



## Friends Board Members

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Rick Wilson  
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Sally McCracken  
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John Schwabe  
Project Coordinator

Wendie Warner  
Technology Coordinator

Gary Censoplano

Therese Johnson

Team Contributors  
Newsletter

## *Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds Summer 2024 Newsletter*

We once again extend our gratitude to the National Park Service employees, and Fossil Bed staff for their consistent delivery of high-quality services and other offerings presented to and enjoyed by Fossil Beds visitors.

We would also like to express our appreciation to members of the Friends of the Fossil Beds organization and to the many volunteer contributors who have assisted in the preservation and protection of our local natural treasure.

There is a quote attributed to the American poet, Maya Angelou that says:

*"Ain't Nothing To It, But To Do It."*

We thank those that do.



*Happy 55th Anniversary  
Florissant Fossil Beds  
National Monument!!*

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We encourage submissions of articles relevant to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and our natural environment. Our next publication date - *good Lord willin' and the creek don't rise* - is September 22, 2024.

Please contact us [here](#).



## Why Vim Wright?

*Submitted by John Wright*



What was it that led my mother, Vim Wright, into joining the fight to save Florissant? I suspect it can be traced back to youthful activities she enjoyed in her birthplace of Istanbul, Turkey. Greek born as Lizetta Iakovidis, one activity was an early love of birdwatching she shared with her father, Yannis. Then, at age 10, she found herself in the US after being semi-adopted by Major General John Alden and Mary Crane. Early on, her new US friends recognized this young lady for her vim and vigor, thus earning her the nickname “Vim” which she immediately adopted, preferring it to another, less appealing new name, Violet, bestowed upon her by Mary Crane. Both the name “Vim” and its underlying characteristics endured throughout her lifetime.

Active birdwatching took a backseat for quite a number of years, choosing to be an engaged mother until her youngest son, John, (that being me), packed up and went off to college. This afforded her some new amount of “free” time which she quickly filled by returning to her youthful love of birdwatching. She soon became the first president of the Denver Audubon Society, followed by being on the National Audubon Society board.

Fast forward several years... Vim had earned well-deserved respect as a conservation activist. Fast forward several years... Vim had earned well-deserved respect as a conservation activist in the environmental community over a range of issues with a special gift for her political strategy savvy fortified by her contact-laden Rolodex. This newfound resource came to the attention of Dr. Estella Leopold who had already been fighting to preserve the Florissant fossils for years. However, things were getting particularly desperate with a new threat of destructive land development being proposed. Estella reached out to ask Vim of her possible interest in helping preserve Florissant’s unique fossil legacy. While explaining what was at stake in Florissant’s fossil beds, Estella made mention of bird fossils. Bird Fossils? That did it! Vim was in on the fight to help save Florissant.

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*Please find additional information and discover more on the enduring legacy of this remarkable woman and her contributions to the preservation and protection of our environment at [HistoryLink.Org](http://HistoryLink.Org)*

