August 2024 corc.rocks@gmail.com

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS

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

Wishing Stones: Where Geology and Legend Intertwine

by Jeremy Hall
Found in Rock Seeker

While sometimes considered nondescript, wishing stones are a favorite find for rockhounds who are into the lore behind them. That said, many don't know what they are or the legend behind them, which means they're often left behind. It's a shame since it's an interesting topic even if you don't hold to the superstition behind them.

So let's take a look into what wishing stones are, the lore behind them, and where you can take a look to find a few of your own.

What Are Wishing Stones?
Simply put, wishing stones are stones that have an unbroken line of quartz, chalcedony, or calcite running around the entire exterior of the stone. The type of stone doesn't matter much, instead, it's the ring around the outside that defines them.

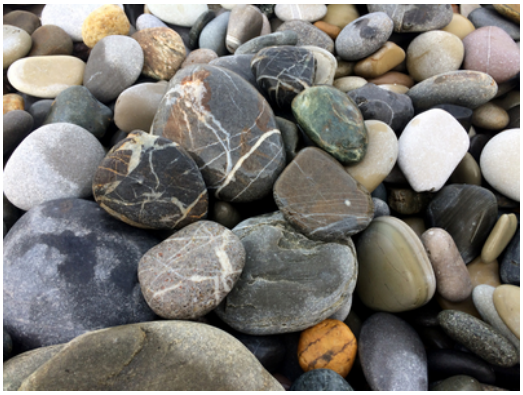
As a general rule, the stone should also be smooth. A piece of roughly broken jasper with a line of chalcedony wouldn't qualify to most people, although the exact definition varies. The stone should also have only one unbroken line, although having other bits of visible quartz or calcite material is acceptable to most.

They're often found in fine-grained igneous rock like basalt, although they can be found in anything from granite to chert depending on the location you're looking.

On occasion, the unbroken line will be primarily on one end of the stone, forming into something closer to a ring than a line. These still count according to most lore.

Think of it as something like a four-leaf clover: a fairly rare occurrence that has had special meaning attributed to it over the years.

How Do Wishing Stones Form?
Due to the loose definition of wishing stones, it's hard to say for certain how each one was formed.



As a general rule, however, the material which makes the ring around the stone is generally the result of extreme pressure breaking the rock down in the past. This creates a crack that is then in-filled with another mineral as subterranean water brings silica or calcite into the equation.

Many wishing stones form in metamorphic rocks as well. Quartzite, for instance, is made up of a relatively pure sandstone that's been buried under sediment until the heat and pressure cause the grains to fuse together. This process can also cause cracks, and as the stone rises to the surface due to tectonic action these fractures are often filled with other minerals.

Erosion is a necessary part of the creation of a wishing stone. As the bedrock weathers when brought to the surface once more by tectonic action, pieces of the cemented stone will weather out. These cracked pieces often end up in the sea or in rivers, where water and the sand it carries smooth them out over a few hundred years.

Essentially, wishing stones are generally part of small veins of calcite or silica material that have undergone erosion and weathering processes in a lucky manner. While not scarce, these stones also aren't the most common formation around either.

The Legend Behind Wishing Stones
Wishing stones have a variety of different legends behind them. The actual legend's source seems to be shrouded in mystery. It's best to consider it as a nondescript little bit of folklore repeated by those who live near rocky shores in places like New England, the UK, and Ireland. Some say that the

legend can be traced back to Celtic folklore but there's no solid proof of that.

The most common variation of the legend is that the stones grant wishes when you trace the line around them and say your wish out loud before throwing the rock back into the sea or river from whence it came. Others say that you should bury the stone after finding it, particularly if it comes from a body of freshwater.

This form of the legend often comes with the caveat that making the wish for another person is sure to make all of your wishes come true as well.

