

Friends of Petrified Forest National Park

Working together we can make a difference!

Public Lands Day September 27, 2014

For Public Lands Day on September 27, Petrified Forest National Park will gather volunteers interested in helping remove unnecessary internal fencing on the Paulsell Ranch. The fences were used to manage livestock on the ranch and, since they are no longer needed, will be removed to help wildlife in the area. The group will split into as many fence crews as the number of volunteers warrants. Other volunteer work will be available at the ranch for those who would prefer something else. More details to come as the date approaches.



Creating an accessible ramp to the front doors of Rainbow Forest Museum.

Improving Accessibility

Petrified Forest National Park was successful this year in competing for funds to improve physical accessibility, opening up opportunities for more visitors to comfortably visit Rainbow Forest Museum, the Painted Desert Visitor Center, and parts of the Crystal Forest Trail.

New power-operated doors have been installed at both Rainbow Forest Museum and the Painted Desert Visitor Center. An accessible ramp is being constructed to the front

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Park staff design state-of-the-art information panels to help visitors learn more and connect better with park resources.



Jasper Forest wayside exhibit panel.

Thank you to Mike and Joan Snader and Gary and Connie Grube for their donations in support of this wayside project.

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Tiponi Point (above) and Rim Trail (below) wayside exhibit panels.

Creatures on the Trail

As you wander along the edge of this meadow, through an arid shrubland dominated by cliffrose and buckwheat, keep a sharp eye out for signs or signs of animals. With the bountiful boulders and one-sided juniper scattered about for shelter, *mouse deer* and *porcupines* are more frequently seen here than in other areas of the park. *Pinyon mice* depend on juniper berries for food, and

Birds take full advantage of the opportunities for basking on sun-warmed rocks. Such abundant prey attracts bobcats, coyotes, and other predators. During the fall and spring, birds rarely seen in the park such as hermit thrushes, bluebirds, and other migrants can be observed as they rest and feed here before setting off to continue their long journeys.

Long-nosed leopard lizard
Gambusia vittatus

This species is found only here identified in the park in 2011. Who knows, you may find a new species while you explore!

Bobcat
Lynx rufus

Pied-billed Grebe
Podiceps podiceps

Prairie dog
Cynomys ludovicianus

North American porcupine
Basking on buckwheat
Erethizon americanum

Male deer
Odocoileus hemionus

Mountain bluebird
Sialia sialis

Graphic design in-house is not often within the capability of a park, particularly with a small park staff. Petrified Forest is proud of this effort and expects to repeat it for the remaining wayside exhibits in the southern end of the park over the next year.

Meet the 2014 Summer Interns

The Petrified Forest National Park Resource Management Interns are a talented group of students who assist with archaeological and paleontological research. The park achieves an enormous amount of work with their help. Thank you to members of the Friends group for funding support!

Archaeology

Caitlin Ainsworth

I am an archaeology intern at Petrified Forest National Park. The time depth, diversity and density of archaeology here in the park are incredible. It is what first attracted me to this position, and I am having an amazing time exploring it all. We never know what we will find on our surveys, but we always know we will find something informative and interesting.



Nicole Kulaga

I am one of the archaeology interns at Petrified Forest National Park this summer. This being some of the first experience I've had with southwestern archaeology, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect. I'm happy to say I have not been disappointed; the park is stunning, the archaeology here is like nothing I've seen before, and I'm learning incredibly useful skills everyday in the field. I feel very fortunate to have had this opportunity.

Carlyn Stewart

I am an archaeology intern at Petrified Forest National Park. I am thrilled to be a part of such a great team, learning new and valuable skills in the field of archaeology. It is exciting to have this opportunity to find previously undiscovered sites and artifacts. It has been a great summer so far and I am very thankful.



Meet the 2014 Summer Interns

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Kathryn Turney

I am a member of the archaeology team this summer. The chance to survey previously unrecorded lands along with the ability to live and work in one of the most archaeologically fascinating areas of the American Southwest made this my top choice for a summer position.

Nicole Lohman

I'm a Graduate Student in Applied Archaeology at Northern Arizona University working on my Master's Degree. I'm working at Petrified Forest this summer as a graduate intern. During my stay here I am working on developing a standardized and adaptable rock art recording strategy for the park, recording and interpreting two large rock art sites, and working on my Master's research which examines the spatial patterns and relationships between three types of rock art images and the natural and cultural environment. Petrified Forest includes a wide variety of world-class rock art sites. The park's archaeology program is one of the best I have worked for in the seven years I have worked for the park service. It has been a pleasure working here.



