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Jurassic Journal

Newsletter of the Morrison Natural History Museum



Dear Friends,

In this edition of *Jurassic Journal*, you will find special events, museum news, information on programs, and assorted information about supporting our efforts.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to serve those who are curious about natural history.

See you at the museum,

Matthew T. Mossbrucker
Director & Curator

Join us for Stegosaurus Day

Sat. April 29th, 2023



Special Event

Join us for *Stegosaurus Day* on Saturday, April 29! For this event, we will have special activities and special guests, as well as special programming and activities.

With your membership, you get the first opportunity for reservations. Keep an eye on our social media for more information on special guests and activities.

[Tickets](#)



Museum News

'Digging Deeper' Series

Deepen your knowledge and understanding of local paleontology with the Digging Deeper lecture and field trip series.

These remote talks and in-person field trips are intended to augment the knowledge base of museum volunteers. While designed for MNHM volunteers, friends of the museum are welcome to attend.

Talks are coordinated and moderated by Assistant Operations Manager Sarah Miller. Programs are presented by Director and Chief Curator Matthew T. Mossbrucker.

Right: Reconstructed femur of *Apatosaurus ajax* from Morrison's Quarry 10. Marsh, O.C. 1896. The Dinosaurs of North America. Sixteenth Annual Report of the United States Geological Survey. Government Printing Office, Washington.

[Learn More](#)



Exhibits

Staff and volunteers are currently mounting the cast of a *Megalonyx*, a giant ground sloth. This and other specimens will be permanently installed in the renovated Ice Age exhibit.

The planned debut of this exhibition will be in the late autumn of 2023. Watch MNHM social media and future editions of Jurassic Journal for updates.



Tiny Tyrant

Thanks to generous donations to the Museum Foundation, a cast skeleton of the controversial tyrannosaur *Nanotyrannus* is on its way to MNHM.

Visitors can currently enjoy this mount generously loaned by Treibold Paleontology in Woodland Park.

Collections

Behind the scenes, more than five thousand specimens are being cared for by Collections Manager Sharon Bax.

Throughout 2022 we worked on inventorying and rehousing these specimens. Thanks to Museum Foundation funding, staff are currently working on transferring our catalog into a new collections database.



Museum Programs

Come Explore With Us!





Come explore with us.

Walk in, and participate with a daily museum program to get the most of your visit.

MNHM offers programs for schools, private groups, and museum rental for birthday parties.

[Learn More](#)

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FOR THE 2023 SEASON
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More information? Reach out.

What is the *Triceratops* Gulch Project?

If you're tired of sitting in an armchair reading about the adventures of others and ready to get your hands dirty the *Triceratops* Gulch Project might be for you. Morrison Natural History Museum has partnered with the Glenrock Paleontological Museum in Glenrock, Wyoming to offer the fossil expedition experience of a lifetime.

Our programs are operated like an informal field school. Participants are introduced to project-based paleontological field work and lectures that support current research projects. In other words, we don't shove a brush in your hand without guidance or shoo you off your finds. We aim to enhance your paleo-literacy and make you part of the crew. This philosophy makes the *Triceratops* Gulch Project a different species of field program.

Through the *Triceratops* Gulch Project you will make discoveries of your own. Work with museum crews as they explore fossil sites of the Upper Cretaceous Lance Formation of Wyoming, the former home of *Triceratops*, *Tyrannosaurus*, and raptors. Collection takes place at sites containing dinosaur bones, teeth, and the remains of an extinct ecosystem we are actively reconstructing.

Learn basic geological concepts to put fossils into the context of time. Develop the eye for recognizing rock from bone as we teach you how to prospect for fossils. Help document sites and collect specimens that haven't seen the light of day since they were buried over 66 million years ago.

[Learn More](#)

Discoveries

These palmate fossil leaves littered the ground that *Triceratops* and *Tyrannosaurus* once tread upon. They are also vital clues to local climate.





Horned Dinos

Dinosaurs like *Triceratops* had a continuous supply of teeth throughout its lifetime.

Shed tooth crowns, like the one pictured (left) are evidence of feeding and indicated preferred habitat.

This upper right maxillary tooth likely belonged to *Triceratops*. It shows some acid-etching, likely after being swallowed by its owner.

Young *T. rex*

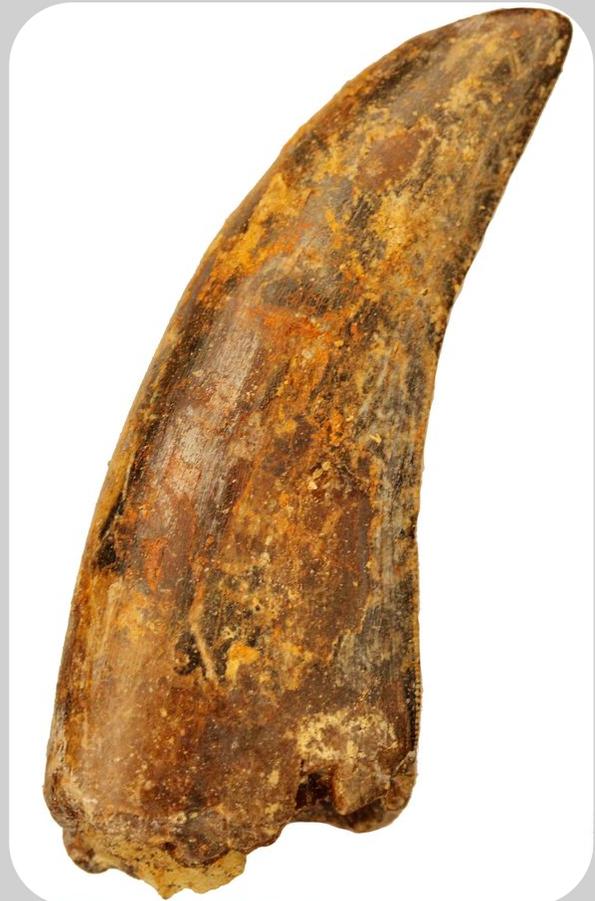
Like *Triceratops*, carnivorous dinosaurs like *Tyrannosaurus* would also shed and grow new teeth.

This robust tooth (right) is a little over four centimeters from base to tip - roughly half the size of an adult *T. rex*.

Teeth like this are significant when collected with a suite of other fossils and when their tomb is carefully documented.

Both of these fossils were collected by past participants of the *Triceratops* Gulch Project.

What will you find this season?



Volunteering

Dig deeper in to paleontology and consider volunteering. The application period has closed for the winter/spring period, but will resume again in late summer.

Volunteers are trained in several specialties, from general services to paleontology interpretation and the lab.

[Volunteer Wait List](#)



Membership

Show your support for MNHM. Members receive complimentary admission, discounts, and special invitations.

[Purchase or Renew](#)

Donate

Support the MNHM Foundation's efforts to enhance the museum and support those with a passion for paleontology

[Make a Gift](#)





Specimen Highlight

This is the ulna of the large sauropod (long-necked dinosaur) *Apatosaurus ajax*.

Collected in the mid-1870s at a site called Quarry 8, it is part of a significant fossil sample. From an area known as the Lakes-Marsh *Atlantosaurus* Beds, this sample offered an early look at Late Jurassic dinosaurs.

At nearly a yard long, this lower forelimb bone belonged to one of the largest dinosaurs ever discovered in the Denver area.

Apatosaurus was the most abundant herbivore in the Lakes-Marsh *Atlantosaurus* Beds fossil sample.

This specimen is currently on display in the Jurassic Morrison room courtesy of the Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Apatosaurus ajax

Left ulna
anterior view
YPM 4676





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