

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



What To Do As a Rockhound In Winter

by Rock Seeker. Continued

Most of us do our rockhounding in warm weather, but once winter hits you may not be able to hit your favorite spots. Fortunately, there's still plenty to do in the hobby depending on your tastes. There really is something for everyone.

So, don't let the cold weather get you down! We're going to dive in and show you some great ways to enjoy your hobby no matter what the weather.

4. Wire Wrapping



Wire wrapping is one of the simplest ways to make your stones wearable. Many rockhounds also do some form of silversmithing but it's a full hobby on its own and not quite as accessible. Wire wrapping can range from simple to complex pieces of fine jewelry, but the majority of wraps you'll see can be done without any specialized equipment. A few pairs of pliers, some wire cutters, and a few rolls of wire can do amazing things in the hands of the right artisan.

Of course, the stone is usually what steals the show! Try your hand at it, it's relatively inexpensive and very newbie-friendly as far as making jewelry goes!



5. Inlay Work and Intarsia



If you're cutting valuable material like opal or turquoise, you end up with small pieces of stone and sediment. It never has to go to waste, you'll just need to change things up a bit!

Once you've sorted out a good bit of offcuts and waste, you'll want to remove any sludge from the material and let it dry. Crush the remaining bits into small

chips and you have the basis for an inlay formula.

Inlay work is done by cutting a design into a material and then filling in the voids with crushed stone and epoxy. Then the finish work is applied by working the resin mixture with sandpaper and polishing materials.

Others specifically cut and fit pieces of stone to create scenes or intarsia cabachons. Both forms of art can make amazing work out of bits too small for most use, but it's about more than just stretching materials.

Good inlay work is another full world of art that many people never care to look into.

It's a great way to use up your scraps and another accessible art form for most rockhounds.



6. Try Areas That Are Too Hot Normally

If you have access to private land that isn't limited by time of year, some of the hotter parts of the nation are more accessible during the winter. Many dig sites are in places with no shade, little water, and blaring heat. You can eliminate one of those factors in the cold season.

Just be aware that most deserts get cold once night falls.

With the right access, you really don't have to stop digging through the winter. You can often find places that are perfect during the day for work. No need to stop if you pick an area that never hits truly cold temperatures after all!

7. Check Out Mineral Shows

Gem and mineral shows are a treasure trove for collectors. Often you can find material that simply isn't available anywhere else. The world of stone is vast, but not everything is available at the click of a button.

In addition to the more famous shows, like the one in Tucson, you can usually find something local as well. A quick search can turn up a directory and let you find just what you're looking for.

Shows are a bit overwhelming for first-timers, so make sure to keep a tight hand on your budget going in. But it's hard to beat the experience of looking down long rows of vendors, each with tables teeming with beautiful samples. It may not beat nature, but it's a grand experience in-and-of-itself!

Please Join Us



**For the Last Rock Suncatcher
Making Party for this Year.**

***Where: Petersens Rock Garden
7930 SW 77th Street Redmond, OR***

When: December 20th,

***Come any time between
10 am to 3 pm***

***All materials and tools provided. There is
a small cost for some of the larger pieces,
like the flowers and hearts.***

Everything else is free.

***Great for Christmas Gifts
Fun for all ages***



Our Next Club Meeting

March, 2026





We
wish
you
a
Merry
Christmas

— & —

Happy
New Year

A large, golden starburst graphic with multiple rays emanating from a central point, positioned to the left of the 'Happy New Year' text.

STATE BY STATE

ROCKS, GEMS,

MINERALS

Vermont



State Gem: Grossular Garnet



Grossular garnet is a type of garnet gemstone that belongs to the garnet family. It is known for its wide range of colors, including green, yellow, orange, and brown.

The name “grossular” is derived from the Latin word “grossularia,” which means “gooseberry.”

This name was given to the gemstone because of its color, which resembles the color of gooseberries.

Grossular garnet is a gemstone that belongs to the garnet family. The garnet group includes several different types of garnet, such as almandine, pyrope, spessartite, and andradite. Grossular garnet is specifically a calcium-aluminum garnet.

