

**NEWSLETTER OF THE BIGHORN BASIN
PALEONTOLOGICAL INSTITUTE**

Volume 1: Issue 2

June 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome!

by Jason P. Schein, *Executive Director*

As you learned in the last issue, and as you'll come to appreciate in this one, the **BBPI** jumped into the deep end when it comes to outreach events and opportunities this spring. It was a whirlwind of activities and festivals, but it was a lot of fun for us, and for the more than 3,100 people we served in just a few short months!

While outreach "season" never really ends, it's time to set our sights squarely on the main event: the 2017 Field Expedition, just a few short weeks away.

In any "normal" year, planning and packing for a 3-week, 8-person field expedition is a daunting task. Among the supplies and equipment alone, we have to estimate and acquire every item we *might* need, ship certain items out to Montana ahead of us, and pack the rest. An expedition is a lot more than just tools and buckets, though; there is an enormous amount of logistics, organizing, and planning that goes into it, all with the goal of making the entire complex operation run as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

But this is no normal field season. The 2017 Field Expedition will host around 70 Expedition Crew Members and staff from across the country (and even from "across the pond") for 6 weeks. Most of that time will be spent in wild and rugged landscapes, completely unforgiving of any oversights or miscalculations in our planning. We are often separated from the nearest grocery or hardware store by several hours and many miles of rough, dirt road. This is why we put so much effort into planning. Forgetting just one item can easily be the difference between a successful, productive day, or a day completely wasted, or worse.

This isn't our first rodeo, though, and we're up to the challenge. There's nothing we love more than the adventure and discovery experienced every day in the field. Each and every one of us is counting the days until we're back in Montana.

Join us on that adventure, won't you?!



Exploring Among Giants

The surprising connections between the BBPI and America's greatest explorers.

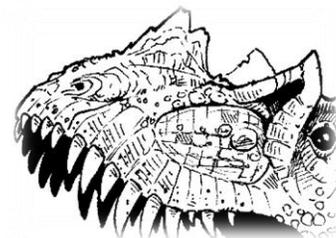
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BBPI Staff Highlight

Dr. Anné: self-diagnosed dino-nerd and the newest professional paleontologist!

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Paleo-art Fun For Everyone!

Original coloring-page illustration by noted artist and BBPI paleontologist, Jason Poole.

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Catching Up

by the BBPI

Maybe the title of this section should be "Catching Our Breath!" To say that we had a busy spring is a bit of an understatement. Besides recruiting and gearing up for the field season, we had our hands full with outreach events across Philly and throughout the region.

Here are just a few of the fun and amazing events we were a part of in the last two months alone.

-  **April 21:** Philadelphia Science Festival (PSF): Kickoff "Prom"!
-  **April 22:** PSF: Science in the Park
-  **April 27:** Dinosaur Education Day at the Mets game in New York with [Field Station: Dinosaurs](#)
-  **April 27:** New York Hall of Science with [Field Station: Dinosaurs](#) and [Monkey Boys Productions](#).



Hundreds of VERY excited kids at the NY Hall of Science.

BBPI Board President, Bill Shankle, at the Philadelphia Science Festival Science Carnival, with two future paleontologists.

 **April 29:** PSF: [Science Carnival](#)

 **May 3:** [Rutgers Geology Museum Annual Open House](#)

It was more than just a busy season – it was also very successful. These events allowed us to engage almost **3,100** people across the region! Not only that, they were excellent opportunities for our brand new organization to get its name "out there." They also have already led to more outreach opportunities and partnerships planned for the fall and beyond!



OPPORTUNITIES?

We'd love to speak to your group about our field opportunities, research, our organization, and our adventures! Feel free to suggest opportunities, or have folks reach out to us.

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BBPI Staff Highlight

by the Jason C. Poole

Academy where she has taught thousands of museum visitors.

Indy pursued paleontology in college, earning a M.S. from Temple, and then a Ph.D. from the University of Manchester (U.K.) working under BBPI Board Vice President, Dr. Phil Manning. Her research on fossilized pathologies, or wounds, is pushing the boundaries of what we ever dreamed possible in paleontology.

