

## Agatized Dino Bone

### Jewelry connecting us with the distant past

Dinosaurs roaming the earth always seem to fire the imagination. As we learn more about them and the era they lived in, it seems our fascination only continues to increase. Dinosaurs have been immortalized in books and film both as scary monsters and as cuddly friends. While there was an understanding that fossils existed, it wasn't until the 19th century that scientists began to collect them and try to gain a better understanding of how they formed. That early rush to find fossils resulted in one of the more bizarre stories of scientific rivalry.

Othniel Charles Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope were acquaintances in the heady early days of fossil exploration. Cope was the son of wealthy Quakers and well educated, while Marsh grew up in poverty until he persuaded his rich uncle to build the Peabody Museum of Natural History, with him at its helm. The trouble started when Cope invited Marsh to come dig for fossils at his marl pits in New Jersey. Although all seemed to go well during the trip, Marsh secretly

bribed the pit operators to divert future fossil finds to him instead of Cope!

I think its safe to say that Cope was not pleased and the relationship devolved into a bitter race to see who could discover the most new specimens. At one point Marsh humiliated the academic Copes by pointing out his recon-

struction of a dinosaur had the head placed on the wrong end!

While a fascinating story, I'm not sure its related enough to gem dino bone to devote more space to it. Stone throwing, personal attacks, and destruction of competition's specimens – the stories go on for decades until both men end up old and minus . For in depth information do a search for the bone wars.

Most bone fossils are created when groundwater percolates through bones and leaves behind calcite and silicates in the open pores and cell structure. A very small percentage of dinosaur fossils go through a natural process where the mineralized fossil is replaced by chalcedony, or agate. The agate can occur in a variety of colors just like any other agate. While reddish brown is the most common, we have worked with white, gold, red, green, blue, brown and black. Many pieces consist of multiple colors in the same specimen. The most striking specimens have a strong pattern from the marrow and different colors for the outline and the interior of the pattern.

While dinobone can be found over much of the world, the highest concentrations are found in the Morrison Formation of Colorado and Utah. According to Wikipedia it was "*named after Morrison, Colorado, where the first fossils in the formation were discovered by Arthur Lakes in 1877. That same year, it became the center of the Bone Wars, a fossil-collecting rivalry between early paleontologists Othniel Charles Marsh and Edward Drinker Cope*". So it turns out there is a connection after all!

**Dinobone and Cognac diamond set in yellow gold ring \$2850**

**Dinobone, yellow and white gold with diamond and ruby accent earrings \$1200**

**Dinobone, 18KT yellow gold and Silver pendant \$1200**

**Five stone dinobone bracelet in sterling silver \$2000**



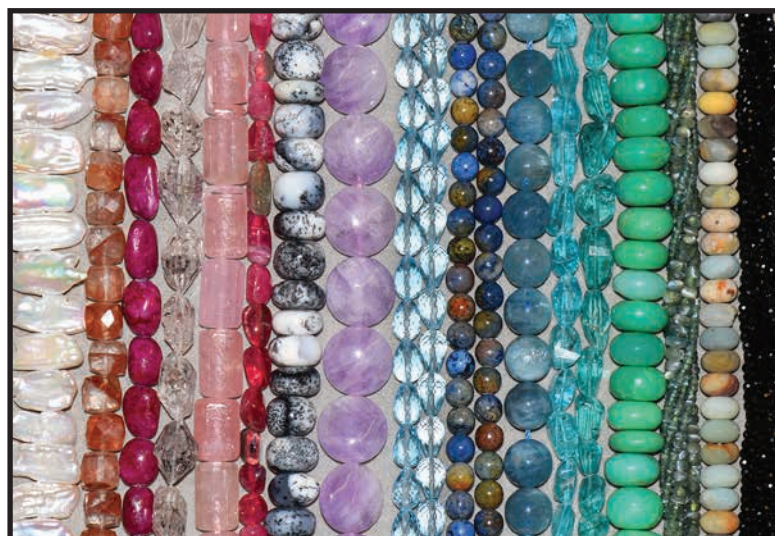
# Fall Bead Sale!

Come in **October 3-6**  
and all strands of beads will be

**50% OFF**

the single strand price  
regardless of quantity!

*Buy 5 strands at once, anytime before  
the sale and get 40% OFF!*



## Holiday Class

Start a tradition by making an ornament  
gift this year! Offered on Saturday,  
November 24 for \$105 and open to  
anyone who has taken Silversmithing 1.

If you haven't taken Silversmithing yet,  
you should! Silversmithing 1 is offered  
four times this quarter.

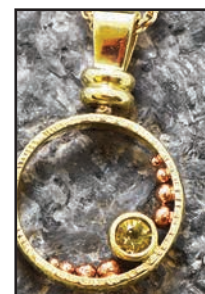
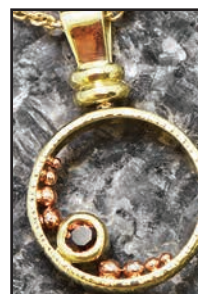
## Featured Jewelry



**Blue Zircon  
Earrings**  
4 ctw zircons and  
0.32ctw diamonds in  
18KT gold - \$1980

### Chrysoprase Ring

Set with rubies in 14KT  
rose gold - \$1150



### Reversible Pendant

If you have a keepsake wedding band,  
we can use it in a design like this!  
Sapphire & garnet in yellow and rose  
gold 18KT/14KT - \$1740