

Classifieds

The Beebe News *Classifieds/Deadline for the week is Monday at 3 p.m.*
Call 501-882-5414 to place your ad.

\$15.00 (30 wds. or less) line ads plus 0.25cents per wd. over 30. Cash, check or credit/debit card! Legal line ads are \$1.00 per word. Extra chg. for caps & bold.

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February 21-March 3, 2025 - 11 days/10 nights - \$2575

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March 3-5, 2025 - 3 days/2 nights - \$525

Ozark Mountain Getaway: Train ride and Sight and Sound Theater Branson
April 25-26, 2025 - 2 days/1 night - \$430

Texas Outback Sip and Safari: Fredericksburg wineries and open-air Safari
May 11-15, 2025 - 5 days/4 nights - \$985

Sailing & the Sound of Music: Von Trapp Family Lodge in Vermont and Cape Cod
May 30- June 10, 2025 - 12 days/11 nights - \$2550

Peak of Adventure: Rocky Mountains, Pikes Peak, Cog Railway, Rio Grande River Float
June 10-17, 2025 - 8 days/7 nights - \$1875

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History Minute Dinosaurs

By Dr. Ken Bridges - Professor of History, South Arkansas Community College
South Arkansas Historical Preservation Society
kbridges@southark.edu

Dinosaurs have been extinct for many millions of years, but they still fuel the imaginations of many people today. Dinosaurs came in all shapes and sizes. Some flew, others swam, and others were massive creatures weighing thousands of pounds. They dominated the landscape between 240 million and 65 million years ago. Dinosaurs even lived in ancient Arkansas, but it was an Arkansas very different from today.

The first dinosaur bone was discovered in 1677 by scientist Robert Plot in England. Many more discoveries followed. It was not until 1824 that English paleontologist William Buckland wrote the first scientific paper on the discovery of a jawbone of what he called a megalosaurus that dinosaurs received their scientific name and became a field of scientific study.

Remains of creatures predating the dinosaurs by millions of years have been found across the state. Fossilized remains of ancient sharks from the age of the dinosaurs as well as shark teeth have also been found in the state. Most dinosaur remains and footprints in the state have been found in an area called the Holly Creek Formation in Howard County, a formation dating back to the Cretaceous Era (approximately 143-65 million years ago). In that era, most of the familiar features of the state did not yet exist. The Ouachita Mountains were only foothills, rivers such as the Arkansas and Mississippi would not cut their way across America for millions more years, and much of southern and eastern Arkansas was under water, leaving many parts of South-Central Arkansas as beachfront property at different points. The decay of vegetation in the shallower areas of this sea-

ward the end of this marine era allowed the formation of oil in what became the ten southern-most counties of Arkansas over the ensuing eons. Much of the area of Texas, Oklahoma, portions of Colorado and New Mexico, and most of the Great Plains north into Canada to the Arctic Ocean was part of a great sea that geologists now call the Western Interior Seaway.

In Arkansas, only a handful of species of dinosaurs are believed by paleontologists to have existed in the area. Among them, Plesiosaurs apparently swam in the shallow seas around what became the Ouachita Mountains, and their remains have been found as far south as Antarctica. There were several different types of plesiosaurs, and sizes discovered range from 5 feet long to almost 50 feet long. These were large predators who spent their entire lives swimming and hunting in the sea.

Footprints of the giant dinosaur Sauroseidon have been found the state. This dinosaur was a large plant eater. It lived about 118-110 million years ago. It was a massive creature, about 60 feet tall and 90 feet long, with an extremely long neck. They weighed as much as 55 tons. Remains of the Sauroseidon have been found in Texas and Southeast Oklahoma.

The Arcocanthesaurus also lived in Cretaceous-era Arkansas. This was a powerful predator, similar to the famed Tryannosaurus rex, which also ran on its hind legs. The Arcocanthesaurus lived 113-110 million years ago. Remains have been found in portions of Southeast Oklahoma, East Texas, and as far as North Carolina. These creatures had spines along their backs, were 13 feet high and 39 feet long, and weighed about 6 tons. Re-

mains similar to this dinosaur have been found in Southwest Arkansas, but more study of the remains needs to be done before a positive identification can be made.

The Arkansaurus was discovered by J. B. Friday in a gravel pit near Lockesburg in Sevier County in 1972. Dr. James Harrison Quinn of the University of Arkansas assembled the fragments of foot bones that were found in 1973. ReBecca Hunt-Foster added to Quinn's work in 2018, with research suggesting that the Arkansaurus in some ways resembled a modern ostrich but much larger, perhaps 15 feet long and weighing 300 pounds, living about 100-140 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. To date, this is the most complete set of dinosaur remains found in Arkansas.

Fossilized footprints of dinosaurs have been found in several areas of the state. One notable set was found in 1983 preserved in limestone near a gypsum mine near Nashville. These footprints were along the ancient shoreline of approximately 100 million years ago. Another set was found near this location in 2011.

The age of the dinosaurs ended abruptly approximately 65 million years ago when an asteroid impact in the Yucatan Peninsula area caused a global mass extinction event, wiping out half of all animal species on Earth, including all dinosaur species. Today, the fascination with dinosaurs continues. In 2017, the Arkansas legislature, in a move led by Sen. Greg Leding of Fayetteville, chose the Arkansaurus as the state's official dinosaur. Arkansas was the ninth state to so designate an official dinosaur species.

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