

Dinosaurs! Dinosaurs!

12 lifelike creatures once again draw crowds to Cranbrook

By Philip A. Sherman
staff writer

The first thing you'll see when you round the corner of the Dinosaurs! Dinosaurs! exhibit at Cranbrook's Institute of Science is the Malasaara, the "good mother reptile."

She lived somewhere between 72 million and 65 million years ago, in the late Cretaceous period. The Los Angeles-based Japanese company that recreated her, Kokoro Co. Ltd., gave her a pleasing face and the hardware to move in an extremely realistic fashion.

She's special to the exhibit because she's the most recent dinosaur discovery, according to Sylvia Crawford, communications coordinator for the Bloomfield Hills Institute. She comes complete with offspring — a pair half her size moving around the edges of the exhibit, and a nest full of hatching eggs.

Her contribution to history: She provided evidence that dinosaurs cared for their young.

THE EXHIBIT. In its second summer, features 12 lifelike dinosaurs that move, snort, stomp, roll their eyes and appear to breathe. Crawford says since the exhibit opened June 11, more than 27,500 visitors have walked through to see the most convincing set of replicas this side of Disney.

This program is designed to answer questions. If you've wondered what a dinosaur's skin must have felt like, then touch the box with the surface that looks like a three-day-old pepperoni pizza. It's warm, surprisingly flexible, yet obviously hard to pierce — the original Naugahyde, perhaps.

As an aide to blind visitors, each display has a miniature model of the dinosaur that can be touched, and all



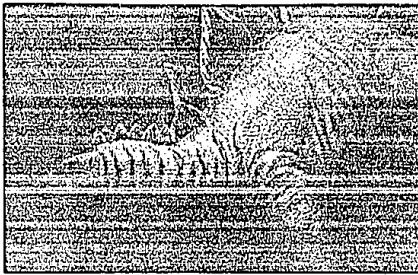
details about the exhibits are reproduced in braille.

The replicas themselves are three-quarters the size of the dinosaurs they represent. That means the Tyrannosaurus, at 15 feet tall with teeth like bowling pins, is by far the most imposing dinosaur in the exhibit.

Cranbrook complements the show with a slide program, "How Do We Know About Dinosaurs?" and a fos-

sil lab. The exhibit runs through Sept. 10, including Labor Day. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; until 10 p.m. Fri-

day and Saturday; and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and \$2.50 for 3-17-year-olds.



The Stegosaurus, known for its large body, small head and armored spine, can move its neck, tail and front legs. It's one of the friendlier creatures in the exhibit, although it's hard to know if that came across to Chanolle (left) and Dan Heap.

STEPHEN CANTRELL/staff photographer

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