

THE ROCKFINDER

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Tom Noe, Editor
305 Napoleon Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46617

SPRING



THE ROCKFINDER

April, 1998

MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote interest in and study of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and the sharing of knowledge and techniques.

General meetings are held the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:00 PM, EST, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN. Regular exceptions include May (third Sunday), June (field trip), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and December (Christmas party).

Board meetings are held before the general meetings.

The annual club show is Labor Day weekend.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a not-for-profit organization, is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Rockfinder is published monthly except July and August. Staff: Editor, Tom Noe, 305 Napoleon Blvd., South Bend, IN 46617. Co-editor, Herb Luckert, 221 Marquette Ave., South Bend, IN 46617. Reporters, Bob Heinek, Herb Luckert, club members.

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month. Call 289-2028 or 282-1354. Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles, as long as due recognition is given along with the reprint.



Yearly Membership Dues (Payable by January 1)

_____ Individual \$10.00 per year
 _____ Family \$15.00 per year
 _____ Junior \$1.00 per year
 _____ Subscriber \$7.50 per year

(One-half these amounts after July 1)

Please indicate areas of special interest.

General Geology___ Beads___
 Gems & Minerals___ Silversmithing___
 Fossils___ Artifacts___
 Cabochons___ Rockhound___
 Faceting___ Crystals___
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Name_____

Address_____

City, ST., Zip_____

Please send your dues and this form to
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
 c/o Margaret Heinek

7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552

Will attend meetings?

Name_____ yes___no___
 Birthday_____

Name_____ yes___no___
 Birthday_____

Name_____ yes___no___
 Birthday_____

Name_____ yes___no___
 Birthday_____

Date of Wedding Anniversary_____

Phone_____

THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 38, Number 4

April, 1998

Meeting: Sunday, April 26, 1998
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
Guests are always welcome.

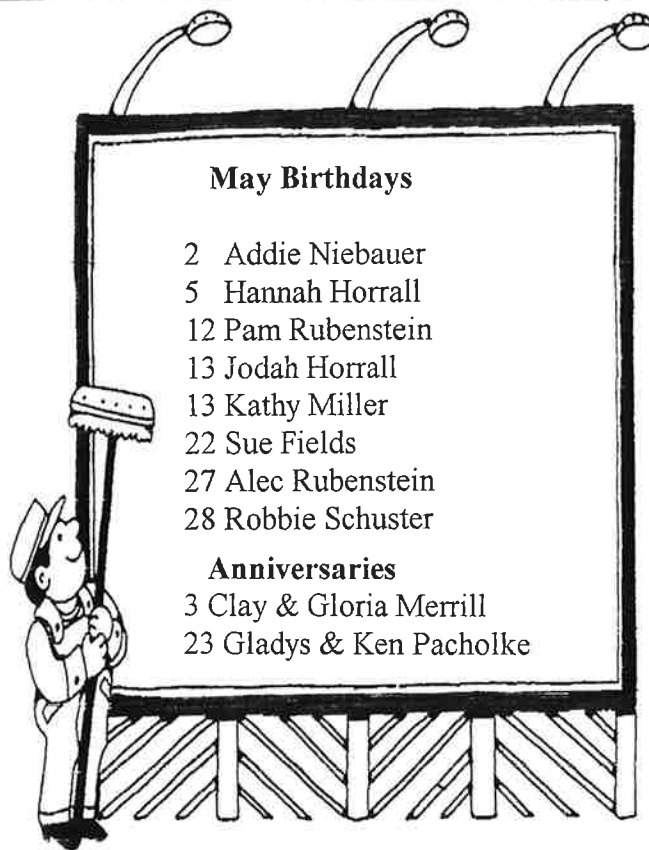
Place: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
905 S 29th (29th and Wall)
South Bend, IN

April Hosts: David & Sally Peltz and Margaret Schultz

April Program: Robert C. Frank of Crestwood, IL, will discuss nuclear waste disposal. Mr. Frank has worked at Argonne National Laboratory.



