

*C.O.R.C.*

## *Central Oregon Rock Collectors*

**July 2015, Newsletter**

**“It’s in our name... it’s what do we do... we collect rocks!!!!”**

The ***CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS*** is an informal group dedicated to sharing the rock hound hobby. We meet for field trips, collecting rock, and related activities. You do not have to be a member to attend. However if you are interested in joining, yearly memberships are only \$20 for individuals, or \$25 for families. At the end of this newsletter is a form for joining the C.O.R.C.

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**OUR WEBSITE:** <http://corockcollectors.com>

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**Welcome:** Rockhounding is best when it is shared. We welcome visitors to our meetings, anytime. If anyone has any interesting adventures they would like to share, we would love to hear about them. Our next meeting will be the third Wednesday of July (July 15th) at the Redmond Senior Center at 7:00 PM. We will be in the conference room at the east end of the center. Club officers meet at 6:00 pm.

## **Nuggets of Knowledge:**

- The Club is getting re-acquainted and up-to-date with our local rock and mineral related businesses...
  - **Saturday, September 19, 9-12(noon); Richardson's Ranch/agate beds/Museum**, north of Madras. Club members get their first 5 pounds from the 'goody pile' free. You pay for whatever other treasures you decide you can't live without.
- The Rice Northwest Museum will be having a rock sale and fundraiser on Saturday, July 18th, from 11 AM through 4 PM. 26385 NW Groveland Drive, Hillsboro, OR
- **NFMS FIELD TRIP POSTPONED:** NFMS Field Trip planned for July 3-6 has been postponed due to the extreme fire danger in the Oregon-Idaho area. The spring rains in the high desert area have yielded the highest grasses in many years. Now that the grasses have dried, they have had many fires and are expecting conditions to worsen.

## **Field trip information:**

**Next field trip: July 12** to Holleywood Ranch for petrified wood and Joe Cota's Rock Castle Lapidary shop will be open for us.

We will drive over Sunday morning, leaving from the Logan's Market parking lot in Redmond at 7:30 am sharp. Tag-alongs are welcome. We will use the car, so we could accommodate a rider or two. (Logan's Market was formerly Ray's Market at SW 23rd and Highland in Redmond). I expect to be at the ranch around 10 am. I talked to Dave at the ranch; he confirmed that members can also dry camp on the property Saturday evening if they wish. There are also a number of campsites also along the Santiam River before you get to Sweet Home.

The Holleywood Ranch is located south of Sweet Home on Old Holley Road. In Sweet Home, left on 12th St. one block. Right on Long Street three blocks. Left on Oak Terrace, which turns into 10th St., which turns into Alder St., which becomes Old Holley Road after passing 8th St.. 2.4 miles past 8th St., Holleywood Ranch is on the right at 26244 Old Holley Road. Two years ago they had a rather inconspicuous sign on the fence at the gate. The field with the digging is visible to the west from the road. Wood is available by digging in a trench provided by the owner as well as from a large bone pile. \$1.50/lb. for all you want to take.

Joe Cota's Rock Castle and Lapidary Shop is near the community of Waterloo. He will open his shop for the club. Twenty-five cents/lb from his bone pile (last time there was some real good material) and I believe Clara Walker said a 10% discount from his shop. It is a real pleasant place to picnic lunch if desired with a pond and trees.

From Sweet Home travel 8.5 miles toward Lebanon on the highway. Turn right on Waterloo Drive, which becomes Gross Street. At 1 mile turn left onto 1st Street, which becomes River Drive. Cota's shop is 0.9 miles on the left at 39100 River Drive. It's a pretty distinctive building and is signed out front.

**June Field Trip:** Whistler Springs and Ochoco Agate thunderegg beds, Sunday June 7. Six rigs and 13 people drove up including kids who didn't dig a lot. We dug a total of three 5-gallon buckets for about 150 pounds or so.