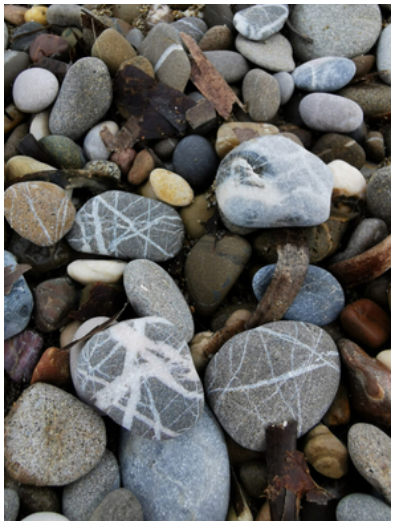
This form of the legend is the most commonly seen. While details vary a bit on the ritual and way to make your wish, the common thread is that it must qualify as a wishing stone and that it needs to be returned to nature. In some ways, the stone isn't really yours if you believe the legend.

Another variation holds that you should keep the stone in your pocket and your wishes will come true. In this case, the stone would seem to function as more of a good luck charm, rather than granting a specific wish.

In other cases, the stone is supposed to be placed in a special area and meditated upon while thinking about your wish.

While I don't hold to superstitions much, I find the main variant of the legend to be my favorite. I find them on occasion, make a wish, and return them to the body of water from whence they came. I can't say whether it works or not, but there's no harm in trying.

Where Can Wishing Stones Be Found?



Wishing stones can be found in many places, and it depends on your exact definition of them. As noted above, some people hold that they must be smooth stones with an unbroken ring.

In this case, the best places to search are rocky beaches and alongside creeks and rivers. They show up often in these places, and the action of the water has rendered them smooth in most cases.

I've stumbled across them in most of the areas I've hunted for stones in over the years. Quartz and calcite are both incredibly common minerals. Since they can come in so many different colors and shapes it's just a matter of training your eyes to see the white line across the stone.

Others believe that even rough stones can hold them, in which case you can also find them alongside road cuts and anywhere that stone is weathering and releasing chunks. Each bit of a mineral vein that weathers out of the bedrock has a chance of being one.

Essentially: they tend to show up anywhere stones are found. They're fun to keep an eye out for, and you can always store them for later when you might need a little bit of extra luck!

CORC PICNIC/2024

First off we would like to give a big **THANK YOU!!!!!** to all of you who pitched in to help with set up and tear down. If it weren't for you the picnic would not have been such a success. Thank You again for all your help and effort... It is very appreciated!!!!


DM
HF

STATE BY STATE ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS

LOUISIANA

State Gemstone: *Cabochon Cut Oyster Shell*

Louisiana designated cabochon cut oyster shell as the official state gemstone in 2011 (cabochon cut refers to a shaped and polished gemstone, vs. a faceted cut). “All State Gems & Gemstones”
Cut and polished Louisiana oyster shells (Crassostrea virginica mollusk) are considered to be a gemstone. This oyster species is plentiful off the Louisiana coast.

State Mineral: *Agate*

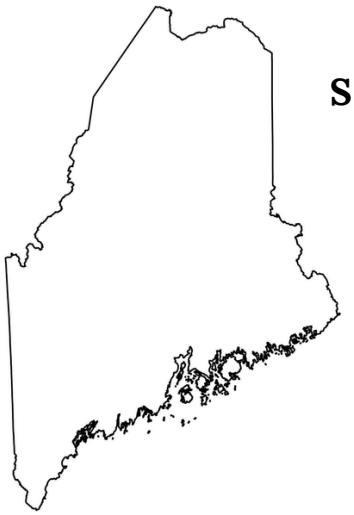
Agate is the state mineral of Louisiana. It was originally formed in the central U.S. from silica-rich liquids in limestones, and then carried into Louisiana by ancient rivers after erosion released it from its bedrock

Louisiana rockhounding maps to hunt for crystals, gemstones, minerals, and ores. Though Louisiana is better known for its rich culture and vibrant landscapes, it also offers unique rockhounding experiences. Its diverse geology, shaped by the Mississippi River, provides a variety of fossils, petrified wood, and agates. Some popular locations for rockhounding include the gravel bars along the Mississippi River and various coastal beaches where unique finds can be unearthed. Both amateur and seasoned rockhounders will enjoy uncovering the hidden gems of Louisiana's geological past.

