August 2025 corc.rocks@gmail.com

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS

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

CORC

The Intricate Beauty of Thundereggs: A Collector's Guide

by Rock Seeker Part 2

Thundereggs vs. Geodes – What's the Difference?

It's a common question: how do thundereggs differ from geodes? While both are beloved by collectors for containing crystals or mineral fillings inside, geodes and thundereggs have distinct definitions in geology.

A geode is any rock cavity (often roughly spherical) that became lined with crystals. Classic geodes usually have a hollow center; when cracked open, you find an open space with crystal points (often quartz or amethyst) pointing inward. Geodes form in various environments – for example, in sedimentary rocks like limestone or in volcanic bubbles – and the key is the hollow interior.

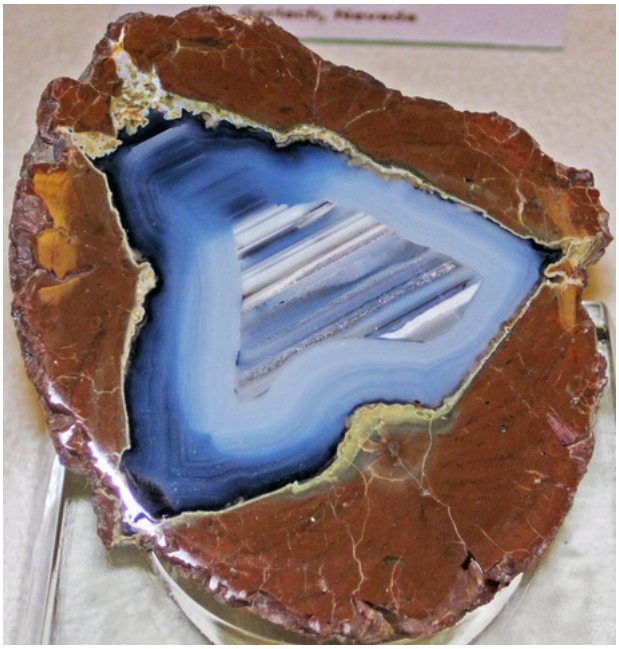
A thunderegg, on the other hand, is a specific type of nodule that forms in volcanic ash/lava and is typically solid inside (fully filled with agate/chalcedony rather than a large hollow)

In simple terms, every thunderegg is essentially an agate-filled nodule, whereas not every geode is a thunderegg.

Thundereggs often have more complex, star-like or radiating agate patterns because of the way the silica solution filled the cracked inner space of the "egg."

If a thunderegg happens to have a small cavity in the center, it could be called a geode in the loose sense, but geologists reserve "thunderegg" for those formed in rhyolitic volcanic contexts.

Historical and Cultural Significance



Thundereggs carry a rich folklore and have made their mark in local culture, especially in places like Oregon where they're emblematic. The very name "thunderegg" has legendary origins. According to a Native American legend of the Pacific Northwest, thundereggs were thought to be the eggs of thunderbirds – powerful mythical creatures – that were hurled by the thunder spirits during storms.

In the Warm Springs tribal legend, Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson (two prominent snow-capped mountains in Oregon) were home to rival thunder spirits who would throw these "eggs" at each other in anger, accompanied by flashes of lightning and claps of thunder.

Early settlers, upon hearing this tale, adopted the name "Thunder Eggs" for the strange agate-filled rocks found in the region. The name stuck, and to this day carries the echo of that thunderbird mythology.

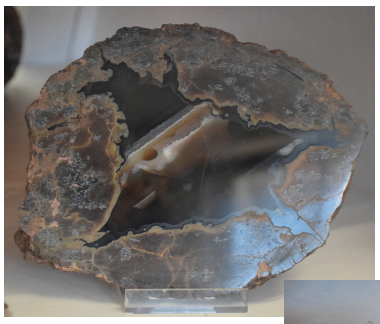
Beyond the legend, thundereggs have become culturally significant in Oregon and elsewhere. As mentioned, Oregon named the thunderegg its State Rock in 1965, spurred by rockhounds and geology enthusiasts who wanted to recognize these treasures. This official designation not only acknowledged the abundance and beauty of Oregon thundereggs but also helped promote tourism – rock collectors from around the world visit Oregon for its thunderegg beds.

