

**BEEHIVE ROCK & GEM CLUB**  
**DAVID HARRIS, EDITOR**  
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OGDEN, UT 84414



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BEEHIVE ROCK  
AND GEM CLUB

P.O. BOX 1011  
OGDEN, UTAH 84402

**VOL. 38 No.11**  
**2010**

Website: <http://www.beehivrockandgem.com>

Nov,

**MEMBER OF UTAH FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES**  
**ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES**  
**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

The Beehive Rock & Gem Club began in April of 1970.

The purpose of our club is: To collect, cut and polish rocks, to gather fossils, mineral specimens, to discuss and impart our knowledge of the different phases of collecting, polishing and displaying-

To promote, organize and hold meetings, outings, trips, and similar events. To enjoy and protect our natural resources.

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**USUAL DATE FOR MEETING - FOURTH THURSDAY - 7 PM OGDEN-HINKLEY AIRPORT TERMINAL, 3900 S. & AIRPORT ROAD**  
**November, December have changes. Maybe others.**  
Call any Board member for current information.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BEEHIVE ROCK & GEM CLUB FOR 2010**

President & Board Chair	Joe Kent	801-771-8184
Vice President	Mark Acker	801-475-4705
Secretary	Bonnie Kent	801-771-8184
Treasurer	David Law	801-731-4255
Field Trip Coordinator	Ray Law	801-825-5857
Program Chairman	Ray Rutledge	801-732-8331
Door Prize Chair	Jim Alexander	801-399-0785
Hospitality Chair	Linda Pilcher	801-644-4931
Communications Chair	Kay Berry	801-825-6261
Membership Chair & Club Directory	David Law	801-644-4931
Mini-show Chair	Dean Bennett	801-773-7142
Safety Chair	Lynn Hayes	435-723-2216
Publicity	Mark Acker	801-475-4705
Managing Editor of BUZZER	Dave Harris	801-737-1266
Associate	Leora Alexander	801-399-0785
Calling Committee Chairs	Sherm & Ricky Thomson	435-760-1362
Calling Committee Chairs		

**FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES****DUES**

Rocky Mountain Federation Delegate -----President  
 Utah Federation Delegate -----TBA  
 Public Land Advisory Committee ----- Jim Alexander

Due: October 1  
 Single - \$11  
 Couple or  
 Family - \$16  
 Junior - \$5  
 Overdue: January 1

**Beehive Club Program – 18<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

**A shortened program will be a**

**“Rock Potpourri” involving:**

- . A new Agates/ Jasper website viewing
- . 2 key minerals for rock-hounders
- . Possibly another interesting “potpourri”

**(( Don't forget to bring any of your rocks for the “show & tell & ask” table ))**  
**“Rocky” Ray, Program Chair**



**Also we will be conducting our annual voting of officers ...See Presidents Message on next page.**

**\*\*\*REMEMBER IT IS ONE WEEK EARLIER this month\*\*\***

**Dues are due...Dues are due... Dues are due**

## Presidents Message

It was about a year ago when Dan Siler called me on the phone and asked me if I would consider running for Beehive Club President. Norine Ramos also received such a call. With great relief she congratulated me and I embarked on what has turned out to be an interesting voyage.

Well now it is my turn. There are two positions being vacated by present officers, Vice President Mark Acker, and Secretary Bonnie Kent. Thank you for your service. It is greatly appreciated. During the last Board meeting several names were proposed as possible candidates for these positions. Maybe you have already received a call or maybe I'm still procrastinating.

**On November 18, our next club meeting**, the elections will be held. All offices may have nominations taken from the floor. If there are no opposition candidates presented, those nominated will be elected. **All nominees must be approached and agree to their nomination prior to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.**

On another note our **January Pot Luck Dinner** will be accompanied by a slideshow presentation of pictures taken by club members and visitors during trips and club activities. Rocky Ray (Rutledge) will be compiling the presentation. Please bring any .jpg pictures on disk or flash drive to the meeting and give them to him so that he can get the presentation put together. Thanks again for all your support, next year should be even better!

