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Friends of the Fossil Beds Summer! 2025 Newsletter





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Volunteers

The Florissant Fossil Beds NM is a wonderful place to volunteer. We have around 30 volunteers at this time - all ages, skills and interests. It is important to introduce each and every one of them over the next few issues of our quarterly newsletter and to thank them for their service.

Fossil Beds Volunteer *Bob Carnein*

A native of Pennsylvania, Bob Carnein lives with his wife, Nell, in Arabian Acres subdivision, near Divide. He received a MS in glaciology and a PhD in geology from Ohio State and then taught at Waynesburg College (PA, 1970-1989) and Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania (1989-2007). He and Nell (whom he met in Lake George) retired in 2007 and moved to Colorado.



Bob's specialty is mineralogy, but he taught most of the typical undergraduate geology courses, including invertebrate paleontology, over his 37-year career. Between 1972 and 1988, he was in charge of the Waynesburg College Geology Field Station, which was located in the concrete-block building behind the Thunderbird Motel, in Florissant. The motel is now gone and the field station was sold to a private individual after Waynesburg ended their geology program in 1989.

Bob has worked as a volunteer at the Fossil Beds nearly every summer since 2008. He can be found on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 12, talking with visitors at the excavation site (formerly called the "Scudder pit"), near the "Big Stump". Please drop by and chat!



Fossil Beds Volunteer
Jim Torgerson

Also on Wednesdays, from 10a.m. to 12 noon, you will find Jim Torgerson on the patio in the back of the Visitor Center, where he will greet you and introduce you to Doctor Bob. Jim was born in Ft. Dodge, Iowa, and went to Midland College. In 1991, he started his own business in Woodland Park, which he ran for 17 years. After selling his business, he worked for Walmart for 4 years where he worked as a greeter. When he began volunteering for the Fossil Beds NM in 2019, Jeff Wolin asked Jim to greet people before they came into the Visitor Center, directing them to get their passes and giving them basic information, especially if the VC was really busy. In all of the jobs that Jim held over the years, he was always working with the public. Come join him on the patio and hear about Doctor Bob.



Fossil Bed Volunteer
Angela Davis

I grew up in a military family and spent time in California, Hawaii, Illinois, Texas and beautiful Colorado! For over 35 years I have been a part of animal welfare. I began volunteering at a wild-life rehab center at age 14, had the privilege of serving as the Director of Operations at Foothills Animal Shelter in Golden, CO, and as a TNR Coordinator for HSPPR in Colorado Springs, CO., am dedicated to TCRAS (Teller County Regional Animal Shelter) in Divide, CO. Currently, I hold the position as Executive Director to an amazing team of volunteers and staff. I moved to Teller County in 2011.

I have an amazing husband, of 15 years and together we have a blended family of four adult children and four grandsons and one miracle granddaughter that is loved dearly. Their furry family includes dogs and cats. All of them were rescued. Plus, I am a foster parent for the shelter, and I hold a provisional wildlife rehab license. In 2017 I went to the Florissant Fossil Beds Visitor Center to let them know I was a descendant of Adeline Warfield-Harker-Hornbeck. I wanted to see what I could do to support the homestead. That led me to "The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds" and training to be an interpreter for the Homestead through the Monument. Volunteering at the Homestead has and is a true pleasure. Meeting people to hear their stories and for me to tell the amazing story of my Great, Great Grandmother is such an honor. Being a bridge from the past to the future.

I desire to live life to the fullest and enjoy the gifts of life...



Fossil Beds Volunteers Randy and Judy Quick

Randy and Judy Quick, who live in Colorado Springs, first visited Florissant Fossil National Monument with their daughters many years ago and enjoyed the experience.

Weed removal was their first volunteer job at the Monument. When Jeff Wolen discovered their backgrounds were in Natural Resource Management and Computer Science, he recruited them to update the Park's GIS mapping data and website. They have also had opportunities to volunteer at Cape Lookout National Seashore, Sequoia National Park, and Mount Rainier National Park. They believe the National Parks are a great resource for our country and preserve many amazing natural and historical sites.

“Volunteers do not
necessarily have the time;
They just have the heart.”

-Elizabeth Andrew-



Fossil Beds Ranger

Eli Zizka

Eli is originally from Washington, DC. They graduated from Wellesley College in 2022 with degrees in Geology and Math. They have worked interpretation in Shenandoah and Yellowstone National Parks, on an American Conservation Experience trail crew in Arizona, and wildland fire management in Cherokee National Forest. Eli spends most of their free time hiking with their dog and exploring places with interesting rocks! Eli was hired as the Seasonal Night Sky Ranger.

Fossil Beds Ranger

Caitlin Moe

Caitlin is a native of Savannah, Georgia. She attended Georgia Southern University with a degree in History and a minor in Spanish. She has previously worked interpretation at Fort Donelson National Battlefield. She lives with her husband, 2 dogs, and bird. In her free time, she enjoys reading and hiking. Caitlin and her husband volunteered last year with FLFO and this year she is our Seasonal Interpretation Ranger!

Fossil Beds Ranger

Peter Harrison

Peter hails from Naperville, Illinois. He is currently studying Geography at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs. Peter spent the last two seasons working on trail crews at Crater Lake National Park and is excited to spend the summer at FLFO as a Seasonal Recreation Fee Technician. Peter is looking forward to gaining interpretation experience here at FLFO! In his free time, he enjoys trail running, hiking, and exploring the area.



Eli, Caitlin, Peter



Summer Astronomy - Florissant Fossil Beds Night Sky

Mark Harter, FLFO Volunteer Ranger, Astronomy Lead

June 2025

Summer Breeze – Astronomically Speaking! Summer Solstice formally (and finally) announces the arrival of summer, from an astronomical perspective, June 20, 2025! On June 20, we'll experience the longest period of daylight in the northern hemisphere of the year, a whopping 17 hours of daylight here in Colorado. For stargazers, summer constellations emerge, including the Summer Triangle (made up of Altair, Deneb, and Vega), along with constellations like Cygnus, Lyra, Aquila, Scorpius, Sagittarius, Hercules, and of course, the Milky Way Galaxy, which is rich with interstellar beauty most of the night long. This is a perfect time for you all to join us for up to 5 FLFO Astronomy & Night Sky programs this summer! (keep reading)



Milky Way Galaxy, 11 Mile Reservoir, CO
(photo credit: Mark Harter, 7/1/2024)



Florissant Fossil Beds Astronomy Programs. The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument is proud to continue our Night Sky Astronomy Programs in 2025. We had a record number of visitors to our 2024 Night Sky Programs (over 1,000 visitors), and we're hoping to eclipse that (pun intended) with a whopping 5 FLFO Astronomy & Night Sky Program events scheduled for 2025! These are all warm-weather events (yay!), so bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the panoramic views of the Milky Way. As usual, we'll be supported by CSASTRO astronomers and telescopes for every event! Hope to see you all out at one (or all) of our FLFO Astronomy Night Sky events!

