



## May 2019 Newsletter

**“It’s in our name . . .  
It’s what we do . . .  
We collect rocks!!!!”**

The **CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS (CORC)** is an informal group dedicated to sharing the rock hound hobby. We meet for field trips, collecting rocks, monthly programs, and related activities. You do not have to be a member to attend meetings. However, you **MUST** be a member to participate in field trips. Yearly memberships are \$20 for individuals, or \$25 for households. A membership form is on our website, which includes a liability release for field trips.

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**Club Website – <http://corockcollectors.com>**

**Welcome:** Rockhounding is best when it is shared. We welcome visitors to our meetings, anytime. If anyone has any interesting adventures or unusual materials that they would like to share, we would love to hear about them.

**The Club meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, March through October. The November meeting is a potluck holiday get-together on a Sunday. No winter meetings.**

**Regular meetings are held at the Redmond Grange, 707 Kalama Avenue, Redmond, starting at 7:00 pm until 8:30 or 9:00.**

## **Field Trip on Saturday, May 11**

### **Change of location and where to meet**

Please join us for our long-awaited field trip to Hampton Butte for petrified wood in many colors, especially the prized green. Agates and jasper can also be found. We will meet at 9 a.m. at the Costco parking lot in Bend on Saturday, May 11. We plan to park on the southside near the Tire Center. New members can join before the trip, and member dues can be paid. Let's hope for good weather! Please note—this is a new location for a meeting place. Please bring digging tools, plenty of water and sunscreen. The road to the dig site is suitable for all vehicles.

### **Wednesday, May 15 – Next CORC Meeting**

Our next club meeting is Wednesday, May 15 at the Redmond Grange Hall at 7 p.m. We will share the results of our May 11 field trip to Hampton Butte and the multi-day trip to Succor Creek. We will also discuss the upcoming Fallon, Nevada, trip on May 20-24 as well as the June field trip to the Ochoco Mts and the June multi-day trip for sunstones. The program will be on How to Cut Opals by Don Ross. See you there!

### **Minutes from CORC Meeting on April 17, 2019**

**Welcome and Introductions** - Elizabeth Prindle, Club President, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and welcomed all. New members and guests were introduced. There were approximately 40 members and guests in attendance. Members were reminded to pay their 2019 dues by the end of April. Members were reminded that in order to participate in field trips, your membership needed to be up to date for insurance purposes. Please pay your dues to Marty Betsch, club treasurer. The club is now officially a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Final copies of the Articles of Incorporation and Club By-Laws will be posted on the club website at <http://corockcollectors.com>

**Field trips – May** - John Moreau announced a change in field trip sites for the Saturday, May 11 trip. Since the April trip was canceled due to poor road conditions, the May field trip will now be to **Hampton Butte** for petrified wood. The meeting location for this field trip will be the southside of the Costco parking lot (near Tire Center) in Bend at 9 a.m. Another trip is planned to **Succor Creek** near the Idaho border (about 50 miles south of Ontario) the week of April 29 for thundereggs and Wild Horse jasper. There is dry camping at the Succor Creek State Recreation Area. A trip is also planned May 20-24 to **Fallon, Nevada**, for wonderstone, fossils, and other minerals. There is a private campground on the west end of town as well as numerous motels in town.

**Future Field trips - Sunday, June 9** – Coyle Butte area in the Ochocos outside of Prineville for agates and crystals.

**June-July Rock Shows** in Prineville, Madras and Sisters. More info to come.

**July or August** – Club picnic

**Sunday, September 8** – Whistler Springs in the Ochocos for thundereggs.

**Saturday, October 12** – Mile Post 32 near Post for petrified wood, crystals and leaf fossils.

**Multiday trips - June 22-23** – Sunstones with the Klamath Falls Rock and Arrowhead Club at their claim. More details to follow.

**Fall and Spring trips to McDermitt** – Dates to be determined. McDermitt has a large variety of minerals and is on the Oregon/Nevada border. There is a private campground in the small town. It is possible that there is now a gate on the east side of McDermitt on the reservation blocking the Quinn River access.

**Federation News** – Clara and Del Walker were introduced as the Northwest Federation Representatives. The Northwest Federation has an annual show, which this year will be in Lewiston, Idaho in the middle of October. Clara passed out name tags for current members. Members were reminded that several of the local rock shops offer discounts if you show your name tag as proof of CORC membership. Club decals were also available. The Federation publishes a newsletter that will be either mailed or emailed to you as part of your membership in CORC. In addition to articles, the newsletter lists upcoming rock shows in the Northwest. For more information, please visit the Northwest Federation website at <http://northwestfederation.org>. The Northwest Federation is one of the groups that belong to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

**Programs** – Don Ross is the chair of the program committee. The April program is on Opals in Oregon by Jules Wetzel. The May program will be How to Cut Opals by Don Ross. Please offer any suggestions on future programs to Don Ross.