Joe Kent, President

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## Secretary Notes

Beehive Rock and Gem Board Meeting, Nov. 2, 2010

- Dean Bennett is in charge of the displays at the Huntsville Library. The set up will be on or about Dec. 1st. He will contact you or you can contact him if you would like to display something you have made.
- Dave Law reported that about half of the members have paid dues for 2011.
- The club has enough door prizes for now.
- We need more people to volunteer to be on the calling committee.
- All members should review the club bylaws. 2011 is the year that the bylaws are due to be looked at and revisions can be made.
- Dan Siler will check the club web page and correct any errors. Can the bylaws be put on the web page?
- The Alexanders' will contact Rosalee, the wife of a past club president, for club information from years past.
- Dave Harris gave two ideas for the Buzzer. One is that every month a member will write about how he/she became a rock hunter. The other idea is that there could be an article in the Buzzer about what different members do with the rocks they have collected. The Alexanders' will be featured first. If you get a phone call, please be willing to share!
- The election was discussed.
- The pot luck will be at the Jan. meeting.

Attendance: Joe, Bonnie, Rocky Ray, Jim, Leora, Kay, Blaine, Dave and Dave H.

Bonnie Kent, Secretary

## Last Month's Meeting...

## Our Annual Demonstration Meeting



Ray Law showing finished gems to Ricky Thomson.



"Rocky" Ray with Gary Warren.



Sally Warren showing samples to Nancy Zega, and Jon and Lonamar Thomas.



Gary Warren with Al Jones.



Tom Burchard discussing the finer points of the capping equipment.



A very good turn out!



**SHOW DATES**

Nov 27-28 – Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Show  
 Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society  
 160 N. Valentine St.  
 Free Admission  
[myerbd@gmail.com](mailto:myerbd@gmail.com)

Dec to Jan - Beehive Rock & Gem Club  
 Display at Weber County Library  
 Ogden Valley Branch  
 Huntsville, UT

Jan 1-31 – Desert Gardens Int'l Gem & Mineral  
 1064 Kuehn St.  
 Quartzsite, AZ  
 Free Admission  
[www.desertgardensrvpark.net](http://www.desertgardensrvpark.net)

Feb 10-13 – Tucson Gem & Mineral Show  
 “Minerals of California”  
[www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)

Feb 26-27 – Idaho Gem & Mineral Show  
 Idaho Gem & Mineral Club  
 Expo Idaho Fairgrounds  
 5610 Glenwood & Chinden  
 Boise, ID  
 Charlie Smith, 208-628-4002

**Lost Items**

Lost at the last meeting:

3-prong electrical cord, 12-15 inches long. “Rocky” Ray used it to connect his equipment. If found, call “Rocky” Ray at 801-732-8331.

Lost at the Grouse Creek field trip:  
 Ordinary digging shovel. It has the initials “DH” on top of the handle. If found, call Dave Harris at 501-737-1266.



**BIRTHSTONES** – Turquoise – Hydrrous basic aluminum phosphate, plus copper. Moh’s scale 5.

“It may be the first gem rock used for jewelry.” [In Egypt about 6000 –75000 BC, in the U.S. native jewelry dates back to first people in the area.] “That the blue, even the greenish-blue of turquoise may fade is well known. In old Germany, it was often used for engagement rings and was thought to retain its preferred color as long as love endured, but to fade if the one wearing it was unfaithful! Something about True Blue?” Napa Gems 12/04

Blue Zircon for success – zirconium silicate, 6.5 to 7 on Moh’s scale of hardness. Found in “gem gravels” of Cambodia, Thailand, Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Africa and a few places in the U.S. – “This gem occurs in green, yellow, honey, browns, oranges and red as well as the better known colors of blue and colorless. Zircon is prized for its fiery brilliance and because of this, it was an early substitute for diamond.” Excerpted from Quarry Quips 12/92

Lapis Lazuli = Hardness 5 – 5.5

“—lapis is actually a rock, rather than a mineral, lazurite, plus variable amounts of diopside and other minerals.—“ The finis lapis is considered to be a solid, deep blue with no white calcite spots and just a sprinkling of brassy yellow pyrite. Excerpted from The Rockfinder via the Glacial Drifter 9/07

**ANNIVERSARY** - Turquoise, 5<sup>th</sup> Zircon, 19<sup>th</sup>.

**FLOWERS** – Narcissus and Holly are traditional. The Poinsettia certainly deserves a designation, too. It already has a place in modern celebrations.

## Exploring Earth Science at the Frontiers of Discovery: Redhill Ridge's Dakota Sandstones Contain Trace Fossils

By Chris Retzlaff,  
Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society Junior Member



Figure 1. Burrows made by prehistoric organisms can be seen going in all directions. Photo by S. Veatch

The Redhill Ridge area in Park County, Colorado is a hogback composed of Dakota Sandstone. This fine-grained, Cretaceous-age sandstone—near the town of Fairplay—contains trace fossils (Figures 1 and 2) that help paleontologists understand what the environment was like there more than 65 million years ago.

