

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



Can You Tumble a Thunderegg? See the Breathtaking Results For Yourself!

by *Rock Seeker*
June 11, 2023

Can You Tumble a Thunderegg?

For a long time I've always wondered what would happen if I were to run a thunder egg through a rock tumbler. I've never conducted the experiment myself, but I ran across a man by the name of Scott Wilkins who did do it and posted a video about it on Youtube. And the results were...well...check them out for yourself!

You'll see as the experiment progresses this mini Thunder egg goes through different stages including the course stage, vibratory tumbling, and of course, a four-step polishing process. With each update, marvel at how this tiny formation transforms, revealing its hidden beauty and fascinating features. By the end of the journey, prepare to be amazed by the final polished result.

Key Takeaways

- ~ Experiment involves tumbling a mini Thunder egg in a rock tumbler
- ~ Mini Thunder egg goes through course stage, vibratory tumbling, and polishing.
- ~ Final outcome showcases the beauty and unique feature of the mini Thunder egg.

Starting the Tumbling Process

Adding Silicon Carbide Grit

The tumbling process begins with placing the mini Thunder egg in the rock tumbler. To get it nice and smooth, the tumbler is filled with 60/90 silicon carbide grit. The tumbling process continues until the rock reaches the desired level of smoothness.



The mini Thunder egg before going in the tumbler.

image credit: Scott Wilkins

After the coarse stage is complete, the mini Thunder egg may still have some roughness. However, it is essential not to tumble it too much, as it will become smaller and smaller. Tumbling the rock to the point where it polishes nicely should yield a beautiful, finished product. The chalcedony in the rock takes on a globe-like appearance with the ocean and continents.

The next step involves moving the rock to the vibratory tumbler. Here, a regular eight-day, four-step polishing process occurs. This process goes through four different grits, which will result in a shiny and polished mini Thunder egg.

Finally, the mini Thunder egg completes the polishing process. The finished product resembles a small planet, with calcium coming through and visible bands inside the rock. The exterior rhyolite also tumbles up nicely, adding to the rock's overall character.

Polishing Process

Four-Step Vibratory Tumbler

Once the coarse stage is complete, the mini Thunder egg is then subjected to a vibratory tumbler for an eight-day polishing process. This procedure involves passing the rock through four different grits that refine and polish its surface. As a rock is tumbled, both the chalcedony and rhyolite gradually acquire a polished appearance.

The tumbled mini Thunder egg reveals stunning details, such as ocean-like bands of chalcedony and intricate patterns reminiscent of continents. Over time, the rock may lose some of its brown rhyolite, which could alter its unique character. However, the final result is a beautiful, polished rock with the appearance of a small planet.

The careful polishing process of the mini Thunder egg brings out its inherent beauty and allows for the appreciation of its distinct features. With more rocks like this available, repeating the process may yield a variety of fascinating patterns and characteristics, providing an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

for rock enthusiasts.

Final Polished Mini Thunder Egg

Appearance and Characteristics

Upon completing the polishing process, the mini Thunder egg's smooth and shiny surface unveils the intricate details and patterns that lie underneath. The rhyolite polishes up nicely, enhancing the overall appearance. This unique result may tempt the experimenter to try polishing more Thunder eggs and exploring the various outcomes that could emerge.

Through the polishing process with a vibratory tumbler, this beautiful little rock managed to maintain its character, despite some loss of the brown rhyolite area. It now stands as an attractive and intriguing piece, capturing the attention of enthusiasts.



*Finished mini Thunder egg
image credit: Scott Wilkins*

To watch the whole process, log onto Youtube and look for
“How Well Will it Tumble? - Mini Thunderegg”

“Thunderegg” as one word was adopted by the Oregon Legislature for the name of the state rock and, therefore, is the correct spelling when referring to the state rock; however, in describing the geology and mineralogy of thunder eggs, the two-word spelling has priority, because of its use in the literature.

Oregon.gov

CORC Field Trip Etiquette

During field trips, you are directly representing Central Oregon Rock Collectors in public. Please hold yourselves and each other accountable to the following guidelines:

- ~ Respect collection limits where applicable. Field trip leaders will advise of limits during safety meeting.
- ~ If you dig a hole, fill it in.
- ~ Pick up any trash you find along the way.
- ~ Hand-powered tools only.
- ~ Be smart, be safe, know your limits.
- ~ If you choose to bring your pet it must be under your control at all times.
- ~ Please respect our natural habitats. For example, take care when digging around tree roots and be responsible when driving and parking at field trip locations. We're there to enjoy it, not destroy it!
- ~ Field trips are about community! Make a new friend! Share your finds! Mentor a newbie!

Did You Know...

Central Oregon Rock Collectors was founded just over 20 years ago by Al and Sue Liebetrau.

Al and Sue are known worldwide for their many contributions to the rockhounding community. Sue was into rockhounding first. When Al followed he fell in love with fluorescents.

We lost Al April 28, 2023. Sue is still a member of CORC. Her, along with Paul Asman, are the last 2 remaining founding members.

STATE BY STATE ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS

Connecticut

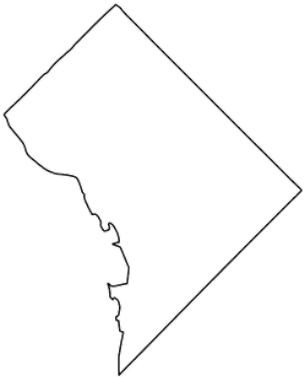


State Mineral: Almandine Garnet



Almandine Garnet also known as almandite, is a species of mineral belonging to the garnet group. The name is a corruption of alabandicus, which is the name applied by Pliny the Elder to a stone found or worked at Alabanda, a town in Caria in Asia Minor. Almandine is an iron alumina garnet, of deep red color, inclining to purple. It is frequently cut with a

convex face, or in cabochon, and is then known as carbuncle. Viewed through the spectroscope in a strong light, it generally shows three characteristic absorption bands.



