

# HOW DO YOU GET A WHALE IN VERMONT?

The Unlikely Story of Vermont's Official State Fossil

by  
Jeff L. Howe

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## AUTHOR BIO

Jeff L. Howe is a public geologist, historian and story teller. In 1993, he was the curator and exhibits designer of the Perkins Museum of Geology at the University of Vermont when a bill designating the Charlotte whale as Vermont's Official State Fossil was signed into law. Over the years he has continued to research the story of the whale and has carefully considered its place in the cultural and geologic history of the Green Mountain State.

He has an undergraduate degree in zoology from Michigan State University and a master's degree in geology from the University of Vermont. He has curated two major state mineral collections, completed three museum renovations, hitchhiked and rode a motorcycle across the country, and played harmonica at 14,000' in the Colorado Rockies. In 1987 he discovered the skull of a type of dinosaur that had never been found before.

Howe is the author of a collection of humorous stories and essays entitled *What the Next Moment Might Bring*, contributed a chapter on the geology of the Lake Champlain basin for *This Lake Alive!* and is currently working on a book about the Old Conestoga Road in pre-colonial Pennsylvania.

Jeff L. Howe currently lives in Strasburg, Pennsylvania where he writes stories, tends his bonsai trees and teaches science to college art students.