One of the distinguishing features of grossular garnet is its transparency. It is often found in transparent to translucent forms, allowing light to pass through the gemstone and enhance its color. Additionally, grossular garnet has a vitreous luster, which means it exhibits a glassy shine when polished.



State Mineral: Talc

Talc is usually green, white, gray, brown, or colorless. It is a translucent mineral with a pearly luster. It is the softest known mineral and is assigned a hardness of 1 on the Mohs Hardness Scale.

Talc is a monoclinic mineral with a sheet structure similar to the micas. Talc has perfect cleavage that follows planes between the weakly bonded sheets. These sheets are held together only by van der Waals bonds, which

allows them to slip past one another easily. This characteristic is responsible for talc's extreme softness, its greasy, soapy feel, and its value as a high-temperature lubricant.



State Rock: Marble



Marble is a metamorphic rock that forms when limestone is subjected to the heat and pressure of metamorphism. It is composed primarily of the mineral calcite (CaCO_3) and usually contains other minerals, such as clay minerals, micas, quartz, pyrite, iron oxides, and graphite. Under the conditions of metamorphism, the calcite in the limestone recrystallizes

to form a rock that is a mass of interlocking calcite crystals. A related rock, dolomitic marble, is produced when dolostone is subjected to heat and pressure.



State Rock: Slate



Slate is a fine-grained, foliated, homogeneous, metamorphic rock derived from an original shale-type sedimentary rock composed of clay or volcanic ash through low-grade, regional metamorphism. It is the finest-grained foliated metamorphic rock. Foliation may not correspond to the original sedimentary layering, but instead is in planes perpendicular to the direction of metamorphic compression.

State Rock: Granite

Granite is more than a simple building stone – it's a witness to the slow and powerful processes that shaped the Earth's crust. Formed deep underground from slowly cooling magma, this coarse-grained rock carries both strength and beauty. Its combination of sparkling quartz, pale feldspar, and dark mica makes it one of the most durable and versatile materials ever used by humans – from ancient temples to modern skyscrapers.

Granite is the most common intrusive rock in Earth's continental crust. It is familiar as a mottled pink, white, gray, and black ornamental stone. It is coarse- to medium-grained. Its three main minerals are feldspar, quartz, and mica, which occur as silvery muscovite or dark biotite or both. Of these minerals, feldspar predominates, and quartz usually accounts for more than 10 percent. The alkali feldspars are often pink, resulting in the pink granite

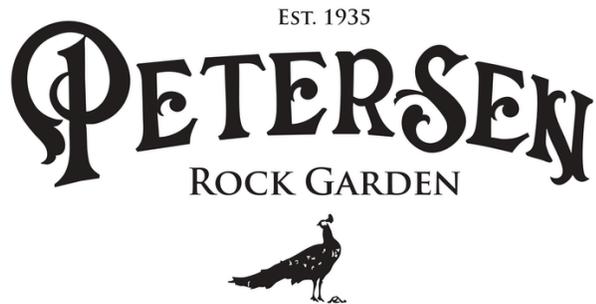
often used as a decorative stone. Granite crystallizes from silica-rich magmas that are miles deep in Earth's crust. Many mineral deposits form near crystallizing granite bodies from the hydrothermal solutions that such bodies release.



References:

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

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Museum/Garden/Gift Shop Hours:
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We will be open all days during Christmas Break

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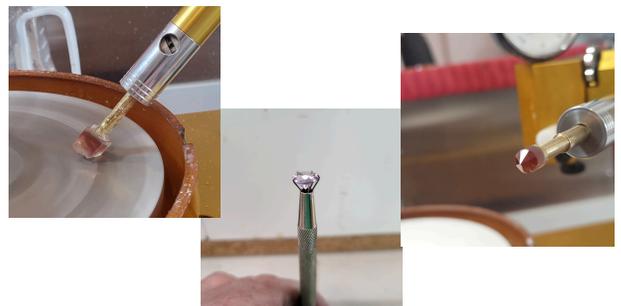
Faceting and Cabbing

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



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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
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e.g. Grandparents, aunts, uncles)



Contact Us

Email: corc.rocks@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

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Meeting Address: 3800 SE
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