive experience working in various Museums across the western United States. I have run prep labs in places like Montana, Utah, and Texas and primarily built my career over prepping out vertebrate fossils like dinosaurs and ancient mammals. I grew up in Denver, CO, and I am very excited to be working once again in this beautiful state.

I am carefully placing all the fossil specimens in foam with a Tyvek barrier to ensure that these fossils will be properly cared for and kept safe for the rest of their time at the Monument. In addition to rehousing these fossils, I am also taking stacked photos which will be a baseline photo for all fossil specimens. This stacking is done by taking a series of layered photographs with a micro-lens that is then compiled together into a high-definition image. This is a technique that I am excited to learn how to do for the Monument since I am not as experienced in collections work specifically. This internship will provide a huge opportunity for me to continue to grow my skills and my resume as a fossil preparator!



## Upcoming Dates to Be Aware Of

**Night Sky Programs**

Friday, September 16th, 8:00 - 10:00 PM  
Friday, October 14th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Friday, November 18th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Friday, December 16th, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

**Seminars**

Corral Bluffs - October 19th and 22nd (Off-site - more info in article in this newsletter)

Forest Bathing - Saturday, October 29th, - 1:00 - 3:30 PM (at the Monument - more info to come)

## Friends' Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, September 17th, 10:00 AM in the Amphitheater



## Seminar News

The Friends of the Fossil Beds have offered seminars on many, many topics for over 27 years. They have been offered credit, education, and on full days and half days, field trips, and for just plain fun. Over many years they were always in person, both on-site and off-site. When COVID reared its ugly head almost three years ago, we had to try something different to continue offering seminars and let our members and the community know that we were still here. With the help of our great technology person, Wendie Warner, we were able to begin offering virtual seminars. Since we started them about two years ago, we have been able to offer about 10 virtual seminars. The attendance has grown each time. Our last virtual seminar in the Spring had over 40 participants. We have decided as a Board to continue offering virtual seminars in addition to the beginning again to offer in-person seminars at the Monument and off-site.

Our first in-person seminar to be offered in almost 3 years will be "Forest Bathing," led by Jane Scanlon, who lives in Woodland Park and is a certified Forest Bathing instructor. She has done "Forest Bathing" programs at Mueller State Park, Bear Creek Nature Center, Aspen Valley Ranch, and Rock Ledge Ranch in Colorado Springs. We are so happy to welcome Jane to the Florissant Fossil Beds. Her program will be held on Saturday, October 29th in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:30 PM. at the Monument. Jane will do all of the registration for this seminar sponsored by the Friends of the Fossil Beds. Be looking for the registration information in the future if you're interested. Her programs fill up quickly.

Our very first in-person seminar will be held off-site at Corral Bluffs, which is 10 minutes East of Colorado Springs. We have set up two dates with [Corral Bluffs Alliance](#) to accommodate those who can only do weekends. We will hold one field trip on Wednesday, October 19th, and the second one on Saturday, October 22nd. This amazing experience will be a guided four-mile hike in quite a unique area. Participants should be prepared for a moderate to difficult hike over uneven terrain. The weather may still be hot in October. You will enjoy the geology, wildflowers, pronghorns, prairie birds, and deer. The hike leaders have spent much time getting to know this unique area to provide the participants with a wonderful experience.

Corral Bluffs is a nature preserve in El Paso County in Colorado set up to preserve the paleontological discovery that made national news several years ago when Colorado scientists from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) published the discovery of a treasure trove of fossils. They had been exploring the area for over 30 years. The site had been of prehistoric interest since the early 1900s. In 2014, Tyler Lyson and Dr. Ian Miller, then the curator of paleobotany and the director of Earth and Space Sciences at DMNS, first visited the fossil site, and they were not impressed with what they found. In a later visit that year, Miller opened up a small boulder called a concretion, and the exploration began in earnest. Over the years, the team has discovered thousands of preserved animal and plant fossils. This groundbreaking find helps to fill in the gaps in the planet's recovery and the rise of early mammals after a massive asteroid strike wiped out the dinosaurs in a mass extinction event at the end of the Cretaceous period 66 million years ago.

Many articles have been written about the site along with podcasts and films. NOVA did a documentary on it several years ago. Should you wish to read about this discovery in more depth, google Corral Bluffs for more information.

Information about how you can sign up for these hikes will come out at a later date. Please remember that this is a four-hour hike and not easy. Attendees must be at least 10 years old. Please be watching for information on how to register for these hikes. Those of us who were lucky enough to go on the hike a few years ago will never forget the experience.

# SEMINAR NEWS



## A Monumental View



The Milky Way over the Hornbek

## Accomplishments of the Mile High Youth Club This Summer



Under the supervision of Monument staff, the Mile High Youth Club added steps around the boulders at Boulder Creek (pictured far left) to enhance the visitor experience and keep the area safe. In addition, they replaced two small bridges over the creek.