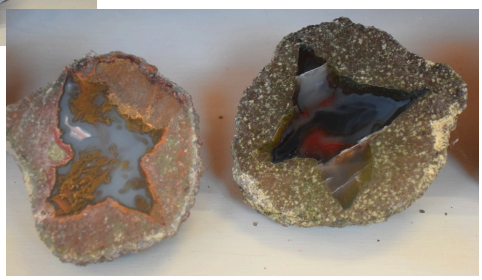
Towns like Nyssa, Oregon even host annual Thunderegg Days festivals, celebrating the local geology with rock and mineral shows, guided thunderegg digs, and community events. In Germany, thundereggs (Donnerkeile or "thunderbolts") have been part of local mineral collections for centuries, often mistaken in folklore as lightning stones or petrified thunder.

Historically, indigenous uses of thundereggs beyond the naming legend are not well documented – they were not particularly used as tools or weapons (since other stones like obsidian or flint were more practical). However, it's easy to imagine that polished halves could have been traded or admired by

those who found them. In modern times, thundereggs have primarily a legacy of scientific and hobbyist interest.

Geologists study them to understand the volcanic processes and mineral deposition. Collectors treasure them and often pass them down through generations or donate spectacular specimens to museums. In a way, each thunderegg holds a piece of geologic history – a tiny preserved geochemical environment from millions of years ago – as well as the cultural history through the legends and local pride they've inspired.





Some of the Thunderegg specimens at Petersens Rock Garden

Next Club Meeting:

August 20

Doors open at 5:30pm, meeting starts at 6pm
Speaker: Scott "Plaid" Peterson
"What Not to do When Drilling Rocks." Tips & Tricks

Meetings are held at:
3800 SE Airport Way, Bldg 3, Redmond, OR 97756

If you won at Bingo please bring a rock related item.
We will also have time for show and tell.

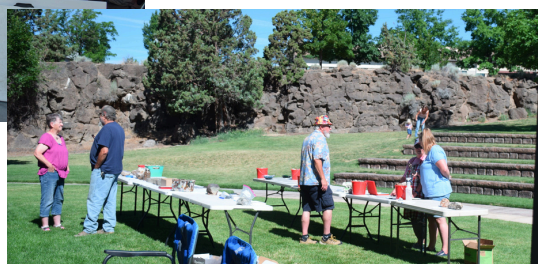
Annual CORC Picnic

Thank you to all who helped with set up and tear down...You are an amazing club!!!

Thanks to all who attended!!

Good Times!!

Great Food!!



STATE BY STATE ROCKS, GEMS, MINERALS

Pennsylvania:

No designated rocks/minerals or gems

Rhode Island

State Mineral: Bowenite

Australian Jade, or more specifically Bowenite, is the type of serpentine valued for its aesthetic qualities and often used in jewelry and ornamental carvings. In essence, it is an antigorite mineral of the serpentine group.

This mineral group is distinguished by a structure of sheet silicates, which imparts to Bowenite its fine, compact texture and greasy or waxy luster.

State Rock: Cumberlandite

Cumberlandite is a specific type of plutonic rock called a melanocratic troctolite, or melatroctolite. It is the state rock of Rhode Island and can be found in a 4-acre (0.016 km) lot in Cumberland, Rhode Island at Iron Mine Hill. Further traces can be found scattered throughout the Narragansett Bay watershed as far as Martha's Vineyard. Cumberlandite is not exclusive to Rhode Island, but is also found in Taberg, Sweden. It is slightly ferrimagnetic due to its high concentration of iron.

Colonial settlers recognized its value as ore during the 18th and 19th centuries. Historical records reveal that it was smelted as early as 1703, and it was used in forging cannons during significant events such as the Siege of Louisbourg in 1745 and possibly the American Revolutionary War. Cumberlandite weathers to a brownish black with white crystals and has secondary chlorite and saussurite. It is predominantly found in glacial deposits stretching from south of its origin to the southern shores of Narragansett. Cumberlandite is denser than common granites or

metamorphic rocks. Its unique origin, distinct appearance, and ease of identification contributed to its selection as the Rhode Island state rock.