Indy has experienced field work around the world, but most often in the northern Bighorn Basin where she has become a very valued part of our BBPI staff and family.

Thanks in large part to all of this hard work and success, Dr. Anné recently landed a great job at the [Children's Museum of Indianapolis](#) where she will continue working with a dynamic and growing paleontology program. No matter where she goes, Indy will be doing amazing things!



You can learn a lot more about Dr. Anné and her research – as well as everyone on staff – on our [website](#).



Jennifer Anné has been obsessed with dinosaurs since I first met her at Dino-Fest Philadelphia in the late 1990s. She later became a summer intern in the Academy of Natural Sciences Fossil Preparation Lab where she excelled at fossil preparation, helping my staff with the delicate preservation of *Suuwassea*, *Paralititan*, and *Dreadnoughtus*, all three of which are type specimens and new to science. "Indy," as she came to be known, also worked in Education at the

OUTREACH



One of the many enthralled visitors at the **BBPI** booth at the Philadelphia Science Festival Carnival.



Guy Gsell of Field Station: Dinosaurs entertaining the crowd at Dinosaur Education Day at the Mets game.

FAST FACTS

2,063 mi

The distance between Philadelphia and Red Lodge, Montana. The Great American Road Trip!

12,525 mi

Estimated total miles driven for the 6-week 2017 Field Expedition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Have anything in mind that you'd like to see in the newsletter? Let us know about it! Message us on Facebook or send an email.

Info@BBPaleo.org

The 2017 Field Expedition

by Jason P. Schein

Not only is the 2017 Field Expedition going to be the longest we've ever held, it will be the most complex, too. That's because this year, for the first time, outreach will be on nearly equal footing with research efforts. Take a look at just *some* of the new projects and initiatives we're launching this summer.

Boys & Girls Club

The **BBPI** has teamed up with the Boys & Girls Club of Carbon County to offer a paleo-themed summer camp, free of charge! The *Dinosaurs Treasures In Our Backyard* program will be led by two of our staff members. Fun, hands-on activities will give the kids an idea of what it is like to be a paleontologist, demonstrate the importance of science in their lives, and teach them about the huge roll their region has played in the history of the science! The older kids will even get to join the expedition in the field on the last day.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF CARBON COUNTY

If you've been keeping in touch with us on [Facebook](#) you know that this program received three separate grant awards in recent weeks, so we're not the only ones that are excited about it!

We hope to expand this program in 2018 and 2019 to hundreds more kids in Boys and Girls Clubs throughout south-central Montana and north-central Wyoming in 2018 and 2019. That means lots more fundraising next fall and spring, but we could also use your help. Consider supporting the **BBPI's** efforts to make this possible.

Make-A-Wish Foundation

It's no secret that just about every kid goes through a dinosaur phase. That's certainly true of Maxwell and Alex, two young boys with leukemia, whose only wish – after beating cancer of course – is to become a paleontologist. We're so honored to be hosting these boys and

their families in the field this summer. We hope to be able to teach them a lot about paleontology, but I'm sure we'll be learning a great deal from them as well.



We plan to offer this experience to Make-A-Wish kids around the country and even the world every year from now on. However, this does not come without cost. Please consider [supporting our efforts](#) so that we can help make these kids' lives just a little bit better.

Social Media Galore!

We have LOTS of plans for social media throughout the field season. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter feeds for daily posts, great photos, and updates on our work. But we have a few other things up our sleeves as well:



 The **BBPI** will be on [Instagram](#)! Yes, technically we already have an account. But the real launch of our Instagram page will be at the end of this month. Be sure to follow us!



 We are planning to host several Live Videos on our Facebook page throughout the season. The first video will be open only to our Members – that's you! Just one way to say 'thank you' again for being a supporter of the **BBPI**. Keep an eye out for announcements about the time and dates of these events.



Be sure to not only follow us, but also ask questions, send comments, and share our posts. Please also encourage your friends and family to follow us – social media is the most effective way for us to reach new supporters!

