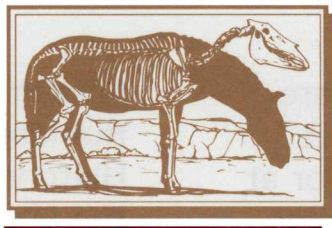


HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

The
FOSSIL



RECORD

SUMMER, 1998

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3

THE BARE BONES OF THIS ISSUE:

Fossil Days Recap

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National Trails Day Recap

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Summer Tours

VISITOR INFORMATION

Stop by our Visitor Center to see our “new” exhibits. On display, we have our camel skull that was found several years ago and a camel femur that was found in April of this year. We also have Hagerman Horse specimens that came out of our quarry last year. Stay tuned for more material to be uncovered this summer!

The Visitor Center is located on Highway 30 in Hagerman, across from the High School. Hours are 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m., seven days a week, through Labor Day.

Printed on recycled paper.

FOSSIL DAYS RECAP -
Hagerman Fossil Beds National
Monument would like to thank our

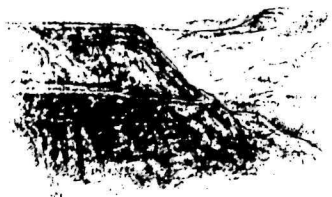


staff, the Hagerman Fossil Council, Inc., and all our visitors for making our Fossil Days celebration a success. We had over 400 people on our quarry tours and over 1,000 people through our Visitor Center!

SEASONAL STAFF - We are happy to welcome our seasonal staff members. Many of these people leave the comfort of homes and family behind so that they may contribute their skills and talent to science, as well as enjoy the outdoors.

Horse Quarry Excavation Crew -

These staff members protect the natural, geological, historical, cultural, and paleontological resources of the Monument through excavation, surveys, and fossil protection.



Janet Bertog is returning to the Fossil Beds once again, "Because I just didn't get enough wind last summer." Janet is working on her Ph.D. in geology at the University of Cincinnati.

Jim Degenhardt, a physics major at the University of Michigan, has just completed his freshmen year. Jim joins the Hagerman staff as a Student Conservation Association representative. "I took this opportunity to make new friends, have new experiences and memories, and to broaden my resume."

Amy Smith, a Student Conservation Association representative, comes to Hagerman all the way from New Jersey. She is a geology major at Hamilton College in New York. Amy is excited to gain such a unique experience here at the Fossil Beds, working in the "Horse Quarry."

Amy Wolf comes to Hagerman Fossil Beds as a Student Conservation Association representative. She is a native of Wisconsin and currently attends Colorado College in pursuit of a degree in Environmental Chemistry.

Preparation Crew - These staff members analyze, document, and prepare specimens using computer documentation, curation, and fossil preparation.

Mary Carpenter is a Master's student in the Quaternary Studies program at Northern Arizona University, where she also received her Bachelor's Degree in

Anthropology. "In the ten plus years of field work in paleontology and archeology, this is one of the most fun and rewarding jobs I've had. Not only is the work great...so are the people."

Phil Gensler received his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania. Currently, he is finishing his Master's degree at Northern Arizona University in which his thesis site is in the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. His work involves studying the fauna from Coyote Canyon and correlating it to the Bishop Ash.

Emily Larkin received her Bachelor's degree in Earth Sciences and Anthropology from Central Missouri State University. She is currently a graduate student at Northern Arizona University in the Quaternary Studies Program. As a museum technician at the Fossil Beds, Emily is working primarily on preparation and curation of the 1997 Horse Quarry material.

Interpretative Rangers - These staff members provide the visitor with information concerning the natural, geological, paleontological, historical, and cultural resources featured at the Monument and surrounding area through talks, guided tours, and audiovisual programs.



Summer Hinton, a Jerome High School graduate, is beginning her first year of seasonal service with the National Park Service this summer. She uses the other nine months of the year to finish degrees in Biomedical Engineering and Biological Anthropology at Northwestern University in Illinois, where everything is crowded, flat, and humid! "I can't believe I ever left the wide open space of the West to begin with!"

David Ryzak has a Bachelor's degree in geology from Michigan Technological University, and 28 years of experience as a mining geologist. This is his first summer working for the National Park Service. "I am really enjoying work as a seasonal park ranger while learning new things every day."

Project Crew - these staff members are constructing the Emigrant Trail on the south end of the Monument, installing signs, working on fencing, and conducting surveys of fossil sites,

requiring a breadth of skills.