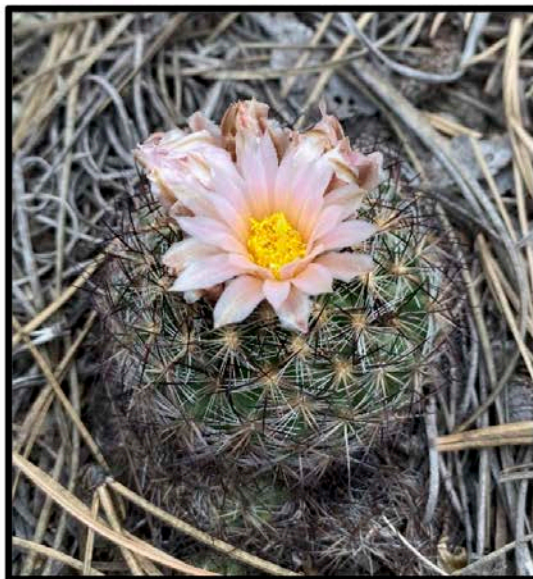


# Report from the Monument Superintendent

Penny K. Wagner

## Ready for Summer

As I sit at my desk to write this, I look out the window to see a busy parking lot with visitors coming and going. I see hikers making their way along the Petrified Forest Loop and cars parked at the Hornbek Homestead. The park is alive with Junior Rangers, families, locals, and visitors from far and wide. The landscape is green, and the wildflowers are beginning to put on a show. I saw my first Indian Paintbrush this week and have enjoyed the purples and blues of the Rocky Mountain Iris and Pasqueflowers and the pink Mountain Ball cactus. I hiked the Sawmill Trail and Hans Loop last week and it was wonderful to get out on the trail and enjoy the rewarding view of Pikes Peak. In the last couple weeks, I have seen black bear, pronghorn, prairie dogs, a garter snake, chipmunks and ground squirrels galore. I am looking forward to my first full summer at the park. I know it is going to be a busy one!



*Slightly enlarged images can be found on this [page](#).*



# Report from the Monument Superintendent

## Park Updates

- ◆ The park is open seven days a week now and operating hours will remain 9am-4:30pm through the summer.
- ◆ Mike Frederick joined the park team this week as our new Program Manager for Interpretation, Education & Fees. Mike is also the Volunteer Coordinator. Mike moved here from Redwood National & State Parks where he served as the North District Lead Interpretive Ranger.
- ◆ Summer Programs: We look forward to providing regularly scheduled Ranger-led programs this summer and will post [The Schedule](#) as soon as possible. Right now, we have some great opportunities for visitors to:
  - \* tour the Hornbek Homestead on Fridays and Saturdays;
  - \* take a guided hike on the Petrified Forest Loop on Mondays at 10:00am with Volunteer-In-Park Stu Ferguson;
  - \* get creative at Art in the Park every other Tuesday from 10 am to 12 pm courtesy of the wonderful organization Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds;
  - \* learn more about the geology of the park on Wednesdays with Dr. Bob at the demonstration dig site from 10-12.



*Stay Tuned for more!*

## Report from the Monument Superintendent

- ◆ HistoriCorps will be finishing up their preservation work on the Hornbek Homestead outbuildings on June 21. The crews have replaced a couple logs on the bunkhouse and corrected the lean and added new doors on the carriage house. Here is the webpage with information on the project:

<https://historicorps.org/hornbek-homestead-co-2024/>

- ◆ Federal Highways has started pavement preservation work at the park. This first phase involves groundwork and the removal of the existing sidewalk/curb on the south side of the Visitor Center parking lot. A new sidewalk will be installed level with the parking lot in order to correct a drainage issue and facilitate snowplowing. This work is anticipated to be complete by June 21. The week of June 24, work will transition to the Hornbek Homestead parking lot and the Barksdale parking lot. The work will involve breaking up the existing pavement and repaving. Both areas will need to be closed during the pavement work. The contractor is planning to be finished with both areas before the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Check the park website for updates on closure days at the Hornbek Homestead and Barksdale Area if you are planning a visit. In mid to late July, the microsurfacing is scheduled to begin in the Visitor Center parking area followed by final striping of all three areas. The microsurfacing work on the visitor center parking lot will be done one half of the lot at a time and will not require a full closure, but it will limit the parking spaces available to the public. The contractor anticipates the microsurfacing work to occur over two days. Check the park website for updates on this work in July or call the park at 719-748-3253.