**Announcements** – Club members were reminded of the Rockhound Code of Ethics. Please be sure to leave all gates as you found them. Cover your holes and take only what you need or can use. Please use discretion when driving on dirt roads in muddy conditions to avoid creating ruts. For a complete list of the Code of Ethics, please see the American Federation website at <http://www.amfed.org/ethics.htm>

There is going to be a large rock sale of rocks and equipment belonging to a couple who have decided to retire from collecting rocks. The dates of the sale are June 6 – June 17. For more information you can contact Howard and Jeannette Bushman, 14901 SW Glade Ln, Sherwood, OR 97140, phone 503-625-5177.

John Moreau shared an example of opalized jasper collected in east McDermitt near the 79 mine.

Our club has a small library of magazines and rock collecting books from different states. You may check out the books and magazines during the break or after the meeting. It is located in the kitchen of the Grange Hall. Please be sure to sign out the check out form.

**Program** – Jules Wetzel is a retired land surveyor and has worked with geologists and engineers all over Oregon. He has been a member of CORC since 2009. Although he claims not to be an expert on opals, he gave a very thorough and interesting talk on where to find opals in Oregon as a follow up to last year’s presentation on how opals were formed. There are three kinds of opals that are of interest to rock hounds: 1) common opal that does not display the play of color; it can come in a variety of colors 2) fire opal which has bright yellow, orange or red background color and 3) precious opal, which exhibits the “play of color”, a flashing display of color when the opal is under a light source. The most abundant opal is common opal.

To identify opal, look for a glassy surface. It is softer than agate or jasper and is often associated with those silicas. There are several places in central Oregon where opal can be found: Richardson’s Rock Ranch has a blue opal bed with thunderegg inclusions, McDonald’s Ranch wood has some opalized petrified wood, cinnabar mines east of Glass Buttes and other sites listed on the Tim Fisher Rock On CD. For more information on the CD, you can go to <https://orerockon.com/CD.htm>

Several private mines can be found in Oregon, such as Opal Butte and Quartz Mountain – Juniper Ridge (call mine owner/operator Chuck Newnham at 541-892-7486 for info). Succor Creek has blue opal thunder egg beds, some of which is unstable and may fade. The Virgin Valley in Nevada is an area famous for precious fire opal, located between Adel, OR and Denio, NV. There are several fee digs such as Rainbow Ridge and Bonanza. Check mine websites for details when open. The opal is often kept in water-filled display domes since it can be unstable.

The meeting concluded with door prize drawings and ended approximately at 8:40 p.m. If you won a door prize, please bring one to donate at the next meeting. --Submitted by Suzie Meeker, Secretary

### **Do you know....**

Do you know the meanings of these words when applied to mineralogy? You can search for the terms on the Internet to see pictures (always worth a 1000 words!).

**Fracture** – a description of the way minerals break in uneven surfaces. Fracture descriptions include such terms as conchoidal (shell-like), hackly, fibrous, splintery, and uneven. You can search for “conchoidal fracture”.

**Geode** – a sphere of rock, often hollow, that is lined with crystals. To see the difference between thundereggs and geodes, you can check out <https://www.crystalcabin-gallery.com/blog/2017/5/5/-difference-between-thunder-eggs-and-geodes>

**Inclusion** – any material that is trapped inside a mineral during its formation. Check out this website for some beautiful pictures of “plume” (feather like inclusions)

<http://agateswithinclusions.com/article-html/>

**Irradiated** – minerals that have been exposed to radiation are called irradiated. Clear quartz crystals can be irradiated in a lab to turn them deep black. You can search for “gemstone irradiation”.

**Leaverite** – a word used by mineral collectors in the field when they find a specimen that is not worth taking home. “Don’t pick that one up. Leave it right where you found it”.

**Malleable** – a mineral that can be hammered into very thin sheets without breaking is malleable. Some malleable minerals are gold, copper and silver. Search for “malleable copper”.

**Mohs Hardness Scale** – also called Hardness Scale. It is named after a German mineralogist Friedrich Mohs. Mineral hardness is measured on a scale from 1 to 10 with 1 being the softest (talc) and 10 the hardest (diamond). Search for “Mohs hardness scale”.

**Native Element** – a naturally occurring element, such as native copper.

**Occurrence** – the locality or region where a mineral is found. It can be very small and localized or can also be extensive, covering many miles.

**Petrified** – organic matter that has been transformed into rock or mineral material. Check out this website for more information on petrified wood <https://geology.com/stories/13/petrified-wood/>

### **Changes to the CORC By-Laws (see CORC website for complete By-Laws)**

There were a few minor changes to the CORC By-Laws made at the April 17, 2019, Executive Board Meeting:

3b. Dues are now due by April 30 (change of date) of the current year.

4e. Quorum – one more than ½ (one-half) of the Board members (delete present) shall constitute...

7. Committees – At the discretion or will of the President (add—and with approval of the Executive Board), any number of committees may be formed...

8. Parliamentary Rules – Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the authority on questions of parliamentary procedure (add—unless stated otherwise in this document).

**Business Cards:**

We are more than happy to include members' rock-related business cards in this section.



\*Canutts Gems is offering a 5% discount to members showing a CORC membership card.

**Classified Ads:** If you have a rockhound-related item you wish to advertise, send the announcement to Don Ross at donross1949@gmail.com