April
showers
bring
May
flowers



May Birthdays

2 Addie Niebauer
5 Hannah Horrall
12 Pam Rubenstein
13 Jodah Horrall
13 Kathy Miller
22 Sue Fields
27 Alec Rubenstein
28 Robbie Schuster

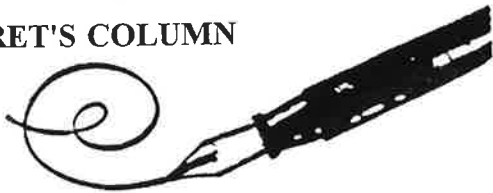
Anniversaries

3 Clay & Gloria Merrill
23 Gladys & Ken Pacholke

UP AND COMING

- May 1--3: Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society show, County Center Building, Kalamazoo, MI.
- May 2--3: Cincinnati Mineral Society Show (50 dealers), 2250 Seymour Ave., Cincinnati, OH.
- May 2--3: Chippewa Gem & mineral Society show, Medina County Career Center, Medina, OH.
- May 2--3: Wabash Valley show, Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Lafayette, IN.
- May 8--10: Flint Gem & Mineral show, IMA Sports Arena, Flint, MI.
- May 15--17: Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of Dearborn show, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI.
- May 16--17: Parma Lapidary Club show, Cuyohoga County Fairgrounds, Berea, OH.
- May 22--23: Falls of the Ohio symposium on Illinois/Kentucky fluorspar district, 812-941-2684 for information.
- May 23--25: Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association show, 2015 W Manchester Rd., Wheaton, IL.
- June 26--28: Show and swap, Bloomington, IN. 4-H County Fairgrounds.
- June 27--28: MGAGS Rockhound Seminar, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI.
- August 11-16: Combined Midwest Federation and American Federation convention and show, Michigan Tech University, Houghton, MI. (Upper Peninsula).

MARGARET'S COLUMN



Hello from Georgia. Bob and I are here with our son and his family. As most of you know, Don is ill, and we are here to help the family during the treatment phase of his illness. We would like to thank all those who have offered prayers for his recovery. He needs all the prayers he can get.

It is with regret that I announce the passing of Kenny Stout of Niles. Kenny was a charter member of the Michiana Rock and Gem Club. We had not seen him at recent meetings, but he and Betty did attend some of our shows. Our sympathy goes out to Betty.

Two of our dealers have passed away. I had a call from Margaret Weeks, companion of John Scott, (dealer, known as AAA Opal) telling me that John had passed away on March 22nd. Over the years, he had been known for giving the club some very nice items for special door prizes, items like an opal faced watch, a pearl necklace, rings, an opal pendant, among other items. He was ill, and had not been at our show for several years. Also, we heard that another of our dealers, Wayne Gochenour, owner of Dad's Rock Shop, had passed away.

We had a very good program at last month's meeting. Sister Jeanne had gotten a video program on the forming of the Grand Canyon. Really interesting.

Add the names of two returning members to your roster, Greg Korte, 601½ W. Pike St., Goshen, IN 46526-2334, and Fr. Anthony Spanley, 8231 Lake Shore Dr., Gary, IN 46403. Tony has been a member for several years, but failed to join last year. Glad to see you both back!

We will see you when we get back to Indiana. Have a good spring.

Oh yes, we still need a FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN. Come on, guys, if you want a field trip let's get going on plans.



CONGRATULATIONS TO US!

Preliminary standings have been announced in the 1998 Midwest Federation's contest for newsletters, and the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is among the top 10 entries in three categories:

Small Bulletin Award: *The Rockfinder*

Advanced Adult Article: "Cutting Strategies for Agate Nodules," by Tom Noe

Poem: "I Am a Rockhound," by Catherine McFadden

The specific standings and the various awards will be announced at the editors' breakfast on August 16 during the MWF/AFMS Convention in Houghton, MI.

NOTE: The minutes of the March 22 meeting have apparently been lost in the mail. If they don't turn up, Secretary Gladys Pacholke will try to re-create them and they will be printed in next month's *Rockfinder*.

TO CLUB MEMBERS:

Betty Stout is selling a lot of lapidary equipment, miscellaneous specimens and rough rock. She would like to offer these items to club members first, so she is inviting current MGMS members to her home on Saturday, April 25. Equipment includes Ultratec faceter, 12" Lortone slab saw, trim saw, 24" Lortone slab saw (never used), 9" hex barrel tumbler, vibrasonic tumbler, 4-disk sanding/polishing unit, several grinders, buffers, etc., and quite a bit of other lapidary supplies (diamond compound, etc.). Rough rock includes many varieties of agate, jasper, geodes, Petoskey stone, pyrite, calcite, flint, petrified wood, jade, miscellaneous from many localities, etc., etc., etc. A few marine fossils. Specimens include *all sorts*: quartz clusters, crystals, minerals, fluorite, fluorescents, too many to list!