## Spring Astronomy - Florissant Fossil Beds Night Sky

Mark Harter, FLFO Volunteer Ranger, Astronomy Lead

June 2024



### Here Come's the Sun!

What's the closest star to us? If you said Alfa-Centauri, which is 4.2 Light Years (LY) away, that is indeed the closest star to our solar system. That distance is 4.2 years traveling at the speed of light, which is 186,000 miles/second (wow). But many people forget that our very own Sun in our Solar System is also a star, so it's actually the closest star to us, and a very active one at that! Our Sun is a medium-size star that powers our entire solar system with 24/7 hydrogen nuclear fusion, and is the source of our solar system's gravitational field, without which we wouldn't exist. But besides that, (as if that wasn't enough), our sun won MVP performances not once, but twice this spring for two spectacular events. The first event was the long anticipated Total Solar Eclipse on April 8, with an awesome 4+ minute totality path period that stretched from Texas to Maine. In the Florissant area the eclipse was only partial (70%), so in order to experience totality I traveled with other astronomers to Dallas TX. The Sun didn't disappoint as the moon transited in front of the sun through the partial and total eclipse phases, complete with brilliant Bailey's Beads, Diamond Rings, and brilliant solar corona (see image below). During totality the bright daylight turned to dark night for over 4 minutes, with streetlights coming on, birds and insects bedding down, and animals reacting to unexpected nightfall. The next Total Solar Eclipse in North America isn't until 2045 (you can still travel to Egypt in 2027 if you really want to see one). The second solar event was unexpected (May 10), when during Mothers Day weekend the giant Sunspot AR3664 produced a colossal solar flare that sent incredible electromagnetic charges to earth, resulting in spectacular Aurora Borealis displays in the Northern Hemisphere. This geomagnetic storm was so strong that it pushed the Northern Lights down as far as Alabama and New Mexico for a very rare viewing! In Colorado, we were limited in viewing because of a late spring snowstorm (you may recall Florissant got 8" of snow that Sunday), but I was able to get a couple decent photos south of the Fossil Beds on Teller 1 (see below). Photos by Mark Harter.



Total Solar Eclipse, April 8, 2024, Dallas, TX



Northern Lights, May 10, 2024, Florissant, CO





We were also busy in May with two FLFO astronomy-related events. On May 29, Mark Harter presented a Night Sky Webinar to Friends of the Fossil Beds. It focused on FLFO's status of being an International Dark Sky Park, only one of 83 in the entire United States! FLFO has extremely dark night skies (measuring 3 on the Bortles Scale). We take over 90 dark-sky meter reading measurements throughout the year to record the quality of the FLFO dark skies to maintain our certification from the International Dark Sky Association. The Webinar provided several easy ways to reduce neighborhood light pollution and how to preserve our Colorado dark skies. Additionally, FLFO had the first Astronomy Dark Night Program of the year on May 31, with a record-setting 328 guests in attendance! The parking lot was so full we had to turn away about a dozen cars. The heavens revealed nebulae, galaxies, comets, and satellites. It was a great first event this year. Our next is August 2, we hope to see all of you out there!

FLFO Astronomy Volunteers Needed! Are you interested in astronomy? Would you like to be an important part of the FLFO Volunteer Ranger team? If so, we need YOU! We're looking for more volunteers to support our FLFO Night Sky Astronomy Programs. The commitment is minimal, only 2-3 times/year helping set up and tear down (cones and light markers), and directing traffic (turning off car lights, pointing people to the Visitor Center). It's so easy even a caveman can do it! If interested, please let Mark Harter or Penny Wagner know and we'll gladly talk with you about it!

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Mark Harter is a Florissant resident, and as a FLFO Volunteer Ranger, leads the FLFO astronomy events. He is a retired military Veteran (Air Force), and is an Aerospace Engineer supporting the United States Space Force and Office of Space Commerce.





## Roadside Trash Cleanup Day was April 25th.

*Submitted by Gary Censoplano*

A crew of volunteers and Monument personnel participated in this activity and helped to keep the area bordering the park clean and inviting.

The volunteer crew was made up of Randy Quick, Ruth Gulliver, Mark Silas, and Gary Censoplano (photos by Ruth Gulliver).

Monument personnel consisted of Superintendent Penny Wagner, Jeff Wilson, Parker Severson, and Sydney Moreno.



Signage helps keep the crew safe as they work along Teller 1.



Jeff Wilson was responsible for leading the team.



Superintendent Penny Wagner found something lucky.



