

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



Part 4 and Last of:

The History of Rockhounding: A Riveting Look at Rock and Mineral Collecting Through the Ages

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Rockhounding's Resilience: Adapting to Modern Challenges

Rockhounding, like many hobbies deeply rooted in nature and exploration, has faced its share of challenges over the years. As the landscapes of both the physical world and societal norms shifted, rockhounding had to adapt to ensure its survival.

The Safe Havens: Rockhound State Parks

In response to the increasing limitations of traditional rockhounding sites, the establishment of rockhound state parks emerges as a beacon of hope for rockhounding enthusiasts. These dedicated areas, often rich in geological diversity, were designed to preserve the essence of rockhounding. They ensured that collectors, both seasoned and new, had designated places where they could pursue their passion without fear of trespassing or depleting resources. These parks, often equipped with educational resources, also played a pivotal role in introducing the wonders of rockhounding to younger generations.

The establishment of rockhound state parks emerged as a beacon of hope for rockhounding enthusiasts. (credit: John Fowler)



The Loss of Traditional Sites

While the creation of state parks was a positive step, it couldn't entirely offset the loss of many traditional rockhounding sites. Military expansion, driven by national security concerns, often led to the vast areas being cordoned off. Privatization saw once-public lands being sold to private entities, who, for various reasons ranging from commercial interest to privacy concerns, restricted access. Urban development, in its relentless march, consumed many areas that were once rich hunting grounds for rockhounds.

Modern Challenges: Mining and Liability Laws

The evolution of mining techniques brought about a double-edged sword. On one hand, it led to the discovery of new mineral deposits and made certain mining processes more efficient. On the other, techniques like crushing could inadvertently destroy precious gems before they even saw the light of day.

Liability laws further complicated matters. Landowners, wary of potential lawsuits from injuries sustained on their property, became increasingly reluctant to grant access to rockhounds. This legal landscape made many traditional sites, especially those in mines or quarries, off-limits to the average collector.

The Invincible Spirit of Rockhounding



Despite these challenges, the essence of rockhounding refused to be crushed. The rockhounding community, bound by a shared passion, found new ways to come together. Gem shows and events became crucial gathering points, where enthusiasts could exchange knowledge, trade specimens, and celebrate their shared passion.

(credit: **Paul Sableman**)

The advent of the digital age added another dimension to rockhounding. Platforms like eBay transformed the way collectors bought and sold specimens, making it easier for enthusiasts from different parts of the world to connect, trade, and share their stories. Online forums and social media groups like Reddit and Facebook further fostered this sense of global community, ensuring that the rich legacy of rockhounding would continue to thrive in the modern era.

In essence, while the landscapes and challenges of rockhounding have evolved over the years, its heart remains unchanged. It's a testament to the lasting allure of the earth's treasures and the human spirit's unyielding curiosity to find them.

**Thank you to Bruce VanderZanden
for sending us this article.**

**Have you ever wanted to know where a certain
kind of rock comes from?**

Have you ever wanted to know the different things you can
do with rocks?

Have you ever wanted to know how to form a cabachon?

Have you ever wanted to know how to wire wrap or make a sun
catcher?

What about how a crystal forms or where thundereggs come from?

What about being able to be hands on with a class during
the monthly meeting?

We are in need of a Program Committee Chair person or persons
that are willing to put in a few hours a month to bring people in
to speak or present at our club meetings. We need speakers for 6
months...April, May, June, July, September and October. Marty and
Gale have a lot of information to share with you, including ideas,
names and contact information for possible speakers.

This is a board position and you would
be asked to be at the board meetings, about 3 per year, as well as
assist with club events.

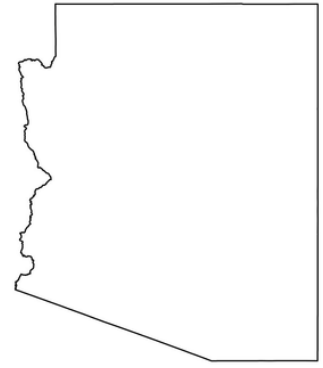
If you are interested please contact April or Tonia at
corc.rocks@gmail.com.

STATE BY STATE

ROCKS, GEMS,

MINERALS

Arizona



State Rock: Arizona does not have a state rock

State Mineral: Wulfenite



Wulfenite is found in the oxidation zone of lead deposits. Oxidation zones are home to some of the world's strangest and most diverse minerals, as the influence of water and free oxygen interacting with the primary ore body create new and unique minerals.

Mohs hardness: 2.5-3

Color: Shades of orange, yellow, brownish-orange, red, tan, brown, yellow-gray, greenish-brown, olive green, black, and

Colorless

Crystal structure: Tetragonal

Wulfenite is dangerous owing to the presence of lead in it

State Fossil: Petrified Wood



Is petrified wood a fossil? Yes, petrified wood is a fossil. It is a stone with preserved natural wooden texture. However all of the organic materials of the wood (cellulose and lignin) are no longer present. Instead, those organic materials have been replaced by silica minerals (quartz, chalcedony, agate, opal) and sometimes by calcite, pyrite, or native copper.

