



April 2020 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 normally meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, March through October, except for the month of the summer picnic. The November meeting is a potluck holiday get-together on a Sunday. There are no winter meetings (Dec-Feb).

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

April Club Activities Cancelled

The COVID-19 virus has caused our April activities to be cancelled. There will be NO field trip on April 11 and NO meeting on April 15. Hopefully all of you are staying well. One way you can connect with your fellow rockhounds is to join the Central Oregon Rock Collectors FaceBook page. You can search for that title in FaceBook, or you can go to the Club website at <http://corockcollectors.com> and scroll to the bottom of the home page. You can follow the link to the Club FaceBook page. Anyone may look at the page, but in order to post comments and/or pictures, you will need to join the group.

First Meeting of 2020 is Planned for Wednesday, May 17

Our first Club meeting of 2020 is now planned for the the third Wednesday of May, which is May 17. The general meeting starts at 7 p.m. There is a board meeting held at 6 p.m. right before the general meeting. All are welcome to attend the board meetings at any time. Please check the May newsletter for updates in case of meeting cancellation.

The program for the May meeting is Show and Tell by the membership. Please bring your bragging rocks from last year to show and expect to see a wide assortment of interesting finds or purchases and great crafts.

Please remember, if you won a door prize at the last meeting, please bring one to the next meeting.

2020 Dues and Junior Membership

If you have not already paid, please bring your check or cash for your 2020 membership dues to the May meeting. This year the club has a new category for membership. Grandparents may want to bring along a grandchild, or parents may want a companion for their child on a field trip. The Junior Membership for a minor costs \$5/year, and a consent form needs to be signed by the responsible adult who is a Club member. Please note: Children who live at the same address as the parents are automatically Club members under the Household Membership.

You may also mail your dues to CORC, PO Box 6265, Bend, OR 97708. Individual dues are \$20/year, and the Household Membership is \$25/year. If you are a new member, please fill out the Membership Form found on the Club website.

Membership forms are also available at the meeting site for the field trips. You must be a member of the Club in order to participate in the field trips due to insurance requirements.

First Field Trip is Rescheduled for May, Date TBD

The club's first field trip of 2020 is to Pole Creek, off Camp Creek Road, back by popular demand. This area has blue/green petrified wood, agate and jasper, and is NOT in the rockhounding guidebooks. More info about the field trip will be in the May newsletter. The date will be determined at a later time.

Please save the date of **Sunday, June 7** for a special event. Roger Whitman has arranged a trip for our club to the MacDonald Ranch which is outside of Madras. This is a fee dig, meaning you will need to pay for any rocks that you take. They have agate, petrified wood, and thundereggs on the property. The pricing is very reasonable, and in the past varied from \$1-3/pound. Our field trip will be before the Prineville Show trip, so our club will have the first opportunity of the year to find material there. The MacDonald Ranch has exceptional angelwing agate and opalized petrified wood. You don't want to miss this trip!

Favorite Places to Go in Tucson in February

By Patricia Moreland and Suzie Meeker

As many of you know, Tucson is the place to be if you are a rock collector for the end of January and the first two weeks in February. Suzie and Patricia have attended the Tucson Shows several times, and this year we were lucky enough to have John Moreau join us. We'd like to share some the shows we return to year after year. Since Tucson has over 45 different shows at venues all over the city, the choices can be overwhelming. Our first stop is always at the Westward Look Show at the Westward



Look Resort, which for four days only showcases the most expensive specimens, crystals and gems from around the world. We never saw anything under \$10,000 except for once when Suzie saw a gorgeous green specimen she thought was "only" \$5,000. It turns out she missed a zero! They showcase an exceptional specimen from someone's private collection, and this year it was a gorgeous piece of tourmaline. It was a bit above our budget with a price tag ending in many zeros. We learned about this particular show from Al and Sue Liebetau who personally know many of the vendors there.



There are many other locations to enjoy looking at and possibly spending more than you planned! Kino Sports Complex has a variety of rock vendors including Tom's Rocks from Washington, who specializes in lace agate rough and even Richardson's from Central Oregon. Our all-time favorite tent there is Village Originals, which has a variety of crystals, including amethyst, citrine, and pyrite from Uruguay and Brazil as well as other countries. They are out of Florida and have a catalog online if you are interested. The Miner's Co-op Rock Show is a show similar to the one in Prineville with vendors displaying their wares in front of their

RVs, held in parking lot. Suzie bought some Baker Ranch thundereggs from New Mexico, Patricia bought some Michigan copper, and John bought an agate from Botswana. The 22nd St Show has two large tents, and they are famous for full scale dinosaur skeletons and a huge variety of vendors for rocks as well as fossils. We had to stop at the Arizona petrified wood vendor who had logs the size of a Volkswagen.

Many of the shows are held at the small hotels/motels around town where the vendors sleep in the rooms at night and sell their wares during the day either in the room or in the courtyard. One of our favorites was the Globe-X Gem and Mineral Show at the Red Lion Inn and Suites. We parked our car at Carl's Junior, had lunch there, and then went shopping at the motel next door. They have vendors from all over the world with opals, pearls, other gemstones and even rough rocks. Right next door to the motel was the Rapa River Gem & Mineral Show with another large number of vendors. Al and Sue recommended the AZ Mineral & Fossil Show at the Hotel Tucson City Center as one of places they like to shop. Keep in mind that many of the shows have different start and end dates, and the best selection is always at the beginning, but bargains can be had at the end of the show.



The final event is the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, which is held at the Tucson Convention Center on the last weekend. This show is put on by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, which started it all over 60 years ago. Suzie and Patricia attended when the theme was crystals from around the world. This year we were not able to make it, but it is definitely worth seeing because of the outstanding showcases as well as many different vendors. We've tried to highlight some of our Tucson favorites. Please, let us know what your favorite shows/vendors are in Tucson.

Find near Hampton Butte



If you haven't looked recently at the Central Oregon Rock Collectors FaceBook page, you may overlooked the find Jules and Jan Wetzel found near Hampton Butte. Jules wrote, "It's a 10-pound cast found under a sagebrush near Hampton Butte early in March. It's black and yellow jasper and clear agate with no tree rings."

Newsletter Articles Requested

Do you have a favorite rockhounding site in Oregon or any state you would like to share? Please, write up a description, short or long, and send pictures if you can.

Summer Rock Shows Planned

The Prineville Pow Wow is set for Thursday-Sunday, June 18-21, 2020. There is no cost for admission or parking. Over 30 vendors are there, and the Pow Wow has field trips scheduled. One popular field trip is to the tube agate site in the Ochocos, where they have a claim. Last year they brought in an excavator, and people found some large agates.

The Madras Rockhounds Pow Wow is scheduled for Thursday-Sunday, June 25-28. Again there is free admission and parking with a variety of vendors and field trips.

The town of Sisters also has a small rock/jewelry show in the park over the 4th of July weekend. All of these dates are naturally pending future guidelines from the government regarding the pandemic.

Other Northwest Rock Shows

The Northwest Federation Newsletter lists other rock shows held in the area. They are listed at the end of the monthly newsletters. Please see the April 2020 newsletter at <http://northwestfederation.org/documents/NorthwestNewsletter/NW0420.pdf> The April edition also lists various shows that have cancelled to date. If you do plan on attending one of the shows listed in the newsletter, please contact the hosting club to be sure that the show is taking place.

Our Club is a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Business Cards:

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



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*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 Suzie Meeker at suziej49@gmail.com



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