There was a lot of trash along Teller 1. Picking it up kept the crew busy for most of the day.





Crew on break  
between loads



After the trash was picked up it had to be  
placed in the Dumpsters near the maintenance  
building.



Sydney Moreno was a  
great asset to the crew.

*Volunteers don't necessarily have the time  
they just have the heart.*  
-Elizabeth Andrews-

It was hard work, but the best  
part was the view.







# **ART IN THE PARK**

**Come join us for a  
colorful adventure!!**

**FUN in the OUTDOORS**  
**Watercolor, Fossil Rubbings,**  
**Animal & Flower Drawings**

No Talent Required!

Drop in every other Tuesday 10:00 to 12:00

June 4 and 18

July 9 and 23

August 13 and 27

All ages – Free with Admission

Held at the Florissant Fossil Beds Monument

Information 719-689-3174

Courtesy of Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds



## Successful Outreach at the Colorado Springs Gem and Mineral Club Show

*Submitted by Patty Glatfelter*

Friends of Florissant were able to reach over 700 visitors this year at the annual Colorado Springs Gem and Mineral Society (CSGMS) Show June 14-16th at the Penrose Event Center. The CSGMS was founded in 1936. Since 2008 they have donated to the intern fund for Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. This year, the Society generously donated \$800 to the fund to promote research and education by the interns who come from institutions around the United States to further the mission of the Fossil Beds. Several of our recent interns have stated they would not have been able to pursue their goals at the Fossil Beds without this financial support. This year's intern, Maddie Price, will be presenting her work at an upcoming CSGMS meeting.

A big thank-you to CSGMS for this ongoing support and their continued efforts at educating the public through their outreach and Society activities.

Also, thanks go out to Nick Morales, Linda Laverty and Mike Rodriguez for manning the Fossil Beds Education table at the Show. It demonstrated the Friends' efforts in action.



Names on photo L to R:

Nick Morales - *Friends' Member*, Linda Laverty - *Friends' Board*, Patty Glatfelter - *Friends' Board*, Alex Field - *CSGMS President*, Bob Landgraf - *CSGMS* and John Massie - *Past CSGMS President*



## Updates from the Paleontology Division

*contributed by Dr. Herb Meyer*

As the search for Florissant's next Paleontologist is still underway, progress continues in the Paleontology Division. Although now retired, I'm pleased to be able to continue contributing to some of the ongoing projects in my volunteer role as Paleontologist Emeritus. Museum Technician Conni O'Connor and Paleontology intern Maddie Price have been focused on stabilizing and thoroughly inventorying each of the 12,000 fossil specimens in the paleontology collection. This has involved creating Tyvek and Ethafoam nests that prevent movement within each of the little specimen boxes that contain the fossils. This provides long-term benefits for stabilization, but it is particularly intended to provide mitigation during an upcoming construction project in the collections area. The purpose of the construction will be to provide a firewall along the inside of the collections space, since the fulfillment of that requirement was neglected during the construction of the Visitor Center in 2013. Maddie will continue in her internship through the summer. Conni took the role as leading author, along with myself and two other co-authors, on a publication describing the work she has facilitated about conservation techniques for our collections. This paper, "Updating conservation techniques for paleontology collections associated with Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument," was published earlier this year in a special volume on National Park Paleontology and is Conni's first published paper! A recent article reported in the Gazette and Courier followed from an interview with me about the role of homesteader Charlotte Hill in the history of the monument, and it's always good to see that story more widely told. I also provided an interview synopsis about our interaction with the petrified forest in Sexi, Peru, for a National Park Service report about the challenges and successes of sister-park relationships, including the important role the Friends have played in facilitating our international collaboration at Florissant. In early June, University of Colorado Boulder graduate student Stephanie Tkacik and her advisor Jaelyn Eberle returned to Florissant to collect more fossil mammals. Stephanie's project is supported in part by the grant given by the Friends last summer, and she has found several new species of Eocene mammals as a result!

