

JUNE 2023

corc.rocks@gmail.com

# CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

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



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## THANK YOU VETERANS

REMEMBER AND HONOR



# Field trip to: Beers Mountain & China Hollow

It was an early day to get to Beers Mountain and China Hollow but worth the drive, especially if you went with great friends. About 25 of us went and met up in Rufus. We first went to Beers Mountain for the Jasper. Our guide Jay was great and so full of information. A great asset to the trip. We then headed out to China Hollow which was a good drive way back in and this is where you needed the 4 wheel drive, Big rolling hills, beautiful country and lots of it.





# Field trip to: Bear Creek



Our fearless leaders!!!



Great Find ET!!!



What a great day! About 35 of us went to Bear Creek. We weren't sure if we could get through with all the recent rain, but they had just graded the road where it had washed out, so we were good to go. A bit of mud to drive through here and there, but all in all the roads were great, the finds were great, the people were great and it was a very fun day. We are definitely going back.

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# LOOK UP!

If you're out rock-hounding on the morning of October 14th this fall, be sure to look up at the sky. Why? Because an annular solar eclipse will be visible from a good portion of Oregon, that's why!

How will this annular eclipse differ from a total solar eclipse such as the one that many of us were lucky enough to see here in Oregon in 2017? Any solar eclipse occurs when the moon passes between the earth and the sun. In a total solar eclipse the moon is at just the perfect distance from the earth so that it completely blocks out the sun. In an annular eclipse, the moon is further away from the earth so that it never completely blocks out the sun, thus leaving a "ring of fire" or annulus visible around the moon. Although maybe not as dramatic as a total eclipse, during the annular eclipse on October 14th the sky will still darken and it will be a bit other-worldly to see the sun's disk transformed into a brilliant ring.

**IMPORTANT WARNING!!** Because the sun is never completely blocked by the moon it will not be safe at any time during the eclipse to look directly at the Sun without specialized eye protection designed for solar viewing.

Such filters are widely available and are inexpensive. Looking at this eclipse through dark sunglasses or any other unapproved filter is a recipe for serious and potentially permanent eye injury.

The following links have more detailed information about annular solar eclipses, where to buy safe eclipse glasses and, most importantly, check out the interactive map link for the timing of the eclipse at different locations and to find a great spot to view it!

*Article by:  
Lupe Severson*



<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/eclipses/2023/oct-14-annular/overview/>

[http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site\\_pages/solar\\_eclipses/ASE\\_2023\\_GoogleMapFull.html?Lat=41.94787&Lng=-119.24239&Zoom=7&LC=1](http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/ASE_2023_GoogleMapFull.html?Lat=41.94787&Lng=-119.24239&Zoom=7&LC=1)

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## **The Birthstone for June is:** **Pearl, Alexandrite and Moonstone**

### **Pearl**

A pearl is a hard, glistening object produced within the soft tissue (specifically the mantle) of a living shelled mollusk or another animal, such as fossil conulariids. Just like the shell of a mollusk, a pearl is composed of calcium carbonate (mainly aragonite or a mixture of aragonite and calcite)[3] in minute crystalline form, which has deposited in concentric layers. The ideal pearl is perfectly round and smooth, but many other shapes, known as baroque pearls, can occur. The finest quality of



natural pearls have been highly valued as gemstones and objects of beauty for many centuries. Because of this, pearl has become a metaphor for something rare, fine, admirable and valuable.

The most valuable pearls occur spontaneously in the wild, but are extremely rare. These wild pearls are referred to as natural pearls. Cultured or farmed pearls from pearl oysters and freshwater mussels make up the majority of those currently sold. Imitation pearls are also widely sold in inexpensive jewelry. Pearls have been harvested and cultivated primarily for use in jewelry, but in the past were also used to adorn clothing. They have also been crushed and used in cosmetics, medicines and paint formulations.

### **Alexandrite**



Often described by gem aficionados as “emerald by day, ruby by night,” alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered in Russia’s Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it’s now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but

fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.

Alexandrite is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn’t arise from the gem’s pleochroism, but rather from the mineral’s unusual light-absorbing properties.

Today, several labs can produce synthetic lab-grown stones with the same chemical and physical properties as natural alexandrite. Several methods can produce flux-grown alexandrite, Czochralski (or pulled) alexandrite, and hydrothermally-produced alexandrite. Flux-grown gems are fairly difficult to distinguish from natural alexandrite as they contain inclusions that seem natural. Czochralski or pulled alexandrite is easier to identify because it is very clean and contains curved striations visible under magnification. Although the color change in pulled stones can be from blue to red, the color change does not truly resemble that of natural alexandrite from any deposit. Hydrothermal lab-grown alexandrite has identical physical and chemical properties to real alexandrite.

## Moonstone



Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminium silicate ((Na,K)AlSi<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) of the feldspar group that displays a pearly and opalescent schiller. An alternative name for moonstone is hecatolite

The most common moonstone is of the orthoclase feldspar mineral *adularia*, named for an early mining site near Mt. Adular in Switzerland, now the town of St. Gotthard.

