

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends

From: Cheri

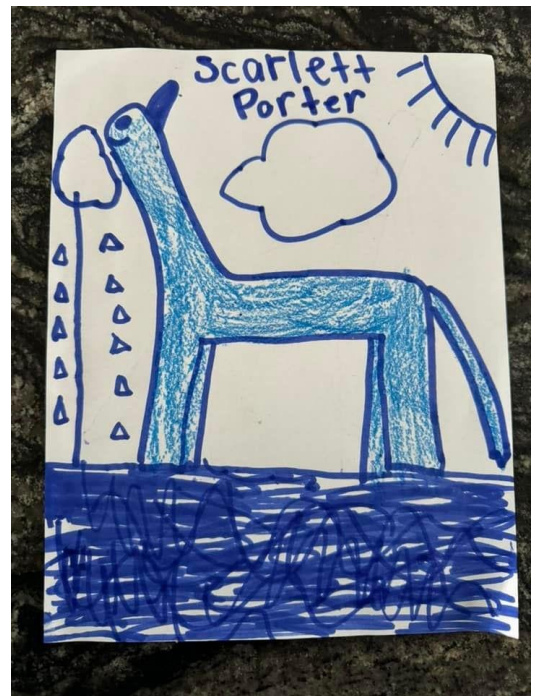
Date: February 3, 2024

Re: Dragon bones or dinosaurs?!

Fossils are evidence of past life preserved in the rocks of the Earth's crust. Most fossils consist of bones or shells of animals or the leaves or woody parts of plants. Fossils are found in sedimentary rocks, like limestone and shale. Northern Michigan is a wonderful hunting ground for marine fossils from the times that Michigan was under a shallow ocean.



*This ray-finned fish fossil skeleton drawn by Gary Schik for Raven Hill's 2018 Visions Project reminds us how intriguing fossils can be. We look forward to the **Under Michigan and Beyond** exhibit coming soon to the Center.*



January 30th was "National Draw a Dinosaur Day" and Raven Hill invited people to draw and submit their dinosaur picture. Scarlett Porter sent us her drawing! Excellent job, Scarlett. No one needs to wait until January 30, 2025, to send us a drawing. We would love to see your own or others' artwork anytime.

Paleontology is the study of the fossil record left behind by living organisms to better understand the history of life on Earth. As far back as 570 BCE (formerly BC), scholars were studying and writing about marine fossils. The ancient Chinese called dinosaur bones **dragon bones**. Dinosaur bones got buried in mud or clay and slowly turned into rock preserving them for people to study. However, the legends of dragons continue to spark our imagination and fantasy.



Comparing feet. T. rex wins!



A T. rex had feet over three feet long, but their footprints were smaller, because they walked on their toes! Its pace was 12 to 15 feet between steps. You can measure your pace at the Pacing Station in the Connections Trail next time you visit.

A paleontologist connects the fields of biology and geology. Biologists study living things. Geologists study the Earth's structure, the forces that act on it and its history, including animals that lived long ago. Mary Anning was an 19th century English paleontologist and fossil collector. She is well-known for her discoveries of Jurassic marine fossils.

Paleoartists illustrate the newest scientific discoveries about dinosaurs and other life from the past. This type of art is called paleoart and it helps us envision what living things looked like before man appeared. Fossils and paleo art will both be part of the upcoming "in house" exhibit for 2024-25 called **Under Michigan and Beyond**. The exhibit will explore the rocks and minerals that make up Earth, how rocks and minerals are processed for use and how they benefit us in our everyday life. Fossils will play a featured role in the exhibition and we would love to include **your** paleoart as part of the exhibit. More tantalizing tidbits about **Under Michigan and Beyond** will appear in future updates. The exhibition is scheduled to open on Memorial Day weekend of 2024 and remain open throughout 2025.

Exciting things keep happening at Raven Hill Discovery Center. Come check us out now and then plan to come back to see our new exhibit when it is up and running! In the meanwhile, think about what paleoart or **dragon bone** drawing you might want to submit for this exciting new **Under Michigan and Beyond** exhibition.

Have a wonderful week! *Cheri*



Speaking of drawing dinosaurs. Artist Kelly Boyle created these dinosaur panels for the Connections Trail. You can measure your height compared to one of our dinosaurs. Because our Jurassic friends are half their real height, you must squat down and make yourself half your height to compare yourself to them!