We have been involved in a couple of recent projects dealing with shelters for protection of in situ fossils. The first of these is our ongoing project with researchers from UPENN, who designed a prototype model for a new stump shelter design for Florissant. They came out during the winter to assemble the small-scale model in a meadow beyond the A-frame, and in late May, Conni and I worked with an NPS specialist to install dataloggers that will measure the effectiveness of the structure in controlling environmental conditions within the shelter. It may take many years, however, before the design can be made full-scale and placed over an actual petrified stump.



## Updates from the Paleontology Division

We were also involved in a project with other NPS staff to assist the Indian Springs National Natural Landmark (NNL) north of Florence in planning for a new shelter concept to cover the fragile Ordovician marine trackways at that site, since the existing shelter collapsed in the winter snow. The site is on private property, although the NNL program is managed by the National Park Service and Florissant has had a long interaction with Indian Springs.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Estella Lepold in Seattle at age 97 on February 25th. Estella was the last surviving child of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, and she made distinguished conservation and scientific achievements during her career. She spearheaded environmental activism and publicity in response to threatened real estate development of the privately-owned Florissant Fossil Beds in 1969, which ultimately led to the protection of the site as a national monument. She made the case that Florissant's significance lies in its fossils, and she played a crucial role in defining the boundaries that protect those fossils. Working at that time as one of the first women paleontologists for the US Geological Survey in Denver and researching Florissant's fossil pollen record, she was well familiar with the world-class scientific value of the Fossil Beds. Her first-person story of the battle is told in our book *Saved in Time: The Fight to Establish Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument*. Her research on the fossil pollen was published in 2001, contributing new knowledge about 150 types of pollen and spores known from Florissant. Tributes to Estella include the prestigious International Cosmos Prize awarded in 2010 and the Paleontological Society Medal in 2013, both of which highly commended her achievements toward the establishment of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. I was privileged to know her for nearly 50 years, and we will always be thankful for what she did for Florissant. Her obituary was published in the New York Times and on the website of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, among others.

Finally, we remember Apollo 8 astronaut William Anders, who died in a plane crash on June 7th. Noted for taking the iconic first photograph of Earth from the Moon, Bill was a participant on the two-day field trip for the Geological Society of America that I led to Florissant in 2010. Following, he made a very generous contribution to the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds in support of our work at the petrified forest in Sexi, Peru. His donation allowed the Friends to support travel by our colleagues in Peru to come to Florissant in 2013.

As always, we appreciate the support the Friends have provided to the Paleontology program!





## Updates from the Paleontology Division



Stump shelter prototype being tested at Florissant



Damage to the cover over the Indian Springs fossil trackways



## You're Invited!

*Submitted by Sally McCracken*



JOIN THE FRIENDS of the FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS  
on SATURDAY, AUGUST 24th, 2024 TO CELEBRATE  
the 55th ANNIVERSARY of the ESTABLISHMENT of the  
FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Please join us on Saturday, August 24th, to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of the establishment of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.

We are planning several activities for the afternoon of the 24th, which will include the Friends' Annual Membership meeting to be held just in the middle of the afternoon. That leaves everyone plenty of time to get ready for the banquet before we will travel to The Nature Place in Florissant for a wonderful banquet.

The event at The Nature Place will start with a "Happy Hour" at 5:30 with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, including wine. Dinner will be served starting at 6:30. The dinner menu includes grilled steaks, garlic butter chicken, a salad bar, baked potatoes, asparagus, roasted mushrooms, rolls and dessert. The cost for this event including "happy hour" and dinner is \$60.00 per person.

During the event, we will have a couple of speakers, including Dr. Jeremy Sueltenfuss, an assistant professor from Colorado State University who will update the attendees about the wetland project at the Monument. Dr. Sueltenfuss is an ecologist who specializes in restoration ecology of wetlands and floodplain ecosystems.

For those who might wish to stay overnight at The Nature Place after the event, they are holding 20 rooms for us. Breakfast will also be available on Sunday, August 25th. Please call Shelley Churchill at The Nature Place for room reservations for Saturday evening at 719-748-3475. The rate for Single occupancy is \$285; Double occupancy, per person, \$235.00. Breakfast is additional.