## New Book from Bud Wobus Now Available

Bud Wobus' book on local geology is now available. Many Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds enjoyed the seminar in March about a recent book entitled "The Big Flat, Colorado's Subalpine Erosion Surface in the Southern Front Range. What's Beneath, What's Above, What Has Changed."

The presenter of the seminar and the author of the book is Reinhard (Bud) Wobus who recently retired from 55 years as a professor of geoscience, former head of the department, teacher, mentor, and research supervisor. In addition to his teaching tenure at Williams, Bud spent many seasons mapping and researching The Big Flat – "the extensive subalpine erosion surface of low relief that dominates much of the landscape of the Colorado Front Range" in the center of Colorado from Colorado Springs to South Park along and near the 39<sup>th</sup> parallel.

Bud was honored in October at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Portland. Dr. Herb Meyer, Paleontologist at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument presented a tribute entitled "The 67-Year Legacy of Bud Wobus on the Florissant Quadrangle, Colorado".

Bud's geology career began in 1954 as a 13-year-old camper at Sanborn Western Camps where he received an introduction to the Colorado mountains. His research and publishing include being the lead author of the Geologic Map of the Florissant 15-minute Quadrangle published in 1978 as well as an author on adjacent geologic quadrangles. These maps provided data for the Geologic Map of Colorado helping to interpret and understand the detailed geologic history of central Colorado.

The Big Flat is available in person in the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument bookstore. Mail order requests may be directed to Jerry McLain, Colorado Outdoor Education Center, P.O. Box 167, Florissant, CO 80816, 719-748-3341, [jerry@sanbornwesterncamps.com](mailto:jerry@sanbornwesterncamps.com). The price of the book when you get it from Jerry is \$24.00 including postage and handling.



**Bud Wobus**

**THE BIG FLAT**  
COLORADO'S SUBALPINE EROSION SURFACE IN THE SOUTHERN FRONT RANGE  
WHAT'S BENEATH, WHAT'S ABOVE, AND WHAT HAS CHANGED  
Reinhard (Bud) Wobus  
Dept of Geosciences, Williams College

(view to northeast at ~2600m elevation)



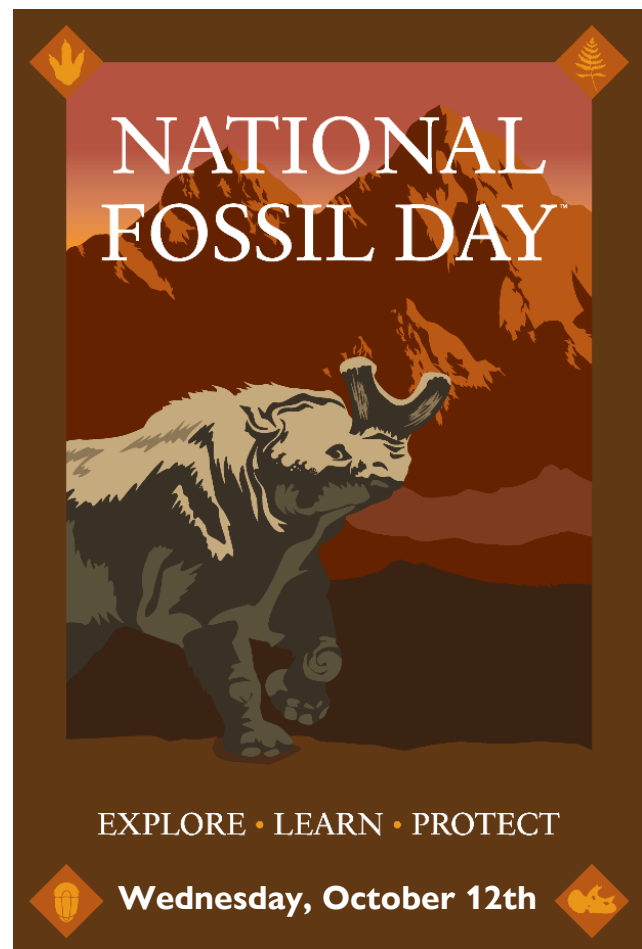
## Fossils

By Steven Wade Veatch

Fossils.

Mammoth bones,  
petrified trees,  
insects trapped in amber,  
pine pollen, a moss spore,  
impressions in paper-thin shale,  
stony steps of a dinosaur trail.

Just fragments of time,  
puzzling pieces, vestiges  
in layered ground:  
A kingdom come,  
a realm now gone,  
past worlds in stone.



Fossil branches of the Florissant redwood, *Sequoia affinis*. Specimen FLFO-4858 from the collection of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Image date Oct 2003 by S. Veatch.