To keep Betty from too much hassle, she is asking members to come on April 25 *only*. Call Tom Noe (w-234-5088) (h-289-2028) for time and directions. (There are boxes and boxes and boxes...)

TIDAL TIME

by Erik P. Kvale
September 1997

Introduction

Ever hold a month of time in your hand? Of course it's impossible, but you can hold a time-recording instrument in your hands (like a stopwatch or an hourglass). Rocks can also record time. A block of sandstone records the amount of time it took to deposit and then cement the little sand grains into a sandstone. The problem with "rock stopwatches" is that the face is difficult to read. Typically, it takes much longer to cement the sands than it does to deposit them but exactly how long is not always clear. However, for certain rocks in Indiana we know precisely how long it took to deposit them (almost down to the exact hour). These rocks were deposited by ancient tides when Indiana had a lot of beachfront property and an ocean covering its southwestern corner (no humans, however, just big insects like dragonflies with two-foot wing spans and amphibians large enough to eat them). To understand and fully appreciate these rocks, one first needs to understand tides.

What Are Tides?

Tides are the rise and fall of the ocean each day (daily) and sometimes twice-a-day (semidaily). Tides are caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and sun on the earth's oceans. The amount of tidal influence (how high the tide rises each day) along any coastline varies with the positions of those bodies relative to the earth. In some cases, the high tides will actually deposit a fine layer of sediment on coastal tidal flats. If the daily or semidaily tidal rise and fall is large enough (the amount of rise and fall is termed "tidal range"), thin layers of silt or sand will continue to stack up on each other (think of a stack of poker chips) and actually leave a record of the tidal activity. Geologists call such deposits "tidal rhythmites." If you understand this, you are beginning to understand how we can read certain types of "rock stopwatches."

Tidal Rock Stopwatch

The thickness of each layer of a tidal rhythmite deposit is determined in a general way by how high the tide rises that day. Thicker layers reflect

higher tides and thin layers reflect lower tides. In some cases, tidal rhythmites consist of stacked successions of layers in which successive layers gradually thicken and then thin. This progressive thickening and thinning is in response to the moon and sun changing their positions in the sky relative to the coastal tidal flat.

To understand these changes it is often useful to think in terms of purely astronomical tides and equilibrium tidal theory. By definition, equilibrium tides are ideal and defined by the gravitational forces of the moon, and to a lesser extent the sun, on an idealized earth completely covered by deep water of uniform depth that is capable of responding instantly to changes in tractive forces. Of course, our world is not covered by an ocean of uniform depth (otherwise we wouldn't have dry land to stand on), but the model does help us to understand what is going on.

Tidal Cycles

First of all, in some areas of the world like the Bay of Fundy, the tides rise and fall twice a day. This is because on our equilibrium earth the tidal forces from the moon and sun together produce two tidal bulges. The bulges are on opposite sides of the earth. The rotation of the earth through each of these bulges once a day produces two tides a day (the semidiurnal tide). Typically, one of these tides will be higher (dominant) than the following tide (subordinate). Semidiurnal tides can be preserved as thick and thin layers in a rock.

The combined gravitational pull of the moon and sun on the earth, which produces the tidal bulges, can vary in a number of ways. Perhaps you are familiar with the neap-spring tides related to the phase changes of the moon (sometimes referred to as the synodic month). Daily tides are higher when the earth, moon and sun are nearly aligned (such as at full or new moon), and smaller when lines to the sun and moon from the earth form a right angle (at 1st or 3rd quarter phases of the moon).

You can see how tides have affected the thicknesses of the layers in the delicately layered rock beds such as the Hindostan whetstone. At this point, you are beginning to understand how rocks can record time. You may also be beginning to understand how geologists are able to determine how rocks were

originally deposited. We know the whetstone beds were deposited by tides because we know of no other process that would produce such regular thickness changes in the layers of the rock.

Note: This article has been shortened from the original, which had graphs and illustrations. It can be found at the Indiana Geological Survey web site (<http://pyrite.igs.indiana.edu>).

Unearthed fossils believed to be oldest in Indiana

Associated Press

MARION, Ind. — Fossils unearthed at a Grant County quarry predate the oldest mammal fossils found in Indiana by more than 5 million years, a geologist said.