Eric Foemmel is beginning his first season with the National Park Service, here at the Fossil Beds. He has previously worked at two Idaho State Parks and one state park in the California Redwoods. Eric is a student at Sierra College where he is pursuing a degree in Parks and Recreation Management.

Jim Miller is a Science teacher at Minico High School in Rupert, Idaho. This is his sixth season at the Fossil Beds. "It's great to be able to come down to work at the Fossil Beds each summer, and it is exciting to explore and hike here."

If you want to apply for a seasonal position at the Monument, call (208) 837-4793 in the fall for an application. The deadline for submitting applications for summer seasonal positions is January 15, 1999.

Volunteers - These staff members contribute their time and talents to the staff by assisting in the field with collection and preparation of fossils; preparing and cataloging collections; and analyzing natural resources.

Bob Lorkowski has returned for his third year to work as a "Geologist-in-the-Park." Previously, Bob investigated the carbonaceous shale strata and described two stratigraphic columns within the Glenns Ferry Formation. This year he is working on the Yahoo Clay. He welcomes the opportunity to practice the science of geology which he teaches in California.

Vicki Murphy is beginning her third year volunteering in the lab. Vicki lives in Boise and commutes every Wednesday weather permitting. Retired, with an accounting background, gives her the patience and detail to clean bones.

Linda Riggins comes to Hagerman from New Mexico where she received her Bachelor's degree from New Mexico State University in December 1997. She is also involved in the "Geologist-in-the-Parks" program at the Monument. Linda hopes to pursue further studies in the field of volcanology and/or isotope geology.



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY RECAP

TRAIL SYSTEM OPENS - National Trails Day on June 6 marked the official opening of the new trail system at the Fossil Beds. Approximately 50 people attended, including 21 horse back riders, numerous hikers, and some mountain bike riders. Most of the participants did the eight mile round trip.

Neil King, Superintendent, recognized the High Desert Back Country Horsemen, the Boy Scouts, Troop 65 of Twin Falls, and Michael Klaus for their work in helping construct the trail in addition to the National Park Service staff and volunteers who were also involved. Neil King also expressed thanks to Gary Chappel of the Hagerman Buyway, Mike Miller of Thousand Things, and the Hagerman Fossil Council, Inc. for their beverage donations to the participants.

In the ceremony, Bob Willhite, Chief Ranger, discussed the trail. He recognized long-time friends, and hoped we would make some new ones in the people who would use this trail system. Don Zuck was acknowledged for his involvement in the Mid-Snake River Recreation Work Group publication, Recreation Opportunities at Risk which addresses the need for

trail systems. Burt Holmes who was one of the early 'movers' in the Hagerman Fossil Council friends group was in attendance. Mike Matthews attended as Senator Craig's representative. Steve Thorson from the South Central Idaho Tourism and Recreation Development Association, Inc. was also in attendance.

THANK YOU!

The Monument is evaluating the possibility of building more trail to make a loop on the Monument. Groups who would like to volunteer their assistance should contact Bob Willhite at (208) 837-4793.

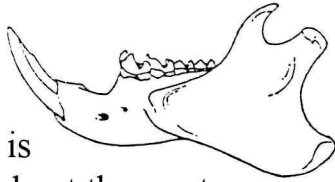
CRITTER CORNER

Hagerman's Giant Marmot

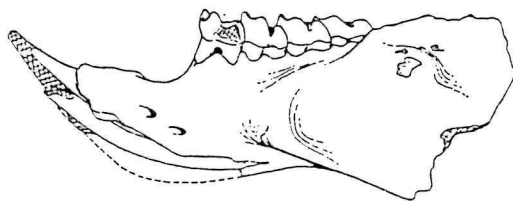
By Dr. Greg McDonald,
Monument Paleontologist

Anyone traveling through southern Idaho has seen them by the side of the road, or often, running across the road playing "chicken" with your car. They are the largest living member of the squirrel family and are known locally

as rockchucks, a western relative of the well known woodchuck or ground hog, who gets national attention every February 2. The rockchuck or yellow-bellied marmot, Marmota flaviventris, is found throughout the western United States and can be found in a variety of environments from desert to mountain.



Many visitors to the area are amazed by the size of the largest of all the ground squirrels, 3.9 kilograms (8.5 pounds) on the average although some individuals will get as large as 5.2 kg (11.5 pounds). Had people been visiting Hagerman Fossil Beds 3.5 million years ago they would have been even more amazed at the size of the fossil marmot, Paenemarmota barbouri, found here.



