

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

To: Raven Hill friends

From: Cheri

Date: February 1, 2025

Re: *The cutting edge*

This week, we would like to introduce KanCut, the newest member of our outdoor Jurassic Park pathway. Raven Hill's **Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park** exhibit is sprinkled with real trees and fossils, as well as sculptures of extinct species. It shows the progression from the time our Earth formed through modern humans with each distinct geologic time period highlighted. Kannemeyeria was a synapsid that lived in the same prehistoric world as the early dinosaurs. Synapsids are reptiles, but not actually dinosaurs. Dinosaurs later became birds, while synapsids became mammals!

Mechanical Kannemeyeria



*Fossilized Shingle Cutter—KanCut—soon to be displayed in the Jurassic Park display at Raven Hill. So, is this a tool or a Triassic survivor? You decide!*

*Kannemeyeria*



*Kannemeyeria, as illustrated in The **MacMillan Illustrated Encyclopedia of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Animals**, a visual Who's Who of prehistoric life by Dickson, Cox, Savage and Gardiner and published by the American Museum of Natural History*

As a stocky, beaked herbivore from the Triassic Period, Kannemeyeria may be nature's original cutting tool. Long before humans invented blades and tools, prehistoric creatures had built-in cutting power. With its strong, flat jaws, this ancient grazer sliced through tough prehistoric plants, just like modern shingle cutters slice through roofing materials trimming them cleanly and efficiently! Today's cutters appeared in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, increasing the ease and precision of cutting asphalt shingles. Kannemeyeria and shingle cutters are two entirely different things, but they both rely on the same powerful slicing motion.



### Facial features



Can you see it?! Top to bottom: Orange crest, white eye, purple mouth and orange tongue!

Both Kannemeyeria and the modern shingle cutter have a broad, flat front and a sturdy build. Known for its powerful body, strong legs, and beaked mouth, Kannemeyeria was a tough, resilient creature, slow-moving but solid, just like a prehistoric shingle cutter! We like to think of “KanCut,” our shingle cutter as a modern-day Kannemeyeria, a mechanical descendant of an ancient Triassic reptile. Each is a tool of its environment—one a prehistoric grazer and the other a practical hand tool.

Raven Hill Discovery Center is open during the winter for regular weekend hours, which are noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. To make an appointment for weekdays or other times, call 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org). Bring your family, friends and relatives out to enjoy a fun time of discovery and exploration. Raven Hill is the perfect place for the family to visit, take a class, learn something new and relieve the boredom of winter! Remember also that the **Under Michigan & Beyond** exhibition remains on display during regular hours and other times by appointment. Finally, next Saturday is February 8<sup>th</sup>, so join us for **FREE Second Saturday** from noon to 4pm! FREE means “Families Reaching for Educational Excellence,” so it is free admission for families only! No groups, please.

### Shingle cutter



Triassic Trimmer, aka a shingle cutter!

### Cheri

### Dimetrodon



*Kannemeyeria and Dimetrodon did not exist at the same time. They were separated by millions of years and lived in completely different prehistoric worlds. Dimetrodon was a distant cousin of Kannemeyeria! It lived long before Kannemeyeria ever existed.*

### Thanks to our recent volunteers:

- Jean for helping to pack donated basketmaking materials.
- Nancy for watching the Center one Sunday afternoon.
- Daniel for fixing the torso and Skittles pin.
- Glenn for making and donating a 3-legged stool.
- Dave for making a collapsible 3-legged stool and for creating the historical doors for the Evolving Technology Building.
- Marcia and Daniel for helping with FREE 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in January.
- The Board of Directors for their ongoing support to keep the Center running.

(My apologies if I have forgotten anyone!)

If you are interested in checking out our volunteer opportunities, you are welcome to join us here at Raven Hill on Monday, March 10 at 11am for a potluck and some social time. Email [cheri@miravenhill.org](mailto:cheri@miravenhill.org) if you are coming!