Trace fossils, also called ichnofossils, are like fossils of any kind—they are traces of organisms preserved in the Earth's crust from prehistoric times (Hantula, 2002). Trace fossils can be important to paleontologists for many reasons. Trace fossils capture paleo behavior of prehistoric creatures revealed through the traces they left behind, such as burrows, tracks, trails, coprolites (excrement), and boreholes (Pannell, 2004). Trace fossils also provide information on the climate and the environment they were formed in. When examined, trace fossils may reveal many important facts about the rock they are embedded in such as the sedimentary environment, the rate of deposition, and if water flowed on or near the rock (Kusky, 2005).

Generally, if the maker of the trace is not found in direct involvement with its trace, it is difficult or impossible to know what organism made the trace. For instance, an entirely different organism may produce identical traces. Because of this problem, trace fossils are classified



Figure 2. Close up of a trace fossil. Photo by S. Veatch, 2009

into either genus or specie groups— ichnogenera and ichnospecies respectively—and do not relate to the organisms that created them. For the most part, the only way to truly determine what organism created a trace fossil is to find the actual fossilized remains, or body fossils, of the organism that made the traces in direct association with those traces.

The Redhill Ridge trace fossils hold some interesting clues as to what organisms lived there. First, during the Cretaceous Period, the area near present day Fairplay was near the shore of a huge inland sea—the Western Interior Seaway (Chronic and Williams, 2002). This shows that

whatever creature made these fossils in the Redhill Ridge area lived in shallow water near the shore. Next, the trace fossils show that the maker could dig a system of burrows and tunnels in the sand. Furthermore, it is possible to assume that the organism's habitat was wet because of its ability to burrow in sand. Finally, from measurements of the actual trace fossil specimens it is easy to tell their widths range from 3 to 5 millimeters. Using these clues it is possible to hypothesize that the organisms that made these traces were worms or similar animals. The Redhill Ridge area is rich in trace fossils and these fossils continue to aid paleontologists to better understand the local environment as it was during the Cretaceous.

### References:

- Chronic, H., and Williams, F., 2002. *Roadside Geology of Colorado*. Missoula, Montana: Mountain Publishing Company.
- Hantula, R., 2002, "FOSSIL." *Funk & Wagnalls New World Encyclopedia*. New York: World Almanac Education Group, Inc.
- Pannell, M., 2004. "Fossil and Fossilization." *The Gale Encyclopedia of Science*. Detroit: Gale Virtual Reference Library.
- Kusky, Timothy, 2005. "Biogenic Sediment." *Encyclopedia of Earth Science*. New York: Facts On File, Inc.

### About the author:

Chris Retzlaff is 13 years old and in the eighth grade. He is interested in many subjects in school especially science. He enjoys the outdoors and likes to hike, ski, and run. Also, he plays the piano and enjoys all types of music. Retzlaff lives in the Denver metro area.

Via Rocky Mountain News Sep 2010

## American Lands Access Association 2010 Mid Year Report

John Martin

### S. 787: Clean Water Restoration Act

A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify the jurisdiction of the United States over waters of the United States.

April 2, 2009: Introduced

Jun 18, 2009: Committee on Environment and Public Works. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

April 9, 2010: Still in Committee

This bill was considered in committee which has recommended it be considered by the Senate as a whole. Although it has been placed on a calendar of business, the order in which legislation is considered and voted on is determined by the majority party leadership.

S. 787 States:

(8) this Act will treat, as 'waters of the United States', those features that were treated as such pursuant to the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers in existence before the dates of the decisions referred to in paragraph (10), including--

- (A) all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
- (B) all interstate waters, including interstate wetlands;
- (C) all other waters, such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds;
- (D) all impoundments of waters of the United States;
- (E) tributaries of the aforementioned waters;
- (F) the territorial seas; and
- (G) wetlands adjacent to the aforementioned waters;

This bill puts control of all US Surface waters under the control of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA.

**Effects to Rockhounding:** Will give the EPA the authority to close, restrict or regulate access roads which follow or cross wetlands, seasonal streams, dry river or stream beds even if they are on private property.

Rockhounds should oppose this bill because it gives to much authority to the Environmental Protection Agency without the necessary checks and balance of due process.

### **S. 796: Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009**

A bill to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land, and for other purposes.

April 2, 2009 Introduced

July 14, 2009: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 111-116.

