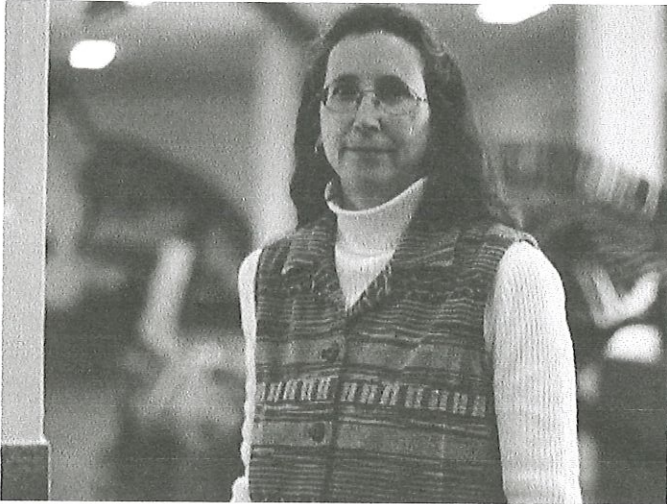


## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT DR. RACHEL BENTON

Dr. Rachel Benton joined the Badlands National Park Conservancy board after retiring from her position as the park paleontologist .



Dr. Benton started her career with the NPS in 1983, volunteering at Delaware Water Gap. After receiving a masters in vertebrate paleontology from South Dakota School of Mines and a PhD in geology from the University of Iowa, she became the first permanent park paleontologist at Badlands National Park.

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS DURING YOUR POSITION AT BADLANDS NATIONAL PARK?

I began work as park paleontologist at Badlands National Park in 1994. I basically hit the ground running. I felt I had to make up for the last 50 years because the park had never hired a permanent park paleontologist, only several seasonal paleontologists.

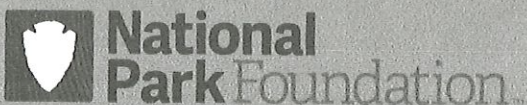
I worked with every division within the park. I worked on paleo-law enforcement cases with the rangers. I assisted with interpretive programs with the Resource Education Program. I also coordinated six years of paleontological surveys where we partnered with the School of Mines, Temple University and the University of Northern Colorado at Greeley.

Over the years, we were fortunate to have some of the most talented fossil preparators work at Badlands National Park. Without them, many projects would have never gotten off the ground.

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