



American Lands Access Association, Inc.

www.amlands.org

Volume 13 Issue 3

July - September 2021

President's Message

Doug True

president@amlands.org

HOW THE TIME FLYS

Our summer is almost gone, it seems like we just returned to Montana from Arizona and now it is almost time to go south again. Hit the ground running in April with our club show in Billings.

In May we had a on site field trip to the Blue forest for neat a week and then a day to a fish quarry. Lots of nice material was collected. Per usual weather was mixed, windy and cool, snow and slush and mud to the Fish quarry.

Then the AFMS//RFMS show and convention was held in Big Piney, Wyoming. Outback would be a great description of the this high country in Wyoming, great hospitality, a fun place to spend time together.

I would like to thank all of those collectors that donated items for our ALAA live auction, we raised over \$3000 to help with our expenses, Great fun was had by all We also had an ALAA Meeting and went over some of our new ideas for moving forward, a new direction with ALAA, work with not against, Reach out to the BLM, USGS, all federal and state organizations and offer to help maintain our public lands. Lets make the difference!

Great show , vendors, presenters and just a great time visiting with everyone from around the country, I noticed that 32 states were represented under a shadow of Covid, Then two more field trips after the show, more wood and fossil fish.

In July we (club members from Billings) met with the BLM Geologist and they are working on on setting aside and designate this area as a collecting area, set aside for rock hounds known as the the Bear Canyon agate. Working with and together we can make this happen all over the west.

Two new Rock an Gem shows were held in Montana this summer, a test to see if we

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Jennifer Haley

American Lands Access Association - Vice President

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In June the Sublette County Rock Hounds club hosted both the AFMS and RMFMS conventions, along with organizing a great rock and gem show in Big Piney, Wyoming. That club has good cooks! Jim Gray and all his volunteers were wonderful hosts. It was so much fun to get together with so many rockhounds from all around the nation after being in lock down for over a year. We all really needed that! Thank you, Sublette County Rock Hounds for making that celebration happen for all of us. (Nature's smiling boulder at Soda Lake, Sublette County, WY

Photo by Jennifer Haley)



ALAA held a rousing live auction in the livestock area of the Sublette County Fairgrounds. It was ideal we were able to have that space because the auction drew a large ambitious crowd ready to bid. There were many, many, many, generous donations of fine quality rough and old stock rock, fossils, slab material and even a couple of fun rubber chickens. Another asset to the auction was having ALAA president and knowledgeable auctioneer, Doug True,

describe the geological and rockhounding histories of the material. Thank you to everyone who made donations, and participated in making the auction a great experience!

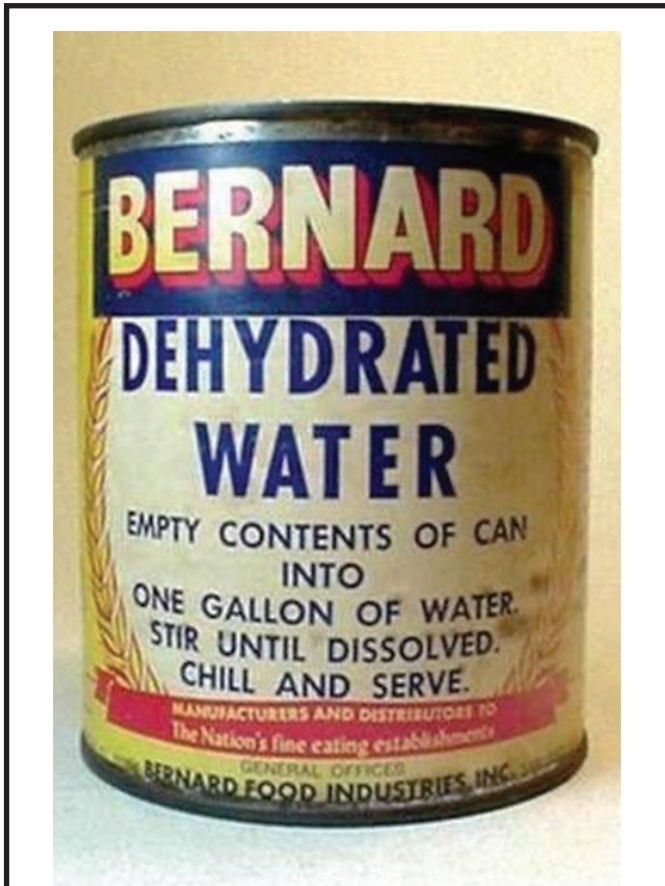
(Photo by John Martin)



Yes, that is ALAA president, Doug True, auctioning off a donated packrat puppet with a quality hand size chunk of Davis Creek green sheen obsidian in its backpack. (Photo by John Martin)

A Couple of Blasts from the Past Ads you will not see today

An Advertisement from the 1940s
We know better now!



