



“Thinking Outside the Box” - a Novel Solution to Site Access:

A unique collaboration provides new educational, research and publication opportunities

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WHO WE ARE: The Lauer Foundation acquires, curates and provides permanent access to the Foundation’s collections of scientifically important paleontological specimens and provides educational outreach programs to schools. The collection is available for scientific research, publication, exhibition and educational outreach. Our mission: Curate, Collaborate and provide Educational Opportunities to advance Science. (<https://www.lauerfoundationpse.org>)

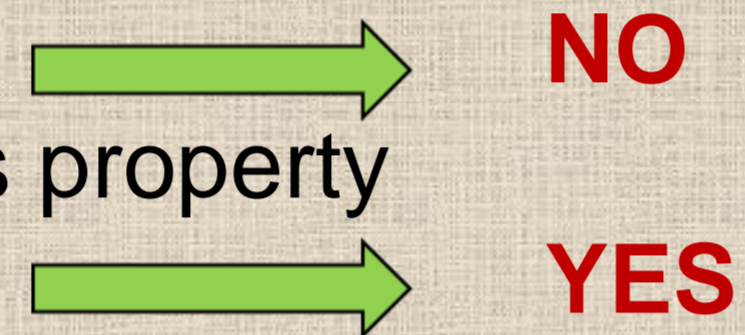
THE PROBLEM:

Paleontologists have limited access to fossil sites for student fieldwork training, collection of materials and use in research and publications. Fossil deposits are largely inaccessible on private or public lands.

THE OPPORTUNITY:

A commercial fossil dealer offered to sell us his collection of Triassic microvertebrate fossils, believed to be scientifically important. The fossils were collected on his private property.

His second offer – to sell his collection AND his property so it could be used for educational purposes.....



Private Property & Fossil Collection

Microvertebrate Fossils

Late Triassic



THE SOLUTION:

We realized that with the right institutional partners both the collection AND the property could provide a solution.



Education
• Field Training
• Lab Training

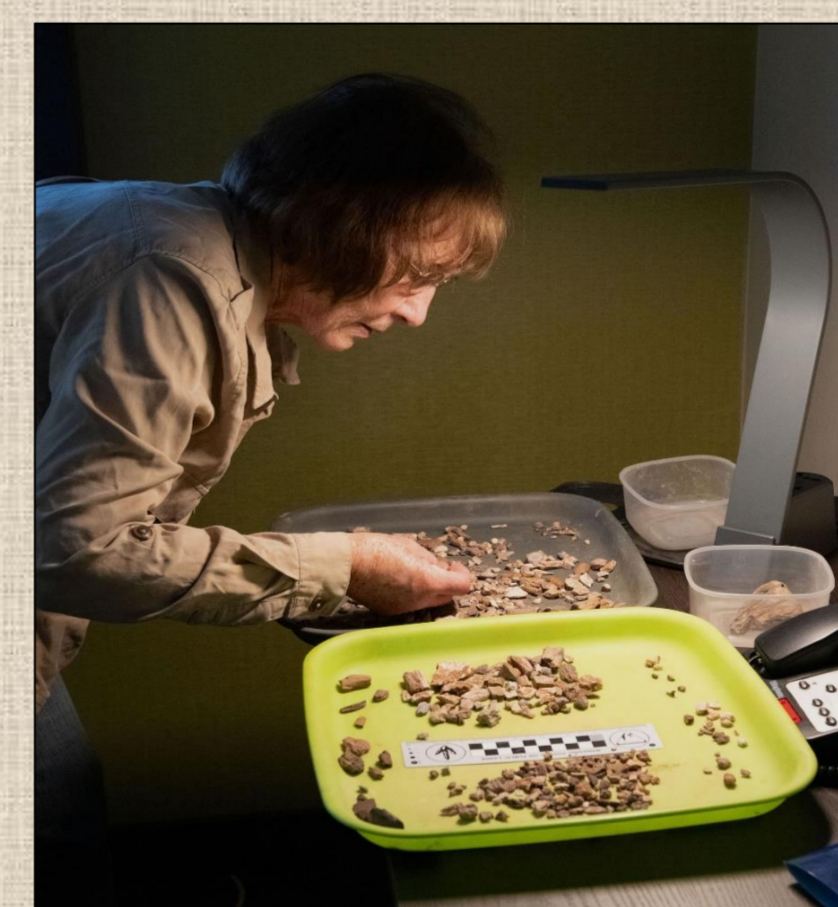
Collect Specimens

Science
• Research
• Publications

THE PROCESS: RISK/BENEFIT ANALYSIS:

Site Visits & Evaluation

Inspect Collection



Who could benefit from access to the property and fossil collection?

We assembled a team of Partner Institutions:

- With expertise in Triassic fossils
- Scientific publications
- Who committed to use the site and collection for educational purposes.

Verify Property Ownership & Title

Legal Agreements

- Sales Agreement;
- Updated the Foundation By-Laws
- Establishment of an LLC to purchase the property by the Foundation
- Legally purchased property

Insurance, Liability, Safety and Security of Students/Staff

Memorandum of Understanding

An agreement was drafted and signed by each institution. The agreement addresses these concerns and details the responsibility of each institution.

RESULTS:

- The property and fossil collection serves undergraduates, graduates, PhD students and staff from Appalachian State University, Virginia Tech University and the NHM-UK.
- Students have used their research for SVP talks and posters.
- The data obtained through our agreement provided new fossil records from a poorly known stratigraphic interval in New Mexico.



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