

Summer Programs

June 16 – Sept. 16, 2007

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

John Day Fossil Beds
National Monument



John Day Fossil Beds National Monument is divided into three widely separated units, the Sheep Rock Unit (541- 987- 2333), Painted Hills Unit (541- 462- 3961), and the Clarno Unit (541- 763- 2203).

Ranger Talks ... During the dates listed above, a ranger talk is presented at 2:00 pm each day at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, located at the Sheep Rock Unit of the national monument. Talks run from 20-45 minutes in length.

Blue Basin Hike ... On June 30, July 28, and August 18 at 10:00 am, join a ranger for a two- hour, one- mile walk into the colorful Blue Basin. Hikes begin at the Blue Basin trailhead in the Sheep Rock Unit. The hike and talk feature the geology and fossils of the basin.

Sheep Rock Unit Auto Tour ... On July 14, August 11, and September 8, at 10:00 am, join a ranger for a two- hour road trip into the fossil beds to discuss the geologic landscape. Your vehicle should have good tires for the gravel roads. Tours begin at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center.

James Cant Ranch Walk ... On June 23, July 21, August 25, and September 15, at 2:00 pm, join a ranger for a one hour program at the historic James Cant Ranch, located in the Sheep Rock Unit. The outdoor walk and talk will feature the ranch history and begins on the ranch house front porch.

Butterfly Walk ... On July 7 and August 25, at 10:00 am, join a ranger for a 90 minute walk to discover and view a mosaic of area butterflies. The program begins at the James Cant Ranch in the Sheep Rock Unit. Short range binoculars are recommended.

Painted Hills Unit Auto Tour ... On August 4, join a ranger for a two- hour road trip through the Painted Hills Unit, featuring the cultural and geological story of the area. You will need your own vehicle with good tires. The tour begins at 10:00 am at the Painted Hills Unit picnic area.

Stargazing Programs ... On July 6, at 9:00 pm, join a ranger for a two hour exploration of the starry night sky and deep time. You should bring binoculars and dress warmly for outdoors. The July program begins at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Center, located in the Sheep Rock Unit. Also, on September 1, at 8 pm, the program will be offered at the overlook at the Painted Hills Unit. (Programs may be cancelled due to severe cloud cover or wildfire smoke.)