The camel toe and rhino teeth unearthed at a Grant County quarry two years ago came from creatures that roamed present-day Indiana about 5.5 million years ago, said Dr. Jim Farlow, one of two geologists working at the site where the fossils were found.

Before the discovery, the oldest known mammal fossils in Indiana were fossil remains found in southern Indiana that are about 100,000 years old, Farlow said.

The items found at the quarry owned by Irving Materials Inc. may be as much as 6 million years old, Farlow said. They predate the Pleistocene, a period of global glacial advances which began around 2 million years ago and ended in Indiana about 10,000 years ago.

"We have made a quantum leap into antiquity at this site. There is nothing like this around the state, and it rewrites history," Farlow said.

The items were found during the digging of a sinkhole on the property in September 1996. Digging stopped as soon as the discoveries were made. It took months to identify the fossils, and officials have not publicized the find until now.

The teeth come from a teleoceras, a type of rhinoceros much different from those seen at zoos today, Farlow said. The toe would have come from a giant, giraffe-like camel.

Farlow is working with Irving company geologist Jon Havens and Jack Sunderman, a stratigrapher, to identify and date the fossils and stones found in the quarry. Farlow and Sunderman both are on the faculty of Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne.

Indianapolis Star (Mar. 8, 1998)

SILENT AUCTION NOTES

By Tom Noe

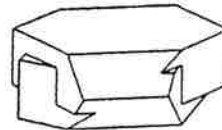
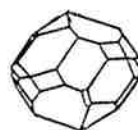
The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society was well represented by a jolly crew of helpers at the South Bend Gem & Mineral Show the weekend of March 27. We promoted the club with sample newsletters and information, and also ran the silent auction to build up the club treasury for expenses such as field trips.

I organized the silent auction, with the eager assistance of Herb and Phyllis Luckert (who also helped Bob and Margaret Heinek pick up all the items from the club storage shed on Thursday night), Tom McLaughlin, Tony Spanley, Sr. Jeanne, Sr. Georgia, Bill Nelson and Emily Johnson and young Bill, David and Sally Peltz, and Mike Slattery. As usual, we offered lots of petrified wood and other Western materials donated by Leo and Elma Heynssens, fossils from the late Paul Godollei's extensive collection and miscellaneous items for consignment.

We are always happy to see a lot of our club members at the show who can't make it to the monthly club meetings, along with a number of regular show-goers who are familiar with the bargains available at the silent auction.

The proceeds will be reported by Treasurer Diane Gram at the next club meeting.

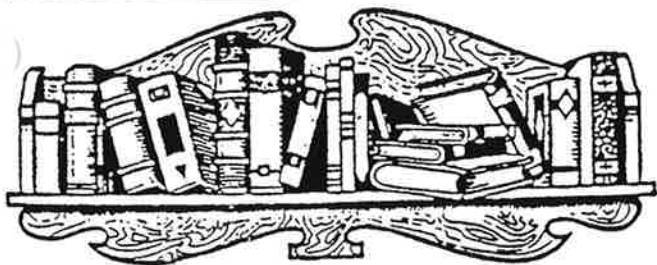
Many thanks to all who helped out. It was so much fun we'll do it again at the Labor Day show!



WHAT IS A PHANTOM CRYSTAL?

A phantom crystal is actually a crystal within a crystal. The makeup of the phantom must be the same as the one which encloses it. There may be more than one inside a single crystal. The usual explanation of phantoms is intermittent growth, growing for a while then stopping. For a period the crystal is exposed and a very small amount of foreign matter (dust, etc.) falls on its surface. The conditions then change and the crystal starts to grow again, with the possibility of this happening several times. The result is a crystal that appears to have one or more other crystals enclosed within it. Sometimes phantoms are oriented the same as the enclosing crystal; at other times they are not. In clear crystals, such as quartz, the enclosed crystal appears shadowy and faint, and therefore we have the name Phantom. The difference between a phantom and an inclusion is that the inclusion must be a different mineral species.

Crystal Cluster, March, 1998



SHORT NOTES

Fossils from Gaspé Bay in Quebec indicate that large rooted plants developed at least 10 million years earlier than paleobotanists had previously thought. The plants were 2 to 3 meters tall and had roots one meter long. They come from the Devonian Period and date to around 390 million years ago, when other plants were still leafless, rootless and restricted to wet habitats, where they floated freely.