D.C.

State Rock: Potomac Bluestone



(a) Potomac Bluestone is a metamorphic rock that has a long and distinguished history in the District of Columbia.

(b) Before the founding of our nation, Potomac Bluestone was quarried by Native Americans and used by early colonists. Later, District residents, including Italian immigrants and African Americans, followed in the footsteps of the first Americans and also quarried this ancient and important rock.

(c) Potomac Bluestone has been used extensively in construction in the District of Columbia.

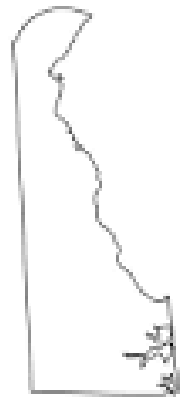
(d) Potomac Bluestone was used as the foundation for the White House, the Capitol, and the Washington Monument.

(e) Many houses in the northwest section of the District are also made of Potomac Bluestone, including the Old Stone House in Georgetown, which was built in 1765.

(f) Other notable area structures with Potomac Bluestone are Georgetown's Healey Building, St. Elizabeths Hospital, the Chain Bridge abutments, and the sea wall at Hains Point. The rock is also at the National Zoo, in the Panda House, the Elephant House, and the Mane Restaurant.

STATE BY STATE ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS

Deleware



State Mineral: Sillimanite



Sillimanite is a metamorphic (denoting or relating to rock that has undergone transformation by heat, pressure, or other natural agencies, e.g. in the folding of strata or the nearby intrusion of igneous rocks) mineral found in high-grade rocks.

Sillimanite is a common rock forming aluminosilicate (a class of minerals that are primarily composed of the elements aluminum, silicon, and oxygen.) especially

important for metamorphic petrology and ceramics industry. It is usually fibrous but it can form columnar crystals and even rare gemmy specimens.

Florida



State Stone: Agatized Coral



Agatized Coral forms when silica replaces the original calcium carbonate skeleton of a coral colony. This replacement process creates beautiful specimens with cave-like appearances.

State Gem: Moonstone

Moonstone is a sodium potassium aluminium silicate of the feldspar group that displays a pearly and opalescent schiller.



References:

www.geologypage.com statesymbolsusa.org minerals.gia.edu geology.com mindat.org
mineralexpert.org gemrockauctions.com www.usgs.gov www.gemsociety.org
www.britannica google.com

Our next Club Meeting is:

APRIL 17TH

**Doors open at 5:30 PM for socializing
Meeting starts at 6 PM**

**SET
Strategy, Etiquette and Tools**

*Those who won a door prize at our last meeting please bring one this meeting.

**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 PM. The only exception is July or 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



Drusy: A crust of small crystals lining the sides of a cavity (or vug) in a rock. Sometimes spelled druzy. Borrowed in the late 18th century from German druse, "weathered ore."

**Save the date:
CORC Annual Picnic
July 20**

2024 Field Trip Dates

*All field trips are
subject to
change

April 14th, Sunday Richardson's Rock Ranch and Museum
While digging is no longer allowed here,
there is plenty to choose from, including
assorted rough. Check out their website at
richardsonrockranch.com



May 18th, Saturday Hampton Butte
Jasper replacement petrified wood

June 23rd, Sunday Glass Butte
Obsidian

July No Field Trip Due to Annual Picnic on 20th, Saturday

August 25th, Sunday Milepost 32
Leaf fossils and petrified wood

September 14th, Saturday Old Marker Ranch (Hollywood Ranch)
Sweet Home, Oregon
Agates and petrified wood
This is a fee dig \$2/lb

October 13th, Sunday Ochoco Amigos
Agates, moss agates, jasper, and crystals

2024 Rock

Show Dates

- April 20-21** Lakeside Gem and Mineral Club
Benton County Fairgrounds Kennewick, WA
- April 26-28** Rogue Gem & Geology Club Annual Show
Josephine County Fairgrounds Pavilion Bldg Grants Pass, OR
- April 27-28** West Seattle Rock Club
Alki Masonic Temple West Seattle, WA
- May 4-5** Everett Rock & Gem Club
Evergreen State Fairground, Weikel Event Center near Monroe, WA
- June 13-16** Prineville Rockhound Pow Wow
Crook County Fairgrounds Prineville, Oregon
- June 14-16** Lower Umpqua Gem & Mineral Society
Reedsport Community Center Reedsport, OR
- June 20-23** Madras Rock Show
Jefferson County Fairgrounds Madras, Oregon

As Del Walker has often said,
clubs thrive with volunteers and
die from the lack of same.
Please consider where you can
volunteer.

Speaker Series Explores Stories of the High Desert

What: Tracing Geological History through Rocks and Minerals
in Oregon Desert

Where: Tower Theatre 835 NW Wall Street Bend

When: April 18 @ 7pm

Cost: \$10

Contact: onda.org

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

Scott "Plaid" Peterson
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)
4817 SW Volcano Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

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**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CigarBoxRock Lapidary
63291 Nels Anderson Rd
Bend, Or
Open Tuesday- Saturday
9:00am - 3:00 PM
CBR@Bendnet.com
541-389-9663 Or 541-280-5574
Follow us Facebook and Instagram

Coming soon!

In house shows of specialty Cabs and Slabs

Cigarboxrock.com

**After a longer than anticipated wait we are
back in our buildings and ready to serve you!**

To post an announcement or ad in the
CORC newsletter please email
corc.rocks@gmail.com.

You must be a current member to do so.