



We found
something *BIG*...



In May, 2019, Brian Engh found something remarkable at the Tal Site: a dinosaur bone more than six feet long.

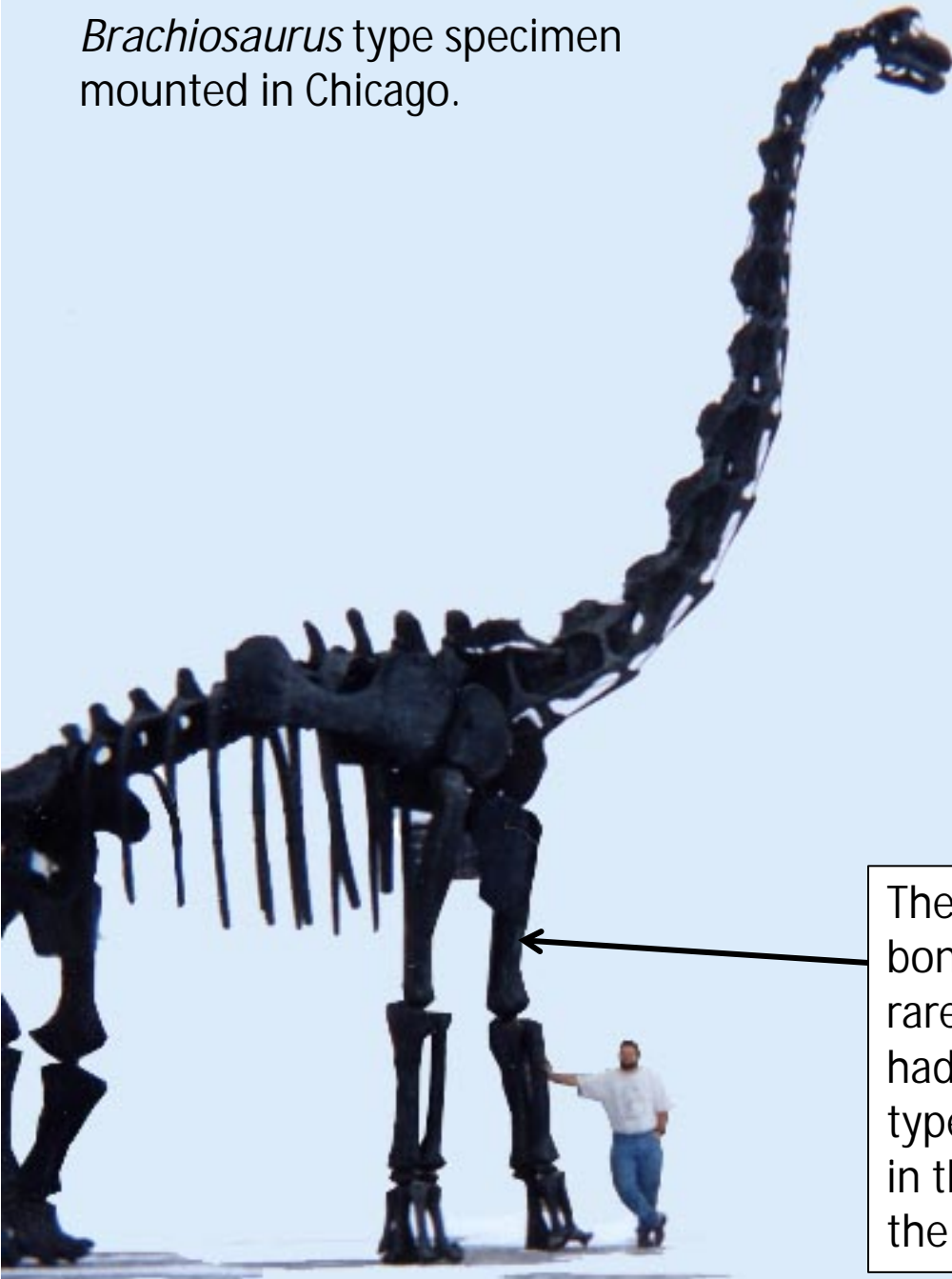
The bone was down in a canyon, so we returned in June to put on a protective layer of glue, and to formulate a plan for getting it out.





Also in June, we discovered the matching bone from the other side of the animal, and hiked it out in pieces.

Brachiosaurus type specimen mounted in Chicago.