South Carolina

State Gem: Amethyst

Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz (SiO_2) and owes its violet color to irradiation, impurities of iron (Fe^{3+}) and in some cases other transition metals, and the presence of other trace elements, which result in complex crystal lattice substitutions. The irradiation causes the iron (Fe+3) ions that replace Si in the lattice to lose an electron and form a [FeO_4] color center. Amethyst is a three-dimensional network of tetrahedra where the silicon atoms are in the center and are surrounded by four oxygen atoms located at the vertices of a tetrahedron. This structure is quite rigid and results in quartz's hardness and resistance to weathering. The hardness of the mineral is the same as quartz, thus making it suitable for use in jewelry.

State Stone: Blue Granite

Often referred to as Winnsboro Blue Granite or simply Winnsboro Blue, this light-blue or gray-colored stone was quarried in Fairfield County between 1883 and 1946. Granite is an igneous stone, meaning that it was formed when magma (or molten rock) was trapped beneath the surface of the earth. There, it intermingled with other stones and particles (in this case, flecks of mica and quartz), cooling very slowly and then crystallizing.

References:

statesymbolsusa.org google.com gisgeography.com geologysciencerockseeker.com. en.wikipedia.org. rockchasing.com. oregondiscovery.com duckduckgo.com. sciway.net

Remembering Al & Sue Liebetrau

On July 28, 2025 a memorial bench was installed at Petersens Rock Garden to honor two of CORC's founding members, Al and Sue Liebetrau. At the same time, per their wishes, a check from the proceeds of their estate sale was presented to Petersens. It was a priviledge to be a part of the presentation.

.

CORC Field Trips/Upcoming Events

August 16:
Richardsons Rock Ranch
Bring a sack lunch and chairs and we will have a picnic together.

September 13 and 14:
Joe Cota's Rock Shop/Dig in Sweet Home

October 11 & 12:
3 Amigos Claim

November Annual Holiday Party:
TBD

Please Note All CORC Field Trips are Subject to Change

2025 CORC Board Members

President
Tonia Smith

Vice President
Nancy Johnston

Secretary
Snow Hartley

Treasurer
Lupe Severson

Field Trip Committee Co-Chair
Ken Lawson

Field Trip Committee Co-Chair
Eric Smith

Claims Committe Chair
Barb Thompson

Program Committee Chair
Scott "Plaid" Peterson

Past President
Patricia Moreland

Non Board Members

Newsletter Editor
Nancy Johnston

Webmaster
Ashton Bowlin

Volunteer Coordinator
Vacant

Social Media
Chenowa Hartley
James Shaman
Barb Thompson
Ed Taft

OCRMC Representatives
Ed Taft
James Shaman
Bruce Vanderzanden

MEMBERSHIP

Renew ONLINE at the CORC website
(corockcollectors.com)

Renew by MAIL or IN PERSON.
Print the membership form from the CORC website and mail it to:
Central Oregon Rock Collectors (CORC)
4817 SW Volcano Ave
Redmond, OR 97756
or bring it to the next meeting or field trip.

Annual membership dues are:
$20 for individuals,
$25 for household
and $5 for juniors.
(Note: Junior memberships are for minors who are accompanied by a club member from a different household.
e.g. Grandparents, aunts, uncles)

Contact Us

Email: corc.rocks@gmail.com

Mailing Address:
4817 SW Volcano Ave
Redmond, OR 97756

Meeting Address: 3800 SE Airport Way, Bldg 3, "The Annex", Redmond, OR 97756

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EST. 1935

PETERSEN

ROCK GARDEN

Volunteers needed to staff the museum/gift shop

Flexible hours.

contact:

petersengardenmuseum@gmail.com

Museum/Garden Hours:

7 days a week 10-4

Do You Need a Rock Cut?

Check out the pinned post on our Facebook page to find someone that can help you out!

Sanding/Polishing Slabs/Thundereggs

.50/square inch

Contact:Dan Siroshton (541)954-8234

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.

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
Cigarboxrock.com

Faceting and Cabbing

Dale B. Barrett, lives in Redmond, is offering to cut and facet stones for CORC members at a very affordable price.

Contact Dale @ 541-694-0325
or
Email: Commandchief68@gmail.com