Science News (Feb. 14, 1998)

So the velociraptor in *Jurassic Park* wasn't scary enough for you? Consider newly discovered *Megaraptor namunhuaiqui*, with a claw 15 inches long attached to a body probably about 25 feet long. The claw was discovered in Patagonia (Argentina) by Fernando Novas of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales in Buenos Aires. The critter would have been eight times larger than the *JP* raptors. The name is pronounced NA-moon-Y-kee, which is defined as "a Mapuche Indian word meaning 'foot lance,'" though why the Indians would need a word meaning foot lance hasn't yet been explained. Novas returned in March for another dig, sponsored by a private group named the Dinosaur Society.

USA Today (Dec. 3, 1997)

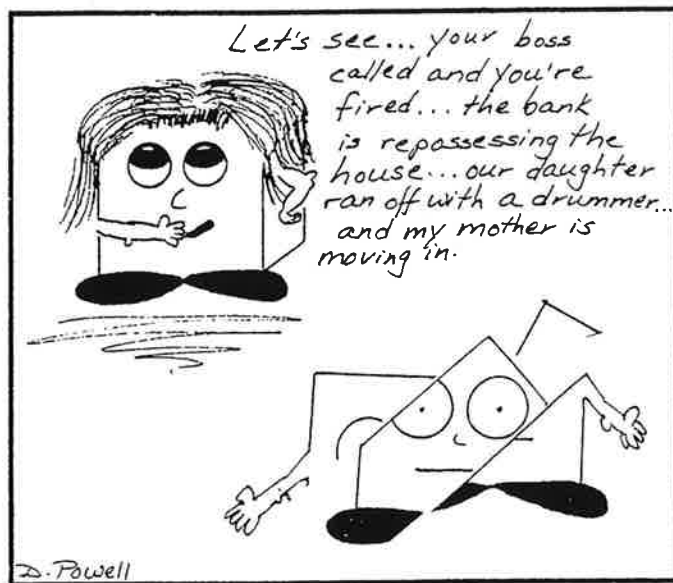
The world's largest dinosaur skull (in fact, the largest skull of any land animal, ever) was excavated last summer in eastern Montana by Lutheran Pastor Ken Olson of Lewiston, MT. The *Torosaurus* skull is nine feet long, has four-foot horns (like a *Triceratops*) and weighs 1,600 pounds. Olson excavated the fossil during his two-week summer vacation, working dawn to dusk every day. The record-breaking fossil is now undergoing preparation at the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, MT. Pastor Olson is a member of the Mid-America Paleontology Society and a research associate at the museum.

MAPS Digest (Dec., 1997)

The oldest known animal fossils have been discovered in southern China, in phosphate mines near the town of Wen-gan. The fossils are microscopic in size, but are clearly embryos, all less than a millimeter across. So far, the specific animals have not been identified. Juvenile sponges have been preserved along with the embryos, and cellular patterns indicate that some of the embryos are probably those of crustaceans. These new fossils are older than the Ediacaran fossils (565 million years old), but not by much--perhaps 590 million years old. Still, the Precambrian is turning out to have been a pretty lively period.

Science News (Feb. 7, 1998)

Crystal Faces by Darryl Powell



The effects of stress in the Fluorite family.

Storing Polish Compounds: (from many bulletins, via *Backbender's Gazette*, 5/97)

Use glass jars to store your buffing compounds. Coffee cans or tins can rust under the wet compound, and pieces of rust can scratch your specimens.

Cleaning Limestone Fossils: (from many bulletins, via *Backbender's Gazette*, 5/97)

Clean limestone fossils with a little Sani-flush in a pail of water. After the fizzing stops, drain and repeat as necessary. Rinse thoroughly when finished. As with any chemical, use caution and protect your eyes.

A MINT'S WORTH OF GOLD

Prospectors around the world have searched for gold in some strange places, but, until recently, no one thought to look in downtown Ottawa. Someone finally did and they found hundreds of millions of dollars worth in the Ottawa River - just outside the mint. For 60 to 70 years, a combination of old technology and no environmental controls left a small patch of river bed - 30x15 meters - laced with waste gold and other precious metals from the coin stamping process of the Canadian Mint. A small consortium of mining companies headed by JAG Mines of Montreal expect to recover about \$450 million (approx. 1 million ounces) worth of gold in the small area after processing about 50,000 tonnes of sludge and sediment.

