

# CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

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



## Meet your Officers

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**April Anable, President**  
**Social Media & Webmaster**

I was born in Redmond, OR. I have been rockhounding my entire life. A family friend gave me a small collection when I was little and I started adding to it. I was the kid that would drag (quite literally) a large box of rocks on the school bus for show and tell every year! I've been in CORC 3 years. I am a sucker for nice petrified wood. Or moss. Or plumes. Or dendrites. Or orbs. Or...



**Patricia Moreland**  
**Co-Vice President**

I was born in Newport Beach, CA. I have lived in Central Oregon for 15 years. I have been looking at the ground picking stuff up since I was a kid, come by sometime and I'll show you my collection of dollar bills that I've found over the years. I really don't know why, other than it's an interesting and fun way to spend my time. I've been in CORC 7 years, I think 2016. My favorite rocks are crystals considered rocks or minerals? If they don't count, then petrified wood, which is technically a fossil. I like just about everything except Thunderegg.





**Terri Coffey**  
**Treasurer**

I was born in Portland, Oregon, and raised in Milwaukie. My career consisted of being a printer for 23 years and becoming a professional wedding, animal and dog show photographer, I returned to college and became a Drug/Alcohol Counselor. Dave, our daughter, grandson and I moved to Redmond in 2014 to enjoy sunshine and fantastic outdoor activities.

We started collecting rocks in 1983 on our honeymoon in New Zealand. In 2018 I started tumbling and then started wire wrapping those stones. I bought an 8" CabKing in early 2019 and my life has never been the same!

We joined CORC in 2022 after lurking on Facebook for about a year. I finally went to a meeting after the Covid lockdown and found a room full of like minded people! I was hooked! My favorite rock is the Black Opal, but it's hard to get! I adore Blue Mt Jasper, Mookaite, Willow Creek, Wonderstone, Tiffany stone, Owyhee, oh heck, I love them all. I am grateful to CORC for giving me the opportunity to be of service, and hope I am able to continue to help our club grow in the coming years.



**Tonia Smith**  
**Secretary**  
**Co-Newsletter Editor**



I was born in Madras, moved out of Central Oregon when I was 4. we moved back almost 25 years ago. My family homesteaded Smith Rock before it became a state park. That's where I got my love for rocks, of course it was the rocks large enough to climb on. I started rockhounding when Ken introduced me to it 2 years ago. I joined CORC October 2021. I love petrified wood and all colors of jasper.

**Please check our updated website!**  
**You will find a new Event Calendar and a**  
**Membership page. You may now**  
**pay for a new membership or renew your**  
**current membership online.**  
**Thank you for all your hard work April!**

# Meet your Committee Chairs

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**Ken Lawson**  
**Co-Field Trip Chair**

I was born in Salem, Oregon. I've lived in Central Oregon for 45.5 years. I got into rockhounding in 2014 because I was going stir crazy having retired. I've been in CORC since 2016. I like rocks that have purples and oranges and blues and greens all together in agate form.



**Suzie Meeker**  
**Co-Field Trip Chair**



I was born in Phoenix, Arizona. I've lived in Central Oregon for 8 years. I've always been fascinated by rocks, but didn't make the time to get serious until I moved to Central Oregon in 2015. I also joined the club to make friends in the community new to me. I've been in CORC 8 years, since 2015. My favorite rock is Gary green jasper, now renamed Freedom jasper, also known as Larsonite, from McDermitt, NV.



**Barb Thompson**  
**Claim Chair**

I was born in Michigan and have lived in Central Oregon going on 13 years. When I was a kid, my Dad gave me a rock...all rocks are pretty in Michigan :) I have been a member of CORC since 2018. I like any unusual rock, colorful, or textured.



**Nancy Johnston**  
**Co-Newsletter Editor**

I was born in Klamath Falls, Oregon and lived in Chiloquin until I was 18 and then moved to Bend and have been in Central Oregon ever since, 46 years.

I've always been interested in rocks, but my granddaughter is really into them so we do it together. I've been in CORC for 1 year this spring. I love rocks in the blue, green and purple spectrums.