- Saturday, June 21 "SUNday in the Park" (solar astronomy @ Visitor Center, 9am-12 noon)
- Saturday, June 21 (9:00-11:00pm viewing)
- Friday, July 25 (9:00-11:00pm viewing); weather back-up is Saturday night, July 26, 2025
- Friday, August 22 (9:00-11:00pm viewing); weather back-up is Saturday night, Aug. 23, 2025
- Saturday, October 18 (8:00-10:00pm viewing)

Milky Way Galaxy –A Summer Crowd Pleaser! Our Solar System home in the Universe is located in the Orion Arm of the Milky Way Galaxy. The Milky Way Galaxy looks somewhat like a spinning pinwheel, consisting of somewhere between 100–400 billion stars, and stretches across approximately 100,000 light years in distance. To put that in perspective, it would take you 100,000 years traveling at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second) to go from one end of our galaxy to the other. At the center of our Milky Way Galaxy is the Galactic Center, with Sagittarius A, a supermassive black hole with such intense gravity that not even light can escape its gravitational pull. Summer is the best time in the Northern Hemisphere to view the Milky Way Galaxy, due to the earth's seasonal 23-degree axis tilt. It is estimated that 75% of the world's population has never seen the Milky Way Galaxy due to urban light pollution. Since FLFO is a certified International Dark Sky Park, if you come out to one of our Summer FLFO Star Parties, we'll be sure to show you this incredible sight!

FLFO Astronomy Volunteers Needed! Are you interested in astronomy? Would you like to be an important part of the FLFO Volunteer Astronomy team? If so, we need YOU! We're looking for 2-3 more volunteers to support our FLFO Night Sky Astronomy Programs. The commitment is minimal: 3-4 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 know and we'll gladly talk with you about it!

Mark Harter is a Florissant resident, and as the FLFO Volunteer Astronomy Team Lead, directs 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.





Grant News

Submitted by Patty Glatfelter

Hoping for Help with Housing *New Grant Opportunities in the Hopper*

The Friends are in the process of applying for two new grants to assist with boosting our fundraising capacity and assisting with the ongoing temporary housing needs for the Monument's seasonal staff and interns. The National Park Foundation (NPF) issued an invitation to 45 park partners to apply for the **Collective Campaign Fund-raising Infusion Grant**. It will provide a one-time \$50,000 grant to boost our organization's fundraising capacity.

The goal of the **Collective Campaign** is to elevate national park philanthropy across the country and increase philanthropic support to parks. "It is an investment in our closest partners to meet this moment and beyond. It is designed to be flexible funding that will help each organization to raise more money on behalf of the national parks". The Campaign aspires to attract up to \$1B dollars in donations to provide support to a wide range of National Park System locations. The initial contribution came from the Lilly Foundation.



The NPF also recognizes the need to support our National Parks in these challenging economic times. They issued a request for a Letter of Interest (LOI) for the new Partner Housing Catalyst Program. “The program seeks to identify, support, and accelerate partner-led projects that address critical workforce housing shortages in and around national parks, leveraging at least \$120 million in NPF private funding to expand community involvement and drive additional philanthropic investment.”

The Friends are collaborating with our Acting Superintendent, Marin Karraker, and Katherine Jervik, Facilities Services Assistant, to develop a plan for construction of the necessary infrastructure for two trailer pads and associated utilities and infrastructure. The application was submitted May 30th and hopes are high for obtaining the \$124,060 estimated cost of the project. The need for temporary housing has been evident for over a decade, but it has become an acute need with the constraints of the current local housing market. It has become increasingly difficult to attract seasonal employees, interns and NPS employees for short-term detail during the past 5 years.

A recent quote from one of our interns was provided in support of our application:

“Finding temporary housing during my internship at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument proved to be one of the most challenging aspects of the experience. Because the internship term was only three months, short-term rental options near the park were extremely limited and often prohibitively expensive. As a result, I had no choice but to live 45 to 60 minutes away from the site. This long commute significantly impacted my ability to fully participate in after-hours park programs, such as evening star-gazing events, which were valuable opportunities for professional development and community engagement.”

*Kacy Patrick
Paleontology Intern, Fall 2018 & Spring 2019*

This was just one of the descriptions we received. Keep your fingers crossed so that we can obtain this valuable grant and support the mission of our beloved Monument.

If there is a Friend out there in our membership who has grant-writing skills they would like to exercise, please contact Patty Glatfelter, Treasurer (and very amateur grant writer) at www.fossilbeds.org for more information.





ART IN THE PARK

Come join us for a

COLORFUL

adventure!!

FUN in the OUTDOORS

**Watercolor, Colored Pencils and
Crayons, Fossil Rubbings,
Animal & Flower Drawings**

NO TALENT REQUIRED!!

**Wednesdays, June 25,
July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.**

10:00 to 12:00

All ages – Free with Admission

Courtesy of the Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds



Grape Creek

Florissant, Colorado

Rippling over small round rocks
in the chilled afternoon light
of Spring's sunshine
the cold creek flows—
core of everything.

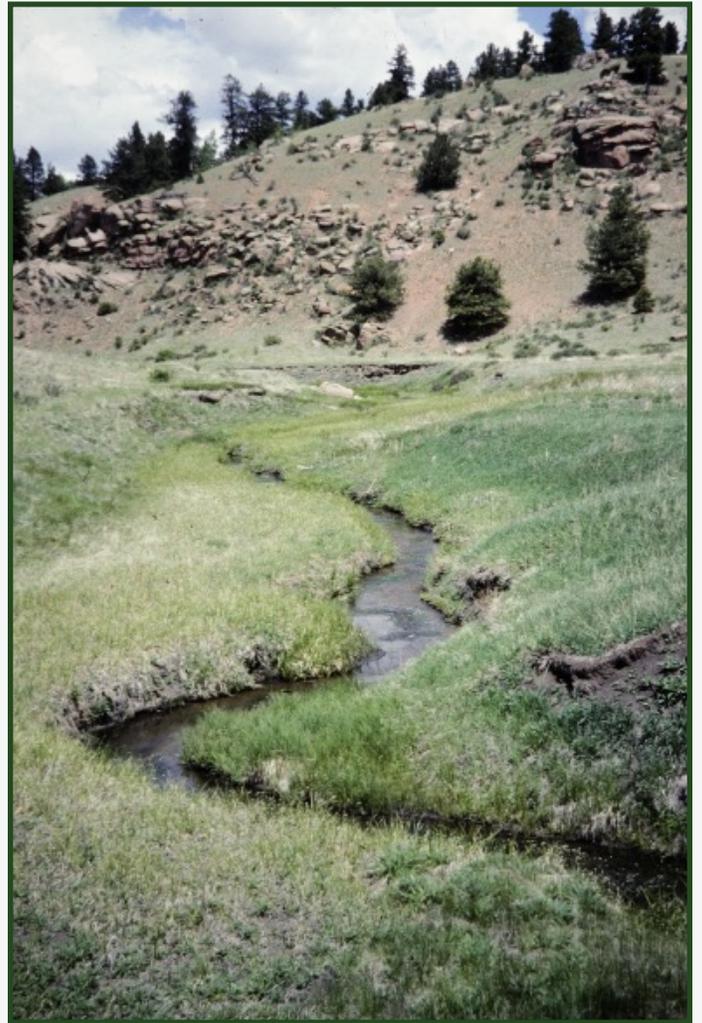
It exists against the odds
surrounded by green grass
lush from winter snows.

Twisting and turning like ribbon
it whorls into wonder where
birds splash, dip, flick, and flutter.
In casual poses, they gossip gamely
delivering their news.

The water moves beyond the birds
free across acres of time, and
releases me from disfiguring cities
and heaps of numbing concrete.

By Steven Wade Veatch

This poem first appeared in *Colorado
Life*.



