

# 2015 PUBLIC FOSSIL DIGS



Next summer will bring a plethora of dig opportunities to the public. If you're a crocodile enthusiast, love deep sea fishing, walk with the dinosaurs, or prowl with the saber toothed cats, we have a location that fits the bill. Please check our website for more detailed registration information.

## **Bismarck Area, June 22-26:**

We say "area" because we will be starting and ending the day in Bismarck, but traveling to surrounding locations. Depending on the weather, and the concentration of fossils at different locations, our destinations may shift. Places we have visited in the past include a 65-million year old dinosaur site, a 50 million-year old crocodile site, a 30-40 million-year old mammal site, a fossil leaf site, and more. If the weather does not cooperate, we will have spaces for people to work in our paleontology lab here in Bismarck. Maximum of 10 participants per day. Minimum age is 12 years; participants under 18 must have an accompanying adult. You must provide your own transportation, food, and lodging.



## **Marmarth / Rhame, July 7-11:**

These areas are one of the few in the state that are home to dinosaurs. We will be working in the Hell Creek Formation, during the last gasp of dinosaurs before they went extinct, some 65 million years ago. While dinosaurs tend to be the largest things found, they are not necessarily the most common. Other creatures that lived during the same time, including crocodiles, turtles, fish, and plants, are also found frequently. This is a great week-long opportunity for those looking for a challenge, and up for hiking in rugged terrain. Registration will be through the Marmarth Research Foundation.



**Pembina Gorge, July 20-26:** we will be returning once again to the beautifully scenic Pembina Gorge in our ongoing search for sea monsters. This Pierre Formation location, 80 million years old, holds some of the oldest surface rocks in North Dakota. This was a time when North Dakota was covered with the Western Interior Seaway, and was home to great swimming reptiles called mosasaurs, giant

squid, sea turtles, aquatic birds, large (and small) fish, snails, clams, and more. These past few years we have been slowly uncovering the partial skeleton of a mosasaur, and hope to find more. Maximum of 15 participants per day. Minimum age on day-long dig is 12, minimum age on Family half-days is 10. Participants under 18 must have an accompanying adult. Registration will be through the Parks and Rec office. Lunch, breakfast, and transportation from Walhalla to the fossil site is provided.

## **Medora, August 3-9:**

After dinosaurs went extinct, crocodiles became the dominant predator in North Dakota, and the environment turned swampy. In Medora, we will be digging in Sentinel Butte Formation rocks, 55-60 million years old. This site is rich in a variety of swamp denizens, including crocodiles, giant salamanders, fish, champsosaurs, clams, snails, and more. The rugged badlands in the nearby Theodore Roosevelt National Park may also be a draw for those not interested in digging in the dirt. Maximum of 14 participants per day. Minimum age on day-long dig is 12; minimum age on Family half-days is 10. Participants under 18 must have an accompanying adult. You must provide your own food, and lodging. Registration will be through the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Transportation from Medora to the fossil site is provided.

## **Whiskey Creek, August 17-21:**

While you might have called Medora a crocodile buffet, Whiskey Creek is the crocodile graveyard. A little older, this 60-65 million year old Bullion Creek Formation site was also very swamp-like. It is in close proximity to the decade-long worked site called Wannagan Creek, made famous by the Science Museum of Minnesota. Each year we work at this site, the fossils get better and better. While other creatures can be found, crocodiles are by far the most numerous. Maximum of 10 participants per day. Minimum age is 12 years; participants under 18 must have an accompanying adult. You must provide your own transportation, food, and lodging.

For all 2015 public digs see this link:  
<https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndfossil/digs/digs.asp>