April 9, 2010 Still in Committee

**Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009** - Prohibits the issuance of a federal patent for any mining claim, millsite, or tunnel site (claim or site) unless the Secretary of the Interior determines that: (1) a patent application was filed by September 30, 1994; and (2) all application requirements were fully complied with by such date. Prescribes a mandatory claim maintenance fee and location fee for each claim or site. States that failure to perform assessment work, pay a mandatory maintenance or location fee, or file timely notice of location shall: (1) conclusively constitute forfeiture; and (2) make the claim or site null and void. Subjects production of locatable minerals from any mining claim to a royalty of between 2 % and 5% of the value of the production, not including reasonable transportation, beneficiation, and processing costs. Authorizes the Secretary to grant royalty relief. Directs the Secretary to establish a comprehensive inspection, collection, fiscal, and production accounting and auditing system to: (1) determine accurately any royalties, interest, fines, penalties, fees, deposits, and other payments owed;

and (2) collect and account for such payments in a timely manner. Requires a permit to engage in the following activities on federal land: (1) mineral activities that would disturb surface resources, including land, air, water, and fish and wildlife; and (2) exploration and mineral activities that involve more than casual use of the land. Prescribes requirements for mining permits. Requires an operator to give the Secretary specified financial assurances before beginning any mineral activities requiring an exploration or mining permit in order to ensure reclamation and restoration of any land or water adversely affected by the activities. Establishes the Hardrock Minerals Reclamation Fund for the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by past hardrock minerals and mining and related activities in abandoned hardrock mine states, and on Indian land located within the exterior boundaries of abandoned hardrock mine states. Subjects each operator of a hardrock minerals mining operation to an abandoned mine land reclamation fee.

### **H.R. 699: Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009**

To modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain lands, consistent with the principles of self-initiation of mining claims, and for other purposes.

January 27, 2009 Introduced

February 26, 2009 the bill has been referred to the following committees:

House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources -- Hearings Held

April 9, 2010 Still in Committee

**Hardrock Mining and Reclamation Act of 2009** - Applies this Act to any mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site claim located under the general mining laws or used for beneficiation or mineral processing activities, regardless of whether legal and beneficial title to the mineral is held by the United States. Conditions federal issuance of a patent for any such mining or millsite claim upon specified determinations by the Secretary of the Interior. Subjects production of locatable minerals to a royalty of 8% of the gross income from mining. Imposes a 4% royalty upon federal lands subject to an existing permit, and specified royalties on certain federal land added to an existing operations permit. Prescribes a hardrock mining claim maintenance fee for each unpatented mining claim, mill, or tunnel site on federally owned lands. Designates certain wilderness study areas, areas of critical environmental concern, and related areas as not open to location of mining claims. Permits a state or local government or Indian tribe to petition the Secretary of the Interior for withdrawal of specific federal land from operation of the general mining laws in order to protect specific values. Instructs the Secretary to ensure that mineral activities on federal land subject to a claim are carefully controlled to prevent undue degradation of public lands and resources. Prescribes requirements for the exploration permit process and for operations permits, including financial assurances.

Requires restoration of lands to a condition capable of supporting prior uses or other beneficial uses. Establishes the Locatable Minerals Fund composed of: (1) penalties, fees, and royalties; (2) the Hardrock Reclamation Account, and (3) the Hardrock Community Impact Assistance Account. Amends the National Materials and Minerals Policy, Research and Development Act of 1980 to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to initiate prompt actions to improve the availability and analysis of mineral data in public land use decision-making with respect to National Forest System lands. Amends the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to subject certain oil shale claims to the reclamation requirements of this Act. Repeals the Building Stone Act and the Saline Placer Act.

Rockhounds should oppose these legislation acts because if passed it will make filing and maintaining small claims such as club, society or federations may have or trying to establish nearly impossible and if filing is allowed the filing fees will be expensive with recurring annual fees and royalty fees based on annual material removal.

#### **S. 799: America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009**

A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States.

April 2, 2009 Introduced

Apr 2, 2009: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

April 9, 2010 Still in Committee

**America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009** - Designates specified lands in the following areas of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System: (1) Great Basin; (2) Zion and Mojave Desert; (3) Grand Staircase-Escalante; (4) Moab-La Sal Canyons; (5) Henry Mountains; (6) Glen Canyon; (7) San Juan-Anasazi; (8) Canyonlands Basin; (9) San Rafael Swell; and (10) Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin. Sets forth administrative provisions regarding: (1) filing by the Secretary of the Interior of a map and a legal description of each designated wilderness area with appropriate congressional committees; (2) the exchange of state-owned lands within such areas; (3) federal reservation of water rights; (4) measurement of setbacks for roads with wilderness; (5) authorized livestock grazing; and (6) withdrawal of such lands from disposition under certain public land laws.