Lost and Found

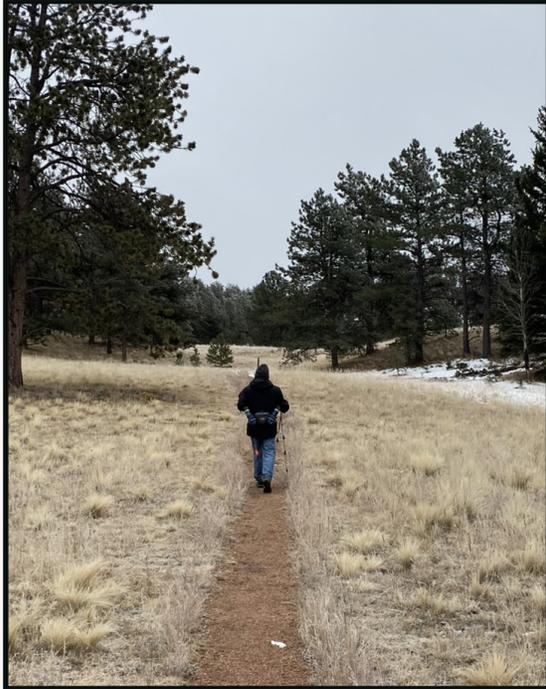
- Fred Gustafson -

There are some that say they hike to lose themselves.

There are others that say they hike to find themselves.

The Florissant Fossil Beds invites you to take a hike regardless of your perspective.

The Fossil Beds offers over 14 miles of trail for you to enjoy and explore. The trail system runs the gamut from easy to strenuous and offers a variety of natural settings for your hike.



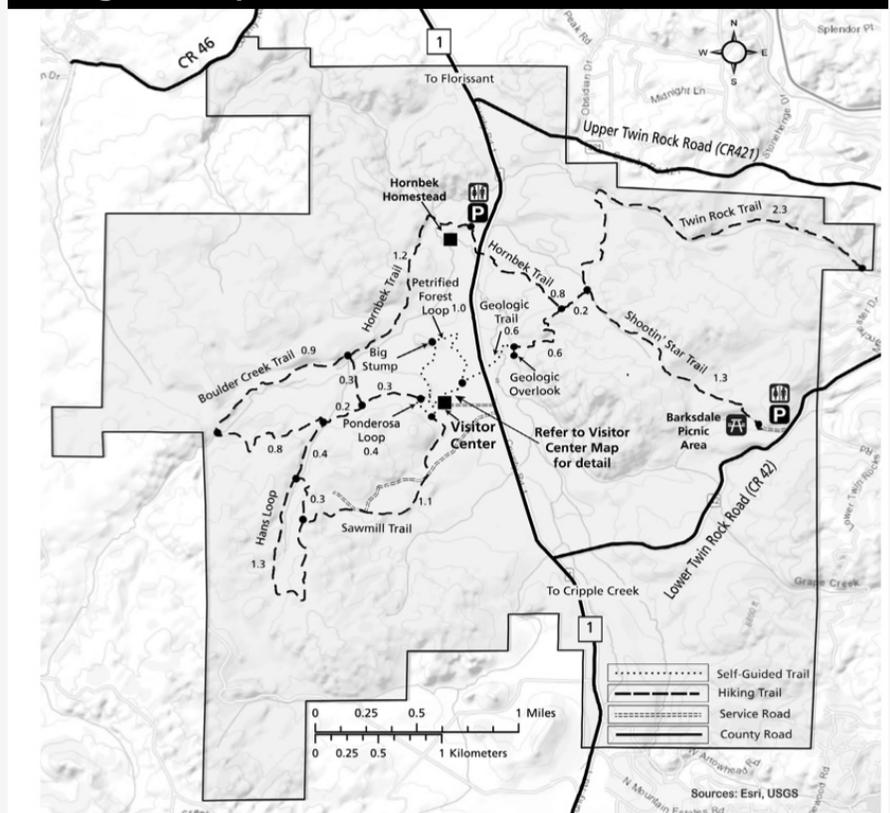
There is *always* something to be discovered on a hike. That 'something' is often unexpected and, almost always, warmly welcomed.

There is magic in settling into the rhythm of a hike. A clarity achieved by the simple act of putting one foot in front of the other - over and over again. The sensation is difficult to describe with words and is one that requires the actual experience of a hike to properly capture.

Florissant Fossil Beds

Hiking Trail Map

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Florissant Fossil Beds
National Monument



Whether you head out to lose or find yourself; a hike will accommodate your choice.

You will be gifted with an opportunity for reflection.

“A walk in nature carries the soul back home.”
- Mary Davis -

We encourage you to take that first step.

...and then the next
...and the next
...repeat...



Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

JUNIOR RANGER DAY

Saturday, June 28, 2025

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Ranger-led program at 10 am
Meet the Paleontologist at 11 am
Hands-on activities for all ages!
Earn your Junior Ranger Badges!



For more information,
call (719) 748-3253
or visit www.NPS.gov/FLFO



Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show with Friends of the Fossil Beds

- Submitted by Linda Laverty -

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument had the honor of attending the 61st Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show hosted by The Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society on June 6-8, 2025. The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc., Board and team members displayed information and



specimens to share with the public. We set up in the Educational area near the Colorado Springs Pebble Pups, WIPS and The Gold Prospectors of Colorado to provide fun activities plus provide support between the clubs.



Florissant Fossil Beds' Dark Sky Program information display for visitors to help themselves.





