

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS NEWSLETTER

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



Our Interview with Jules and Jan Wetzel

by Tonia Smith & Nancy Johnston

We had a wonderful opportunity to meet with Jules and Jan Wetzel the other day. When we arrived Jan took us back to Jules's shop which is a two story building with all the fun things needed to work with rocks. Jules loves to do cabbing so of course, with his saw and a few other things is his cabbing machine. We then went upstairs to where he has most of his displays and we were given the grand tour of all their rocks and where they all came from.

Jules was born in a small hospital in The Dalles, Oregon. When he was in the 2nd grade a friend found an agate in a creek. This peaked his interest in rocks and his teacher at that time gave him a book on rocks. This is what really got him started.

He has found leaf fossils in the Painted Hills back in 1953 before it was the Painted Hills, thunder eggs from all over and his dad even made a BBQ pit with fossils and agates.





Jan was born in Walla Walla, Washington. She has always loved rocks, so when she and Jules go out scouting they have a great time together. Jan met Jules in Portland and their honeymoon was at Agate Beach. What do you find at Agate Beach? Well, when they came home from their honeymoon they bought their first tumbler.

Jan and Jules have 2 children. They moved to Central Oregon in 1990. As Jules was a surveyor it became a hobby to pick up rocks as he was working. He found several places for field trips that the club still goes to including Pole Creek. He worked with geologists at the highway department. One of those geologists, Ryan Franklin, had worked for the BLM and is now working for ODOT

Jules used to go to the BLM office where Ryan Franklin had worked. Ryans surveys gave him ideas for scouting trips, all this while doing research for his job.

When Jules retired in 2012 he would get together with Jerry Brown and drive around finding rock hounding sites. The club had been around for a while, but wasn't very organized, so Jules was the "present" club's first "Field Trip Coordinator". Along with Mike and Marty Betsch, and a few others, Jules and Jan are founding members of the "present" club.

Jan's favorite rocks are Thundereggs. Jules doesn't exactly have a favorite...he likes the "hard ones" (as long it doesn't take a lot of digging). He likes finding "new places" to rock hound and loves "the hunt".

Thank you Jules and Jan for opening your home to us. It was a great pleasure to hear your story.



The Birthstone for October is: Opal

The name opal is believed to be derived from the Sanskrit word upala, which means 'jewel', or "precious stone."



Australian Opal

Opal is a hydrated amorphous (lacking physical form or shape) form of silica ($\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$); its water content may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Due to its amorphous property, it is classified as a mineraloid (a naturally occurring mineral-like substance that does not demonstrate crystallinity. Mineraloids possess chemical compositions that vary beyond the generally accepted ranges for specific minerals. For

example, obsidian is an amorphous glass and not a crystal. Jet is derived from decaying wood under extreme pressure. Opal is another mineraloid because of its non-crystalline nature. Pearl is considered a mineraloid because the included calcite and/or aragonite crystals are bonded by an organic material, and there is no definite proportion of the components), unlike crystalline forms of silica, which are considered minerals. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock, being most commonly found with limonite, sandstone, rhyolite, marl, and basalt.



Rough Opal

There are two broad classes of opal: precious and common. Precious opal displays play-of-color (iridescence); common opal does not.



Opal for Cabbing

For gemstone use, most opal is cut and polished to form a cabochon. "Natural" opal refers to polished stones consisting wholly of precious opal. Opals too thin to produce a "natural" opal may be combined with other materials to form "composite" gems. An opal doublet consists of a relatively thin layer of precious opal, backed by a layer of dark-colored material, most commonly ironstone, dark or black common opal (potch), onyx, or obsidian. The darker backing emphasizes the play of color and results in a more attractive display than a lighter potch.



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

<https://www.gia.edu>

<https://www.geologyin.com>

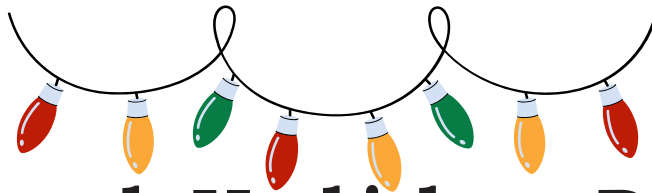
<https://www.reddit.com>

<https://www.wixonjewelers.com>

[Youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

Please keep an eye out
for your RSVP

Members are allowed
to sell their rock related items



Annual Holiday Party

November 18th
Redmond High School

9 AM Set up
11-2 Party
2-3 Clean up

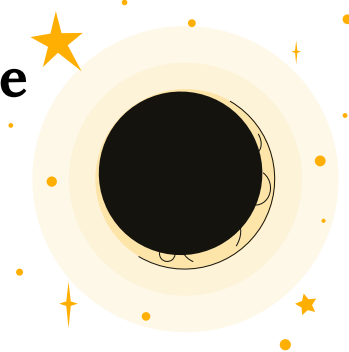
White Fir Field Trip

We had about 28 people show up for this field trip. With a few steep hills to climb, some digging and a lot of float we came home with some nice treasures. We even had our member from North Carolina, Jim Gilreath, join us!! What a great time.



Don't forget the Annular Eclipse October 14th!

To learn more look for Lupe Severson's
article
in July's newsletter



2023 Officer Elections

This is the year we elect a Secretary and Treasurer. Marty Betsch is the Election Committee. If you would like to run for either position please email Marty at corc.rocks@gmail.com.

Tonia Smith is the current Secretary and will be running again.

Nancy Johnston is the current acting Treasurer and will be running for Treasurer.