**Gale Rivera**  
**Co-Program Committee Chair**



I was born in Tacoma, Washington but spent most of my life in Connecticut. I have lived in Central Oregon since 1994. I have always been a "rock in my pocket" person, but really got into rocks using them as part of my landscaping. I think I have been with CORC for about 5 years or so. My favorite rocks are agates, I love that they have a glass quality and are so varied.



**Marty Betsch**  
**Co-Committee Chair**

I was born in Berkeley, California. We moved to Bend, in 1975 and was one of the first to have a baby at the brand new St. Charles. We got into rockhounding through Sue and Al Liebetrau. We went to a BBQ at Paul Asman's and they had lots of training going on...it was great. We got hooked right away. Shortly after they started a new club and we met at Ray's food market in Redmond...about 20 of us...We bought a cheap 10 inch saw and had to have Don Ross come over to help us make things run. We have been in CORC since the beginning and have watched it grow into the great club it is today. We are partial to Arizona Petrified wood and have a lot from Ronda Dobell Ranch, right outside of the Petrified Forest...we love the 4 colors of red, orange, yellow and blue.

Mike and Marty are Lifetime Honorary Members.



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## The Birthstone for February is: Amethyst

Amethyst is part of the Quartz family which also includes Citrine and Prasiolite. The gems color ranges from delicate light pinks to deep dark purples and the color comes from iron impurities within the stone, without the iron it would be colorless. The amount of iron within each stone determines how deep the color is.

In Brazil this stone forms in hollow, crystal lined geodes, and in other locations it forms over millions of years embedded in its host rock. The most desired color for the body color of Amethyst is a deep 'Siberian' purple, which is reminiscent of the now depleted original source. The finest examples of Amethyst form in two distinct color groups; a deep purple with undertones of a cool blue, or a reddish purple sometimes referred to as 'raspberry'.

One of the largest Amethyst mines in the world is in Maissau in Austria, and is open to the public. The Amethyst mines in Brazil are considered to be the best in the world - as long as you don't mind roughing it a little, you're sure to have a great adventure.

Amethyst is a hard and durable gemstone measuring 7 on the Mohs scale so it can be cleaned with warm soapy water (mild washing up liquid will suffice) and a soft cloth or brush. Remember to clean the bottom of the stone, as dirt trapped on the underside will stop some light getting into the stone and may make it appear more dull. Never use harsh household cleaners on Amethyst.

In its rough state, the gem often forms in long prismatic crystals, making it ideal for cutting. Because its color can often appear banded, it is usually cut into round brilliant shapes which help the gem display a more uniformed color.

The most suitable setting for gem amethyst is a prong or a bezel setting. The channel method must be used with caution. Amethyst is sensitive to strong heat and may lose or change its color when exposed to prolonged heat or light.

Amethyst remains one of the most popular gemstones on the market.

### Sources:

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

<https://www.gemporia.com/en-us/gemology-hub/article/899/what-is-amethyst--gemstone-facts-and-information/>

<https://www.britannica.com/>

Richard W. Wise (2005), Secrets of the Gem Trade;

This looks like a huge shell, but is actually a rare Giant Amethyst Geode (rock) from Uruguay.



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## Howard Ball

by Susan Roemhildt

Central Oregon has been a Rock Hound's Paradise for many years. Our rock resources were first known to native indigenous people who used the stones to fashion tools. Many of them utilitarian, but also some of that are truly artistic.

Soon after the settlement of the area in the local ranchers and residents started noticing "them 'purty rocks". We know many of the names of early pioneers of rockhounding and lapidary arts, names like Hoot Elkins, Shirts Quant, Fred Adams and Dick Horton.

One name you do not hear often, but deserves mention is Howard Ball. Howard, a machinist by trade owned the first plywood mill in Hawaii. After retirement he first moved to Colorado where he dug Dino Bone, finally he relocated to Bend.

He was a prolific cabber - working 7 days a week. He had a particular skill and expertise in the cabbing of Red Ribbon Obsidian which he self-collected. An anecdote that Tim tells is that Howard did not use a trim saw, he used nippers to rough out the cabs. Buyers would fly from New York City to the Madras Show to buy all his red ribbon obsidian cabs.