State Fossil: *Petrified Palmwood*

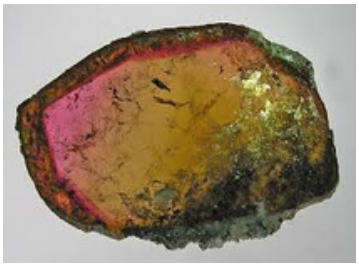
Petrified palmwood was designated the state fossil of Louisiana in 1976. 100 million years ago, what is now Louisiana was a lush tropical forest. Trees that fell into mineral-rich mud before having a chance to decay became petrified wood, which is actually a quartz-like stone. The organic wood cells were replaced over time by minerals, often retaining the detailed shape of the original prehistoric wood. Petrified wood is called the most beautiful of fossils.

The spotted look of palmwood is caused by fossilized rod-like structures within the original wood. Depending upon the angle the stone is cut, they show up as spots, tapering rods, or lines. Petrified palm wood is very hard and takes a wonderful polish, making beautiful jewelry. Petrified wood is also the state stone of Texas, the state gem of Washington, and the state fossil of North Dakota.



MAINE

State Gemstone: *Tourmaline*



Tourmaline is a crystalline silicate mineral group that comes in many colors, including black, green, pink, blue, and red. It's made up of boron and other elements like aluminum, iron, magnesium, sodium, lithium, or potassium. Tourmaline crystals are often long and have a slightly rounded, 3-sided cross section, which is characteristic of the trigonal crystal system.

References:

statesymbolsusa.org geology.com mineralexpert.org www.usgs.gov
www.gemsociety.org peta.org google.com mrsd.org amnh.org
gisgeography.com en.wikipedia.org rockhounding.org

Our next Club Meeting is:

September 18th

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

Nick Braun
Rock Photography

***Don't forget about Show and Tell!**

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

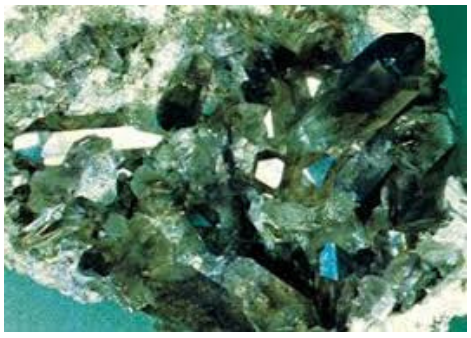
Meetings are held third Wednesday of every month from March through October at the OSU Extension Service Building
3800 SE Airport Way Bldg 3 "The Annex" Redmond, OR at 6 PM.
The only exception is when CORC has its annual picnic in July or August. In November, CORC has its annual holiday party. The club does not meet from December through February.

Meeting minutes can be found at corockcollectors.com

QUICK FACT

Crystalline Silicate Mineral Group

Silicate minerals are the most common of Earth's minerals and include quartz, feldspar, mica, amphibole, pyroxene, and olivine. Silica tetrahedra, made up of silicon and oxygen, form chains, sheets, and frameworks, and bond with other cations to form silicate minerals.



2024 Field Trip Dates

*All fields trips are subject to change

August Field Trips have been canceled due to wildfire conditions.

September 14th: Saturday Polka Dot Agate Mine
Canyon Rim Thundereggs, lots of other material for sale
This is a fee dig

October 12th: Saturday Ochoco Amigos, CORC claim
Agates, moss agates, jasper, crystals

2024 Rock Show Dates

August 16-18 End of Summer Rock Show
Polk County Fairgrounds Rickreall, OR

Membership

Renewals are due by April 30th.

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

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

2024 CORC Board Members

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Tonia Smith
Secretary

Nancy Johnston
Treasurer

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Co-Field Trip Committee Chair

Eric Smith
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Program Committee Chair

Non Board Members

Tonia Smith
Nancy Johnston
Newsletter Editors

April Anable
Social Media
Webmaster

***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

SATURDAY SPECIAL
Save an additional 10% on Rough Rock, Slabs and Cabochons.
That means 20% for CORC members!
Now through the end of summer!
Offer good on Saturdays only!

Cigarboxrock.com

Bruce McKay is willing to teach a class on rock carving. If you are interested please email the club at corc.rocks@gmail.com and we will forward it to Bruce.

We are offering a wire wrapping class October 5th. Keep a look out for more information as the date gets closer.

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.