Another Ad from the mid 20th Century
Could this product save the planet
today?

Let this magic mineral,
ASBESTOS,
protect the buildings
on your farm!

JM
PRODUCTS

Asbestos! The magic mineral of the Middle Ages. Today, still a "magic" mineral; fireproof, rot-proof, and practically indestructible. When combined with portland cement it is manufactured into products which are especially important on the farm, because they provide permanent protection against fire, weather, and wear. Read this folder. Learn how to put this magic mineral to work on your farm.

Fieldtrip Journal for Public Lands (Blank Forms are on Page 4 & 5)

This is the simple Journal to document your Fieldtrip Activities and record the access routes needed to get to and from collecting sites. This data will be useful when asked to submit comments to Public Land Managers during the Public Comment Period on potential Public Land Access Closures proposals.

Your information could save your collecting sites from route closures and access restrictions.....

**ALAA – DATA BASE OF COLLECTING SITES
BY STATES
PRIVATE COLLECTING SITES**

NAME OF SOCIETY/CLUB: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____
Zip _____

Field Trip Leader:

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

Collected Material: _____

Name of Company, Ranch or Owner: _____

General Manager: _____

Contact Person: _____

Liability Insurance Requirement: Yes: _____ No: _____

Location (Address): _____

GPS: _____

Distance from your Club: _____

Frequency of leading trips to this location: _____

Number of attendance: _____

Day trip or Overnight: _____

Closest Town: _____

Groceries, gas, restaurants, motels, hardware stores or other impact on the town:

Other Comments for this site:

Date Filled in Form: _____

Please keep copy for your files, send a copy to fieldtrip@amlands.org

**ALAA – DATA BASE OF COLLECTING SITES
BY STATES
GOVERNMENT COLLECTING SITES**

NAME OF SOCIETY/CLUB: _____

Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Field Trip Leader:

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Collected Material: _____

FOREST SERVICE _____ GRASSLANDS _____ BLM _____

Did you contact District Manager? Yes: _____ No: _____ Contact Name: _____

Did you have to register your group? Yes: _____ No: _____

Routes to the exact collecting site: _____

GPS: _____

Closest Town: _____

Groceries, gas, restaurants, motels, hardware stores or other impact on the town: _____

Other Comments for this site: _____

Date Filled in Form: _____

Please keep copy for your files, send a copy to fieldtrip@amlands.org

Jennifer Haley

American Lands Access Association - Vice President

jennifer.haley@amlands.org



ALAA was greeted with a good turnout for its meeting in Big Piney, Wyoming, hosted by the Sublette County Rock Hounds club. Those in the audience, fellow rockhounds from different parts of the country, came with good questions concerning the future of Recreational Rockhounding.

For those who haven't been involved in helping to preserve the future of our collecting sites, they often think the footsteps of becoming involved, daunting, due to a lack of a basic understanding of working within the systems of public lands. It's actually so much easier and empowering than you think, when you learn the ropes. Just like needing to learn the basic skills to understand the art of silver smithing, faceting or cutting your first few cabs, once you learn the basic steps involved, you are well on your way of accomplishing what you want to create. You know what to do and how to do it, so you do it, to get the best results.

Many individuals and clubs don't realize the dynamic role they are currently having on the future of collecting, by their non-involvement. The biggest stumbling block I've heard from talking with rockhounds, actually is a very common tendency that holds people back from anything in their lives. People tend to feel they don't have what it takes. Often, they think they won't be able to wrap their minds easily around what they need to know and do, before they even get started, so they don't. Because they doubt themselves, it's much easier to sit back and pretend than that nobody can really make a difference.

Those who are becoming more involved are doing their part in participating in the very real goal of creating a positive future for Recreational Rockhounding, especially in their local areas. Not only do they have people attending public comment meetings, they are very much in tune to what has been happening to some collecting sites by other types of people who have been extremely destructive.