When Tim and Julie Larocco (owners of CigarboxRock) first came to Bend, Howard Ball was one of the old timers who befriended the young couple. Tim was later gifted Howard's canvas rock collecting bag. It is one of his treasured possession and a reminder of a dear friend and mentor.

One of the regrets Tim and Julie have is, they do not have a photograph of Howard. Tim is offering a \$50 Gift Certificate to the person who can locate and get to Tim a clear black and white photograph of Howard Ball.

Susan is a Lapidary Artist at Cigarbox Rock Lapidary





## Ideas for Winter Rockhounding Blues

By Suzie Meeker

This list is revised from the original from the November, 2020 newsletter.

1. **Learn about Oregon Geology:**
  - a. **Take a class at COCC** (if you are a senior, it's FREE).
  - b. **Geology.com** - covers many different topics. The link below takes you to the page on Oregon Gemstones, but other topics are on the left hand side of the page.
  - c. **Watch videos** - PacNW Geology Lectures by Central Washington University professor Nick Zentner. Some of the videos are only 2 minutes in length, and some are up to an hour, and all are free to watch. This page provides links to many of his lectures. Another link for Prof. Nick Zentner/Nick Foster videos is but this site also includes some explanations as well as excellent photos and graphics.
  - d. **Explore Mindat.org** - Very scientific site with an extensive glossary. The link is
1. **Visit a museum:**
  - a. **The Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals** is located in Hillsboro near Portland. They remain open with limited days of the week, and you may need to reserve a time/date in advance. You will get a time to check in at the gift shop, but you may stay at the museum as long as you wish. There is an admission fee with reduced rates for seniors. This is an exceptional museum and is not to be missed. The garage sale (for rocks, of course), held several times a year, is worth attending, according to those who have scored there. For more info go to
  - b. **The Crater Rock Museum** is located in Central Point near Medford. The Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society hosts this museum which has many more displays and specimens than you would expect. Please go to for more info and admission fee schedule.
  - c. **Lucky Strike Mine Gift Shop and Museum in Mitchell, OR.** The Lucky Strike Mine has closed, but you may buy their thundereggs at the museum/gift shop. It is best to call ahead to be sure of winter hours. The phone number is 541-362-1915. You may want to plan a day trip to the Painted Hills and stop off at the gift shop/museum.
1. **Plan your first 2023 adventure:**
  - a. **Order Tim Fischer's DVD/thumb drive** which lists many Pacific Northwest rockhounding sites with pictures and detailed topo maps. Go to
  - b. **Explore websites such as Gator Girl Rocks** - Many links provided of interest to rockhounds. There are also links to rockhounding sites and info in all of the US states. Go to
1. **Join a Facebook group:**
  - a. **Join our Club Facebook group** which is Central Oregon Rock Collectors
  - b. **Find other groups** that interest you

Provided by Suzie Meeker



## **2023 Club Meeting Dates**

**March 15** - Preparedness for rockhounding, first aid for people and pets  
Show and Tell for last names starting A-N

**April 19** - Jules Wetzel & John Moreau Rock Identification and what you may find and where in the Northwest.  
Rock Docs, Sue & Al Liebetrau, Jules, John & Roger Severson will attempt to identify any rock that you do not know what they are.  
Show and Tell for last names starting M-S

**May 17** - \*Potential - Jeff Payne & Jules Wetzel how to make a cabochon  
Show and Tell for last names starting S-Z

**June 21** - \*Potential - Kevin from Prineville BLM on Central Oregon Rock Formations and how it all started or What do you do with these ROCKS - members share what they do with their rocks  
Show and Tell - Open

**July 19** - \*Potential - Sue & Al Liebetrau Presentation on Fossils, what is here, and where to find them  
Show and Tell - Open

**August** - Annual Club Picnic - Details forthcoming

**September 20** - \*Potential presentation from the geology society

**October 18** - To Be Announced

**November** - Annual Club Holiday Party - Details forthcoming

**Meetings are held every third Wednesday of every month from March through October at the OSU Extension Service Building  
3800 SE Airport Way Bldg 3 "The Annex"**