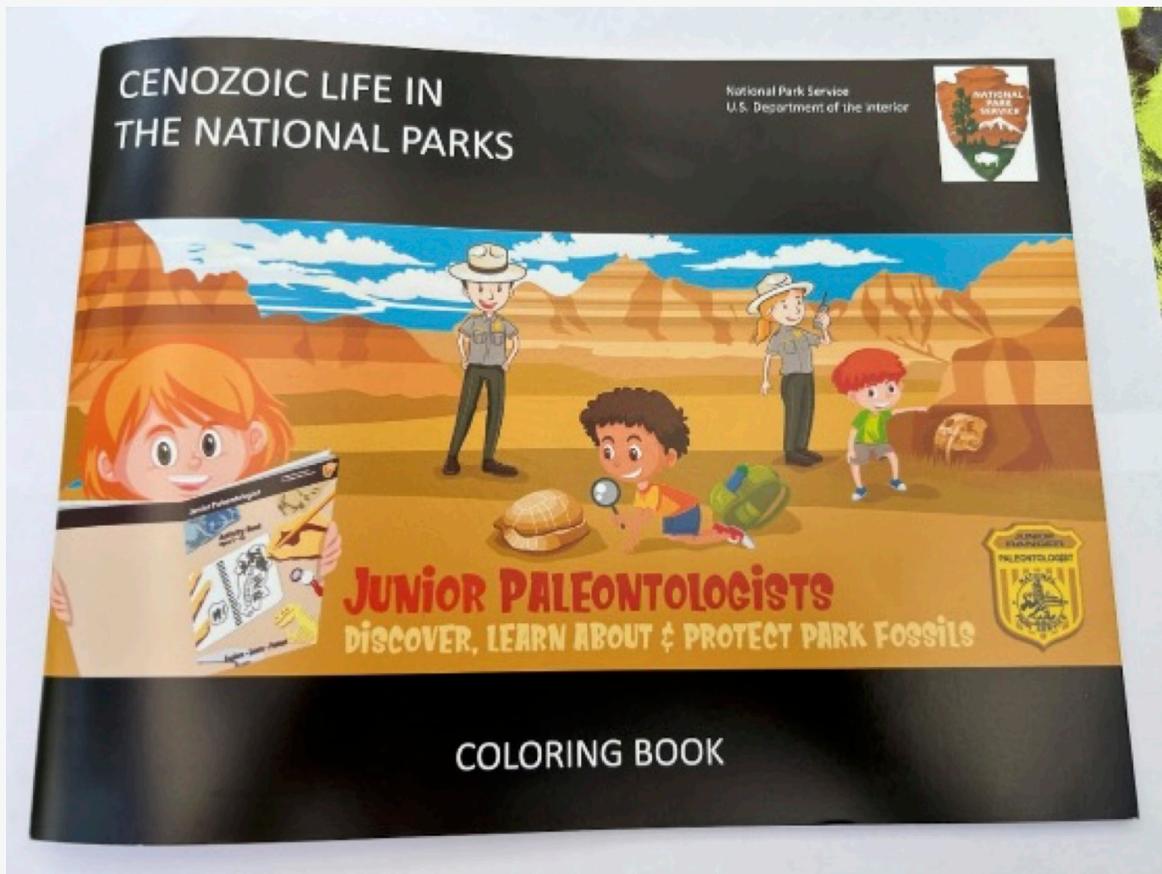
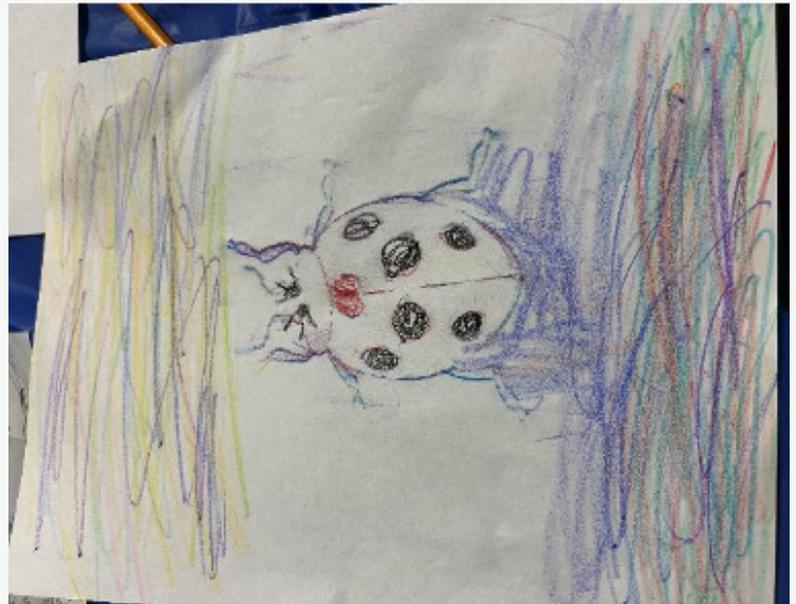
Postcards made from **Mark Harter's astrophotography** of the Milky Way over Hornbek Homestead, Time-lapse over Hornbek Homestead, and the Aurora Borealis. Thank you, Mark, for these beautiful pictures

Our activity table offered fossil rubbings, coloring, creating your own picture and pages from the new coloring book, *Cenozoic Life In The National Parks*. Be sure to ask at the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument Visitor Center for a copy of this May 2024 publication.

All Ages Welcome to Create:

Fossil Beds NM
Fossil Rubbing
and Coloring Station
For All Ages





The new NPS coloring book, *Cenozoic Life In The National Parks*, May 2024 publication available at the Visitor Center.



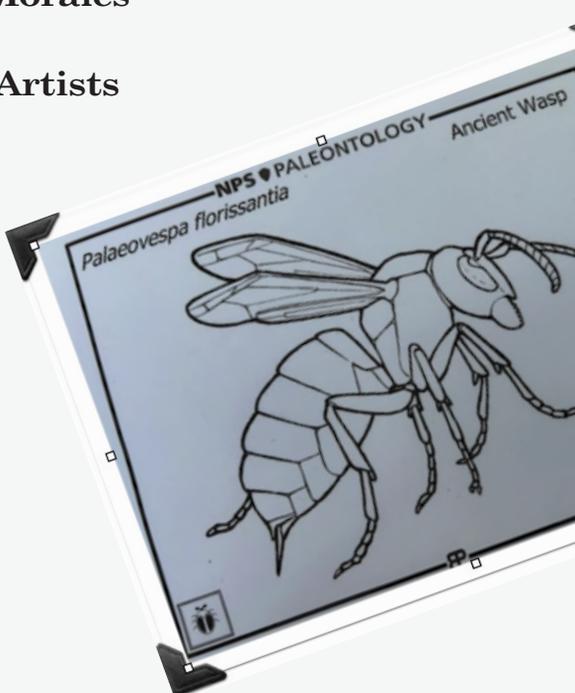


**Pikes
Peak
Gem,
Mineral,
and
Jewelry
Show**

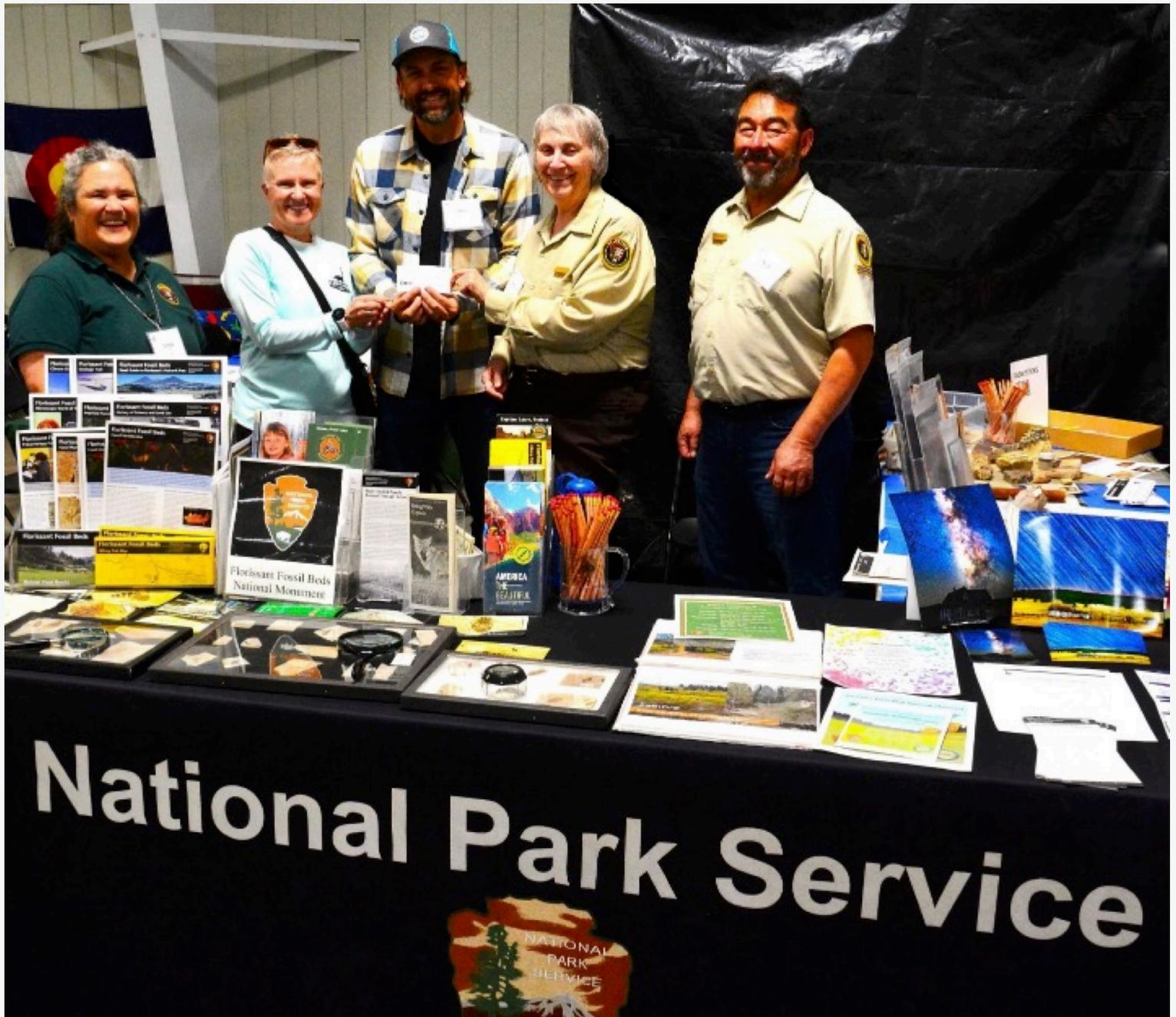
**Linda
Lavery**

**Nick
Morales**

Artists



The Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc., were presented with a Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Scholarship for our Paleo Summer Intern Program. The Paleo Intern recipient of this scholarship will be very appreciative of this funding, as are the Board of the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds. Thank you, CSMS, for your support!



Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society presenting Paleo Intern Scholarship check. Linda Laverty - Friends' Board, Marin Karraker - NPS Acting Superintendent, Alex Field - CSMS President, Patty Glatfelter - Friends' Board, Nick Morales - Friends' Member.



New Opportunity for Impactful Giving

- Submitted by Patty Galfelter -

The Vim Wright Legacy Fund (VWLF) is a **new** agency endowment of The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. (FFFB) to support a sustainable internship program that fosters the development of future environmental leaders, while promoting the goals and mission of the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument (FFBNM). It has been established with the generosity of Vim Wright's son, John Wright, and the expert assistance of the Colorado Gives Foundation. The Friends hope to raise **matching** funds for the initial \$50K gift from Mr. Wright. It is a remarkable way to honor one of the stellar Defenders of Florissant who fought to establish the Monument in the late 1960's. These funds may support housing, travel, conferences, training and professional development, project-related supplies/equipment and other allowable expenses. These funds are consistent with the intention of the donors and the mission of the FFFB and align with the long-term objectives of the FFBNM. There will be a governing committee of Friends' board members and interested Friends to determine the best use of the funds annually. The Colorado Gives Foundation has an investment arm that will help guide the investment fund, which is anticipated to be available in perpetuity. It has been determined that by utilizing 4% of the VWLF each year, the fund will be sustainable far into the future. It is the hope of the Friends' board and the NPS staff that our many generous donors and new donors will see the value of maintaining this great leadership and learning opportunity for generations to come.

The Fund will grow with the assistance of directly donated dollars, stock donations and Planned Giving. As the availability of grant funding, scholarships and National Park Service budgets are increasingly uncertain, the Friends want to pursue this opportunity to expand availability of funding for our scholarships to interns and graduate students who provide research and viability of the Monument's programs.

The Friends' scholarship funds have been consistently supported by the Colorado Springs Gem and Mineral Society and the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club for decades. As the cost of education continues to grow, it is fortuitous to have this new fundraising effort presented to the Friends. If you are reading this newsletter, you have been our supporter in the past, and recognize the benefits of scientific research and the importance of sustaining the viability of the Monument. We ask you to give thoughtful consideration and assist us in this new endeavor. For more information, please feel free to contact Patty Glatfelter, Treasurer of the Friends, through our Friends' website: www.fossilbeds.org.

The official launch of the Vim Wright Legacy Fund will begin this August. You are also welcome to donate directly on this Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds site. A donation page is also available on the website: <https://www.coloradogives.org>. Search for Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc., through the Find a Cause button on their homepage.

If you have benefitted from your relationship with the Monument, please join us to amplify the ongoing health and well-being of the Monument and its programs.

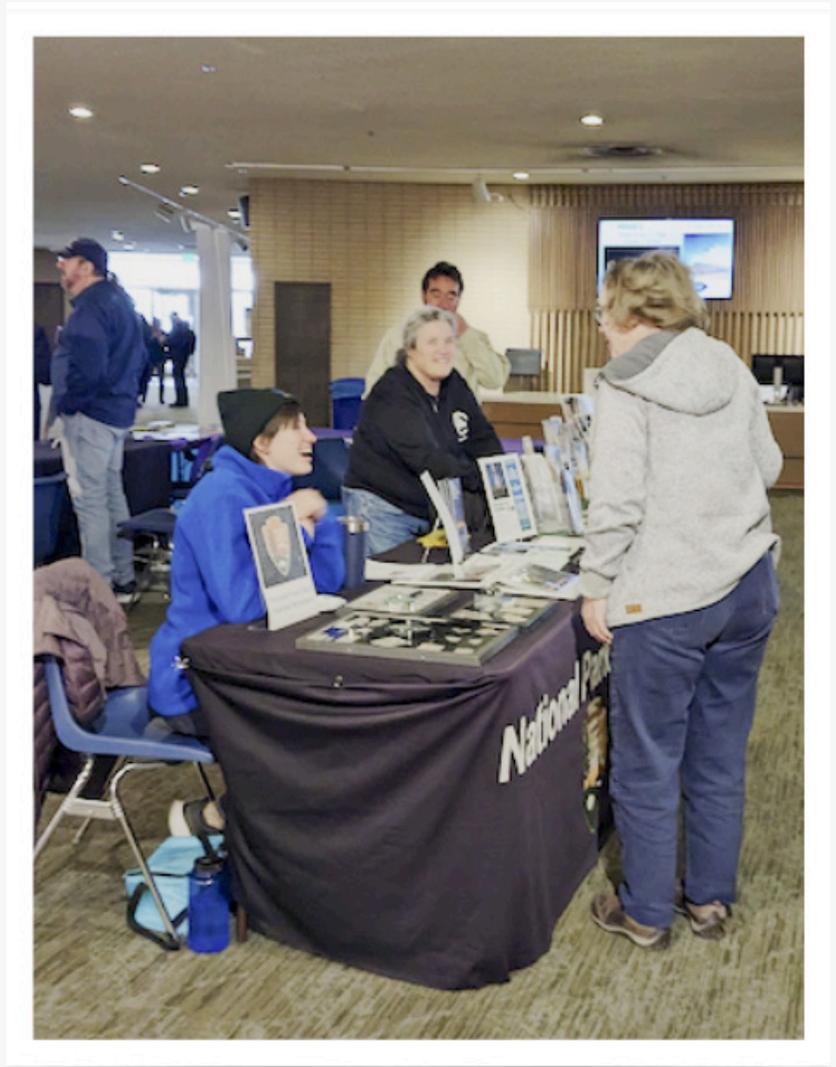


Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds take part in the 2025 WIPS Founders Symposium

Submitted by Therese Britten-Johnson

An interesting and memorable experience is certain when the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds and Monument staff participate in the biennial Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS) Founders Symposium. That happened again in March on the Colorado School of Mines campus in Golden at this year's event, which commemorated the Society's 40th anniversary with the theme "Retrospectives: Celebrating Four Decades of Paleo Advances." The symposium brings scientists, fossil lovers and artists together to promote the exchange of information and ideas between the avocational and professional paleontological communities. This year the two-day event featured presentations highlighting key discoveries along with new and advancing technologies, such as photogrammetry, anatomical imaging, preservation of biomolecules and 3D scanning. Attendees were excited to hear about how these methods provide new insights that are directing evolving perspectives in paleontology. After a presentation about how research on biomolecule preservation is challenging traditional views on fossilization, our Florissant Fossil Beds Paleo Intern who attended the symposium reported the presentation "blew my mind!"

