

September/October 2024

# FACT/GDFM NEWS DIG EDITION!



By Martha Lohman

Another dig season has come and gone. Every summer begins with a sense of anticipation. What discoveries will be made while excavating or doing prep in the lab? What discussions will be had with guests to the dig site or in the museum? How will we be challenged to grow?

We had a full roster of excavators this year, hosting many family groups for a single day experience and several multi-day group digs with *Reasons for Hope*, *Answers in Genesis*, the *Institute for Biblical Authority*, the *Institute for Creation Research*, and *Montana Bible College*. Regardless of the size of the group or the length of their time with us, we enjoy sharing the process of excavation, fossil preparation, and most importantly, the reason why it matters.

As field paleontologists, we have a unique opportunity to lead our guests on a journey. Dinosaurs can be fascinating to the imagination because we cannot observe them alive and amazing because of the size of their skeletons. Many children and adults arrive excited to fulfill a dream, like the young boy who enthusiastically declared he had been wanting to go on a dinosaur dig for his “whole life”. But, if we have only led our visitors on an adventure of hiking, digging, and discovering, without also emphasizing that the reason the fossils are preserved in the ground is tangible evidence of God’s judgment of mankind’s sin as recorded in Genesis, then we have missed our opportunity to declare the holiness, powerful justice, and undeserved mercy of God. God’s holiness requires judgment of sin with death. His powerful justice is revealed in the fossil record, affirming that we are unable to thwart or resist His righteous wrath. His undeserved mercy is undeniable in that we are here to witness the evidence of the Flood; for, according to the Law of God, all should have perished, but in His mercy, He spared Noah and his family to continue human history until His Holy Son, Jesus Christ, would come to save us from our sin. This is the ultimate journey we hope to lead diggers on each summer.

We had several interesting discoveries this year!

(Over)

## Museum Staff

2024 Museum Hours  
10am-5pm

Mon-Sat ..... Memorial thru Labor Day

Friday & Saturday .....Sept & October



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## Where Biblical History Comes Alive!

- \* Edmontosaurus caudal (tail) vertebra with the dorsal process and chevron still attached
- \* Edmontosaurus phalanx with conical depressions in a curved shape that suggest bite marks
- \* dinosaur rib section that had a break which was fused together, indicating the bone was healing before the animal was buried
- \* beautifully preserved 3-1/2” long Tyrannosaurus rex tooth with denticle scratches in the enamel and a smoothly curved gouge out of the root end of the tooth, suggesting it was bit by another T-rex!

Additional finds from this year’s excavations include:

- Edmontosaurus tibia, partial scapula, ilium, chevron, metatarsal, and phalanges,
- Struthiomimus radius and partial femur (distal end),
- Triceratops phalanges (two),
- Ankylosaurus osteoderm,
- crocodilian episternum, two vertebrae, and scutes,
- very large Amiidae (bowfin fish) vertebra,
- rib pieces, various vertebrae, turtle femur, turtle shell pieces, and a variety of small teeth.

Over the winter, Chuck (the museum’s assistant director) made improvements to our pneumatic system in the lab, to enable us to set up various work stations. What a difference this made during fossil prep days!

Though not able to dedicate extended time to working on “Ruth”, the Edmontosaurus skeleton we excavated last year, Joshua invested many hours this summer to prepare some of its fossils for museum display. There is much work to be done in the coming years, but we are pleased with what has been accomplished and excited about the prospect of eventually featuring this dinosaur’s bones in an articulated display in the museum.

If you are interested in joining us for the adventure of an authentic dig experience in 2025, please visit our website ([creationtruth.org/digs](http://creationtruth.org/digs)) for more information. The calendar showing available dates for next summer will be posted at the beginning of the year.



### Donations:

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Thank you for your support!

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