



July 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.

PRESIDENT: Patricia Moreland..... oregonpat@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: **Vacant**

TREASURER: Janet Murphyjanetmurphy414@gmail.com

ACTING SECRETARY: Suzie Meeker.....suziej49@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Suzie Meeker..... suziej49@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE CHAIR: Ken Lawsonkrlawson@bendcable.com

PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR: Lori Sensibaugh..lsensibaugh@crestviewcable.com

NW FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES: Del & Clara Walker.....cdwalker@q.com

SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBMASTER: Karen Cameronkarecame@gmail.com

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). Club address is CORC, PO Box 6265, Bend, OR 97708.

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

July 15 Club meeting Starts at 6 pm

CORC will again have the July meeting outside in the Grange Hall parking lot beginning at 6 p.m. We are working on getting a microphone to help overcome the traffic noise. The program will be Fossils in Oregon by Sue Liebetrau.

RSVPs for this meeting are not needed this month. Sorry, but no refreshments will be provided at the meeting. You are welcome to bring your own snacks and beverages. Please bring your own camp chair. If you prefer, folding chairs from the Grange Hall will be available. Please remember if you won a door prize to bring one to the next meeting.

Pole Creek Field Trip is Saturday, July 11

The long-awaited trip to Pole Creek will take place on Saturday, July 11. Please plan to meet at Ray's Market in Prineville at 8 a.m. The site is approximately 1 ½ hrs from Prineville. Pole Creek has turquoise colored petrified wood, jasper and agate. Crystals are rare, but they have also been found at the site. There is float for surface collecting, and a backpack can be useful. You may also want to bring picks and shovels for digging.

High clearance vehicles are necessary for this field trip due to the extremely rutted road on the last three miles. Any type of vehicle can reach the turnoff to the site off Camp Creek Road, where carpooling can take place.

Please RSVP to Ken Lawson at krlawson@bendcable.com or reply to this newsletter.

New members may join at the meeting site at Ray's Market. As previously stated, only members current on their 2020 dues can participate on field trips due to insurance requirements. You may pay your dues at the meeting site for the field trip. A household/family membership is \$25/year and the Individual membership is \$20/year. Membership forms will be available for new members.

The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, South Dakota

by Jules Wetzel

Jan and I just returned from a road trip that included the Black Hills of Wyoming and South Dakota. While staying at a KOA camp in Custer, So. Dakota, we saw a brochure

on the Mammoth Site in the town of Hot Springs and decided to check it out. Hot Springs is a town just south of the Wind Cave National Monument.



About 140,000 years ago, this was a sinkhole in the limestone layer under a shale overburden, approximately 100 by 200 feet in area. The sinkhole filled in over time and the shale weathered away, leaving a hill bought by a land developer to develop for housing. His bulldozer operator exposed a mammoth tusk, and then some additional bones. The builder called in an archaeologist, who, after some exploratory digging,

determined the site to be worth preserving. The developer then sold the property to a nonprofit, who have left much of the bones preserved in situ. The entire sinkhole area is now enclosed in a climate- controlled building.

During the ice age it was a spring-fed pond with sedge and water plants on the edge. The water would likely have been 90 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Core samples indicate it was about 67 feet deep initially. Animals would enter the pond and due to the steep sides and slippery-when-wet shale overburden, would be unable to climb out. While the mammoth bones exposed are very impressive, other animals of the era have been excavated, including a short-faced bear, coyote, pronghorn, camel, and an extinct species of llama.

According to the Self-Guided Tour to the Mammoth Site, Hot Springs, South Dakota brochure, the bones are considered fossils, but "the Mammoth Site bones have not had



mineral replacement of the organic material and are not petrified. Instead the warm water of the pond leached out all the organic material, leaving behind a mere fragile skeletal remnant. Because of this, a plastic preservative solution has to be soaked into the bones to conserve them for view and study.”

In addition to the exposed bonebed, the building has a large room of exhibits showcasing mammoths, including replicas of mammoths recovered from the permafrosts of Siberia, the pygmy mammoth of the Channel Islands off California and a mammoth bone hut used by the people of eastern Europe. If one has been to the Dinosaur National Monument bone exhibit near Vernal, Utah, they will find this quite similar, but with Mammoth bones instead of dinosaurs. There is a minimal admission fee. We think it was well worth the cost of admission and highly recommend it to anyone visiting Mt. Rushmore and the other sights in the area.

Save the Date for August Picnic

The CORC annual picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 16, at the American Legion Park in Redmond. More details will be discussed at the July meeting and will be included in the August newsletter. You may sell rocks or related items and there will be a silent auction with great bargains. **Please note: The club picnic replaces the regular club meeting in August.**

Minutes from June 17, 2020 CORC Meeting

The first meeting in 2020 of the Central Oregon Rock Collectors took place at the Redmond Grange Hall on June 17, 2020. Patricia Moreland, club President, welcomed new members and guests. The Field Trip Chair, Ken Lawson, announced the July 11 date for the Pole Creek field trip. He showed samples of rocks collected at the site. Janet Murphy, Club Treasurer, explained some of the expenses of our club and where the club dues go. The date of the club picnic is now Sunday, August 16 [Ed. Note: The date was finalized by the Redmond Parks and Recreation.] The meeting concluded with approximately 16 club members sharing favorite rocks found or purchased.

Other Northwest Rock Shows

The Northwest Federation Newsletter lists other rock shows held in the region. They are listed at the end of the monthly newsletters. The July 2020 edition of the newsletter is not yet posted online. Please click on <http://northwestfederation.org/newsletters.asp> for the 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.

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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