



May 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.

May Club Activities Cancelled

The COVID-19 virus has caused our May activities to be cancelled. There will be NO field trip in May and NO meeting on May 20. The club officers and committee chairs are eagerly awaiting when it will be possible for our group to meet in person. 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.

Thank you to Community Members

On behalf of the CORC board members, we would like to express our gratitude to the CORC members who are our COVID-19 medical heroes. Thank you for your selfless service to our community; we are blessed to have you. We would also like to thank everyone who made masks, and thank all of the essential workers.

Stay home, stay safe.

First Field Trip of 2020 is Tentatively Planned for Sunday, June 7

The field trip in June will hopefully take place, depending on government guidelines. There is ample room for everyone to easily be more than 6 feet apart. All members will need to drive their own vehicle to the McDonald Ranch. The road leading to the ranch is suitable for all types of vehicles. The pricing is as follows: \$2/pound for petrified wood, jasper and thundereggs, and \$3/pound for angelwing agate. Please plan to meet at the Madras Dairy Queen, 483 SE 5th St, Madras, at 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 7. The ranch is located outside of Madras.

Roger and Jan Whiteman will lead the trip. [The Editor apologizes for the misspelling of their last name in the previous editions of the 2020 newsletters]. The June newsletter will contain additional information.



Maury Mountain Moss Agate by Jules Wetzel

I am not a FaceBook subscriber, but I do look at times at the club's FaceBook page. There seems to be an interest by rockhounds new to the hobby, or new to the area, about places to explore for good rock. One area that doesn't get much attention is the Maury Mountain moss agate beds.

The area is noted in *Gem Trails of Oregon*, *Rockhounding Oregon*, and the BLM's Central Oregon Rockhounding Map. The directions to the site are rather straightforward. Refer to the map, the books, or contact me. The dig site is located on the North slope of the Maury Mountains, and the access roads are through heavy timber, so snow can linger into the spring and block access. Probably mid-May is a good time to visit. Upon arrival, there is a large flat parking area facing a brushy slope. Most of the digging is on that slope, often toward the lower end.

This agate bed has been known and worked for many years. The agate was found in seams in the host rock. The old-timers told me that at one time people brought in

heavy equipment and excavated for the agate. These days rockhounds primarily pick a likely area and dig the ground looking for pieces of agate – up to several pounds size – that were overlooked by the heavy equipment folks.

The moss agate I have seen and have dug will be clear with moss of red, green or yellow. It polishes up very nicely. Bring a shovel. A Geo-pick also comes in handy. Some pieces can be found by walking the area.

Ryan Franklin (BLM) noted in his inventory of the site that the agate is scattered over a large area. The quad maps show several prospects down the hill to the Northeast and out of the normal digging area. The section to the Northeast is still National Forest, so it might be worth the effort to do some exploring in that direction.

For those wishing to camp, there is a great spot about ¼ mile back from the parking area or there is also the N.F. Elkhorn camp back at the road junction. Both would be dry camps. The Elkhorn campground has a pit toilet.

2020 Dues and Junior Membership

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.

If you have not yet submitted your 2020 dues, you may mail your dues to CORC, PO Box 6265, Bend, OR 97708. Individual dues are \$20/year, and the Family/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.

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 Update—Now cancelled

The Prineville Pow Wow that was set for Thursday-Sunday, June 18-21, 2020, has been cancelled.

The Madras Rockhounds Pow Wow has been cancelled. It was scheduled for June 25-28.

The town of Sisters has cancelled the July Quilt Show, but no information has been announced yet on the Gem Show normally held over the 4th of July weekend. The June newsletter will include updated information.

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. The May, 2020, edition of the newsletter is not yet posted online. Please click on <http://northwestfederation.org/newsletters.asp> and then click on the link near the bottom of the page titled "Click for Current Newsletter". 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.



*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