Registration for this 55th Anniversary Banquet will be available very soon. Seating is limited, so when the registration information comes out, please register very early. Be watching for an email with all of the information you will need to register.







# Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

# 55



## 1969 - 2024

*Please plan to join us on the 55th anniversary of the legislative creation of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument on Saturday, August 24, 2024.*

*Additional details can be found in this edition.  
Updated information will be made available as necessary.*





The following pages include excerpts from the United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service - document designating the Hornbek House for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places Inventory.

The full PDF can be viewed by clicking [here](#).





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 10 1981

DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1981

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Hornbek House

AND/OR COMMON

Adaline Hornbeck Homestead**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Teller Co. Rd. No. 1

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Florissant☒ VICINITY OF3rd

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

ColoradoCODE  
08COUNTY  
TellerCODE  
119**2 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☒ SITE  
☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☒ PARK  
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER:**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region

STREET &amp; NUMBER

655 Parfet

CITY, TOWN

Denver

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Teller County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cripple Creek

STATE

Colorado**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

1976☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDSRocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

## 7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed		

The Hornbek House, begun in 1878, is one of the most outstanding examples of log domestic architecture in the Rocky Mountain Region. The building is a 1 1/2 story structure with massive squared log walls, V-notched with flush crowning. The steeply-pitched gable roof is cedar shingled, with the gable ends being board and batten, and centered on it is a low brick chimney. Evidence indicates that the house was constructed in three stages, with the west wing, bedroom, being the initial structure. The west wall of the west wing reveals a former fireplace and the window trim of the west wing, Greek Revival raked blocking, is different than the window trim of the parlour-kitchen wing. However the log construction technique of the bedroom wing and kitchen-parlour wing are very similar and probably built by the same person. The well room addition on the north side, c-a. 1910, exemplifies square-notched log construction. The house is a typical farmhouse plan. The first floor has one bedroom, parlour, kitchen, partitioned-off pantry, and well room and three bedrooms upstairs. The front doorway opens directly into the kitchen.

The adjoining buildings on the homestead were relocated from other areas within the monument to compliment the house and assist in interpreting a "homestead theme," but are not architecturally or historically significant for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The buildings were placed approximately in the locations of the original structures according to recollections of a former resident, Arthur Harry. The "bunkhouse" is a former cabin, relocated in 1976, from the Maytag Ranch, south and east of the Hornbek Homestead. The 10 foot x 12 foot building, ca. 1920, is V-notched log construction. The building was stabilized and reroofed after the relocation to the site of the original bunkhouse. The barn, ca. 1890, is a square-notched log building approximately 15 feet x 12 feet, relocated in 1976, from the Delbert Johnson Place in the south end of the Monument. The building was stabilized and reroofed after relocation in the proximity of the original barn. The carriage house, ca. 1930, is a 15 foot x 12 foot square-notched log structure relocated from the Toby Wells property on the east side of the monument. The building was stabilized and reroofed after relocating in the proximity of the original carriage house. On the ridge north of the complex, an original root cellar, ca. 1880, has recently been stabilized. In 1977, the National Park Service constructed a wood frame, shingled roof privy placed on a cement foundation. A rustic pole fence enclosing the homestead complex was constructed in 1978.