#### **H.R. 1925: America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009**

To designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

April 2, 2009 Introduced

Oct 1, 2009: The bill has been referred to the following committees:

House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on  
House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on National  
Parks, Forests and Public Lands -- Hearings Held  
April 9, 2010 Still in committee

**America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009** - Designates specified lands in the following areas of Utah as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System: (1) Great Basin; (2) Zion and Mojave Desert; (3) the Grand Staircase-Escalante; (4) Moab-La Sal Canyons; (5) Henry Mountains; (6) Glen Canyon; (7) San Juan-Anasazi; (8) Canyonlands Basin; (9) San Rafael Swell; and (10) Book Cliffs and Uinta Basin. Sets forth administrative provisions regarding: (1) filing by the Secretary of the Interior of a map and a legal description of each designated wilderness area with appropriate congressional committees; (2) the exchange of state-owned lands within such areas; (3) federal reservation of water rights; (4) measurement of setbacks for roads with wilderness; (5) authorized livestock grazing; and (6) withdrawal of such lands from disposition under certain public land laws.

**WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct 1, 2009** - Today, House Natural Resources Ranking Member Doc Hastings joined the entire Utah Congressional delegation in opposing the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act of 2009 (H.R. 1925) – a bill that would lock up 9.5 million acres of land in Utah and block energy development, job creation and public land access. Of the 146 cosponsors of the bill, not a single one is from the state of Utah.

Rockhounds should oppose these legislation bills because, if enacted, would designate 9.4 million acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Utah (11% of the state) as Wilderness. This will restrict access or close access to prime collecting areas in the state of Utah.

#### **S.2921: California Desert Conservation & Recreation Act**

A bill to provide for the conservation, enhanced recreation opportunities, and development of renewable energy in the California Desert Conservation Area, to require the Secretary of the Interior to designate certain offices to serve as Renewable Energy Coordination Offices for coordination of Federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development, and for other purposes.

December 21, 2009 Introduced -- California Desert Protection Act of 2010 - Amends the California Desert Protection Act of 1994.

December 21, 2009 Senate Energy and Natural Resources  
April 9, 2010 still in committee with no (0) co-sponsors

**California Desert Protection Act of 2010** - Amends the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to, among other things: (1) establish or designate national monuments, wilderness areas, a special management area, and off-highway vehicle recreation areas; (2) release specified wilderness study areas; (3) adjust national park and preserve boundaries; and (4) specify land withdrawals,



exchanges, and acquisitions. Amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate specified segments of rivers and creeks as components of the National Wild and Scenic California Desert Protection Act of 2010 Rivers System. Amends the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of the Interior to designate Renewable Energy Coordination Offices (the Offices) in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming for the coordination of federal permits for renewable energy projects and transmission lines to integrate renewable energy development.

Establishes a process and procedures (including deadlines) for consideration of right-of-way use authorizations applications for the construction of wind and solar electricity generation facilities.

Requires programmatic environmental impact statements analyzing the impacts of the development of solar, biomass, wind, geothermal energy, and associated electric transmission capacity on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, National Forest System lands, and on military installations in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts in Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Requires a study analyzing the impacts of a program to develop large-scale renewable electricity generation projects on military installations in the Mojave and Colorado Deserts in California and Nevada. Establishes the California Desert Mitigation Bank Pilot Program under which eligible lands in the California Desert Conservation Area shall be made available as habitat mitigation zones to serve as mitigation for the development of renewable energy projects on non-federal land. Requires a report on the Offices and renewable energy permitting policies and processes in the western states. Authorizes grants for the development, construction, and acquisition of advanced electric transmission properties. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced this legislation that would withdraw 1.6 million acres of desert landscapes from public access. The 1.6 million acres is larger than the state of Connecticut and this legislation will close access to some of the best rockhound collecting areas in Southern California.

Rockhounds should oppose this legislation in its current version and they (we) should contact our elected officials to encourage them to keep the access roads and trails to collecting areas open for motorized vehicle travel.

#### **H.R. 2454: American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (CAP and TRADE)**

To create clean energy jobs, achieve energy independence; reduce global warming pollution and transition to a clean energy economy.