In addition to expert speakers, the symposium featured a poster session, displays and exhibits from earth science organizations, and a paleo art show and sale. As in previous years, the Friends contributed to sponsoring the event and hosted a table to showcase our mission to promote scientific research, education, and resource preservation at Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument.



(continued next page)



Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds take part in the 2025 WIPS Founders Symposium

Submitted by Therese Britten-Johnson

Several Friends' board members were joined by the Monument's Paleo Intern at our exhibit table providing information about the rich fossil history of the Florissant Formation and how the National Park Service protects park resources and serves visitors. We displayed fossilized plants and insects preserved in shale, highlighted upcoming events at the Monument and distributed popular postcards featuring Florissant fossils and views of the night sky. Hosting the exhibit table provided an opportunity for us to interact with experts and enthusiasts of paleontology, reconnect with friends and former colleagues, and reminisce with those who had visited the Monument, sometimes many years ago.

WIPS is a non-profit organization dedicated to scientific, educational and charitable activities related to paleontology. Membership is open to everyone, and the Society encourages anyone who's passionate about paleontology to become a member. Proceeds from the Founders Symposiums are the primary source of funding for WIPS grants and scholarships, which benefit research and education in paleontology.

For more information, visit their website at www.westernpaleo.org.



Friends Newsletter Article
By Jay Christensen & Dr. Gabi

January to April 2025 the Paleontology Program at FLFO hosted Jay Christensen, the first intern to work under new Paleontologist Dr. Gabi Rossetto-Harris. Jay was a Museum Technician Intern, tasked with completing collections projects stemming from the construction of a new fire-rated wall to protect the specimens in the event of a fire. Before the fire-wall construction, another intern, Maddie Price, worked last year with Conni O'Connor to consolidate and safely pack away all the fossil collections within the collections room. Once the wall was complete, our

Museum Technician Intern Jay was hired to unpack and organize the collections. It's a lot of work accounting for 11,000 fossils, and there were more steps in the process than you might expect!

Before unpacking, when the specimens were still shielded with layers of protective foam, was the perfect time to install three new museum cabinets and put new wheeled bases on all of the cabinets, which was Jay's first task. Museum specimen cabinets are heavy, and the wheeled bases will help make it easier to keep the collection room clean and aid in any future moving or reorganizing.



Jay using a GenieLift to bring a new cabinet into the collections, working with Facilities Project Manager Corey.



Next, Jay unpacked specimens from the foam, and moved each drawer of fossils into the correct cabinet it was supposed to be in. Then, Jay and the paleontology team undertook a complete inventory of the collection, making sure all the specimens were accounted for and in the right place, while reorganizing specimens in drawers and cabinets as needed. They had been packed in a way that saved space, but didn't have everything in its proper place. Did you know that the collection is organized stratigraphically? Cabinets on the left of the room contain fossils from the oldest geologic unit, the Lower Shale; cabinets in the middle have fossils from the Middle Shale unit; and cabinets on the right house the younger Upper Shale. Besides the age of the rock layer, the specimens are further organized by the site, what kind of fossil they are, when they were collected, and put in specimen number order! After the inventory and any necessary reorganization, each cabinet also needed new labels on all the drawers.



Jay cutting labels. To the right is the giant stack of newly printed labels, ready to be cut!

Each individual fossil also needed a new specimen label, which contains information such as the specimen's number, identification, the site where it was found, who collected it, who identified it, and the date for both collection and identification. Without the information contained on a specimen label, a fossil loses its scientific value, as that provides important context. Jay worked hard to finalize a design that would bring all this information from the database into a new, double-sided format for all 11,000 specimens. Once the document was ready, it was time to print. We are indebted to the support of the Friends, who donated the heavy cardstock for Jay to print the labels and complete the project during the internship, when we were faced with \$1 credit card limits and had no way to purchase. Finally, with all the labels printed out correctly, Jay got started cutting them out and putting each label into each specimen box with the correct fossil.



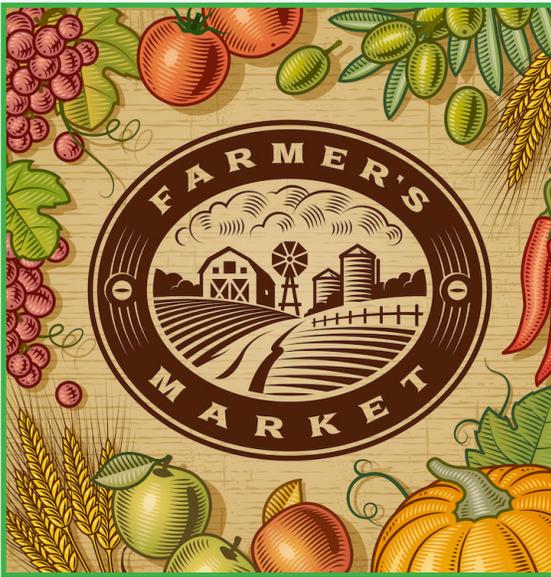
In between collection projects, Jay also worked on weekly #FossilFriday posts for the FLFO social media channels and attended an outreach event, the Western Interior Paleontological Society Symposium, with the Friends of Florissant Fossil Beds. They also started a research project collaboration with two paleobotanists, Dr. Gabi, the Paleontologist here at FLFO, and Gussie McCracken, the curator at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The project is looking at a type of fossil insect damage on plants called leaf mining, which they will keep working on after the internship as the project develops.

Thank you to Jay for their awesome contributions to the museum and the park, and to the Friends for the support of our projects!



Jay and Linda managing the information table.