Rockhounds are taking the opportunity to show field offices what we as rock and gem club members have always known, that the rockhounding community are great people to work with, and are willing to work with them to help in any way they can to be of service. In the long run, this can only help the image of rockhounds everywhere, and in our ability to keep collecting areas open for our future.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society Proudly Presents:

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February 10 - 13

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featuring:

THE APATITE SUPERGROUP

*and the Fluorescent Mineral Pavilion
with over 80 Spectacular Displays by*

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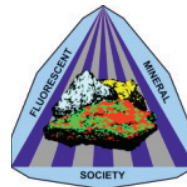


Specimen: Gemmatite, Apatite, Epidote, from Mont St-Hilaire | Photo by: Howie Green



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- Parking Fee \$10/day
- Free Lectures
- Giveaway Booth
- Food Services. Restrooms (nice/clean)
- Type of Merchandise: Fine Minerals, High Jewelry, Diamonds, Gold, Silver, Gem stones, Precious Stones, Beads, Specimens, and Tools.
- Friday is School Field Trip Day, the Busiest Show Day. Roughly 50,000 Kids Will Attend.



Sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society
and the Fluorescent Mineral Society

If you haven't yet booked a hotel, do it now.

News from California

Davis Creek Obsidian Collection – Latest USFS News

There has been a lot of discussion about Davis Creek in the last several months. Davis Creek (Warner Mountain Sites) is going to open July 1, 2021 for Recreational Rock-hounding. The rules have changed for collecting. Below is the news release from the Modoc National Forest. Please read before going to collect the Obsidian.

Personal-use obsidian collection to reopen at the four Warner Mt. sites

After a year off due to the pandemic and five plus years of coordination with tribal and county partners, the Modoc National Forest will reopen the four designated collection areas in the Warner Mountains to personal-users with a valid permit.

The four collection areas shown on the map at <https://go.usa.gov/x6NKB> are the only locations obsidian collection is authorized on the Modoc National Forest.

Obsidian collection season will run this year from July 1 through Labor Day Weekend. Adults 18 years or older will be issued one-day permits authorizing collection of two five-gallon buckets of obsidian using hand tools only. A maximum of three permits per person per year can be issued up to three days in advance. **Permits are only available at the Modoc National Forest Headquarters at 225 W. 8th St. in Alturas, Calif. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m.** Valid picture identification and vehicle information are required for each individual seeking permits. Permits for weekends and holidays must be obtained on days Forest Headquarters is open.

“We are happy to again offer this unique recreation opportunity and beautiful material for traditional cultural users and other artisans who use it to create amazing works of art,” said East Zone District Ranger Heidi Lowery. “It is not easy to find a balance between wise use and maintaining this nonrenewable resource for future generations, but it was clear the impacts of commercial and unpermitted mining were not sustainable or fair to the people most impacted. Hopefully all the hard work put into this new plan by forest staff and key stakeholders can offer collection opportunities, maintain the resource for future generations and limit the negative impacts on local communities, including those who have stewarded this resource for millennia.”

Though permitted personal-use collection will resume, commercial obsidian mining is no longer authorized on the Modoc National Forest.

Commercial mining impacts increased over the last decade as overseas purchasers sought large quantities of obsidian rocks. This led to unsustainable impacts to the resource, surrounding forest and nearby communities. Theft and illegal mining activities increased substantially with evidence of heavy equipment, unauthorized roads, wildfire ignitions, unsafe mining practices, impacts on other forest users and an overall unsustainable removal of this non-renewable resource.

Source: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/modoc/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD922994>

News from Massachusetts

Fossil Collecting

Changes May Be Coming in Fossil Collecting Laws H 3982 Before the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

"We recently learned that the Massachusetts Legislature has a proposed House Bill, No. 3892 that proposes a commission to investigate Mineralogical, Paleontological and Archeological resources in the state, that may ultimately affect your ability to collect minerals and fossils on state and private properties. The bill was introduced in May and was brought to our attention in a recent newspaper article.

"Archeologists, paleontologists, and geologists are calling on the Legislature to advance a bill that they say would help bring clarity to outdated and vague laws around recovering, studying, and protecting fossils and artifacts. The push follows a spike in popularity around finding fossils in Massachusetts as a result of the campaign to create an official state dinosaur."

