

# CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



## IS THERE GOLD IN THAT ROCK?

### 6 ROCK TYPES THAT COULD BE HIDING IT

by Rock Seeker. Part 1

It's not just gold prospectors that pick up rocks and wonder if they might be hiding a little gold inside. It's something most of us rock and mineral lovers have done at one time or the other. Whether you're dreaming of striking it rich or just curious about rocks and minerals, learning which rocks might contain gold can be tricky.

Gold has some pretty unique qualities and people have come up with all sorts of ways to try and spot it. In this article we'll go over six types of rocks that are known for sometimes holding gold. Then I'll share a quick explanation as to why these rocks might be worth a second look.

## Rocks Known For Containing Gold

### 1. Quartz

Quartz is classically aligned with gold. The majority of hard rock deposits found appear to occur in quartz, and gold-in-quartz has even taken on a life of its own. The gold that appears in quartz is almost universally native, meaning that it's in a metallic form contained in the crystalline quartz. It's universally considered the richest of the gold ores out there.



The proper term for quartz that contains gold is auriferous quartz. The first word is just used in place of "gold-bearing" because of the need for specific

words in the hard sciences like geology. Classically, you'll often find gold downstream from these formations. The extremely dense gold then settles into the bottom of the waterways that flow through the region, eroding away as time goes on. This secondary deposit is referred to as an alluvial deposit.

Gold found in this way is the easiest to process. You can simply hit it with a hammer and crush the quartz around it until you've got only the gold remaining. If you actually find a piece these days, however, I'd recommend holding on to it. Gold-in-quartz actually has a higher value in its original formation than the simple gold weight on most occasions.

Famous deposits include those that precipitated the California Gold Rush, and they're still being dug in Alaska and Australia. It's the most easily recognized form of gold, but many deposits have been mined to the extent that there is no longer visible gold in the stone and instead many tons must be processed to receive a small amount.



## 2. Granite

Granite is a complex stone, which is why it comes in so many colors. It's loosely defined as a coarse-grained, quartz-rich, intrusive igneous rock. Auriferous granite often contains gold-bearing quartz veins as well, and these veins are generally sought out first by miners due to their

higher gold content. The surrounding granite often contains fine grains of gold as well, which must be separated from the stone.

Auriferous granite is generally leached out with cyanide, a dangerous process that involves the use of a lot of nasty chemicals. The granite is first ground into a fine powder, then floated in a dilute cyanide solution with a zinc catalyst. This allows the gold to be filtered out of the solution as it precipitates. The waste from this is incredibly toxic, but the result for the miners is pure gold.

Granite is a very common stone, and not all of it contains gold. Examining granite for gold deposits is still a great method for prospectors. You'll generally be looking into cracks and crevices for accumulated gold, but there's another tell-tale sign. Most granite that contains gold also contains an appreciable amount of iron and quartz. Checking for quartz and limonite or hematite can help point you in the right direction.

These deposits are generally used in areas that have already had their auriferous quartz mined out, granite contains far less gold by weight and requires a lot more chemical processing after all. Thus it is associated with the same regions as gold-bearing quartz. *To be Continued*

# Our Next Club Meeting

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

We are looking forward to exciting adventures on our field trips this year, including exploring new places and revisiting old favorites.

Our upcoming meetings will feature speakers who are sure to spark your curiosity and broaden your understanding.

To join CORC or renew your membership please visit ([corockcollectors.com](http://corockcollectors.com))



## A Few Of The Common Words Used To Describe Rocks And Minerals And Their Definitions:

**Botryoidal** This literally means “cluster of grapes” and is used to describe a rock that has a bumpy or grape like surface.

**Cabochon** (also known as Cab for short) A stone cut for jewelry. It is usually rounded (or domed) and polished on top, and either flat or slightly rounded on the bottom. Cabochon stones can be calibrated (cut to a certain size/shape) or freeform (an abstract shape). This form of cutting is usually used for opaque or translucent stones, but is sometimes used for transparent stones with too many inclusions to make a good faceted stone (faceted is the way diamonds are cut with tables and angles). Cabbng or Cabber are often used to describe the action of cutting a cabochon and the cutter.

**Chatoyant/Chatoyancy** Chatoyancy is a lustrous, cat's eye effect seen in some stones and minerals. In chatoyant material, light is reflected in thin bands within the mineral or stone. Chatoyancy arises either from the fibrous structure of a material, or from fibrous inclusions or cavities within the stone. The name comes from the French word for "cat's eye," because it resembles the slit eye of a cat.

# **Rockhound's Code of Ethics**

*Rockhounds, both individuals and collectively as members of clubs, pride themselves on their good manners in the field. They know that maintaining their good reputation is important in order to keep the welcome mat out at collecting sites. This code of ethics is in general use throughout the rockhounding community and is posted for your information.*

**I will respect both private and public property and will do no rockhounding on privately owned land without the owner's permission.**

**I will keep informed on all laws, regulations, or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.**

**I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.**

**I will use no firearms or blasting material in rockhounding areas.**

**I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, building, etc.**

**I will leave all gates as found.**

**I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.**

**I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.**

**I will fill in all my excavation holes.**

**I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.**

**I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.**

**I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter regardless of how found.**

**I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collection areas.**

**I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land management, US Forest Service or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.**

**I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.**

**I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and "public image" of rockhounds everywhere.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

EST. 1935  
**PETERSEN**  
ROCK GARDEN



**Come Visit the Garden &  
Gift Shop**

*Museum will be closed until March  
for new floors.*

**Gift Shop  
is in the Cafe & Open**

**Winter Hours  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10-3**

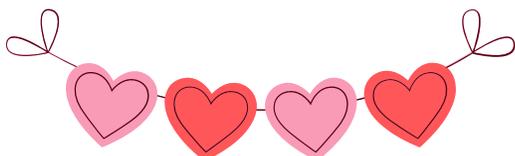


**CigarBoxRock  
Lapidary**

63291 Nels Anderson Rd  
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Open Tuesday- Saturday  
9:00am - 3:00 PM  
CBR@Bendnet.com  
541-389-9663 Or  
541-280-5574

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**Do You Need  
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**Sanding/Polishing  
Slabs/Thundereggs**

.50/square inch

**Contact: Dan Siroshton  
(541) 954-8234**

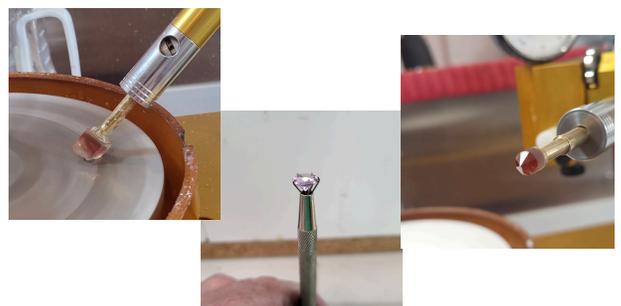


**Faceting and Cabbing**

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



## 2025 CORC Board Members

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Vice President

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## 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