6/26/2009--Passed House amended. American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 - Sets forth provisions concerning clean energy, energy efficiency, reducing global warming pollution, transitioning to a clean energy economy, and providing for agriculture and forestry related offsets. Includes provisions: (1) creating a combined energy efficiency and renewable electricity standard and requiring retail electricity suppliers to meet 20% of their

demand through renewable electricity and electricity savings by 2020; (2) setting a goal of, and requiring a strategic plan for, improving overall U.S. energy productivity by at least 2.5% per year by 2012 and maintaining that improvement rate through 2030; and (3) establishing a cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and setting goals for reducing such emissions from covered sources by 83% of 2005 levels by 2050.

May 15, 2009 Introduced

Jun 26, 2009 Passed House 219 -212

Jul 7, 2009: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 97.

This is the most restrictive and regulating bill to come before congress in US history. If passed and signed into law it will have some controlling effects on each and every one of us in our daily lives. Even the short summary is too long to place in this article and the full text of the bill is over 1000 pages. To see the full text of the bill go to <http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h111-2454> .

The A.L.A.A. is a 501(c4) organization. Its purpose is promoting and ensuring the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes; and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers. Contributions to the A.L.A.A. are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Tax Purposes.

Via American Lands Access Association, Inc. web site: [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)



## **On Identification of a Rock**

By Catalina Sattler

I've looked into Poughs  
And I've memorized Mohs,  
I've even paid Dana a visit  
But when it's all said  
I still scratch my head,  
Sit here, and wonder  
What is it?

From *Rockhound Rambling*, July 1960  
Via *Strata Gem* October 2010

## The Story of Montana Agates



It has always been a mystery how the peculiar little scenes got inside a rock as hard as agate. It is the claim of geologists that the spots were caused by infinitely minute seams or fissures in the softer parts of the rock being filled with metallic oxides when the world was young. These oxides made four different colors that form various combinations of color when blended together, or appear in single colors in each rock.

The red color is oxide of iron. The black is oxide of manganese. The green is oxide of copper. The blue is oxide of nickel. This theory has been elaborated by the help of high powered microscopes which show the tracings of little canals so close the naked eye could not detect it; but the oxides remained, staining the rocks in wonderful designs. The fernlike and branch effects of the trees grass and shrubbery, come from the fact that the tiny canals branched out in various subdivisions forming smaller canals for a common center. In addition to these canals, the rock became flawed through shrink-age while passing through a period of evaporation which, according to scientists, has taken more than three million years to reduce the stone to the hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale.

These canals and flaws have been perfectly healed by soft silicate formations of which the stone is a part, and the evaporation has caused the oxides to take on such forms as seen on the window after a frosty night. Technically, Montana agate is known as "dendritic" agate, and the moss spots are called "dendrites".

It is the third hardest stone in the world, and is cut only with a diamond saw. There can never be two pieces alike even though cut from the same stone.

Source: The Petrified Digest  
via Pineywoods Rooter – Aug. 2008  
Via Rock Chips Oct 2008  
Via Strata Gem Nov 2010

## Rockus Collectralus: A Case Study

by Chris Lee (17), Georgia Mineral Society  
From: Tips and Trips, 1/08  
(1st Place – AFMS Junior Articles, 12 - 17)

It is a horrible thing to be addicted to rocks. In the middle of the night you wake up, contemplating more purchases to make. The shelves in your house are overloaded, sagging under all the weight – 30% of the earth's crust sitting on them. You don't even bother showering any more, as the fine dust left on your hands from carrying rocks has built up to unmanageable levels. All but your best friends have abandoned you; they do not want to be seen in public with someone so dirty.

This is a glimpse into the life of a person affected by rockus collectralus, a horrible disease that causes compulsive rock collection. Sufferers of this disease can be easily identified by their bulging pockets, their vest covered in dust, and their beat-up hat. Many sufferers also can be seen at any place that rocks, minerals, or fossils are sold. They can be differentiated from other patrons by lack of the phrase: "How much?"

Unfortunately, there is no way to treat rockus collectralus. However, there are ways of making it more livable. One way is to provide frequent exposure to others with this disease; this will help the sufferer to maintain their sanity. Another way is to provide frequent opportunities and finances to purchase as many rocks as needed. This keeps everyone happy, except for your accountant and spouse. Finally, the most important way to treat rockus collectralus is to have more social contact than just your rock dealer, and to not spend all day organizing, tagging, gazing at, and researching your collection.

If all of the above steps are followed, sufferers of rockus collectralus can have some of their lives back and be on their way to recovery.

Via The Franklin County Rockhouser -9/10  
Via Strata Gem Nov 2010