It was roughly twice the size of our living yellow-bellied marmot.

The giant marmot was first described in 1948 based on a specimen found in Kansas. During the Pliocene, it was widely distributed in western North

America and has also been found in Nebraska, Texas, Arizona and northern Mexico. It was not reported from Hagerman until 1969. The Hagerman record is currently the most northern and western record for the animal.

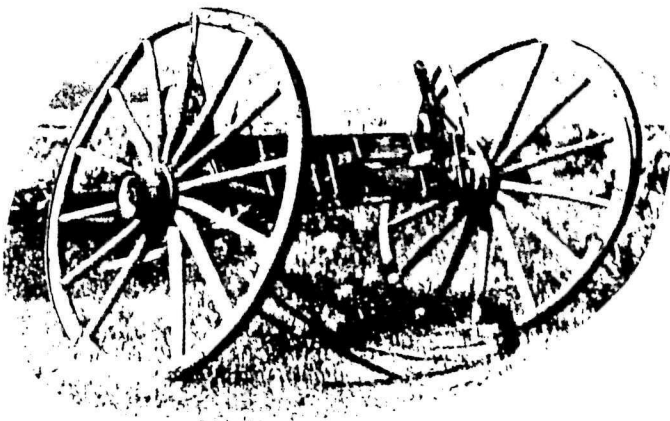
Most of the skeleton of Paenemarmota is unknown and just about all records of the animal are based on lower jaws and a few palates and partial skulls. There are probably lots of bones of Paenemarmota in museum collections, but they have not been recognized. It's not surprising since teeth, skulls and jaws are the most distinctive part of an animal and are the easiest to identify. After an animal dies, unless it is buried quickly, the bones will become separated and scattered once the muscles and ligaments decay. Unless the bones of the skeleton are associated with the skull or jaw a paleontologist might not be absolutely sure that they belong to the same type of animal. This is not a problem unique to Paenemarmota, but to all fossil vertebrates. Unless there is a complete skeleton found, it is difficult for a paleontologist to determine which bones belong together. Often in some cases the bones of different types of animals might be mixed together, or different names may be given to the same animal based on different parts of the skeleton. Both of

these problems have happened in the past but as new and more complete specimens are found, paleontologists are constantly updating our understanding of each species. So who knows, there are probably lots of bones of this animal squirreled away in museum collections, just waiting to be recognized.

NEW TRAIL OPENING

EMIGRANT TRAIL TO OPEN -

Another trail called the Emigrant Trail will be opened for public use on Saturday, August 22, 1998. This is a unique interpretive trail that uses a brochure with wagon journal quotes to give the visitor an opportunity to experience what it might have been like to journey this expansive continent in the mid-1800's.



A short ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. at the Snake River Overlook,

followed by a three mile hike with a Park Ranger. The trail traverses up a peaceful sage-covered canyon and then climbs more steeply to the top of the bluff. The total elevation rise is about 500 feet. The trail is dirt so sturdy hiking shoes are necessary. Hikers should be in good physical condition. There is no drinking water along the route; it is just like the path the Emigrants traveled.

This trail and brochure were made possible by a grant from American Airlines in their Miles for Trails coordination with the National Park Foundation. We thank them for their support. It was constructed by trail contractor Elm Warren, Monument staff and volunteers.

This trail is also open to horseback riders but there is no space for horse trailers at the Snake River Overlook. Instead, horse trailers need to park at the Oregon Trail Overlook (2.5 miles north on Bell Rapids Road). Riders would then travel down the canyon (opposite of the hikers' direction) to the gate where hikers begin. Riders can then retrace their steps and read the wagon quotes in the brochure in the sequence the Emigrants traveled.

To preserve the historic nature of the trail and the Cultural Subzone, bicycles are not permitted on this trail.

Do You Know...

This spring, we presented programs to over 700 students from 22 different schools ranging from as far away as Oxford, Ohio to Ontario, Oregon, as well as Twin Falls, Boise, Oakley, Ketchum, Jerome, and Hagerman, Idaho!

"The elements of primary interest in these parks are of many types. They include some of the greatest known illustrations of magnitude, power, beauty and antiquity. We know that their influence removes us for the moment from the weary routine of the commonplace, and develops an attitude of mind favorable to enjoyment of thought on our greater personal problems."