We will follow the legislation process, but in the meantime, it is advised that all collectors, rock shop owners, and fossil dealers residing or doing business within the state, read the current bill and contact your local legislators in both the Massachusetts House and Senate." **From the Association of Applied Paleontological Sciences**

<https://aaps-journal.org/Massachusetts-Legislation-House-Bill-3982.html>

You can read the current status on the proposed bill and read the proposed bill on the State Website: <https://openstates.org/ma/bills/192nd/H3982/>

This bill could have a large impact on Recreational Rockhounding in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This bill creates a commission and the commission could create and introduce new bills which could limit the Recreational Rockhounding in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Officers and Directors for 2021

- **President**..... **Doug True**
- **Vice President**..... **Jennifer Haley**
- **Secretary**..... **Susy Martin**
- **Treasurer** **Frank Mullaney**
- **Membership**..... **Ronna Watkins**
- **Registered Agent***..... **Sandy Hansen**
- **Newsletter Editor/Publisher***
- **Website Manager***..... **John Martin** * = a permanent board position

Directors

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| • 1. Marion Roberts | • 4. Ken Zahn | • 7. Jim Grey |
| • 2. David Wayment | • 5. Lenora Smith | • 8. |
| • 3 David Williams | • 6. Hidemi Kira | • 9. |

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Michelle Powers
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email: rockyfive.f@gmail.com

Office Phone: 408-266-1791 web site: www.rockyfive.net

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Owners

(406) 670-0506

dtruefossils12@yahoo.com

We invite interested dealers/vendors to become a member of the American Lands Access Association and help support Recreational Rockhounding Activities.

An Annual Dealer Membership is for vendors with a valid resale license, who sell rock and gem hobby related merchandise such as; jewelry, minerals, rocks, gems, fossils, lapidary art and crafts, equipment and supplies, metaphysical and decorative items.

Interactive Membership Form (PDF) is available on the ALAA Website - Membership Page. Open with Adobe Acrobat Reader - Complete, Print, and mail to the address on form. <http://www.amlands.org/634600.html>

It is with sadness to report the passing of Jay Bowman on August 28, 2021 from a many year battle with health problems. His talents and knowledge on the AFMS Rules Committee will be missed.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the NEWSLETTER are DUE to the Editor by the
10th of January - 10th of April - 10th of July - 10th of October

For inclusion in each Quarterly Newsletter

Please send articles to: **editor@amlands.org**

Please send articles in plain text, MS Word (.doc)

Pictures in jpg format at not less than 96 dpi or more than 200 dpi.

Please do not send articles in PDF format.

**Concerns or questions on article format please contact the editor at
editor@amlands.org**

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AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION

NEW MEMBERSHIP and ANNUAL RENEWAL FORM

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Must be postmarked by December 31st of each year

Member / Contact Name: _____
Last First

Member / Contact Name: _____
Last First

Organization Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Mailing Address: _____
(if different from above) City State Zip Code

Phone Number: _____
Primary Secondary

Email Address: _____

Alternate Email address: _____

Member Signature: _____ Date: _____

Dues are: New Member: Donation:
\$25 for an individual or couple Renewal: Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
\$50 for a Club or Society

Leave a note for us:

Please check an option to subscribe to our Email or Snail Mail list.

Please make checks payable to: American Lands Access Association (ALAA)

Please mail this completed form along with your check to the following address:

American Lands Access Association
C/O Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 54398
San Jose, CA 95154

For more information or questions, please email: membership@amlands.org

ALAA is a grassroots 501(c)(4) Educational, non-profit organization. Our organization is present wherever there are hobbyists and recreational users of public lands whose interests and concerns are not being heard or are being jeopardized by proposed policy, regulation or legislation at the local, state and federal level.

ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2016

**Click on the above Membership Form to use the interactive Form
(Fillable when opened in Adobe Acrobat Reader)**

ALAA Editor
2010 West Ave. K #528
Lancaster, CA 93536-5229



.....*Continued from page 1*

can get some interest in forming new clubs, as both Great Falls and Miles City have not had a show or a club for over 40 years, they were very successful and we had 75 sign ups for Great Falls and 87 for Miles City, we will meet each of the groups at the end of September and see what they would like to do.

Reach out to your communities around you and see their interest, you can make a difference.

To keep our hobby alive we need to promote the earth sciences and work to protect our collecting areas. ***Lets work together***

Doug True – President ALAA, and Montana Council of Mineral clubs

Campground and Park Hosts

Park Hosts- Many parks in the United States are looking for individuals, couples, groups, families and clubs, to volunteer to be Park Hosts. It seems like a natural fit for Rock-hounds especially if you have an RV, although some parks will offer a cabin for free. If you are interested in finding out more about being a Park Host, below are a couple of websites that will give you an idea of what it's like. An added idea might be to ask if they would allow your club, or yourself to offer a free program to the campers about the rocks in the state, geology or clubs in the surrounding areas. Depending on the park, they might just say, "we'd love to have you."

Campground Ambassador - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Campground Host Program (usda.gov)