

[View this email in your browser](#)



Jurassic Journal

Newsletter of the Morrison Natural History Museum



Dear Friends,

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

In this edition of 'Jurassic Journal' you will find updates on museum programs, museum news, exhibits, collections, volunteering, and more.

See you at the museum,

Matthew T. Mossbrucker
Director & Curator

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.

Tickets are limited. Reservations are not required, but appreciated.

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

[Purchase Tickets](#)



Triceratops Gulch Project
***Last Call for '23 Field
Season Enrollment***

Last Call for the Triceratops Gulch Project!

Tired of sitting in an armchair reading about the adventures of others? Get ready to get your hands dirty the Triceratops Gulch Project. Morrison Natural History Museum has

partnered with the Glenrock Paleontological Museum in Glenrock, Wyoming to offer the fossil expedition experience of a lifetime.

Reach out for more information or to enroll today before this opportunity is extinct for 2023!

What is the Triceratops Gulch Project?

The Triceratops Gulch Project is a program that aims to provide access to field paleontology for citizen scientists. This mission-supporting fundraiser assists the Morrison Museum and the Glenrock Paleontological Museum. Scholarship and volunteer opportunities are available.

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.

Discoveries

Triceratops Gulch's namesake are the most common large dinosaurs found by project crews.

Dinosaurs like *Triceratops* had a continuous supply of teeth throughout its lifetime. Consequently, shed teeth make a large part of the fossil sample.

Shed teeth are significant, as they tie *Triceratops* to specific habitats.



Raptors

Dromaeosaurids like *Acheroraptor* are the most common small dinosaur at Triceratops Gulch.

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

This fossil was collected by a Triceratops Gulch crewmember in 2020.



Rare Dinosaurs

Some teeth, like this *Pectinodon*, are rare. This enigmatic theropod was a slender raptor-like dinosaur. To date, this dinosaur is only known from its teeth.

This specimen was collected by a past participant of the Triceratops Gulch Project.



[Learn More](#)



DINOSAUR DIG AT THE TRICERATOPS GULCH PROJECT

**AUGUST 17-20, GLENROCK, WYOMING
\$1,350/ATTENDEE**

Dinosaur Ridge field trips team up with the Morrison Natural History Museum and the Glenrock Paleon Museum to explore the fossil-rich Lance Formation. This is an all-inclusive program that aims to teach how field paleontology works, all with you in the hot seat. No member discount is available. Hotel, meals, transportation included.

Registration open at www.dinoridge.org

Questions? Field trip leader: Erin LaCount (Erin.LaCount@dinoridge.org)

Special Program

Join the Triceratops Gulch Project with partner organization Dinosaur Ridge. An all-inclusive program August 17-20, 2023, this experience includes lodging, transportation, meals, equipment, and instruction.

Note: This excursion must have a minimum of ten participants to proceed. If the minimum has not been met by June 26th, we will be in contact with registered participants to reschedule to an alternate dig.

Museum News

Summer Season



During the summer, the only time visitors will find an empty parking lot is outside of open hours. Here are some tips to avoid crowds:

1. Visit mid-week for lighter crowds.
2. Visit mid-day. The museum tends to be quieter during lunchtime.
3. Purchase online tickets before visiting.
4. Guided museum tours begin on the hour.



Since 2022, the Morrison Museum had aided Dinosaur Ridge by collecting signatures to make the “Protect Colorado’s Fossils” license plate a reality. Early in June, Governor Jared Polis signed the bill into law after it passed committee.

Exhibits



With the busy summer season and dig schedule, the museum crew are on hiatus from building renovating the Ice Age Colorado room.

This fall, the crew will return to mounting the cast of a *Megalonyx*, a giant ground sloth. This and other specimens will be permanent additions to the exhibition.

The planned debut of this exhibition will be pushed back to 2024. Watch MNHM social media and future editions of ‘Jurassic Journal’ for updates.



Local Mammoth

Museum staff are aiding the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve by repairing and remolding their Columbian mammoth skull.

This process will begin this fall. Casts will be displayed at Lamb Spring and Morrison Museum.

Collections

Morrison Natural History Museum is again a state repository for paleontological collections. The museum also earned its gold certificate in collections stewardship from the American Association of State and Local Historical Museums.

Throughout 2022 we worked on inventorying and rehousing these specimens. Thanks to Museum Foundation funding, staff acquired a new collections database.



Volunteering

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

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



Volunteer Wait List

Returning: Late 2023

'Digging Deeper' Lectures & Field Trips



Morrison Natural History Museum volunteers deepen their knowledge and understanding of local paleontology with the 'Digging Deeper' lecture and field trip series.

Thirteen remote talks and three in-person field trips are intended to augment the knowledge base of museum volunteers. While designed for adult 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.

[Learn More](#)



Membership

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

[Purchase or Renew Membership](#)

Donate

Support the mission of the Morrison Museum with a gift to its foundation. Gifts are tax deductible and can be targeted toward specific programs.



[MAKE A GIFT](#)



Copyright (C) 2023 Morrison Natural History Museum. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)