**Prineville and Madras Shows:** Del and Clara Walker set up a club display at the Prineville show. Club brochures were made available at both shows. Several members participated in field trips to various sites arranged through the shows. Pictures from the digs at the Alex McDonald ranch below.

### **Our Upcoming Programs :**

- July 15 – Julian Gray, Executive Director of the Rice Northwest Museum, will present "The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals: from a rockhound's dream to a national treasure."
- August – Club Picnic scheduled for 11:00 am, Sunday, August 23 at the Wetzel's, 64820 McGrath Rd, Bend (between Bend and Redmond just off Deschutes Market Road). We will provide a map at a later date. There will be a silent auction to benefit the club, so consider what to donate and bring bills - no coins.
- September – Don Ross will be continuing his series about making homebuilt lapidary equipment. This time he will be discussing the building of a vibrating tumbler. The tumbler used in the program will be raffled off at the meeting. A home-built capping unit will also be discussed, and raffled off.
- October – Bill Quant, son and co-pro prospector with Central Oregon legend, Shirts Quant, will informally discuss their rockhounding and prospecting adventures.
- November - The CORC end of the season holiday banquet.

### **Our Upcoming Field trips :**

- **August** - Pat Blue Heron has arranged with the BLM geologist to view the fossil collection tucked away in the BLM office in Prineville. The tour is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 12 at 10:00 AM. The BLM folks won't work a weekend, and mid-week was best for them, so that is the best we can do. Bonus: Prineville resident and longtime thunder egg collector Steve Langer has several buckets of cut eggs that he will be selling for \$.50/lb. Steve has collected from all over, so this may be an opportunity to acquire material you might never have again.
- **September** - Pole Creek to look for petrified wood, agate, jasper and stilbite
- **October** - Tentative trip to the Sunflower Flats area of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation for red, orange and green jasper

### **Minutes from the June meeting:**

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting, June 17 2015  
Sue Liebetrau, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 by Vice President Al Liebetrau. Present were Debby Simon, Al and Sue Liebetrau, Del and Clara Walker, Jules Wetzel, Mike and Marty Betsch (later), Jerry

Brown (later) and Karen Cameron. The May minutes were approved as published, and the Treasurer's report was deferred.

Picnic: For the August 23 picnic, a sign-up sheet to coordinate food offerings will be available at the July meeting. Marty Betsch will manage the silent auction; Sue Liebetrau will provide auction slips. Dale Simon will cook hamburgers, etc., and the rest will be potluck.

Website: The board discussed the role of the Webmaster and the need for a Website committee. There was also discussion of what should go on the Website. Karen Cameron offered to manage content input and updating; however she is not responsible for obtaining those updates and content. Karen has contacted Alison Cole about the failure to find CORC's Website using current search mechanisms. We concluded that a Facebook site would be useful for photos and field trip information.

Memberships: Marty will assume responsibility for providing membership updates to the Board once a month. There was some confusion over complimentary and lifetime memberships. The shops have complimentary memberships, and Judy Elkins has a lifetime membership. Also, some members don't have/use email and receive printed newsletters. The newsletter list was clarified for Jerry's use. We agreed that shops should receive hard copies so they can post them for customers' notice. Perhaps shops should be listed as "Friends." Their names do not go to the Federation. Al asked that all suggestions/questions on the issue be sent to him.

Items for the General Membership: Clare noted that the Prineville Chamber of Commerce, now under new leadership, wishes to promote rockhounding in the area, establish new claims, etc. We need a liaison with that organization.

Field Trip Report: The CORC field trip on July 12 is to Holleywood Ranch, near Sweet Home. Joe Cota, who has a shop in nearby Lebanon, will not be home for a post-collecting barbeque but has invited the club to come, picnic, and shop at a discount.

