



**October 2021**

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

**Regular indoor 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.**

## **No Club Meeting in October**

There will be no more regular club meetings this year. Because of COVID restrictions, the meetings this year have been held outdoors, and it's too cold in October to have an evening meeting. The November holiday party has also been cancelled. Thanks to all of you who have been so flexible and willing to attend the outdoor meetings. We sincerely hope that beginning in March, 2022, we will be able to meet indoors.

### **Saturday, October 9 is the last field trip of the year**

As we have done previously, we will be meeting at 8:30 AM at the parking lot of Ray's Market at the east end of Prineville. We will be going into the Ochocos for agates and possibly some crystals. The area that we are exploring is quite steep, so please come prepared. Backpacks are recommended. Most of the material is float, but a rock hammer may come in handy. The road is suitable for all vehicles although rutted in places. After the field trip, all club members are invited to head to Mitchell to have a bite to eat and visit the Mitchell Rock Shop and Museum. The rock shop is run by the family that operates the Lucky Strike Mine, and they sell Lucky Strike thundereggs there as well as other rocks.

The September field trip was well attended with over 40 club members. We visited two areas near Post looking for petrified wood, jasper and leaf fossils. The weather was cooperative and members enjoyed exploring the area.

### **Beginning Lapidary – Thoughts from the September 15th Meeting Jules Wetzel**

As I said when I began my talk, I am not an accomplished lapidary artist. I have been fortunate to know and learn from some good teachers, and have spent some time on my own machines learning from my own mistakes. The following are a few points that I think will help the beginner have a more satisfying experience learning for themselves.

Point number one is SAFETY.

- Keep the stone wet and/or wear an N95 type mask or respirator. Most of what we work with are silicon-based stones, agate, opal, obsidian, etc. Silicon dust is very hard on a person's lungs. Some of our material can also contain traces of cinnabar (mercury ore), possibly uranium, and possibly asbestos
- Wear eye protection. Grinding stones can throw chips.
- Using high speed wheels – set the stone on the wheel toe first. Placing the stone on the wheel heel first will at some point catch the edge and jerk the stone off into space somewhere.

Pick stone and slabs that are worth working.

- A cracked or pitted stone will never make a good cab or display.

- You might as well work with solid good material so that when you have created a cab you are satisfied with, the stone is also what you are proud of.
- That said, some more artistic lapidaries purposely incorporate voids and druzy in their cabs to great success.

Finish the bottom first, especially if wire-wrapping.

- It's hard to finish the flat bottom once the top is domed
- Place a thin chamfer around the bottom when the shape is complete to cut down on edge chips

In my experience, the big enemy of lapidary work is HEAT. Keep the stone cool. It is very easy to be working on a cabochon, especially the thin edges and especially during the finer grits and polishing stage, and forget to watch for heating, then whoops – the edge overheats and a chip pops off, ruining all the work that went into it. Opal is very, very prone to cracking and chipping from heat, probably from the water content.

You can do a finish polish in a vibratory tumbler instead of a polishing wheel. The tumbler will dull the edges of the cab though.

An exceptional stone with a crack can be healed with epoxy products such as opticon or 330 epoxy. A thin crack will generally will not show except under a black light.

Preparing display specimens

- Much of the local black petrified wood can be bleached to remove most of the black and show the grain. Soak for two weeks or more in straight bleach.
- Caleche (sp.) the white alkali crust on desert stones, and other stains can be removed by soaking in muriatic acid (cement cleaner from Lowes) or brushing with Naval Jelly. This will dissolve calcite, so be careful

There are many U-Tube videos available for instruction on lapidary skills. Use them. And probably better yet, find a club member willing to mentor you to get you started. There are quite a few of us out there. My number is 541-382-9422, I won't answer, but leave a message and I'll return the call.

Have fun.--Jules

## **Brief Minutes of Sept. 15 Club Meeting**

John Moreau conducted the meeting in the absence of both Patricia Moreland and April Anable. After welcoming members and guests, he opened nominations for the office of Club Secretary. Becky Dolf was nominated by Suzie Meeker and seconded by Marty Betsch. She ran unopposed and received grateful thanks from the club members for her willingness to volunteer. Committee reports followed. Jules Wetzel then gave an extremely thorough and interesting talk on lapidary techniques. The meeting concluded with the door prize drawing.

## **Get Outside Segment on our club from Central Oregon Daily**

Central Oregon Rock Collectors was featured in September on the Central Oregon Daily News in their monthly "Get Outside" segment. To see the clip, please go to <https://centraloregondaily.com/get-outside/>

Many thanks to April Anable for arranging for the interview and being so informative about our club's activities.

## **Equipment for Sale by Club Members**

Joyce Respass has an 8" H.O.P.E. "Preformer" saw with recently replaced MK-303 blade from DeFusco with a brand new Dayton motor. If interested, please contact her at [joyceresspass@gmail.com](mailto:joyceresspass@gmail.com)

## **Robert Mitchell from Stateline RV Park has passed**

Many club members have stayed at the Stateline RV Park in McDermitt on the Oregon/Nevada border. The owner, Robert Mitchell, was always friendly and helpful to rockhounds. Recently he passed due to COVID. His obituary can be found at <https://flahifffuneralchapel.com/tribute/details/228295/Robert-Mitchell/obituary.html>

## **Northwest Federation Newsletter**

Our club is a member of the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Please check back monthly at their website for the Federation newsletter, which normally lists many of the rock shows taking place in the Northwest. The general link is <http://northwestfederation.org/newsletters.asp> This site also provides links to other Federation newsletters. The link to the American Federation website is <http://www.amfed.org/>

The current issue of the Federation newsletter is once again the same one as listed in the July and August newsletters. The Northwest Federation newsletter of July 2021 is found at

<http://northwestfederation.org/documents/NorthwestNewsletter/NW0721.pdf> The last page lists some upcoming rock shows in the Pacific Northwest. Before planning a trip, please check to be sure that the shows are still taking place.

**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. \* This store is currently closed.

**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)



Jim also cuts slabs.