The most famous petrified forest (petrified forest in Holbrook) is located in the northeast part of Arizona State.

Huge placers of the best quality petrified wood were discovered at the end of the 19th century. Since 1906 this area has been declared a Petrified Forest National Park.

State Gem: Turquoise

Here are some basic mineral facts about turquoise:

It has a mineral hardness of 5-6, meaning it does not scratch easily

It is a copper mineral

It is void of any carbonates, meaning it will not react with acid.

It has a waxy luster

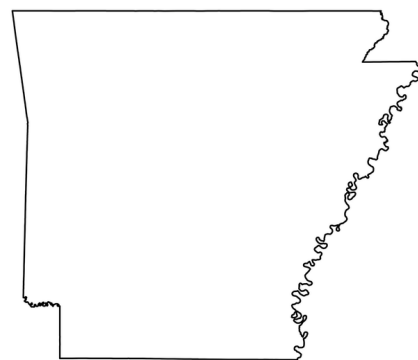


Turquoise is an opaque, blue-to-green semiprecious stone. The majority of the world's finest-quality turquoise comes from western and southwestern United States.

Nearly all important deposits of turquoise are located near copper deposits in arid desert regions of the world.

STATE BY STATE ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS

Arkansas



State Rock: Bauxite



Bauxite contains aluminum ore which is used to make soft drink cans, aluminum foil, and many other products. Many people are surprised to learn that bauxite is not a mineral. It is a rock composed mainly of aluminum-bearing minerals. It forms when laterite soils are severely leached of silica and other soluble materials in a wet tropical or subtropical climate.

During WWII, the state of Arkansas furnished over 98 percent of all bauxite mined in the United States for aluminum production.

State Mineral: Quartz Crystal

Quartz is the second most abundant mineral in the Earth's crust. It comes in many different varieties. Amethyst, citrine, and agate are just a few popular gem forms of quartz. In the most basic sense, quartz is the crystalline form of silicon dioxide. Quartz can also grow into stones made of tiny microcrystals.

Most quartz forms in either igneous rocks or environments with geothermal waters.

In igneous rocks, quartz forms as magma cools. Like water turning into ice, silicon dioxide will crystallize as it cools. Slow cooling generally allows the crystals to grow larger.



State Gem: Diamond



Diamonds form under high temperature and pressure in conditions that exist only about 100 miles beneath the earth's surface. Diamond's carbon atoms are bonded in essentially the same way in all directions. Another mineral, graphite, also contains only carbon, but its

formation process and crystal structure are very different. Graphite is so soft that you can write with it, while diamond is so hard that you can only scratch it with another diamond.

Diamond powders are used to cut and polish gem-grade stones. Other uses include surgical blades, glass cutting and engraving tools, metal cutting tools, and drill bits.

References:

www.geologypage.com statesymbolsusa.org www.ereferencedesk.com geology.com
minerals.gia.edu geology.com web.colby.edu gemrockauctions.com
www.usgs.gov shira-diamonds.com www.gemsociety.org

QUICK FACT

A **Rock** is a natural material composed of one or more minerals. A **Mineral** is a solid, naturally occurring substance composed of one or more elements. A **Gem** is a precious or semi-precious mineral which has been cut and polished. All minerals can be gemstones, but not all gemstones can be minerals. Also, rocks are comprised of minerals, but minerals are not comprised of rocks.

Did You Know...

Al and Sue Liebetrau started Central Oregon Rock Collectors in the early 2000's.

The first Central Oregon Rock Collectors club meetings were held at Paul Asman's house.

At one of those meetings, Paul had rock saws going.

One guy lifted the lid and ended up with oil all over him. What a great learning experience!

Have a Rockin' Valentine's Day



It's time to renew your membership!

2024 CORC Board Members

April Anable
President

Patricia Moreland
Vice President

Tonia Smith
Secretary

Nancy Johnston
Treasurer

Ken Lawson
Co-Field Trip Committee
Chair

Eric Smith
Co-Field Trip Committee
Chair

Barb Thompson
Claims Committee Chair

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Program Committee Chair

You may now go to our website corockcollectors.com to pay your membership dues online. Click on the Membership page. It will take you to Cheddarup. Follow the instructions to fill out the membership form and make your payment.

Or you may print off the membership form instead and mail it with a check.

Central Oregon Rock Collectors (CORC)
P.O. Box 6265
Bend, OR 97708

Non Board Members

Tonia Smith
Nancy Johnston
Newsletter Editors

April Anable
Social Media
Webmaster

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

If you have questions, please
contact Tonia at
corc.rocks@gmail.com

***If you would like to contact a board member please email
corc.rocks@gmail.com**