From The Rock Blast (Sept., 1997)

SOME-VERY-OLD-FOSSILS PUZZLE

B	M	D	I	O	N	I	H	C	E	G	A	O	N	Q
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| <input type="checkbox"/> BRACHIOPOD | <input type="checkbox"/> AMMONITE | <input type="checkbox"/> HYDROZOA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BELEMNITE | <input type="checkbox"/> CYSTOID | <input type="checkbox"/> ANNELID |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GASTROPOD | <input type="checkbox"/> ECHINOID | <input type="checkbox"/> ATHROPOD |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> BLASTOID | <input type="checkbox"/> CYANOBACTERIA | |

The Rocky Reader (March, 1997)

MIDWEST AND AMERICAN FEDERATION SHOW/CONVENTION LOOKS LIKE A WINNER

Registration forms are now available for the field trips and convention this August in the Upper Peninsula at Houghton, Michigan. The show and convention combine the Midwest Federation's annual show and the American Federation's annual show, both hosted by the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club.

But the field trips might just steal the show--the Copper Country club has organized over 20 field trips, both surface and underground, to mines and dumps in the area. Most dumps will be freshly bulldozed for collectors, and some locations will be permanently closed afterward.

Registration deadline is July 11. Dates for the field trips are August 10 through 15, with the show and convention from August 14 to 16. Forms can be obtained from the show's chair, Steve Whelan, 906-337-2599, R.R. 1, Box 406, Calumet, MI 49913, or from the web site: www.portup.com/~swhelan/ccrmc/ A few will also be available at the next club meeting. Some of the field trips are already 25% full, so you should register as soon as possible if you want to go. Locally, Tom Noe and Herb Luckert have forms you can copy.

EDITOR'S NOTE

On pages 7 and 8 of this issue, you will find an update letter from the American Lands Access Association, to which the club belongs. You might also want to read an article entitled "This Land Was Your Land" in last October's *Reader's Digest*, which describes federal policies toward private property when endangered species are involved. You can write your senators or representatives anytime but right now there is no pending bill to comment on. The ALAA is working for the reintroduction of the bill to preserve fossil collecting on federally managed public lands. The bill was introduced earlier and made it into committee, but then the congressional session ended, so the process has to be started again from scratch.



AMERICAN LANDS ACCESS ASSOCIATION INC.

March 19, 1998

Exp 0299

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To all new and renewing members:

Thank you for your new or renewed membership in ALAA. It is because of you that we are able to continue our battle for continued multiple use of public lands and to push forward with legislation to keep that land open for your use.

The membership card enclosed states the purpose of ALAA as:
The purpose of the ALAA is to promote and ensure the right of amateur collecting and recreational mining, and the use of public lands for educational and recreational purposes.

ALAA has worked tirelessly since our very beginning, to gain and ensure that those purposes are met.

We assume that you have been keeping score of the Washington scene, just as we have been and that you are aware that the last part of 1996 and all of 1997, there has been little or no discernible advance in our efforts to move through congress, the two bills that we have been promoting. (1) The Fossil bill first advanced in 1994 and (2) the Rock and Mineral bill for which we are currently seeking a sponsor.

Some in congress have said that their support of the bills was not necessary because Sen. Larry Craig's (R-ID) proposed Mining bill would cover us sufficiently. That was not true to begin with and secondly Craig's bill met heavy opposition from the Administration, not so much because it was a bad bill, but because politically he had vigorously opposed some of the Administration favored bills.

We were fortunate in that Rep. Tim Johnson (D-SD) and a number of other Democratic legislators, largely at the urging of our Legislative Coordinator, Marion Zenker, agreed to carry the bills forward for us. As a result H.R. 2943 was introduced and a number of other legislators, including Rep. Joe Skeen (R-NM), have been successful in getting it into committee. Then, the end of the 1st session of the 105th Congress came in November 1997, and we are now faced with the prospect of starting the process over again in January of 1998 when the 2nd session of the 105th Congress begins.

We do have two Senators from South Dakota who have been working with us. One, former Rep. Tim Johnson who was a Congressman until he defeated the man who let the Tyrannosaurus Rex (named Sue) situation get out of hand. Tim, now a freshman Senator, and Sen. Tom Daschle (D-SD), and who has previously given us hope and help, are preparing the bill for the Senate side of the Congress.

Our Legislative Coordinator has met with Daschle and Johnson within the past two weeks and with freshman Representative David Thune (R-SD) who replaced Tim Johnson during the last election.

