



Public participation in paleontology, an outstanding history of collaboration for Colorado

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Colorado's Rich History

- Western Interior Paleontological Society (WIPS)
- Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds





WIPS

- Based in Denver, Colorado
- Founded in 1985
- 500+ members
- www.westernpaleo.org





WIPS

- Monthly meetings at DMNS
 - Lectures from local paleontologists
 - Classes on geology and paleontology
 - Fossil Prep and Curation Workshops





WIPS

- Summer Field Trips
- Newsletter – Trilobite Tails





WIPS

- Annual Founder Symposium
- Scholarships and grants
- Kids Fossil Club





Friends Group

- Originated from the Defenders of Florissant, Inc (1969)
- Founded in 1987
- Members and Partners
- www.fossilbeds.org





Friends Group

- Annual seminar series held at the national monument
- Winter seminar series in Colorado Springs





Friends Group

- Fund graduate student research
- Support student interns who work in the park





Friends Group

- Support for Teacher recertification program
- Support of the junior ranger program





Friends Group

- Improvements to exhibits and visitor experiences



Future Collaborations

- WIPS – Collections partnerships
- FRIENDS - Teacher training at Florissant
- iDigPaleo – Fossil Insect Digitization Project

fossilinsects.colorado.edu

