



**August 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 Murphy .....janetmurphy414@gmail.com

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

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

**FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE CHAIR:** Ken Lawson .....krlawson@bendcable.com

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

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

**SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBMASTER:** Karen Cameron .....karecame@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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

## **August 16 Club Picnic**

The annual Club Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 16 at the American Legion Park stage located at 850 SW Rimrock Way in Redmond. Set up begins at 10 a.m. If you want to sell rocks or related items, please plan to bring your own tables and shade tents if desired. The picnic begins at 11 a.m. Please bring your own meal and camp chairs. This year we will not be sharing any food items. However, the club will provide dessert and soft drinks/bottled water. One of the picnic highlights is the silent auction. This is our only fundraiser of the year, so please consider donating rocks or related items such as rockhounding guides or jewelry that you no longer want.

You may pay for auction items by check or cash. There are some great bargains to be had. For example, Patricia and Suzie found interesting rocks at the Tucson Show in February which will be for sale at the silent auction at bargain prices. Here are two of the rocks:



Please note: The club picnic replaces the regular club meeting in August. **SEE YOU THERE!**

## **Field Trip Report**

There were 43 Club members who participated in the field trip in July to the Pole Creek area off Camp Creek Road. Club members visited three different areas and discovered turquoise petrified wood along with jasper and agate (as well as a few crystals). The site has remained a club favorite for years.

The September field trip will be to a newly discovered area off Camp Creek Road that has colorful jasper. Please plan to meet at the Brothers Rest Area off Highway 20 at 9

a.m., which is about an hour east of Bend. The trip will be on Sunday, September 13. Digging tools are not required. Backpacks and hiking boots are recommended. There are level areas for those not wanting to hike. The road is suitable for all kinds of vehicles. The field trips alternate between Saturdays and Sundays. An October field trip is also being planned.

## **The Blue Forest in Wyoming** **By John Moreau**

The Blue Forest is a well-known petrified wood site in southwest Wyoming. It is located some 40 miles east of the town of Kemmerer, which is 725 miles east of Redmond.

The wood is prized for the light blue chalcedony that many specimens have. It is thought that tin in the groundwater caused the blue chalcedony to form. Some 52 million years ago this site was on the edge of Lake Gosiute. This was the same time period the Rocky Mountains were forming. During this time the climate was warm and moist and hardwood forests flourished. Lake Gosuite's ancient shoreline would have been littered with driftwood which was then covered with sediment and volcanic ash.



As the climate changed, Lake Gosiute shrank and became a dying lake with a high mineral salt content. Deposits of saline materials and organic matter produced today's beds of trona, coal and oil shale. The area also produces natural gas and there are lots of oil and gas wells nearby.



The Blue Forest site is very near the Oregon Trail in Wyoming and the dig site looks like Hampton Butte. Many people have dug there over the years. So just find a place that has not been dug or jump into someone else's hole and have a go at it. Good luck! For more information go to YouTube and search for Blue Forest Petrified Wood videos. There are quite a few of them.

Also close to Kemmerer is a pay fish fossil dig quarry (fishdig.com). The Fossil Butte National Monument is in the area and is well worth the time to visit.

## **Minutes from July 15, 2020 CORC Meeting**

Patricia Moreland, Club President, welcomed members and guests. Suzie Meeker, Newsletter Editor, encouraged club members to submit articles of any length about recent rockhounding explorations. The next field trip for Camp Creek jasper was announced which will be on Sunday, September 13.

Sue Liebetrau presented a very interesting program about Fossils in Central Oregon. Some of the sites mentioned were Arbuckle Mtn near Heppner where palm fronds can be found, and the town of Fossil in Wheeler County, where remains of ancient tree fossils can be found behind the high school football field. Succor Creek in Jordan Valley has fossils as well. Sue recommended visiting the John Day Fossil Beds National Monument. The Thomas Condon Paleontology Center has more information on the area. Sue also brought samples of several different fossils from the area as well as recommended reference books.

The Club picnic will be held on Sunday, August 16. There will be NO August regular meeting at the Grange. Please see the separate article about the picnic for more details.

The meeting concluded with members sharing some of the rocks found on the Pole Creek field trip, and the drawing was held for door prizes.

### **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 most current edition of the newsletter is from May-June, 2020. 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. For example, the Mt. Hood Rock Club show, rescheduled to August, has now been cancelled.

**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. Currently this shop is closed due to COVID.

**Classified Ads:** If you have a rockhound-related item you wish to advertise, send the announcement to Suzie Meeker at [suziej49@gmail.com](mailto:suziej49@gmail.com)



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