Programs Committee Chair

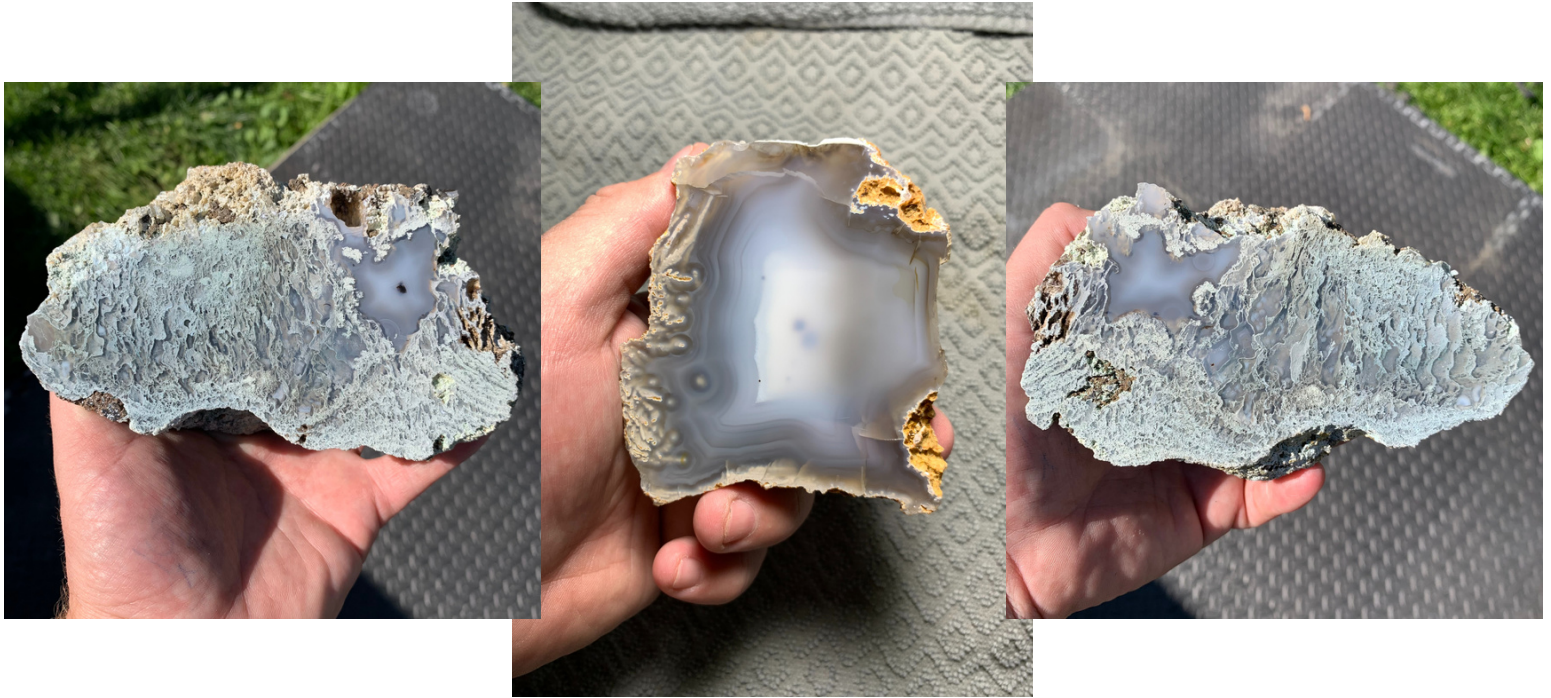
Marty and Gale are both stepping down as Co-Program Committee Chairs. If you or know someone who would be a good Program Committee Chair please let Marty know. Email corc.rocks@gmail.com



Field Trip Dates

Saturday, October 14th Ochoco Amigo's - Club Claim Agate, Moss agate

We will be meeting at Ray's in Prineville at 8:30 AM. The hill is very steep. Hiking poles in some areas may be helpful.



Thanks to Erik Badzinski for the pictures

For our first meeting next year, March 2024, the program will be “What did you do with your rocks from our 2023 Ochoco Amigo's (club claim) field trip and other 2023 field trips?” This will be a Show and Tell format.

Next Club Meeting Date

October 18th

Daniele McKay, Senior Instructor, Department of Earth Sciences,
University of Oregon "Cascadia Earthquakes"

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.

**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.

Meeting minutes can be found at corockcollectors.com

**Not all
who
wander
are
lost.**



**Some of
us are
looking
for
rocks.**

Upcoming Area Rock Shows

October 6-8 42nd Annual Portland Regional Gem and Mineral Show
Wingspan Event Center Building at Westside Commons
Hillsboro, OR
Contact Person: Linda Harvey - lindaharvey2010@gmail.com

For more Rock Shows please check out the February 2023 Newsletter

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

OR

**You may now go to our website corockcollectors.com to pay your
membership dues online. Click on the Membership page.**

Club website: 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**

CORC Board Members

April Anable
President

Patricia Moreland
Vice President

Tonia Smith
Secretary

Nancy Johnston
Treasurer

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

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

Business cards and announcements

Richardson Dry Sander with polish, tile saw and shop vac \$350
Seller Sue Liebetrau. Call Marty Betsch (541) 410-1302



Lortone 2 wheel grinder with polisher.
Has makeshift water added. \$500 OBO
Seller Sue Leibetrau.
Call Marty Betsch (541)410-1302



CigarboxRock

The temporary office is a "job shack"
located at 63273 Nels Anderson Rd.

Give us a call before coming in!
Currently open: Tuesday-Saturday
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