THE AMAZING DINO ADVENTURE

by Ed Dvorak, President and Dinosaur Hunter Extraordinaire! Photos courtesy of Ed Dvorak

On July 31, 2014, I teamed up with Brian Birdsall from Washington state to go on a Dino trip. We went to Baisch's Dinosaur Digs near Glendive, Montana. There we met up with Marge, the ranch owner, and Jerry, the on-site paleontologist. After about two hours of collecting petrified wood, we took a break. Marge told us that over by that tree up on the hill would be a good place to search for great wood.

Crawling up a gully, we spotted something strange sticking out of the bank. It was a different color and shape from the rest of the landscape. A closer look showed small porous holes all over. Did we find some bone? We did a little digging, and yes, it was bone, and it kept going deeper into the bank. We decided then to get an expert's opinion. We went and got Jerry the paleontologist to check out our find. He said it was definitely dinosaur bone, but didn't know what kind without more digging to uncover the back of the bone. He then asked Brian and me how long we would be staying. Why did he want to know?

Jerry went to find Marge, bringing her back to check out our find. We told her that we wished there were a lot of bones in the bank that we could uncover! Marge told us to be very careful of what we wish for. To this point in time, the last dino find has taken three years to uncover - and they are still digging!

Marge and Jerry had a talk, and Marge said we could come back the next day to continue digging. Jerry said this is the first time Marge allowed this to happen, so Brian and I felt very special.

On August 1, we went back to the dig site. After removing about 2 cubic yards of dirt, we had all of the bone exposed. The bone was laying on top of sediment from a stream bed or it was washed ashore.

Underneath the bone was gravel and fine silt. When Jerry came back, he brought with him another paleontologist and they both agreed that we had a tibia bone from a duckbilled dinosaur (*Edmontosaurus*) about 68 millon years old.

Jerry showed us how to put on a cast over the bone and, when it was dry, we rolled it over onto an old army stretcher. With the help of friends we carried the bone cast down the hill and put in Jerry's pickup box. Marge said we could have the bone after all the work we'd done in such a short time. I had no room to take the bone home, but Brian did. The bone is now in the state of Washington.

Check one item off "My Bucket List."

(Continued on page 7)



Ed and Brian



THE AMAZING DINO ADVENTURE - CONT'D

(Continued from page 6)



Ed showing the length of the bone



Rolling the bone onto a stretcher







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