

## May 25-26, 2003

# Collecting the Eocene Green River Formation for fossil leaves

This was more of a family trip. We left on Sunday night and drove all of the way out to our campsite. We slept out under the stars and enjoyed the view thoroughly. The only problem was that the girls got a little ansy when the coyotes started howling. We ended up collecting more than we had room to bring home in two vehicles so it was a very fun and successful trip. We picked a hot day to be out there. It was in the upper 90's and the Black Gnats were out in force. We also call them "no-seeums" They are nearly impossible to keep away from you. We participated on a previous trip out here last fall. We were working on building the collections of two institutions, The Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and the Utah Field House. Part of the project was to collect enough square feet of fossils and rock to make an entire wall in the new museum in Vernal. I beleive it will be done in 2004. Here is a link to some information at [www.paleocurnets.com](http://www.paleocurnets.com) about that trip. [Green River Fossil Excavation in Bonanza, UT October 10-15, 2002](#)

One of the cold hard facts about collecting fossils, at least the places where we collect them, is that you have to dig for them, literally.





Then you get to rest... kind of.



Then you dig some more. Everyone got in this picture except for my sister Dana. Top left is Mom, bottom right is Pete, Dana's husband. Above him is my sister Carrie and her boyfriend Jeff.



The view is nice. The white hills contain the Parachute Creek Member of the Green River Formation.



A few of the leaves that we found are contained in the following pictures.

Starting with *Macginitiea wyomingensis*



We also found a few nice *Populus wilmattae*



And a bunch of other odds and ends that I don't know the names of very well.



A few of the locals came out to see what was going on.



The only shade for 5 miles. My dog Roxy, caught in a yawn, and Jeff found it for lunch.



Packing for the trip home. All of the big stuff goes on the bottom. Notice the head protection. We cover our ears with T-shirts and towels to protect ourselves from the Black Gnats. We are convinced that Black Gnat or "no-see-ums" were one of the plagues of Egypt. They can be unbearable at times.

