



President's Message

Jennifer Haley
president@amlands.org

Recently we were contacted by a rockhound who was concerned about a club filing for a couple of claims, where more than one gem and mineral club, and individuals, are known to collect. The person's fear was the club with these claims would mean in the future that no other rockhounds would be able to collect there again.

After checking in with various members from different clubs, in their personal experience on this topic, they generally viewed a club having a claim as a positive thing rather than a negative.

There are reasons why there are clubs who have chosen to have a claim. Sometimes it's with the mindset that if the club has a claim, it will help protect the collecting area for the future, not only for themselves but also for other rockhounds. Most often these clubs welcome other clubs and rockhound individuals to continue to collect at the site. Some clubs ask that you seek permission before you go, while others allow you total freedom to collect as if there wasn't a claim.

For some, the decision to have a claim is knowing they will have the exclusive rights to the collecting site so the material they collect can legally be sold, compared to the laws regarding general collecting on Public Lands because the material can't be sold. Some clubs with a claim may charge other rockhounds and clubs to collect at their claim, but many don't.

Over the years, sometimes a club will end their claim because they get to the point of feeling tired and don't want to continue with the work involved for the annual government requirements.

Occasionally, a claim may be closed by Public Lands managers if the area experienced an extreme act of nature creating the area being far too dangerous for anyone to continue to collect there.

In the many years I have known rockhounds, right from the start I have always admired the AFMS affiliated clubs and their members. There is a natural generosity and kindness that emanates in our relationships with each other whether it's in our work or fun. The AFMS Code of Ethics certainly has become our backbone and an important part of our heart in the field. We carry it with us, just like the connection with a good friend. It is a part of who we have been for generations and a part of who we are today.

News from California

Rockhound Soap Box

John Martin
john.martin@amlands.org

Rockhounding on Public Lands

On February 29, 2024 an email was sent out from the BLM District in El Centro, CA. with a new Website for **Recreational Rockhounding on Public Lands**. The website includes definitions, FAQ, A Guide to Collecting on Public Lands and Collecting areas in many states.

Take a look at the New BLM Website "[Rockhounding on Public Lands](#)" that has just been posted.

The website contains very good information and the Rockhounding Community needs to engage in a way to take action as to increase the awareness of Recreational Rockhounding on Public Lands!

When you visit the website, Link Below:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/rockhounding>

Checkout the **Rockhounding on Public Lands** on the right side of the page.

Look at all the states listed there and see if Rockhounding as a recreational activity is listed. If it is, then things are close to being alright.

If it is not listed, you need to contact the BLM in your area (State) and ask that it be included. Work with the Land Managers to help insure that the Recreational Rockhound does not go the way of the Passenger Pigeon. As many Recreational Rockhounds as possible need to do this and make their voices heard by the Land Managers. Recreational Rockhounding needs to be listed as a recognized Recreational Activity in as much detail as reasonable.

This needs to be done on an individual, Club/Society, Regional Federation and National (AFMS) levels.

Make the voice of the Recreational Rockhound be heard!

I am off my Soap Box and my Rant is over. The Sphere is in your hand.

This information is available on the ALAA Website
www.amlands.org

Rattlesnake Stew

Rattlesnakes are sometimes referred to as "desert whitefish."

You will need one medium-size snake (1-2 lbs.).

Remove head, tail, and skin (save and dry to make a hat band in true Cowgirl-style) and clean the snake. Cut the snake into small pieces, cover in flour, and fry in bacon grease or lard. Add seasonings like salt and pepper. A few sagebrush leaves will enhance the flavor.

Cover the snake with water and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and simmer for 1 1/2 hours or until tender (add additional water if necessary).

While the snake is stewing, melt some bacon fat in a medium saucepan and fry some onions, carrots, celery, and garlic on low until the onions are translucent.

Peel and dice some potatoes.

Add the vegetables to the snake pan and cook slowly until the potatoes are done, about another 30 minutes.

Serves 3-4

*"When you are looking for
something to eat, a rattlesnake
can do just fine."*

—MARY S. HAWKINS JOURNAL,
Wyoming Territory, 1899



Imagine you are out Recreational Rockhounding and you get stuck in the sand in the desert, you run out of snacks and food, and the closest fast-food drive through is 90 miles away. And you are thinking, the only thing left is to live off the land for a night or two? Here is one way to do that, from the Cowgirl Cookbook 1899 and 2008.