How You Can Help

by the **BBPI**

Just a quick reminder that there are LOTS of ways you can help the **BBPI**, and many of them don't cost you a dime. We need your help!

Amazon Smile

Be sure to link to our [Amazon Smile account](#). With each purchase, Amazon donates a portion of the proceeds to the BBPI. But don't forget – you still have to

go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) each time you shop for the donation to take effect!

Tell Your Friends!

Our most ardent and effective supporters are you! Tell your friends and family about our organization, and encourage them to become members as well.



Into the Future

by Jason P. Schein

Lesson number one for a new science education-focused nonprofit: late winter through spring is *definitely* event and outreach season. There are so many events, and so much planning that goes into each one, sometimes it seems like there is little time for anything else.

So what comes after outreach season? A little something I call "packing and organizing season." For several weeks, almost every waking hour is spent making sure all of the logistics, supplies, and contingencies are accounted for, crossed off the list, and checked again.

The truth is, though, that outreach never really takes a back seat to anything else we do. In fact, our outreach efforts are *integral* to *everything* we do. Much of our planning for the field season right now involves numerous outreach efforts planned throughout the field season. Soon after we return from the field, we jump right back into a few events that are already planned, while also working with new partner organizations to develop new opportunities.

Here are just a few of the events we have lined up:

- 🕒 **June 17:** [Scout Day at Field Station: Dinosaurs](#)
- 🕒 **June 25:** Start traveling to Montana for the start of the 2017 Field Expedition!
- 🕒 **July 2-Aug 13:** Field Season!
- 🕒 **July 5-7:** *Dinosaur Treasures In Our Backyard* program at the Boys and Girls Club of Carbon County (MT)
- 🕒 **July 16-20:** Make-A-Wish family in the field with us!
- 🕒 **Sept 2:** Super Stars of Science! at [Field Station: Dinosaurs](#)
- 🕒 **Nov 11:** Family Education Day at [Tyler Arboretum](#)



BBPI team member Brittany Malinowski at Field Station: Dinosaur's Scout Day in 2016.



OPPORTUNITIES?

Know of any community events or organization that would be a perfect match for the BBPI? Let us know about them!

Info@BBPaleo.org

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Exploring Among Giants

by Jason P. Schein

One of the most common questions paleontologists get from kids and adults alike is, "What made you want to become a paleontologist?" There are several answers to that question for me, ranging from wonderful memories of weekend fossil-hunting trips with my father, to a love of the outdoors, and even simply never growing out of my dinosaur "phase." All of those answers are certainly true, of course, but there is one that stands out above all the rest. And that is a deep and profound love for the adventure that is the very essence of science itself, but particularly inherent in paleontology.

I doubt it is just coincidence, then, that I've always been equally enthralled with what may be the greatest adventure story in all of American history: Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery. From 1804 to 1806, the Corps crossed the continent, starting in St. Louis, looking for the famed but nonexistent "Northwest Passage." For more than two years, the group – which included a 16-year-old mother with an infant – endured hardships unimaginable to us today, passing through *completely* unknown territory. It has often been said that we knew far more about the moon before going there, than the Corps knew about what was over the next ridge throughout their journey.

What a feeling it must have been for them to lay eyes on vast landscapes and incredible terrains of the unspoiled American West. Being easterners (as everyone was back then), they simply could not fathom the vast tree-lessness of the Great Plains, or that when the Mandan Indians warned them of mountains to the west, they meant *MOUNTAINS*. Their descriptions of endless herds of bison, elk, and antelope defy all sense of scale that most modern ears can comprehend.

Beyond experiencing these wonderful sights for themselves, though, it was not lost on them that they were the first to do so. First to cross the continent on foot, first to make contact with some of the indigenous people, and first to scientifically document more than 300 plants and animals previously unknown to science. What a feeling it must have been to be, with each new step and discovery, the very first!