Paleontology

Shelby Matsuoka

I am a recent graduate of San Diego State University with a Degree in Geology and emphasis in Paleontology. Prior to this internship I volunteered in the Paleontology Prep Lab in the San Diego Natural History Museum. I wanted to continue learning about how to prepare specimens for collection, display and research upon my arrival at the Petrified Forest. I am currently preparing a *Desmotosuchus* back plate out of a field jacket. It has been broken in a few places, so my job is to clean off the sediment and piece it back together. I really enjoy the attention to detail this task requires.



Meet the 2014 Summer Interns

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Ben Kligman

I am an undergraduate at UC Berkeley studying paleontology. I am interning here because I am interested in the fauna of the late Triassic, and especially small vertebrates. I am enjoying this internship because I have the opportunity to research a diverse micro vertebrate fauna from the Blue Mesa member, and also do interesting fieldwork.



Adam Marsh

I'm a PhD student at the University of Texas at Austin researching the long-necked and meat-eating dinosaurs of the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic periods of North America. I'm working my second summer at Petrified Forest National Park because it's surrounded by supporting people, beautiful landscapes, and unequivocal scientific value.



Improving Accessibility

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door of the Rainbow Forest Museum. The gathering area at the back door will be resurfaced and a drinking fountain will be added.

Crystal Forest Trail is receiving modifications to reduce the steepness of the trail on its southern side. This will permit wheelchair access to the highest points of the trail with good views across the whole area. The work is being done by an Arizona Conservation Corps crew with a park trail crew leader.

Improvements are scheduled for completion by the end of the summer.



Accessibility work along the Crystal Forest Trail.



First Annual Friends Day, September 26, 2014



Friends working on the Blue Forest Trail in April 2013.

Petrified Forest National Park will hold its first annual Friends Day on Friday, September 26. Since the park is planning a volunteer day for Public Lands Day on Saturday the 27th, anyone interested in attending both events can do so in the same trip.

On Friends Day, the park will offer morning field tours with scientists in archaeology, paleontology, and ecology. An open house in the Community Building at park headquarters will be held mid-day, with information on a variety of current issues in the park: scientific work in all fields, wayside exhibits and publications, historic preservation, this year's trail work and facility projects, and an update

on the park's expansion efforts. In the afternoon, the group will gather at a bluff on the former McCauley Ranch (now park lands), with a beautiful view to the north of the Blue Mesa area and across the Puerco drainage. A chuck wagon dinner will be offered for a small charge, with views of the sunset included. Overnight camping will be available either at the bluff site or at the Paulsell Ranch headquarters area, where volunteer activities will start on Saturday.

If you are interested, please mark your calendars. We will provide more detailed information and ask for RSVPs as the date approaches.



Friends working on the Blue Forest Trail in April 2013.

Thank You!

Thank you to Mike and Joan Snader, Jeanne Swarthout, an anonymous donor, and Ron Werner for their support of this year's Resource Management interns.

Thank you to Jon Graff for volunteering his time at the park this spring and for his generous donation to support improvements in lab equipment. His donation will make a big difference in the park's capabilities, particularly when communicating work being done under the microscope.

Thank you to the Petrified Forest Museum Association for accepting donations and making payments on the Friends behalf until the group develops its own capabilities. This has been an enormous help!

Tawa Trail Work Continues

The 2014 Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) crew continues work begun by last year's YCC crew to complete the Tawa Trail. This trail connects the Painted Desert Visitor Center with Painted Desert Inn, via the existing Rim Trail. Work this summer includes spreading gravel along the full 1.1 miles.

Work is made possible by a very generous donation from John and Joyce Madorna. John and Joyce were visitors to the park in 2012 and 2013. They felt a deep connection to the place and, after learning about our intent to build this trail, wanted to support it.

The YCC crew has other work to do this summer including archaeological site maintenance at Puerco Pueblo. An Arizona Conservation Corps crew will



2014 YCC crew.

follow up on the Tawa Trail later in the summer to connect it to existing walkways at both ends. The goal is to have the trail open for public use by September.

Join the Friends Group today!

You can be a member of the Friends of Petrified Forest National Park!

Contact Kevin Dahl for more details.

kdahl@npca.org

For specific information about park projects, contact the park superintendent, Brad Traver.

Brad_Traver@nps.gov

Visit the park's official website to learn more about the park and its resources.

www.nps.gov/pefo/



Friends working on the Blue Forest Trail in April 2013.