Long-Range Planning: Al then took the floor. He noted that CORC has grown a lot in the past 7 years, but that we have paid little attention to the various leadership roles in the club. At present the Executive Committee includes those elected to positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board includes these positions plus Program and Field Trip chairpersons, Newsletter Editor, Federation Director(s), and Webmaster, all appointed positions. Are these the right positions/people? (Jerry suggested addition of the Past President). Job descriptions have been drafted for some of these positions. Al distributed copies and asked for a careful review. In future meetings, we will discuss these positions in more detail and prepare a report of this proposed Board structure for approval of the CORC membership. Suggestions during the following discussion included making the Treasurer responsible for a regularly updated membership list and State registration of the club name. Also, we need someone to be responsible for maintaining an inventory of CORC property (projector etc.) and the location of property items. Over the next month(s), please send all suggestions and comments to Al for consideration. He will use them to prepare revised job descriptions for the various Board and committee positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45.

General Meeting, June 17, 2015  
Sue Liebetrau, Secretary

President Debby Simon called the meeting to order at 7:00 at the Redmond Senior Center. Twenty-two people were present. Guests were introduced: Jim and Mary Ann Montoya. We then moved on to

the program: Debby and Dale Simon discussed places to rockhound in Nevada. The Simons noted that there is lots of relevant literature in the CORC library—see Jan Wetzel, Librarian. At the finish of this entertaining presentation, we had a break to snack, visit, and look at samples of the Simons' Nevada collecting experiences. Debby called the meeting back to order at 7:55 pm.

Show and Tell: Roger Whiteman showed Succor Creek thundereggs and cabachons. Jerry Brown showed thundereggs collected on a recent field trip.

Business Items: Minutes of the May meeting were approved as printed in the Newsletter. Treasurer Marty Betsch reported \$1412.67 for May's month-ending balance. Federation delegates Del and Clara Walker announced that the Federation field trip has been canceled due to fire danger. Also, they reported that next year's Northwest/American Federation show will be held in Albany, Oregon, July 29-31, 2016. Also, Walkers will assemble a CORC display case for the Prineville show. Clara announced that field trips from Prineville will be as follows: Friday to Richardsons Ranch; Saturday to the Ochocos for White Fir and Joe's Bed eggs; and Sunday to Alex MacDonald's Ranch for thundereggs, angel wing, or petrified wood, and also to Bear Creek for petrified wood. Sue Liebetrau noted that the July Program will feature Julian Gray, Director of the Rice Museum in Hillsboro. The July Field Trip, to Holleywood Ranch for petrified wood, will meet at the Ranch at 10:00 on Sunday, July 12. Those wishing to travel together from Redmond should meet at the former Ray's Market (now Logan's) at 7:30 a.m. Camping is available in Sweet Home or (dry camping) at the Ranch. Cost of the wood will be \$1.50 a pound. Afterward, CORCs are invited to gather at Joe Cota's shop, Rock Castle, in nearby Lebanon. Joe will not be there, but staff will. No barbeque this time, but shopping at a discount! Also, Joe has picnic tables and a pleasant site for eating. The August trip, to the BLM offices to see a fossil collection, is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, at 10:00 a.m.. The CORC Picnic, on August 23, will be held at Wetzels'. As there is a need to coordinate potluck contributions, a sign-up sheet will be distributed in July. Don't forget your goodies (and money) for the silent auction!

Miscellaneous: Jerry and Stephanie Brown offered fresh rhubarb from their garden. Al Liebetrau announced that he had his UV light available for anyone wishing to check their rocks for fluorescence. Several door prizes were drawn by lucky attendees, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