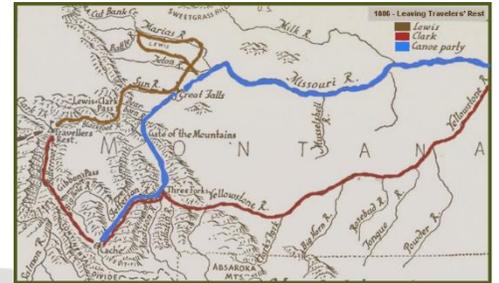
What a thrill it is for me then – as someone who loves paleontology and Lewis and Clark history – to be working quite literally in their footsteps. On the return journey, Lewis and Clark split the team, with Clark taking the southern route down the Yellowstone River. As he travelled, he named many landmarks, including the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone – a river we cross every day on the way to our field sites.

But our connections to the Corps lie at both ends of the expedition. That's because Lewis received his scientific training in Philadelphia before meeting the rest of the Corp in St. Louis. Even more astounding to me is that, our partner institution – the Academy of Natural Sciences – is where many of Lewis and Clark's plant and animal specimens remain today!

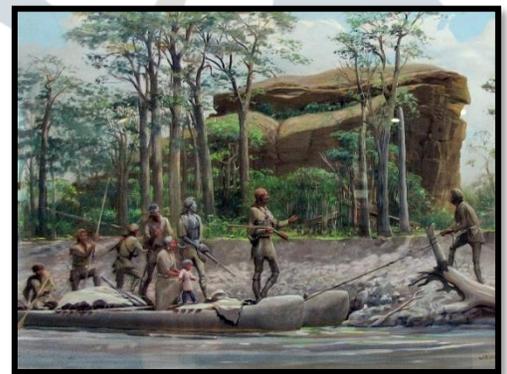
It is often said that each new scientific discovery is made by "standing on the shoulders of giants." In our field that phrase usually refers to the scientists that preceded us. For the **BBPI**, that is certainly the case, but it is equally true that the shoulders we stand on include those of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and the Corps of Discovery. True giants in the fields of exploration and adventure in their purest forms.

It is truly an honor to be doing what we are doing and where we are doing it.

IMAGES OF THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY



The Corps of Discovery in Montana.



Depiction of Clark and company at what is now Pompey's Pillar in eastern MT.



Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea

Who We Are

About Us

The **Bighorn Basin Paleontological Institute** is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to paleontology and earth science research, education, and outreach. We harness the universal appeal of dinosaurs to engage people of all interest levels and backgrounds to conduct and promote the natural sciences. The greatest strengths of the institution lie in our seamless integration of collaborative scientific research, educational programming, and world-class, immersive citizen science experiences.

The **BBPI** seeks to be a world-class center of paleontological research and education, and an important resource for paleontologists, natural scientists, and citizen scientists seeking to more fully understand and interpret the natural world.

Our Mission

*The **Bighorn Basin Paleontological Institute** seeks to collaboratively study, actively preserve, and dynamically interpret the paleontological treasures of the Bighorn Basin and the surrounding region, as well as to promote paleontology and the natural sciences to life-long learners, wherever they may be.*

Our Ethos

We believe that science is an adventure - an adventure in exploration and discovery. There is no more fundamentally human or important endeavor than to explore.

We believe that science has the power to inspire the global community, and that all children - fueled by endless imagination and insatiable curiosity - are inherently natural scientists.

We believe that science is exquisitely capable of asking and answering questions about the natural world, revealing the universe's fundamental truths. As such, we believe that science and reason are the best tools for addressing and solving the world's most pressing problems.

We believe that scientific discovery builds on the findings of other scientists. We believe that scientists have no greater responsibility than to communicate their work, sharing their discoveries to inspire others in the pursuit of knowledge.

We believe in the power of science.