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. Forms are also available on the ALAA Website (3 Forms): <http://www.amlands.org/437345.html>

**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

American Lands Access Association

Volunteer Board of Directors for 2024

President [Jennifer Haley](mailto:president@amlands.org) president@amlands.org

Vice President [Doug True](mailto:vice_president@amlands.org) vice_president@amlands.org

Secretary [Susy Martin](mailto:secretary@amlands.org) secretary@amlands.org

Treasurer [Frank Mullaney](mailto:treasurer@amlands.org) treasurer@amlands.org

Membership Open

Permanent Board Members

Registered Agent Idaho [Sandy Hansen](mailto:agent@amlands.org) agent@amlands.org

Newsletter Editor/Publisher John Martin (Pro-Tem)

Website Manager John Martin webmaster@amlands.org

Jennifer Haley

president@amlands.org

ALAA past-president-Doug True began a new concept a few years back called, "working together." I can tell you it is working! Those of you who have begun building relationships with the management at the field offices near your collecting areas, know this well. I want to really encourage you all to step out of your comfort zone and do the same. I know you all worry about the future of rockhounding on public lands, but you are your future right now. Not becoming involved is only going to get you an empty bucket in the future.

The Bureau of Land Management was founded in 1946. A lot of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies were founded earlier than that. So even though as rockhounds we've been around for quite awhile, we still hear questions from Public Lands management, "Who are you? We don't have a clue about how to manage rockhounding out here, can you work with us to help us figure that out, can you give us suggestions?"

What do those questions tell you? That we are being asked to get involved, and that we need to be more involved, so we can have a brighter future of continued access to our favorite collecting sites

[Ways You Can Help Preserve Your Collecting Areas](http://www.amlands.org/678922.html)

(<http://www.amlands.org/678922.html>)

The Silver Pick

Jennifer Haley
president@amlands.org

A very good friend of mine who has now passed, was a member of the same AFMS affiliated rock and gem club for over fifty years. He was a good example of our AFMS "Golden Rule," in conducting himself in a manner which would add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere. He liked the "silver pick" approach, and often it was a combination of his own personal charm along with his generosity with the "silver pick," which opened many doors for him to be able to collect on private property.

Most of these land owners were new to the county Jerry liked to rockhound in, mostly they were city folk. They didn't know anything about the pioneers from the past nor the geology of the of the land they were farming on, except for what the soil consultants would tell them about the quality of the soils they had for growing good grape vines.

Jerry had a way about him that people really liked. He could tell good stories about the geology in the area, what could be found and how to find it, and he would teach anyone who was interested in the lapidary and silver arts for free in his garage workshop.

He was always on the hunt for something new to find, and would carry an old Geological Survey map which showed where all the mineral and metal mines in the county had been. That map along with his understanding of geology as an amateur geologist, helped him discover new areas for finding common opal, beautiful agates, onyx, petrified wood and jaspers.

When it came to seeing if he could get permission to rockhound on private land, many times he was received with an open door. Jerry would explain what the history of the property was. If there had been a mine on the property, he would bring his fluorescent lamp out to show the land owner the magic in the entry walls one would not normally see. He would also talk to the owner about safety issues about the old mines, which made the owner conscious of needing to board up the entry to prevent their grandchildren from continuing to play in a dangerous spot.

Two things Jerry always made time for, was showing the land owner the special rock he had found. He never took where he collected for granted, never taking a huge amount of rock, just enough to fill a small satchel to work with. Before he left the land owner, he would seal the day with the promise of the "silver pick," which was to make the owner a bolo tie or a belt buckle, and a pendant or a ring for the wife in sterling silver, with the rock from their property. The property owners loved that. Remember the "silver pick," and be generous with your rockhounding experience in return for the generosity others have given you. It's the rockhound way.



Recreational Rockhounding

As defined in the

United States Code of Federal Regulations

43 CFR § 8365.1-5 Property and resources.

(a) On all public lands, unless otherwise authorized, no person shall;

- (1) Willfully deface, disturb, remove or destroy any personal property, or structures, or any scientific, cultural, archaeological or historic resource, natural object or area;
- (2) Willfully deface, remove or destroy plants or their parts, soil, rocks or minerals, or cave resources, except as permitted under paragraph (b) or (c) of this paragraph; or
- (3) Use on the public lands explosive, motorized or mechanical devices, except metal detectors, to aid in the collection of specimens permitted under paragraph (b) or (c) of this paragraph.

(b) Except on developed recreation sites and areas, or where otherwise prohibited and posted, it is permissible to collect from the public lands reasonable amounts of the following for noncommercial purposes:

- 1) Commonly available renewable resources such as flowers, berries, nuts, seeds, cones and leaves;
- (2) Nonrenewable resources such as **rock and mineral specimens, common invertebrate and common plant fossils, and semiprecious gemstones;**
- (3) **Petrified wood** as provided under subpart **3622** of this title;
Subpart 3622—Free Use of Petrified Wood
- (4) Mineral materials as provided under subpart **3604**; and
Subpart 3604—Free Use of Mineral Materials
- (5) Forest products for use in campfires on the public lands. Other collection of forest products shall be in accordance with the provisions of Group **5500** of this title. **PART 5500—NONSEALE DISPOSALS; GENERAL**

(c) The collection of renewable or nonrenewable resources from the public lands **for sale or barter to commercial dealers may be done only after obtaining a contract or permit** from an authorized officer in accordance with part **3600** or **5400** of this chapter.

