



VAIL AMERICA DAYS™

AMERICA DAYS PARADE
Golden Peak to Lionshead Village
10am - 12:30pm

LIVE MUSIC & ACTIVITIES
Lionshead Village Bus Stop
10 - 10:50am Skin the Rabbit
12 - 1:00pm Skin the Rabbit
1:45 - 3:00pm Bourbon Brass Band

Vail Village, between Solaris and International Bridge
12 - 1:45pm Brothers of Brass
2:15 - 3:00pm Guerilla Fan Fare

Ford Park
12 - 2:00pm HAATS Blackhawk Landing

The Amp
2pm Patriotic Concert



FIREWORKS
Vail Mountain
9:45pm Fireworks

VISIT [DISCOVERVAIL.COM/4TH](https://discovervail.com/4th) FOR ALL THE DETAILS & UPDATES



Betty Ford Alpine Gardens is hosting dinosaur exhibit

Education Center hosts family scavenger hunts, dino digs as well as speakers this summer

Vail Daily staff report
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From May 2024 through April 2025, Betty Ford Alpine Gardens is hosting the Dinosaurs Among Us exhibit which highlights some of the birds who are modern day ancestors of the dinosaurs that went extinct millions of years ago. Organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the exhibit showcases the evolutionary legacy that lives on today.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Gardens has invited speakers to educate the public about dinosaurs from two unique perspectives. “We are thrilled to have these captivating experts present throughout the summer,” says operations and sustainability manager Ellen Lorenz. “Dinosaurs fascinate people of all ages and backgrounds, so we are really looking forward to hosting local dinosaur expert Billy Doran and Dr. Gussie Maccracken!”

On July 1 from 4 to 6 p.m., Doran will give a presentation called “Dinosaurs of Eagle County” which will focus on the species that inhabited the Vail Valley. Doran is the Executive Director of the Museum at Dinosaur Junction in Edwards, which features exhibits that cover Eagle County’s comprehensive 200 million-year history from the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods. He is also the founder of Fossil Posse Adventures in Wolcott – a camp that introduces kids to the wonders of fossil hunting and celebrating its tenth anniversary this year.

For those interested in dinosaur diets, Dr. Maccracken – assistant curator of Paleobotany at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science – will present “What Did the Dinosaurs Eat?” on July 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. Dr. Maccracken’s research focuses



BETTY FORD ALPINE GARDENS/COURTESY PHOTO

Local dinosaur expert Billy Doran of The Museum at Dinosaur Junction will be the featured speaker at the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens Dinosaurs Among Us exhibit on July 1.

on reconstructing ancient landscapes to understand how ecosystems rebuild after mass extinctions and climate change. Lorenz adds that while Doran’s presentation will be enticing for families with younger kids, Dr. Maccracken’s discussion is geared towards adults and older children.

In addition to the speaker series, the Gardens is offering interactive dinosaur-related options for families at the Education Center including the Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt and the Excavation Station. “Watching kids learn through sensory engagement is exciting and we hope these activities continue to draw visitors to the Gardens who are interested in dinosaur evolution,” Lorenz notes.

The Dinosaur Scavenger Hunt, which is available from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily, entails finding dino clues throughout the Gardens to discover a secret fact about the relationship between Tyrannosaurus Rex and birds. Those who want to post up like a real paleontologist can visit the Excavation Station – a sand pit under a tent that features dinosaur bones to dig up – between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. each day. For more information, visit BettyFordAlpineGardens.org/Exhibits/.



Billy Doran, local paleontologist and dinosaur hunter, will introduce the lesser-known dinosaur history of Eagle County, emphasizing the species that lived here during the Mesozoic Era.

Doran is the Executive Director and Founder of the Museum at Dinosaur Junction in Edwards.

Tickets are \$20 | \$10 for children | Light refreshments provided
Purchase online at bettyfordalpinegardens.org.



VISIT BETTY FORD ALPINE GARDENS EDUCATION CENTER
IN VAIL'S FORD PARK - OPEN DAILY 10AM - 4PM

For all event information visit us at bettyfordalpinegardens.org or call (970) 476-0103