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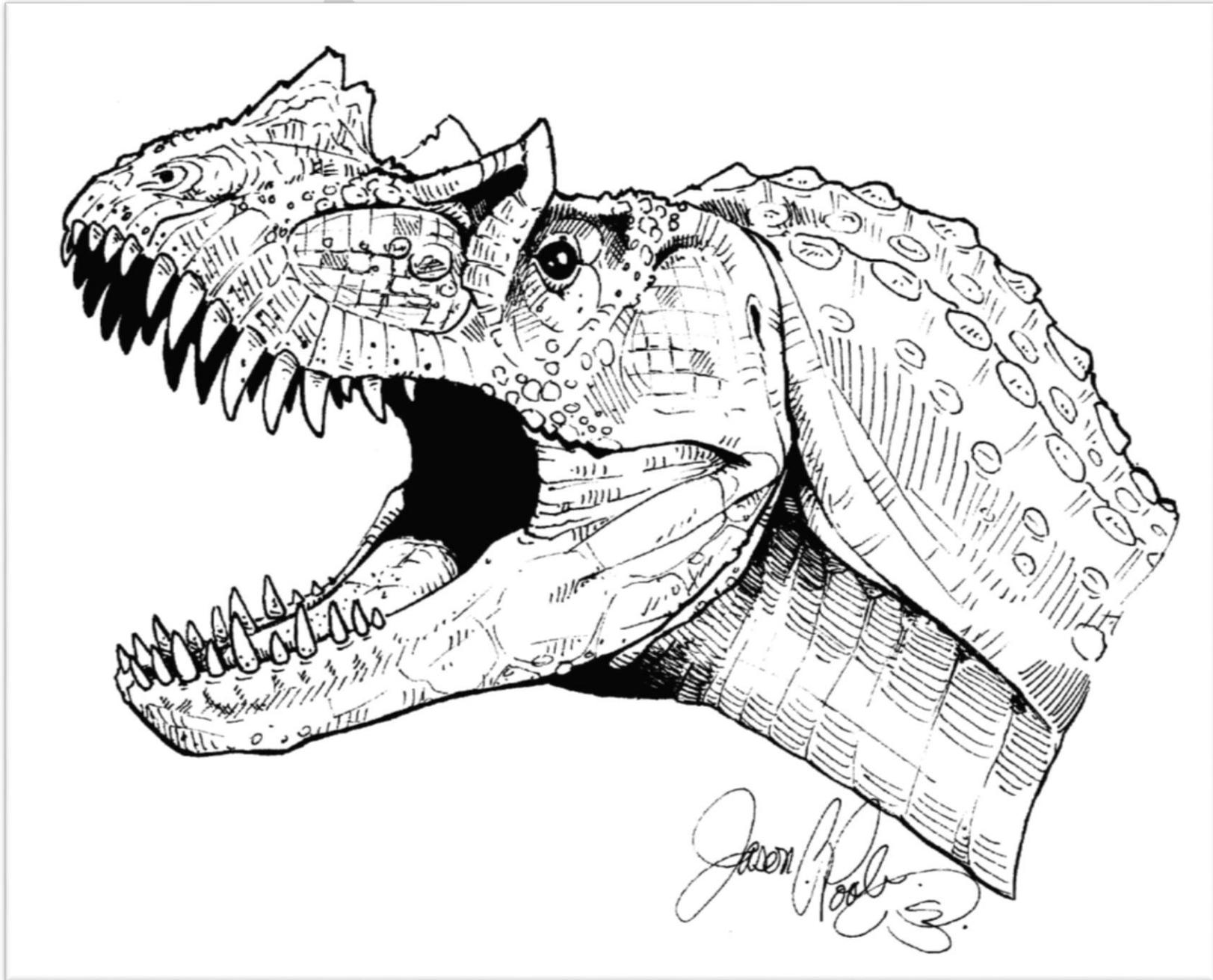
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YouTube

Paleo-art Fun For Everyone!

Have a blast coloring the dinosaur! The color of dinosaurs is one of the most exciting subjects in paleontology research right now, but we still don't know exactly what they looked like. Use your imagination and ask your parents to share what you come up with on our [Facebook page!](#)



Ceratosaurus [sih-RAT-uh-SAWR-us] is a large theropod dinosaur from the late Jurassic Period (145 million years ago). It is found in Tanzania, Portugal, and in western North America. No one has found it as far north as Montana yet, but there's a good chance the **BBPI's** paleontologists could find it near where we excavated *Suuwassea*.