

## THE BIBLE AND SCIENCE BY WILLIAM T. PELLETIER, PH.D [WOODSIDE NEWS COLUMNIST]

### Michigan Mastodons

A pile of mastodon bones—found not in a dusty museum basement but 6-9 feet underground—astonished road construction crews in Rochester Hills. Workers unearthed mastodon vertebrae, ribs, shoulders, long bones, enameled teeth, and tusks. The July 11 Detroit Free Press featured them on its front page.

Similar to woolly mammoths, mastodons looked like large furry elephants with long up-curving tusks growing from the upper jaw. Mastodons stood 7-10 feet tall, were 15-20 feet long, and weighed 4-7 tons. Some fossil tusks are over 16 feet long.



WILLIAM T. PELLETIER  
PH.D.

Fossil bones prove mastodons once existed, but Noah's Flood profoundly changed the world. The resulting new environment was apparently inhospitable for mastodons, and they eventually became extinct.

#### HOW WAS THE ADAMS MASTODON FOSSILIZED? WHEN?

Cranbrook speculates a mastodon strayed into the peat bog, was trapped, and died. Yet elephants—and likely the similar mastodons—have no trouble withdrawing from deep mud, for their legs shrink as they are lifted and thicken when planted.

Moreover, for preservation, fossils require rapid burial. Otherwise the

unfossilized remains would not survive scavengers and natural forces of erosion and decay. For example, buffalo once covered the western plains. From these millions of animals almost no fossils formed, because no water-borne sediments quickly buried and preserved them.

#### ARE MASTODON FOSSILS PROOF OF EVOLUTION?

No. Fossils—mastodon or otherwise—provide no evidence for evolution. They show only that a mastodon died and was rapidly buried. Fossils contribute nothing to an argument that one kind of animal changed into another. One cannot even know whether the fossil produced offspring for a conjectured evolutionary process.

Fossils actually support creation

and contradict evolution. The fossil record is characterized by abrupt appearance, constancy, and gaps.

Life forms appear abruptly in the earth's sedimentary layers with no progressive ancestral development. This coincides with Scripture's instantaneous creation, but it contradicts evolution.

Fossils exhibit constant form throughout rock layers with no significant changes. Most fossils are either extinct or identical with living descendants. There are no lineages of

gradual change from one organism into another. The fossil record is full of gaps between distinct life forms. There are no clearly recognized intermediate forms, although a few disputed cases exist. Why aren't the sedimentary rock layers full of intermediate forms linking distinct life forms? Why aren't museums overflowing with intermediates? Why is there no fossil trace of "descent from common ancestors?"

The fossil record displays reproduction "after their kind," but it defies evolution. If life evolved, the vast majority of fossils should be transitional, exhibiting gradual changes. Googols of "missing links" are missing. Finding a few supposed missing links will not rescue evolution. Trillions need to be found.

#### ARE MASTODON FOSSILS BURIED AT WOODSIDE?

Mastodon fossils occur throughout Oakland County. Near Pontiac, I-75 construction uncovered many in 1965. The mastodon is the official state fossil of Michigan, found at over 250 sites statewide.

When I visited the peat bog where the fossils were found a week earlier, it had been filled with sand to support a new road. A worker told me several nearby peat bogs remain to be excavated. Additional fossil finds are possible.

Could Woodside wetlands, although not peat bogs, contain mastodons buried by Noah's Flood? Digs deep enough to check are unlikely. Though intriguing to speculate about Flood artifacts on church property, God alone knows.