- John C. Merriam, from "Quotes: Conservation, Parks, Natural Beauty,"
Department of the Interior, 1966

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF TOURS

All tours will begin at the Visitor Center, located along Highway 30, at 9:30, unless otherwise noted. Participants should have sturdy hiking boots, sunscreen, and water. Be prepared for variable weather. You will need your own vehicle which should be able to travel along gravel roads. There are no facilities on the Monument. Arrangements should be made in advance for large groups. Please call (208) 837-4793.

Saturday, July 11

LECTURE SERIES - "Ancient Stone Tools of the Northern Great Basin: A Demonstration and Mini Exhibit" - James Woods, Director of the Herrett Center for Arts and Science, will present a program in the Visitor Center auditorium at 1:00 pm.

Sunday, July 12

HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR - Field crews will be returning to the Summer 1997 excavation site.

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| Friday, July 17 | HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR |
| Saturday, July 18 | HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR |
| Sunday, July 19 | HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR |
| Friday, July 24 | CAMP PLIOCENE - Day camp for children between the ages of 10-12. Students will learn about the science of paleontology, geology, and ecology. Interested participants need to write a one-paragraph letter expressing why they want to come to Camp Pliocene. For more information, call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793. |
| Friday, July 24 | HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR |
| Saturday, July 25 | CAMP PLIOCENE - For more information, call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793. |
| Saturday, July 25 | HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR |
| Sunday, July 26 | HORSE QUARRY EXCAVATION TOUR |
| Friday, July 31 | CAMP PLIOCENE - For more information, call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793. |
| Saturday, August 1 | GEOLOGY AND SCIENCE TALK - 1:00 pm at the Visitor Center. Slide presentation and discussion about the local geology and its influence on the lifestyles of early settlers as well as our lives today. |
| Sunday, August 2 | RIM TO RIVER TRAIL HIKE - New trail system offers panoramic views of the Valley. One way hike is over 2 miles. Shuttle service available. Some stretches are rated easy to moderate. Begins 9:30 am at the Visitor Center. |

- Saturday, August 8 **CAMP PLIOCENE** - For more information, call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793.
- Sunday, August 9 **STAR GAZING** - Begins 8:30 pm at the Visitor Center and proceeds to the Snake River Overlook. Bring your telescopes!
- Friday, August 14 **CAMP PLIOCENE** - For more information, call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793.
- Saturday, August 15 **FIRE ON THE RANGE** - Begins 9:30 am at the Visitor Center. Program will proceed to field for a hands-on look at range fire techniques, management, and fire ecology.
- Sunday, August 16 **SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET** - Living history program begins 10:00 am in the Visitor Center and proceeds to the Horse Quarry. Learn about paleontology then and now!
- Friday, August 21 **CAMP PLIOCENE** - For more information, call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793.
- Saturday, August 22 **CAMP PLIOCENE** - For more information, call Judi Hart at (208) 837-4793.
- Saturday, August 22 **EMIGRANT TRAIL GRAND OPENING** - Experience what it might have been like to travel the Oregon Trail. Ceremony begins at 8:30 am at the Snake River Overlook followed by a hike.
- Sunday, August 23 **MONUMENT BY WATER** - 10:00 am. Bring your canoe or kayak and view the Monument paddling along the Lower Salmon Falls reservoir. Please call 837-4793 for reservations and canoe rental information.

- Saturday, August 29 **GEOLOGY AND CLIMATE HIKE** - Program begins 9:30 am in the Visitor Center and proceeds to the Oregon Trail Overlook. Learn how geology and climate affect our lives.
- Sunday, August 30 **RIM TO RIVER TRAIL HIKE** - New trail system offers panoramic views of the Valley. Begins 9:30 am at the Visitor Center.
- Saturday, September 19 **MONUMENT CLEAN UP** - This is our fourth year! Begins 9:45 am at the Visitor Center. Scout troops, ecology clubs, community organizations and individuals are welcome! Portions of the Monument will be targeted for trash removal.

Trail brochures are available at the Visitor Center or by calling 837-4793.

To provide a unique visitor experience, the National Park Service is cooperating with local outfitters and guides to provide guided boat tours of the Monument along the Snake River. To make a reservation, phone:

Thousand Springs Tours - 837-4822
Idaho Guide Service - 734-4998
High Adventure River Tours - 733-0123
Hagerman Valley Outfitters DBA Adventure Outfitters - 837-6100