PART 3600—MINERAL MATERIALS DISPOSAL

PART 5400—SALES OF FOREST PRODUCTS; GENERAL

[48 FR 36384, Aug. 10, 1983; 67 FR 68778, Nov. 13, 2002; 75 FR 27455, May 17, 2010; e-CFR data is current as of October 18, 2019]

Subpart 8364— Closures and Restrictions [Read them here..](#)

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations: 43 CFR....

Do **you** have a definition of "**Recreational Rockhounding**"? If you do please let us know, we would really like to see your definition... info@amlands.org

Safety and the Code

By Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair

Among the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies publications is a 44-page Safety Manual. This Manual, however, is not the only safety program offered. Monthly, in the AFMS Newsletter, one may find articles discussing additional matters of safety in our shared hobby interests.

While both of those sources of safety information are important threads in the fabric of the AFMS, there is another important document related to safety. That additional document is called the AFMS Code of Ethics. Yes, the AFMS Code of Ethics is also an important safety reference. With respect to the AFMS Code of Ethics:

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission. What better way to be safe than to know where we are collecting and respecting that integrity.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them. Keeping informed of the laws and guidelines in our hobby is indeed part of being safe in all we do.

I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect. Again, knowing exactly one's location is also a matter of being safe – and respectful with what we do.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas. Certainly, this is meant to keep everyone safe.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas. Certainly, this is meant to keep everyone safe.

I will leave all gates as found. Matters of safety are for all, and certainly for the critters inhabiting the property.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area. There is a certain undeniable wisdom concerning this Fire safety concern.

I will discard no burning material – matches, cigarettes, etc. Clearly a safety matter.

I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock. Safety, safety, safety!

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply. Not just a matter of being respectful, but also to be safe for people, animals, and the environment.

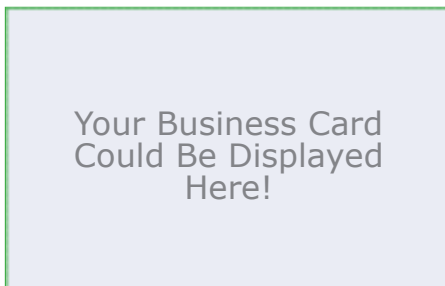
I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use. While not specifically a matter of safety, this is a respectful and wise use of important hobby resources.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others. Ditto

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found. Litter is indeed a matter of safety – biological, broken glass, sharp metal and more.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas. One of the most important needs of our field trip leaders is with insuring the safety of everyone on the trip.

Gem and Mineral Dealers Who Support ALAA with Memberships



Are you a Rock and Mineral Dealer?
A Lapidary Arts Dealer?
Join ALAA
Your Business Card could be displayed here

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>

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Articles for the NEWSLETTER are DUE to the Editor by the

10th of February - 10th of May - 10th of August - 10th of November

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.

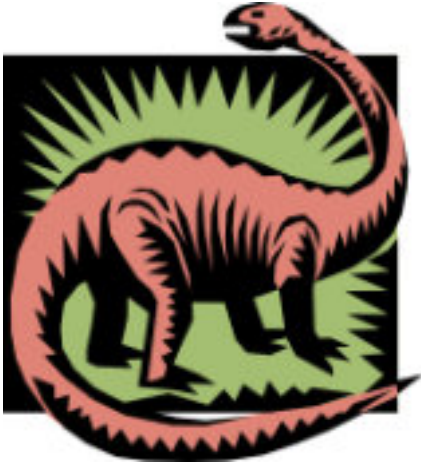
ALAA Membership Renewal Form Rev. 2016

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

ALAA Editor
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Lancaster, CA 93536-5229

**H.E.L.P. ELIMINATE
LITTER PLEASE**

Remember to Renew your
ALAA Membership before
December 31, 2024



**American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Past President David Wayment
March 15, 2024**

It is with sad news to let you know that AFMS Past President, David Wayment, passed away on March 15, 2024. He will truly be missed by all of us who had the fortune of working with him on many projects on behalf of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and ALAA. It was always a joy to hang out with David at the annual AFMS events. We will all carry our admiration for him and his wonderful sense of humor in our hearts. We are better people and rockhounds for having known him.