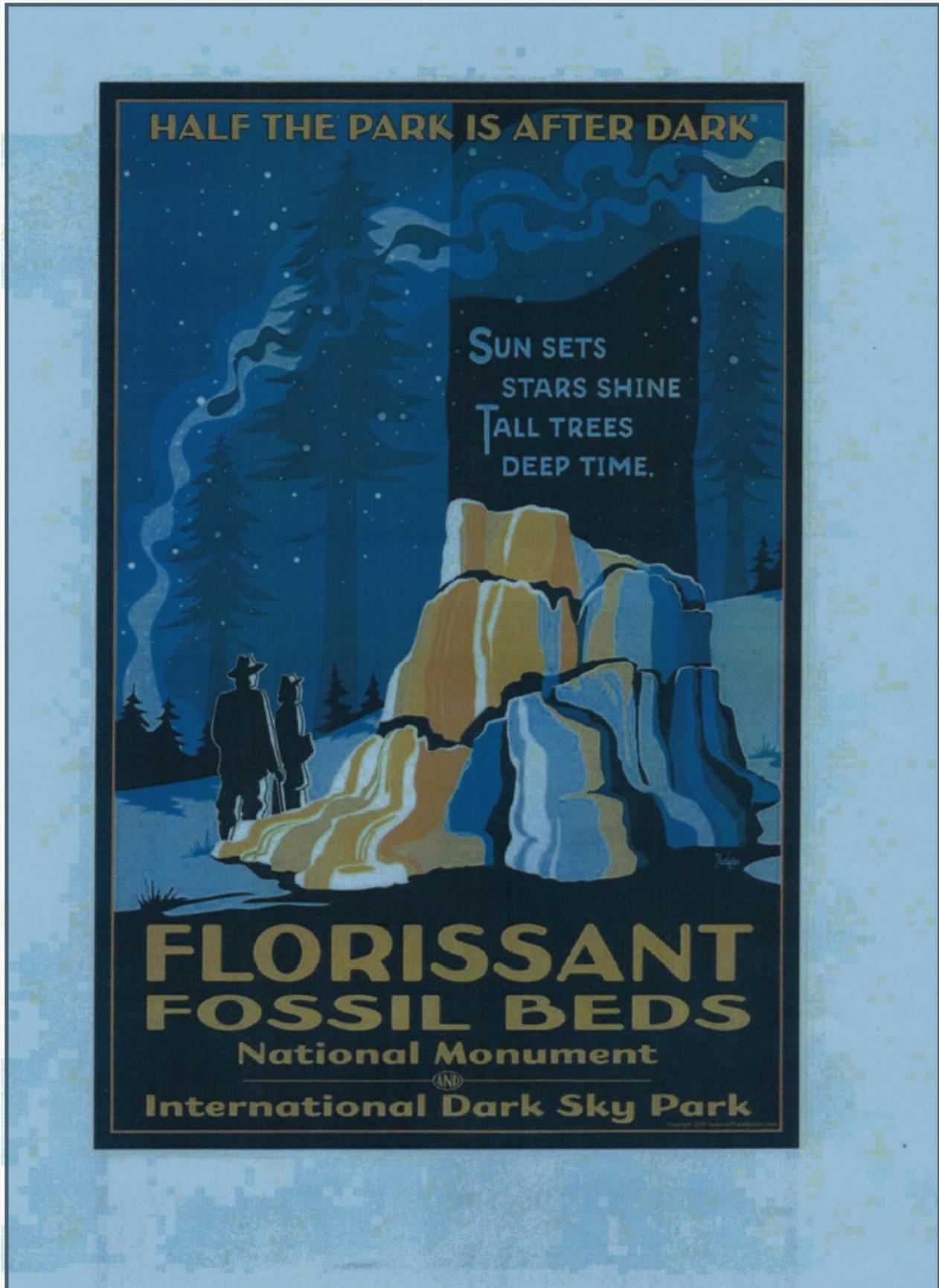


ORGANIC PRODUCTS

The National Park Service - **Caitlin** - and Friends of the Fossil Beds -**Therese** - managed a table at the Woodland Park Farmer's Market to inform and educate our local community on the many offerings of the Fossil Beds. Watch for NPS presence at future Farmer's Markets.



Dark Sky Poster available in the bookstore.



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Donation Corner

January 1-June 2, 2025

To our Donors, we are thankful for your generosity and support for our mission. Much of what we do, would not be possible without you.

Monica	Williams	Denver	CO
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Patricia	Glatfelter	Florissant	CO
Michelle	Melville	Florissant	CO

Submitted by Gary Censoplano





Submitted by Brix the Deer

Hello

I am Brix the Deer and I live in the woodlands around the Fossil Beds. I have lived here for almost 4 years now and truly enjoy my home. I can go pretty much wherever I like and am not required to stay on the maintained trails. Fences? Ha!

I'll admit I stay away from Teller One as my kind just doesn't mix well with those cars and trucks. I wish more of my friends understood the danger, but it seems that genetic blinder we deal with doesn't allow us to fully appreciate the power or anticipate the speed of a 4500-pound car. Our species aren't that good with mass and velocity. We think it's okay to cross when it isn't. You would think that after the many times our friends and acquaintances have been hit by cars while crossing the road, we all would learn. For one reason or another the lesson just hasn't sunk in. I have to ask all of you humans to be careful, as you seem to grasp the need for awareness.

Oh, you can't offer me food. That's a rule. Me and my friends are all good with that. We all eat about in the wild, and even though we like the taste of that ice cream - it does taste SO MUCH better than leaves and such - it just doesn't settle well with us and, as you know, is against the rules. Please don't tempt us.

We have many friends in the woods and we all seem to get along pretty well but, like you, we all have our bad days. I think Mr. Mountain Lion has far too many bad days. I stay away from him. He just seems to wake up in a bad mood. I give him space. You probably should too.

I, and all my family and friends, welcome you to the Fossil Beds. We hope you enjoy your visit. I know that you and your kind are required to stay on the trails, but on the other hand, you can enjoy the fossil museum, the book store, and clean restrooms. That's more than a fair tradeoff. I'd like to see that bookstore once, but I respect the Monument rules and stay in the forest. Can't read anyway.





From The Archives

June 2005 Edition

Everything is as it should be. Or is it?

By Harv Burman, Ranger

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument

There is a natural order to things. Trees grow from seeds. Flowers have colorful petals at the top and green leaves on the bottom. Male animals are larger, more colorful, and better looking than females. (Well, in the case of the human animal, I realize that there is room for discussion on some of those points!) Female birds hatch young, and males hunt for food. Humans, being highest on the scale of life because of their ability to use reason (well, sometimes at least), are essentially monogamous (faithful to a single mate); other animals, being lower on the scale of life, are opportunistic breeders that take any mate. And finally, National Park Rangers know pretty much everything about nature. These are facts and everything is in a natural order! Or is this really the case?

Since becoming a Park Ranger, I have found that I have had to re-evaluate many “facts” of life. I have learned first of all, from the wide range of questions asked of me, that we Rangers don’t know everything. I have learned we don’t know far more than we do know. I’ve learned that there is a wonderful, complex, fascinating world around us if we take a little time to stop and look and wonder and marvel. For instance, all trees don’t necessarily grow from seeds. Here in the mountains, aspen trees grow in groves, with many connected by common roots. Aspens clone new tree sprouts from existing roots, their most common method of reproduction. The Redwood or Sequoia tree, which used to be common in Colorado, but no longer lives here, had a similar characteristic. If you visit Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument you can see the cloning phenomenon in a 35 million-year-old fossil called the “Trio,” a group of three fossilized redwood stumps that had shared a common root system. The Trio is the only multiple-tree fossil found on earth (so far).



This photograph of the Trio shows a small dog enjoying a break.

Photo from the Mike Ausec collection.

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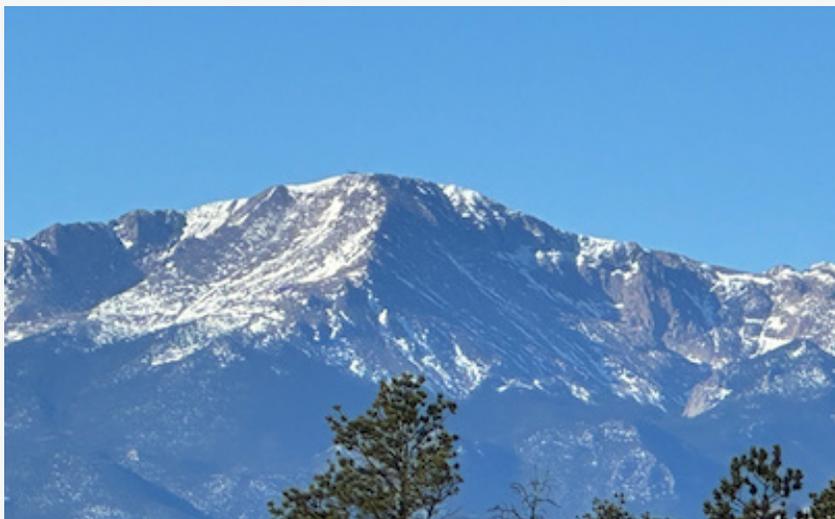
From The Archives

June 2005 Edition

Golden smoke, a common flower in this part of the Rockies, grows with its tiny yellow flowers near the ground and its foliage on top !
Indian paintbrush doesn't follow the accepted natural order either, because the bright red/orange or yellow parts are actually leaves, or bracts, with the small flower being an inconspicuous green. Most of us know of another "confused" flower, the Poinsettia. In the raptor world (that is, birds of prey), which includes eagles, falcons, hawks, and owls, the female is larger and more powerful than the male, a situation known as reverse size dimorphism. In many raptors the male shares at least a portion of the incubation of eggs and the feeding of the hatched young and even feeds the female while she is brooding. Most raptors mate for life, finding a new mate only in the event of death of the previous mate. It looks like they also believe in "til death do us part."