Dr. Pelletier may be contacted by email at [BibleScienceGuy@WoodsideNews.org](mailto:BibleScienceGuy@WoodsideNews.org)  
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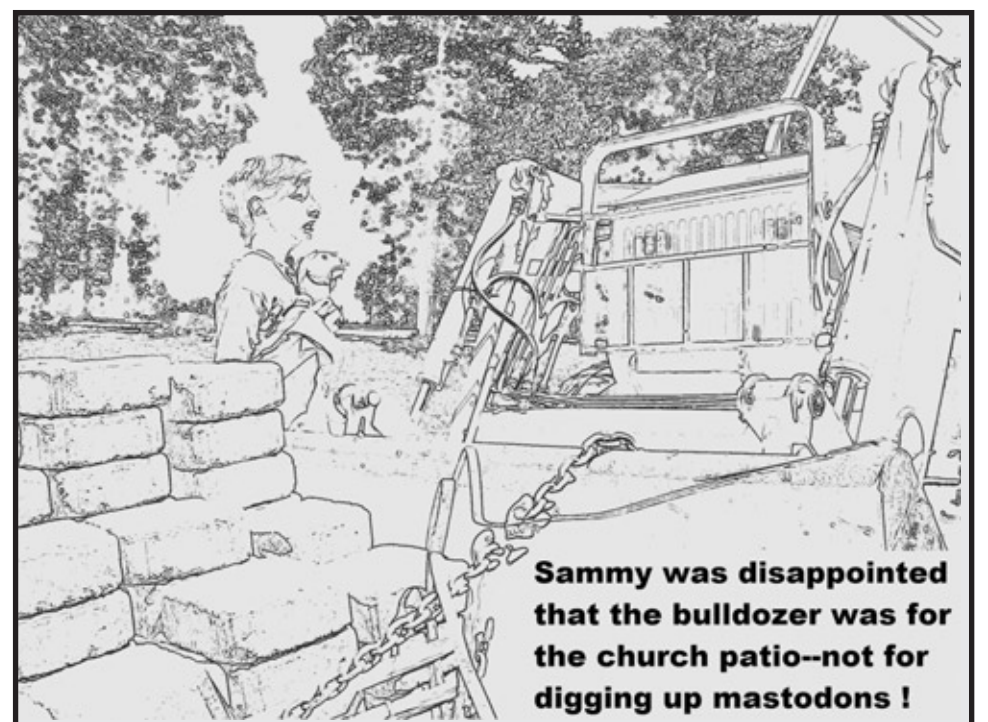
William Pelletier and Cranbrook staffer Stephen Pagnani hold mastodon molar

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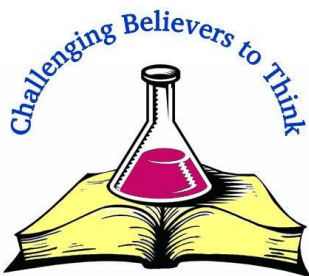
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## CARTOON BY JO PELLETIER [SPECIAL TO WOODSIDE NEWS]



Sammy was disappointed that the bulldozer was for the church patio—not for digging up mastodons!



#### Preparing Thinkers to Believe

A mastodon molar fills a man's hand. Now called the Adams Mastodon, the bones were found five miles from Woodside in a peat bog near Adams and M-59. Cranbrook Institute of Science Director and archaeologist Dr. Michael Stafford told me they recovered 30% of the skeleton. This is a large fossil find; often mastodon sites yield few bones.

#### WHERE DID MASTODONS COME FROM?

God created mastodons 6,000 years ago. Mastodons, mammoths, and elephants are probably variations within the same original created kind. Taxonomists use primarily molar structure to classify these animals. Scientists believe North American mammoths inhabited grasslands while mastodons preferred forests.

Evolutionists claim mastodons roamed North America from 11,000-3,750,000 years ago. Cranbrook scientists estimate the Adams Mastodon to be 12,000-14,000 years old. Not!

#### ARE MASTODONS PREHISTORIC?

No. Mastodons are not prehistoric because recorded history begins with Genesis 1:1, five days before God created mastodons on Day 6.

Man hunted mastodons for food. Spear points have been found with some mastodon fossils. Some bones have flint marks from butchering, and fire remnants accompany others. Mastodon meat was stored in ponds for winter food. An Egyptian tomb painting featuring the ivory trade from around 1500 BC portrays either a mastodon or a mammoth.

#### WHY DON'T MASTODONS STILL ROAM ROCHESTER HILLS?

They died out (duh!), probably from climatic and possibly human factors.

## Are huge bones found near Woodside relics of Noah's Flood?

unfossilized remains would not survive scavengers and natural forces of erosion and decay. For example, buffalo once covered the western plains. From these millions of animals almost no fossils formed, because no water-borne sediments quickly buried and preserved them.

Worldwide, most fossils occur in sedimentary rock layers in vast "fossil graveyards" where myriad different plants and animals are buried together. Many appear in distressed or distorted positions. This unmistakably indicates sudden death and rapid burial by massive worldwide flooding. Most fossils are remnants of the global year-long Genesis Flood.

Flood waters probably swept away a mastodon and large vegetation mass and simultaneously deposited them to eventually form the Adams peat bog. The Adams Mastodon is likely a relic of Noah's Flood 4,500 years ago.

#### WHY IS CRANBROOK'S AGE ESTIMATE DIFFERENT?

Fossils have no dated death certificates. Estimating age requires assumptions about conditions at the time of burial and thereafter. For example, to estimate how long a candle burned, one must make assumptions about the candle's initial height and shape (tapered, straight, fluted, etc.) and assumptions about the burn rate.

Worldview strongly impacts dating method assumptions. Evolutionists use radiometric dating methods which lead to contradictions with Scripture. These methods rely on unverifiable assumptions. How can one know the original ratio of parent element to daughter element? How can one be sure the sample was preserved from contamination by addition or loss of parent or daughter elements? How