**Redmond, OR at 6:00 PM. The only exception is August when CORC has its annual picnic. In November, CORC has its annual holiday party. The club does not meet from December through February.**





## Upcoming Area Rock Shows

- March 3-5 72nd Oregon Agate and Mineral Society Annual Show**  
OMSI 1945 SW Water Ave Portland, OR  
Contact person: Sonia Watt sonywatt@yahoo.com
- March 3-5 64th Annual Rock and Gem Show**  
Forest Grove National Guard Armory 2950 Taylor Way  
Forest Grove, OR  
Contact Person: William Harvey Jr. WLHARVEYJR@msn.com  
www.tvgc.org
- April 1-2 73rd Annual Sweet Home Rock and Mineral Show**  
Sweet Home High School Gym 1641 Long Street Sweet Home, OR  
Contact Person: Joe Cota (541)451-2740, Ed Anderson  
(541)451-1577 ela4rocks@gmail.com
- April 14-16 WAMS River of Gems 66th Annual Rock Show**  
Polka County Fairgrounds 520 S Pacific HWY W Rickreall, OR  
Contact Person: Ken Stubenrauch wams.riverofgems@gmail.com  
www.WAMSI.net
- May 13-14 Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center**  
1705 East Airport Road Hermiston, OR  
Contact Person: Mike Filarski (541)571-2593  
stonemorlin1@netscape.net
- May 19-21 Mt Hood Rock Club's Rock and Gem Show**  
Kliever Memorial Armory 10000 NE 33rd Dr Portland, OR  
Contact Person: Darrell Englehard mhrcdc@gmail.com  
www.mthoodrockclub.com
- May 27-28 Clackamas County Fairgrounds**  
694 NE 4th Ave Canby, OR 97013  
Contact Person: Karen McAllister (503)351-9918  
gmaktmc@gmail.com www.clackamettegem.org
- June 16-18 Annual Father's Day Weekend Rock and Gem Show**  
Reedsport Community Center/City Hall  
451 Winchester Ave Reedsport, OR  
Contact Person: Bambi Darling (541)420-8014  
reedsportrockandgemshow.com
- Aug 19-20 End of Summer Rock Show**  
Polk County Fairgrounds 520 S Pacific HWY W Rickreall, OR  
Contact Person: Ken Stubenrauch wams.riverofgems@gmail.com
- Oct 6-8 42nd Annual Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show**  
Wingspan Event Center Building at the Westside Commons  
801 NE 34th Avenue, Hillsboro OR  
Contact Person: Darrell Engelhard mhrcdc@gmail.com  
www.mthoodrockclub.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](http://corockcollectors.com)

**OR**

**You may now go to our website [corockcollectors.com](http://corockcollectors.com) to pay your  
membership dues online. Click on the Membership page.**

Club website: [corockcollectors.com](http://corockcollectors.com)

Please join our Facebook page:  
Central Oregon Rock Collectors

If you have any  
ideas for field trips please  
email Ken Lawson & Suzie  
Meeker at  
[corc.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:corc.rocks@gmail.com)

### **CORC Board Members**

April Anable  
President

Patricia Moreland  
Co-Vice President

Don Ross  
Co-Vice President

Terri Coffey  
Treasurer

Tonia Smith  
Secretary

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Tonia Smith  
Co-Newsletter Editor

Nancy Johnston  
Co-Newsletter Editor

Ken Lawson  
Co-Field Trip Chair

Suzie Meeker  
Co-Field Trip Chair

Gale Rivera  
Co-Program Committee Chair

Marty Betsch  
Co-Program Committee Chair

Barb Thompson  
Claims Chair

April Anable  
Social Media & Webmaster

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If you would like to reach any of the board members please email them at  
[corc.rocks@gmail.com](mailto:corc.rocks@gmail.com)

# Business cards and announcements

**Cigarbox Sweetheart Sale**  
**February 13th-17th**  
**Sales prices are better than usual 10%!**

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

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](mailto:nina.c.hurst@outlook.com)

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**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](mailto:corcrocks@gmail.com)