Name of Property: Hornbek Homestead

Location: Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

Florissant, Colorado *Teller County*

Photographer: Rodd L. Wheaton

Date of Photograph: March, 1977

SEP 10 1981

Location of Negative: Rocky Mountain Regional Office

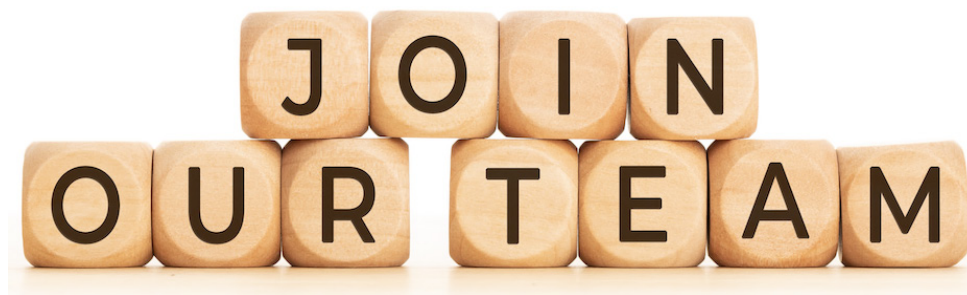
National Park Service, Denver, Colorado

View: Looking Southward

DEC 8 1981

Number: 1





We are looking for an advocate for the National Parks who can serve as Bookkeeper / CPA / Treasurer, on the Board of Friends of Florissant, Inc., a 501(c) nonprofit organization.

Orientation to the Board is now open, with transition to the position in coming months (negotiable).

The all-volunteer board meets the second Wednesday of the month 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Zoom.

Please contact us at one of the numbers below if you have a heart for the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument and have an interest in the position.

Patty Glatfelter  
719-684-6405

Jan Beals, Treasurer  
303-588-7514







The National Park Service professionals, Fossil Beds' staff and volunteers are unable to monitor the activities of each Fossil Beds visitor. They are comfortable with this imbalance as they trust the visiting public to demonstrate respect for our local, natural treasure during their visit and to abide by [Monument regulations](#). These regulations are easy to understand and simple to adhere to during your visit to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. They generally advise visitors to stay on the trails, respect the surroundings, and enjoy your visit.

Your cooperation in support of these Monument regulations assists in the protection and preservation of the Monument's offerings for future visitors.

It is the responsibility of each visitor to leave the Monument as you found it.

You may, of course, carry souvenirs - *those purchased in the visitor center* - to the memories of your visit with you as you leave the Monument.

Please contact our support team in the Visitor Center and /or call 719-748-3253 for questions related to the Monument visitor regulations.

Park hours are typically from 9am until 5pm. Weather and other situations may alter the scheduled time and it is suggested to call prior to your visit to confirm Monument access.

We thank you for your patronage and support in our efforts to properly maintain the condition of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



## Webinars Previously Presented

*Submitted by Sally McCracken*

We have offered three webinars during the past two months.



On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Ariana Miranda presented a webinar on “Underneath the Roots of the Sequoias: The Paleosols of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.” This webinar highlighted Ariana’s fieldwork at the Fossil Beds which focused on paleosols research. Paleosols are preserved soils which have become rocks and hold important clues to Earth’s climate.



On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, Steven Veatch presented a webinar on “Through the Lens: The Story of Three Photographers of the Cripple Creek Mining District.” The CCMD was a significant gold-mining area during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Three photographers played a critical role in documenting through pictures the history and culture of the CCMD.



On the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, Mark Harter presented a webinar on “Dark Skies Matter.” This webinar focused on the importance of preserving Colorado’s Dark Night Skies in relationship to the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. The rapid expense of urban areas in Colorado in increasing light pollution and encroaching on pristine dark skies in Colorado.

The Board of the Friends of the Fossil Beds wish to thank these three presenters for their very informative and interesting programs.

*Please note that all webinars are recorded and  
can be requested if you wish to see them.*