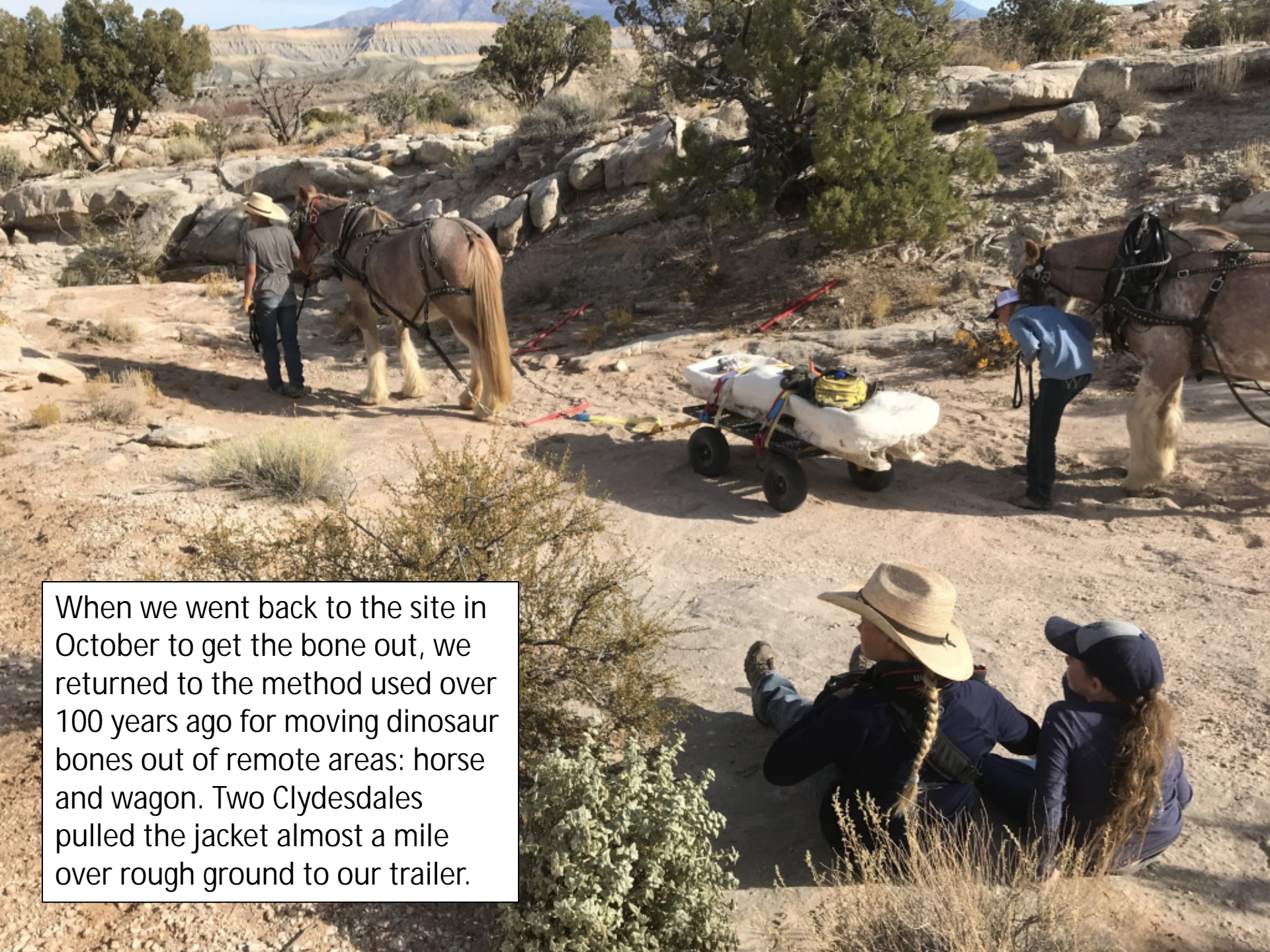
Potter Creek humerus at Dinosaur Journey in Fruita, CO.



The bones are the paired humeri, or upper arm bones, of *Brachiosaurus*, one of the largest and rarest dinosaurs in the world. Only two humeri had ever been discovered before, one with the type specimen in 1903, and one at Potter Creek in the 1960s. In a single summer, we doubled the number of known *Brachiosaurus* humeri.



But we had a problem: how to get this giant bone out of the canyon and safely back to the museum. In life, it would have weighed 500 lbs. As a fossil, it weighs closer to 800 lbs, and with its protective jacket of burlap and plaster, it weighs over 1000 lbs.



When we went back to the site in October to get the bone out, we returned to the method used over 100 years ago for moving dinosaur bones out of remote areas: horse and wagon. Two Clydesdales pulled the jacket almost a mile over rough ground to our trailer.

The jacket on the trailer.



And safely back at the museum. Remember, this is just one bone!



We're not done! As we dug out the humerus, we made two more discoveries: more bones going into the rock, which might be from the same animal, and a ton of plant fossils. We hope that further work at the site will turn up more bones of *Brachiosaurus*, and also illuminate the ecosystem in which this amazing animal lived.



None of this would have been possible without the support of the Canyonlands Natural History Association.



We captured the entire story of the discovery, excavation, and extraction of the new *Brachiosaurus* fossils in high-resolution video. We are currently working to add that footage to the educational videos that we were already preparing as part of our CNHA-funded work at the Tal Site. We expect to launch those videos in December, 2019, and January, 2020, along with a press release about our new discovery.