We still appear to have the support of a number of legislators in the eastern and Midwestern states, in the persons of:

Sen.'s Kennedy (D-MA), John Kerry (?) (D-MA), Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Sen. Herb Kohl, (D-WI) and Reps. David Obey (D-WI). We believe we still have Rep. Joe Skeen (R-NM) in our camp and we believe there is a chance that Sen. Larry Craig (R-ID) will come on board, along with Rep. Helen Chenoweth (R-ID) and Rep. JoAnn Emerson (R-MO). Mrs. Emerson replaces her husband Rep. Bill Emerson (R-MO) who died in office.

We have not been successful in getting legislators in many of the Midwest and eastern states to support us. There are several reasons for that. Legislators in states where there are no public lands do not have the pressure from their constituents to support public lands legislation and issues. Lately, we have been seeing some changes in attitudes from some of the eastern legislators because the Department of Interior is moving forward in an effort to establish Wilderness areas in: Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and upstate

New York. Many of our western legislators decided not to help their eastern cohorts stymie those efforts, just so the eastern folks could taste the bitterness of federal bureaucracy abuse. Texas has recently felt the brunt of that abuse by the Interior Department around Austin TX. Read the article in the October 1997 Readers Digest - This Land Was Your Land. Secretary Babbitt has promised similar actions in other regions.

ALAA has to face the fact that we are operating on a very limited budget (less than \$10,000 annually) and that a top rated lobbyist commands an annual salary of between \$150,000 and \$250,000. We have not met many rockhounds willing to commit to that amount. The Legislative Coordinator for ALAA is hard pressed to get to Washington more than once each year and that for no more than 2-3 weeks each time. Each trip to Washington for a period of 2-3 weeks can cost from \$3,000 to \$4,000. NO ONE dares to go anywhere unless they travel by taxi. Rooms on the Hill run from \$200 and up per night. Add to that the taxi fare, airfare, meals, and tips and you have a very large bill for 2-3 weeks.

ALAA officers and directors travel to many locations to meet with rockhounds, manage information booths and speak to people who will attend meetings to hear our story. In every case, those officers and directors travel at their own expense and any income from donations are sent to the treasurer of ALAA for use in producing a Newsletter, postage and other incidentals and lobbying. You will note, that only one Newsletter was published by ALAA during 1997. The reason for this: Nothing was being done for us in Washington, so there was a reluctance to spend the \$750-\$850 for printing and mailing a Newsletter to just say hello. True, it might have gained us some donations, but we were interested in saving your money for lobbying.

ALAA, at the last meeting of the AFMS in Jackson, MS., was acknowledged to be the lobbying arm of the AFMS and of all the Regional Federations. We are happy to be acknowledged as a legitimate child after such a long period. The recognition came without promise of monetary support. In other words, "you are a legitimate child, but that doesn't entitle you to an allowance." Currently ALAA has about 375 dues paying individual members and Clubs. We were rather naive in our infancy and asked only for individual members. Now we welcome anyone with open arms.

What does ALAA desire from its constituents? We need your moral support; We need your financial support; and probably most of all, we need you to develop the habit of writing your legislators. Not just once, but regularly in support of our efforts and to gain support for our legislation. We'd like you to write so often that the legislators begin to recognize your handwriting and think of you as more consistent than their college age child writing home requesting money. Did you ever notice that employees generally work harder when the Boss is watching? Well, you are the Boss, so give your employees some direction. That goes for communicating with ALAA as well.

We thank you for your continued support and wish you good rock hunting when the snow disappears. Remember, our Treasurer loves to receive your mail. She is like a kid with candy when checks arrive.

The new Treasurer is: Toby Cozens, 4401 S.W. Hill, Seattle, WA. 98116
email address: tobycoz@aol.com

Don't forget to visit our web page at: <http://www.collectors-mall.com/ALAA/>

If you have email and would like to receive our electronic Newsletter send an email message to Bob Cranston email: cranston@fgn.net

For those of you who use the Internet and also go to your local libraries to check the Federal register, the following addresses may be useful. To check the Federal Register use the following address:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs When the screen comes up, click on Federal Register and choose your subject. Generally for our hobbyists, this will be Forest Service or Land management.

If you wish to check in on the current Temporary Suspension of Road Construction in Roadless areas go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads> and the USFS homepage is: www.fs.fed.us/

Sincerely,



Bob Cranston
Sec'y ALAA