## Seminars:

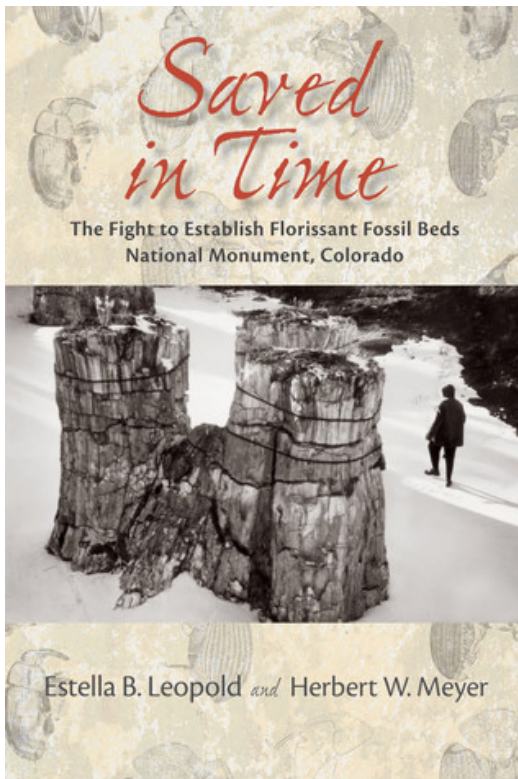
We will be offering a couple of in-person seminars during the 55th Anniversary on August 24<sup>th</sup> and are beginning to plan some in person programs in the fall. Stay tuned for information on these offerings.







# Recommended Reading



## [Saved in Time](#)

Estella B. Leopold and Hebert W. Meyer

The compelling story of the struggle to protect and preserve the environmental legacy of the Florissant Fossil Beds from those interested in the profit to be realized from real estate development.

“How can a group of citizens take on the real estate establishment? Well...it’s love and science and good lawyers,” said Estella Leopold, professor emeritus at the University of Washington, daughter of famed conservationist Aldo Leopold, and one of the founding members of the Defenders of Florissant.

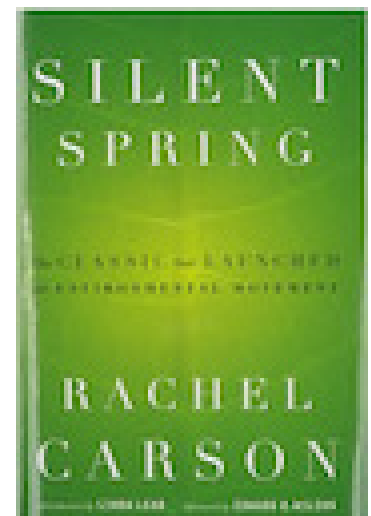
[\(National Park Traveler\)](#)

The thought of the Florissant Fossil Beds as a residential housing development is difficult to imagine. We are grateful for those involved with the effort to preserve our local natural treasure.

## [Silent Spring by Rachel Carson](#)

This book was originally published in 1962 and remains relevant today. This book served as a national wake-up call and was one of the early catalysts for the environmental movement.

The book is celebrating its 62nd publishing anniversary this year and currently charts at number 2 in Amazon sales rankings of books with a grouping of environmentalism and environmental science.



*You are cordially invited  
to these events scheduled  
during the summer months  
at the  
Florissant Fossil Beds  
National Monument*

### **Dark Sky Program**

Friday, August 2nd from 8:30 to 10:30 pm .  
In case of inclement weather, it will be held  
on Saturday, August 3rd at the same time.

Friday, October 25th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.  
In case of inclement weather, it will be held  
on Saturday, October 26th at the same  
time.

### **55th Anniversary of the establish- ment of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument**

Saturday, August 24th. ([See Article](#))

In addition to special activities, and  
banquet, we will be holding our An-  
nual Membership Meeting.

### **Art in the Park**

*Presented by Friends Board Members*

Tuesdays on  
June 18, July 9, August 13 & 27  
10:00 to 12:00

*Volunteers welcome!*

*Contact Michelle at*

[welcome2thewildlife@gmail.com](mailto:welcome2thewildlife@gmail.com)





### Pictures from Penny

We encourage you to submit pictures relevant to the Fossil Beds for publication in future seasonal newsletters.





# Coda



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At first I was a tree, now I'm petrified. Thinking all my wooden rings had turned to stone inside. I will survive...I will survive! 🎵 🎤



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The staff of the typesetting group would like to extend their appreciation to Michelle for her ~~exterordinary~~ extraordinary editing contributions that enabled delivery in accordance with our published schedule.

