

The Discovery of "Sandy" the World's Only Partial Skeleton of *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis*

□ It was an unusually cold and windy day on June 5, 1994. Mike Triebold was out exploring for dinosaurs on private land in South Dakota when a few unusual vertebrae weathering out of a high ridge caught Mike's eye. He had searched this ridge on three separate occasions over a three-year period but this was the first time he had seen anything of interest. He and his team began digging back and soon uncovered many odd, knobby pieces of bone. By the end of the second day they realized that they had something amazing. For two weeks they continued to dig back by hand; but the specimen was disarticulated and they realized that they needed to bring in the heavy equipment to remove the high ridge wall. They continued to excavate the site for the rest of the summer. When they began preparing the bones that winter it became apparent that they had discovered the first partial skeleton of *Pachycephalosaurus wyomingensis*. They nicknamed the specimen "Sandy." Previously the only material of this dinosaur was a complete skull found by the American Museum of Natural History in 1943, in Carter County, Montana.

□ Mike worked with the famous Paleontologist Dr. Dale Russell to study and evaluate the find. Some argued that the skeleton was not of *Pachycephalosaurus* but of another dinosaur known as *Stigimoloch*. After analyzing the American Museum specimen Dale and Mike observed that the skull of Sandy and the AMNH specimen matched knob for knob with the exception of the larger horns in the rear of the skull. From this they concluded that the AMNH skull was a larger female and Sandy was probably a smaller male.

□ Sandy's bones were molded and cast and the skeleton was restored. Casts of Sandy's skeleton have been sold or donated to over 35 museums across the world. Even though the skeleton was found over 10 years ago, this will be first time the original bones have been on display for the general public to see and appreciate.