

Since the fossils at Sexi became known to science in the early 1990s, many people and organizations have been involved in the scientific study of the fossil forest and efforts to preserve it.

Nonprofit Organizations



The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. Florissant, Colorado, USA

The Friends of the Florissant Fossil Beds, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting the U.S. National Park Service in preserving, protecting, and interpreting the natural and historical resources of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in Colorado, USA. In support of the National Park Service's mission to extend the benefits of conservation worldwide, the Friends became involved in the Monument's interaction with the Petrified Forest Piedra Chamana and the village of Sexi, Peru in 2009. They began hosting this website in 2011. They have also contributed to the establishment of a museum at the site in Peru, and in May 2009 supported a nonprofit organization in Sexi working to protect and develop the site. They have contributed toward printing educational materials about the fossil forest for distribution in Peru and Colorado. In 2013, the Friends provided travel for two Peruvians—a geologist and another supporter of conservation at Sexi—to visit Florissant Fossil Beds Monument and other sites in Colorado to learn more about conservation of fossils. They have provided travel support for the Monument's Paleontologist to give presentations about Sexi at international scientific conferences worldwide. See the donation page for more information about contributing toward the Friends' ongoing effort at the Piedra Chamana fossil forest and the village of Sexi, Peru.

Research Community



Deborah Woodcock

Marsh Institute
Clark University
Worcester, Massachusetts, USA

The focus of Dr. Woodcock's research is vegetation & climate and development of fossil wood as a source of information about past environments. She first traveled to the fossil forest in 1997, has been the principal investigator on the research grants, and is part of the team working on conservation of the fossils and development of the site.

Herb Meyer

US National Park Service
Florissant, Colorado, USA

The focus of Dr. Meyer's research deals with the use of fossil leaves as paleoenvironmental indicators to understand past vegetation and climate. He first visited Sexi in 2000, and has since completed an evaluation of the fossil forest sites with an emphasis on conservation, geoheritage, and the development of geotourism.



Sarah Allen

Penn State Altoona
Altoona, Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Allen has been involved in monitoring the condition of the fossil site and in the study of fossil leaves from Piedra Chamana since 2018. She organized the curation and photography of the fossil collection in Lima with support of a grant from Penn State Altoona.





**William McIntosh
& Nelia Dunbar**

New Mexico Institute of
Mining and Technology
Socorro, New Mexico, USA

Drs. McIntosh and Dunbar visited Sexi in 2005 to study the volcanic rocks containing the fossils and collect rock samples for dating.

Dennis Terry

Temple University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

Dr. Terry is a geologist who has been studying the rock layers at Piedra Chamana since 2018 to find ancient soils known as paleosols.



Susan Aragón

Universidade Federal do Oeste do Pará,
Postgraduate Program in Amazonia Natural
Resources,
Santarém, Brasil



Dr. Aragón has helped with project administration and, in conjunction with Dr. Woodcock, carried out a survey and analysis of the community structure of the vegetation in the area of the fossil forest and a subsequent study on the use of native plants by the residents of Sexi.



Eleazar Rufasto

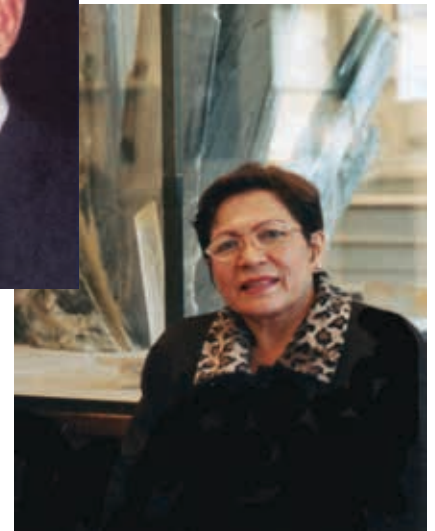
Universidad Nacional Pedro Ruiz Galo (UNPRG)
Lambayeque, Peru

Engineer Rufasto has studied soil erosion and land use in Sexi with his students.

Guillermo Morales & Isabel Prado Velazco

Museo de Historia Natural
Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos
(UNMSM)
Lima, Peru

Engineer Morales and Biologist Prado were the first to be involved in the scientific study of the fossils at Sexi. Engineer Morales (now deceased) was the first to map the geology of the fossil forest. Biologist Prado has been involved in field work at Sexi and is the curator of the Piedra Chamana fossils in the Natural History Museum and liaison to governmental organizations for matters relating to the fossils. In 2001, she visited the United States to present information on the fossils of Peru at the Sixth Conference on Fossil Resources.



Instituto Geológico Minero y Metalúrgico (INGEMMET) Lima, Peru

Geologists from INGEMMET carried out mapping and survey work at the fossil site in 2011 and 2012.