### **Did you know?**

### **GEMSTONE TREATMENTS (reprinted by permission from The Geode, Lakeside Gem & Mineral Club)**

#### **Jerry Johnson, Gemologist**

#### **Chemical Treatments**

- The bleaching and dying of various gem materials has been employed for many years. One of the earliest treatments involved the use of acids and heat to stain agates. Concentrated hydrochloric acid was used to yield yellow, brown and reddish hues. Sometimes an iron salt or iron filings were added to the acid.
- Sulfuric acid and sugar were used to turn agate brown or black. This same type of treatment was also used on opals.
- Potassium ferricyanide was used to soak agates for a few weeks and then the agates were treated with ferrous sulfate solution containing a bit of sulfuric acid to produce a deep blue color.
- Ivory, coral calcite and pearls have also been dyed to various colors.
- In more recent times jadeite has been bleached by soaking in acid. This removes brown iron oxide stains. After bleaching the jadeite is impregnated with a polymer and the stones regain their translucency. While the treatment of many stones can be noted with examination under

magnification, the treated jadeite can be proven to be treated only by techniques such as infrared spectroscopy.

#### **Surface Coatings**

- Plastic and epoxies have been used to coat porous and fragile materials. I have coated thin sections of ammolites with epoxy to provide stability.
- Various metallic coatings have been applied to cut gemstones. The “Aqua-Aura” stones were one of the first processes used to produce bluish tones on quartz and topaz. Sputter techniques were used to deposit a very thin layer of gold. Now various colors have been produced by applying coatings of bismuth, lead, chromium and titanium. There is even a “rainbow” iridescence caused by a coating of silver and platinum.
- Excellent color rubies have been made by growing a thin layer of synthetic ruby on top of colorless or near colorless natural sapphire.
- Even diamonds have been color-altered by application of coatings. A notable example was recently noted by the GIA. A pale yellow stone had a coating applied to the pavilion and then the diamond became pink. Their evaluation suggested that the coating may have been calcium fluoride with gold.

#### **The U. S. Law and Gemstone Treatments**

- The gemstone treatments discussed in this series of four articles made it possible for average consumers to possess gems that were previously obtained only by wealthy people. However, the problem, as a result of these various treatments is that many people may not be properly informed of the treatment.
- The Federal Trade Commission has issued rules pertaining to gemstone treatments. The current rule states: It is unfair or deceptive to fail to disclose that a gemstone has been treated if:  
(a) The treatment is not permanent. The seller should disclose that the gemstone has been treated and that the treatment is or may not be permanent; (b) The treatment creates special care requirements for the gemstone. The seller should disclose that the gemstone has been treated and has special care requirements. It is also recommended that the seller disclose the special care requirements to the purchaser;  
(c) The treatment has a significant effect on the stone’s value. The seller should disclose that the gemstone has been treated. [FTC, 2000a, p. 78743; 16 CFR 23.22]
- Unfortunately, enforcement has been a difficult task. The buyer needs to ensure that the dealer is an ethical one.

#### **Information Resources**

- I have used two main sources for the information in these four articles on gemstone treatments. The first comprehensive reference is a book entitled “Gemstone Enhancement”. The author is Kurt Nassau and the book was published in 1984 by Butterworths. A lot has changed since this book was published. So, the majority of the sources I used were many issues of “Gems & Gemology” which is published by The Gemological Institute of America (Carlsbad, CA). The journal is very comprehensive and is issued four times per year. Many of the articles are very technical and the subscription price is not cheap, but I regard it as being necessary for any jeweler or person doing appraisals. These four articles were not comprehensive; that is, not all treatments and all gemstones were discussed, but the approach was an overview. If the reader wants to pursue this further then I recommend that they subscribe to Gems & Gemology.



**Photos from recent activities:**

Elizabeth Prindle digging it at Whistler Springs





The Simons & Clara Walker at the McDonald thunderegg bed.





Digging for McDonalds thundereggs. Doug True of the Powwow Association on the right.



50 lbs of McDonald thunderegg



CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS (CORC)  
2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES OF ADD'L FAMILY MEMBERS (+AGES IF  
UNDER 18):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about CORC? (*new members only*)

**NOTE:** Annual dues are \$20/individuals and \$25/families. If you are paying by check:  
Make your check out to **Central Oregon Rock Collectors** and mail it to:  
**Attn: Marty Betsch, 61561 Eastlake Drive, Bend, OR 97702.**

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