

JANUARY 2023

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

It's in our name...It's what we do...We collect rocks!!!



The Birthstone for January is:

GARNET

Garnet is actually a group of several minerals. Five of these – pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular and andradite – are important as gems. Pyrope and almandine range from purple to red. Spessartine is found in exciting oranges and yellows, while andradite is mostly yellow to green (the gem variety demantoid). Grossular may have the widest range, from colorless through yellow to reddish orange and orangy red, as well as a strong vibrant green called tsavorite.

Garnet's name comes from Latin 'granatus' meaning 'grain like' because it resembles pomegranate blossom. The gem's name exists in other spelling variations like gernet, garnette, or garnat stone. Garnets are found in many parts of the world and were known to people centuries ago.

Some peoples in middle Asia used garnets as bullets, for example during the Kashmir rebellion against British troops in 1892. Many soldiers actually kept those precious bullets as souvenirs.

Because garnets are softer than gems like diamonds, sapphires, or rubies, they were often used for engravings. They were also carved into heads of emperors or gods.

Yellow and translucent variety of Andradite garnet is called Topazolite because this gem is very similar to yellow topaz. Black variety is called Melanite.

Pyrop is the most well-known species of garnet. This is the one that comes in the famous red color. The name Pyrop means 'like fire' when translated from Greek. A very beautiful variety of this garnet is Rhodolite that occurs in a magnificent pink color. Almandine is a ubiquitous variety of Pyrop garnet also known as carbuncle and was often mistaken for a ruby and was nicknamed 'Australian Ruby'..

Pyrope: A variety of garnet, of a poppy or blood-red color, frequently with a tinge of orange. It is used as a gem.

Almandine: A deep violet-red garnet, $\text{FeAl}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_{12}$, found in metamorphic rocks and used as a gemstone

Spessartine: A neosilicate of manganese and aluminium having the garnet structure

Grossular: A translucent garnet of a pale green color like that of the Gooseberry; -- called also grossularite.

Andradite: A green to brown or black calcium-iron garnet

Garnet Cont.....

Neosilicate: a mineral silicate (as olivine) that contains independent tetrahedral silicon-oxygen anionic groups

Aluminium: A metal of silver-white color and brilliant luster, about as hard as zinc, very malleable and ductile, highly sonorous, and a good conductor of heat and electricity.

Tetrahedral; Having, or composed of, four sides.

Metamorphic: Changed in structure or composition as a result of metamorphism. Used of rock.

Sources:

<https://www.gia.edu>
[birthstone.guide](https://www.gia.edu/birthstone.guide)

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>



The following is from the April 2019 Newsletter.....

Do You know....

Do you know the meanings of these words when applied to mineralogy?
You can search for the terms on the Internet to see pictures (always worth a 1000 words!).

Banding - the occurrence of concentric layers or bands of different colors found in some minerals, like agate. They look like colored zoning lines.
Search for “banding agates”.

Do You Know Cont...

Botryoidal – comes from the Greek word meaning bunch of grapes. Under the right conditions, some minerals form clusters of round balls that look like bunches of grapes. The formation often looks like bubbles. Search for “botryoidal rocks”.

Cathedral – an extremely large, typically very tall amethyst geode. They are often found in Brazil. Search for “cathedral amethyst”.

Chalcedony – (pronounced Kal-SID-nee) is a generic term for materials composed of microcrystalline quartz. Agate, Jasper, carnelian, chrysoprase and onyx are all chalcedony minerals, and many types are found in Oregon. An interesting article on the difference between agate and jasper can be found at <https://rocktumbler.com/blog/what-is-agate-jasper-chalcedony/> ph text

Cleavage – a description of the way some minerals break into flat surfaces. How it breaks is determined by the crystal structure of the rock. Search for “rock cleavage”.

Ding – a chip or blemish on a mineral specimen. Dings interfere with the look of a specimen, and usually reduce the value of it.

Druse – a mass of very small, intergrown crystals. Though they are small, they are still visible to the human eye. Search for “druse geology”.

Enhydro – means containing water. Water can play a part in the formation of a number of minerals. Sometimes water is trapped inside a crystal as it forms, and it is preserved as a visible bubble. Search for “enhydro quartz”.

Evaporite – a mineral that forms by the evaporation of water. Gypsum and halite are two common evaporite minerals.

Fluorescence – is a special color property of some minerals. It is activated by short-wave and/or long-wave ultraviolet light. Just ask Al Liebetrau! You can also search for “Fluorescent rocks” and watch that spelling.

- by Suzie Meeker

If anyone would like to write an article for the newsletter please contact Tonia Smith and Nancy Johnston at corc.rocks@gmail.com.

REMINDER:

Please mail membership form and check to:
Central Oregon Rock Collectors (CORC)
P.O. Box 6265
Bend, OR 97708

Annual membership dues are \$20 for individuals, \$25 for household
and \$5 for juniors.

You may find the form on our website at corockcollectors.com

If you have any
ideas for field trips please
email Ken Lawson & Suzie
Meeker at
corc.rocks@gmail.com

**CORC will not meet again
until March.**

Club website:corockcollectors.com

Please join our Facebook page:
Central Oregon Rock Collectors

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April Anable
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If you would like to reach any of the board members please email them at
corc.rocks@gmail.com

Business cards and announcements

From Cigarbox:

We have a temporary showroom open for equipment and are also selling supplies, tumbler parts and Hans Gamma Books. Just prior to the move we rec'd a shipment of Covington Equipment!

The temporary office is a "job shack" located at
63271 Nels Anderson Rd.

We are still **not** cutting rock and the Dandy Dig has **not** been re-built.

Give us a call before coming in!
Currently open: Monday-Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Your CORC Membership card is your VIP card at CigarboxRock!

CBR@BENDNET.COM

Call (541)389-9663 or visit our website!
<https://cigarboxrock.com>



From Nina Hurst -- I am a lapidary metal artist with a wide variety of jewelry for sale. For example, I have metal earrings, barrettes, bracelets made with stones and freshwater pearls. Just give me a call for a personal showing.
(541)382-1921 or email me
nina.c.hurst@outlook.com

Classified Ads: If you have a rockhound-related item you wish to advertise, send the announcement to Tonia Smith and Nancy Johnston at corcrocks@gmail.com