Indian Paintbrush



Local Artist Spotlight



John Schwabe is an local artist and the volunteer trails coordinator for The Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. John has extensive experience as a wildlife habitat restorationist with California Fish and Game and crew supervisor for the California Conservation Corps. He has volunteered at the Fossil Beds since 2009.

This painting is of the red maintenance building, prominently visible on the north side of Highway 1, almost immediately across from the entrance to the Visitor Center.



WEEKLY PROGRAMS AT FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NM

Sundays Ranger Program at 10 am

Mondays Volunteer-led Guided
Walk at 10 am

Wednesdays Art in the Park 10 am - 12 pm
(June 25 thru July 30)

Volunteer-led Excavation
Pit Talk
10 am - 12 pm

Fridays Ranger Program at 10 am

Saturdays Ranger Program at 10 am



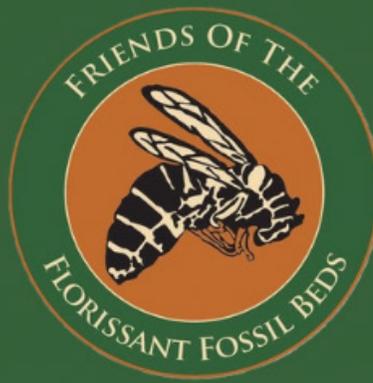
WEBSITE: [NPS.GOV/FLFO](https://www.nps.gov/flfo)

INSTAGRAM: [@FLORISSANTNPS](https://www.instagram.com/florissantnps)

FACEBOOK: [@FLORISSANTFOSSILBEDSNM](https://www.facebook.com/florissantfossilbedsnm)



Steve's presentation currently scheduled for July 17, 7p.m. MT.



Zoom Seminar Series

Continuing this summer with Steve Veatch. Stay tuned for registration link and additional information.



Join us in July for a Zoom seminar with Steve Veatch!

Things Left Behind: An Intimate Time with Spencer and Julie Penrose

Get ready for an extraordinary journey into the dazzling legacy of Spencer Penrose, the visionary magnate who struck gold in Cripple Creek, then copper in Utah, and ultimately transformed the Pikes Peak region into a world-class tourist destination.

All views expressed during this presentation are that of the presenter and do not represent those of the National Parks Service, the Florissant Fossil Beds, or the Friends.

Registration link coming soon

Previous speakers include Jeff Ravage, and Susan Campbell



Friends of the Fossil Beds Speaker Series Review

The Friends of the Fossil Beds Speaker Series recently hosted Jeff Ravage, a forester and fungal researcher, for a presentation on the Cold Fire project. The Cold Fire project is an attempt to research, test, and validate the effectiveness of introducing native fungi to promote a more rapid decay cycle of post-logging debris than can dramatically reduce the fuel potential of this debris in wildfires.

The audience demonstrated active and elevated interest through an extended Q&A session. Jeff provided answers to the questions raised in a fashion and vernacular that was understandable to those with non-scientist background. The Webinar was professionally produced and managed by Wendie Warner.

You are encouraged to review the progress and accomplishments of the Cold Fire Project. The [Cold Fire project web page](#) provides the following bulleted synopsis of the methodology of fungi wildfire mitigation:

“How does it work? The fungi-based method is simple:

1. Forester identifies unhealthy, overgrown, high wildfire risk forests near populated areas.
2. Contractor uses a wood chipper to turn excess, flammable vegetation into mulch;
3. Mycologist introduces natural, locally-occurring wood-rotting fungi to wood chip pile.
4. Fungi helps wood chips hold 57% more water and rapidly accelerates decomposition.
5. The community lowers its wildfire risk, harvests edible mushrooms for food, and enjoys healthier forests and soils.

Cold Fire” (or passive fungi-based fire mitigation) is a proven and effective way to:

- Reduce flammable brush
- Protect lives, homes, and property
- Restore forests and soils to healthier state
- Capture carbon
- Protect watersheds and biodiversity”

(copied from [Coldfire.com website](#))

Please stay tuned for future Speaker Series announcements!





The Reading Room

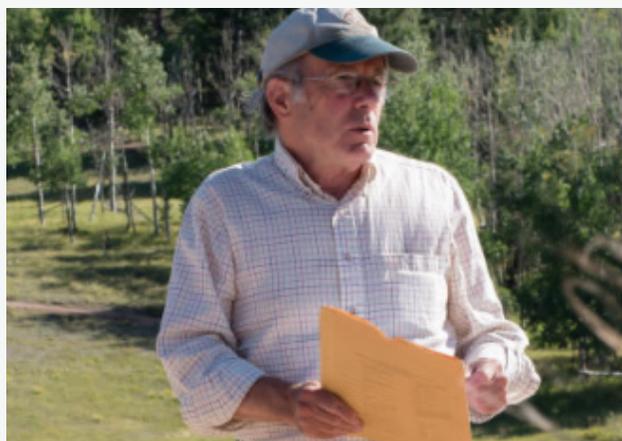
Bud Wobus, author of “The Big Flat: A Geological and Personal Traverse from Colorado Springs to South Park Across Colorado’s Subalpine Erosion Surface/ What’s Beneath, What’s Above, and What Has Changed,” has published his second book on Colorado geology. Titled “The Geologic Story of Wilkerson Pass, Eleven Mile Canyon, and the Puma Hills, Central Colorado - The Last Two Billion Years”, Bud continues his geological traverse across the state.

Bud has long been connected to the Friends as a presenter in various seminars. He’ll be a part of the Zoom webinar series hosted by the Friends, so keep an eye out for the registration coming soon to join in.

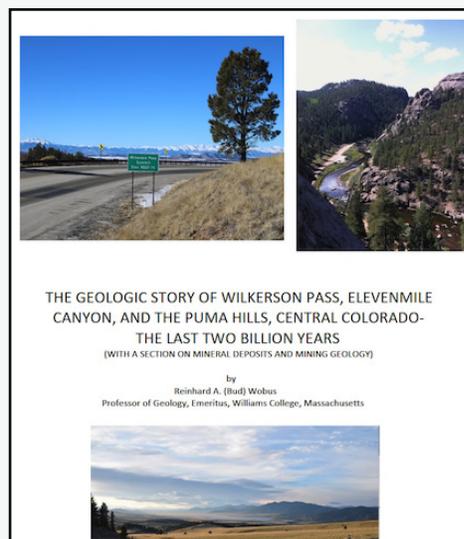
Prior to retiring from Williams in 2021, Bud served as a professor in the Geosciences department. A lot of his research focused on igneous petrology, and he spent many seasons mapping and researching in Colorado.

Bud’s Colorado connection and interest in geology 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 leaf 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 and complex geologic history of central Colorado.

“The Big Flat” and “The Geologic Story of Wilkerson Pass, Eleven Mile Canyon, and the Puma Hills” are 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. The price of each book is \$30 including postage and handling.



Dr. Bud Wobus Professor of Geosciences Emeritus



CODA



THANKS
MICHELLE!

Subject Verb Agreement
Their There They're
Comma Splice
Misuse and/or misplaced apostrophe
Adjective vs. Adverb
Inconsistent verb tense

Oh, by the way:
definitely / definitely
seperate / separate
recieve / receive
occassion / occasion
arguement / argument
embarass / embarrass