Deposits of moonstone occur in Armenia (mainly from Lake Sevan), Australia, the Austrian Alps, Mexico, Madagascar, Myanmar, Norway, Poland, India, Sri Lanka, and the United States. Historically, the most valuable, transparent moonstones with strong blue sheen came from Myanmar. Today, most commercial moonstones come from Sri Lanka.

Moonstone's delicate beauty and its long-established heritage make it perhaps the most familiar gem-quality member of the feldspar group.

Feldspars are the most widespread minerals in the earth's crust, as well as some of the most diverse. You can pick up a rock anywhere in the world, and you'll probably find that it contains a mineral or two from the feldspar group. When light falls between these thin, flat layers, it scatters in many directions, producing the phenomenon called *adularescence*. *Adularescence* is the light that appears to billow across a gemstone, giving its surface a glowing appearance.

Other feldspar minerals can also show *adularescence*. One is a *labradorite* feldspar found mainly in Labrador, Canada. Another *labradorite*—found in Madagascar—has a multicolored *adularescence* over a light bodycolor. It's known in the trade as *rainbow moonstone*, despite the fact that it's actually a variety of *labradorite* rather than *orthoclase*.

<https://www.gia.edu>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>





## Sale Before June 21st CORC Meegting

Our Club has been gifted with a rock collection. The thundereggs will be on sale at 5:15 PM before the June 21st meeting at the club meeting site. The prices range from \$1 for an entire coffee can of uncut thundereggs to \$2-\$8 each for cut and polished thundereggs. Please bring check or cash and help our club raise money.



### Family Science Fair

Barnes Butte Elementary School in Prineville is looking for someone to have a rock display table at their Family Science Night in October. They would like to have a variety of rocks on display have the person to stay to give information about the rocks and answer questions. They would love it if the families could pick up the rocks, examine them and learn about this part of Earth Science. It's tentatively schedule for October 9th, 5:00-6:30.

If you are interested, please contact Becky Brauer, Assistant Principal  
Barnes Butte Elementary.  
[Becky.Brauer@crookcountyschools.org](mailto:Becky.Brauer@crookcountyschools.org)



## Field Trip Dates

**Sunday, June 11th Pole Creek** We will meet at Ray's Market in Prineville at 8 AM for the safety meeting. We will get started earlier due to the heat. Please bring lunch, drinking water and sunscreen. The road up to the dig site requires 4 wheel drive. We plan to park the cars at the bottom of the dirt road and carpool up to the dig site.



You can find petrified wood, jasper replacement petrified wood and several colors of jasper at Pole Creek



**June 17th-18th** Ed Taft is planning a trip to the Spectrum Mine in Plush for Sunstones. It is a free dig weekend. Anyone who would like to go please contact Ed or the club email and we will forward it to Ed. **This is not a club field trip.**

**Saturday, July 15th Fire Opal Dig** Between Bly & Lakeview.

**Sunday, September 10th** White Fir Thunderegg

**Saturday, October 14th Club Claim** Agate



## **Next Club Meeting Date**

**June 21st**

Presentation by Kevin Weldon, Prineville BLM "Prineville BLM Lands for Rockhounding"

Doors open at 5:30 PM for visiting

Meeting starts at 6 PM

\*Those that won a door prize last month please bring a door prize this month.

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**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.**

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Meeting minutes can be found at [corockcollectors.com](http://corockcollectors.com)

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## **Upcoming Area Rock Shows**

### **June 15-18 Prineville Rockhound Pow Wow**

Crook County Fairgrounds Prineville, OR

Contact Person: Jim McCoy [jimmcoy57@yahoo.com](mailto:jimmcoy57@yahoo.com)

Field Trip Contact: Joe Van Cura [jvancura@peak.org](mailto:jvancura@peak.org)

### **June 16-18 Annual Father's Day Weekend Rock and Gem Show**

Reedsport Community Center/City Hall

Contact Person: Bambi Darling (541)420-8014

[ReedsportRockandGemShow.com](http://ReedsportRockandGemShow.com)

### **August 18-20 End of Summer Rock Show**

Polk County Fairgrounds Rickreall, OR

Contact Person: Len Stubenrauch

[wams.riverofgems@gmail.com](mailto:wams.riverofgems@gmail.com), [www.WAMSI.net](http://www.WAMSI.net)

**For more Rock Shows please check out February's Newsletter or our website**

### **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  
Vice President

Tonia Smith  
Secretary

Nancy Johnston  
Treasurer

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Tonia Smith  
Co-Newsletter Editor

Nancy Johnston  
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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

## **CigarboxRock**

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

CORC members receive a discount at CigarboxRock!

**CBR@BENDNET.COM**

Call (541)389-9663 or visit our website, <https://cigarboxrock.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](mailto:corcrocks@gmail.com)