

# CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



## What To Do As a Rockhound In Winter

by Rock Seeker. Part 1

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.

### 1. Slabbing Stones and Cutting Geodes



If you collect rough jasper or agate, you may want to give slabbing them a try in the off-season. It just depends on the equipment you have access to.

A trim saw is small and affordable, but it makes a mess like all lapidary machines. For stones that are only a few inches across or smaller, they're an excellent way to break into the fantastic interior of your rocks.

Actual slab saws are rather expensive, but you can often make the money back by selling some of your cuts. People are eager to get ahold of unique and beautiful stones, while others are just plain valuable the farther along you bring them in the process. Cutting open any geodes you've collected is also great

fun. You'll be the first person to take a peek at the interior, ever, and they're simple to cut.

## 2. Making Cabochons

Cabochons are domed pieces of precious and semi-precious stones. Most are destined to be used in jewelry, but large pieces of superior material can make great displays. Cutting cabochons is an art of its own but most people will get the basics quickly. The idea is simply to cut a piece of material out of a slab, shape it with a grinding wheel, and then sand the dome downwards until you have a good girdle. Then comes the polish.



Cabochon machines are expensive, but smaller pieces of material can be worked with a Dremel and the right bits. You can also check into rock clubs in the area, many have a space for lapidary work available for members.

## 3. Rock Tumbling



If you just like them shiny, then you'll be in love with rock tumbling. Tumblers take stones through successive grits until they're rounded off and highly polished.

Many specimens look fantastic this way, and tumblers are more accessible to the average person. The main problem is often going to be noise rather than space or mess.

Tumbling stones can often reveal awesome patterns, but the main purpose is to just remove the matrix

and get them shiny without "artificially" changing the shape of the stone through cutting and carving. Just be careful. Tumbling can be addictive and you may end up running them year-round!



**To be Continued**



# **Holiday Party**

**Saturday, November 8, 2025**

**Main dish provided by Baldy's.  
Bring a side dish or dessert to share.**

**We will have a gift exchange.**



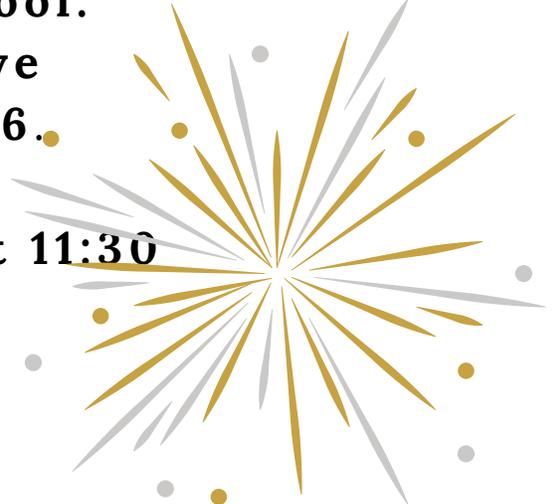
**If you want to participate  
bring a rock related item.  
Please do not wrap the item.**



**Set up will be at 9am. Doors open at 10 am**

**Hugh Hartman School.  
2105 W Antler Ave  
Redmond, OR 97756.**

**Food will be served at 11:30**





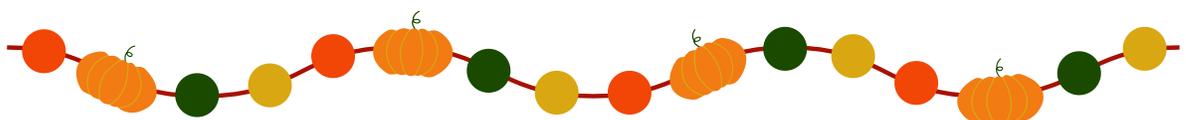
*Give Thanks  
with a  
Grateful Heart*



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**Our Next Club Meeting**

March, 2026



# STATE BY STATE

## ROCKS, GEMS,

## MINERALS

### Utah



#### State Gem: Topaz

Topaz is allochromatic, which means that its color is caused by impurity elements or defects in its crystal structure rather than by an element of its basic chemical composition. The element chromium

causes natural pink, red, and violet-to-purple colors in topaz.

Imperfections at the atomic level in topaz crystal structure can cause yellow, brown, and blue color. Brown is a common topaz color, and the gem is sometimes mistakenly called “smoky quartz.”



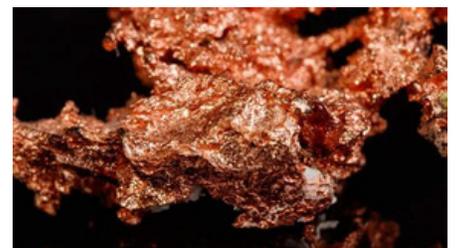
The color varieties are often identified simply by hue name—blue topaz, pink topaz, and so forth—but there are also a couple of special trade names. Imperial topaz is a medium reddish orange to orange-red. This is one of the gem’s most

expensive colors. Sherry topaz—named after the sherry wine—is a yellowish brown or brownish yellow to orange. Stones in this color range are often called precious topaz to help distinguish them from the similarly colored but less expensive citrine and smoky quartz.

Topaz is also pleochroic, meaning that the gem can show different colors in different crystal directions

#### State Mineral: Copper

Copper is a chemical element; it has symbol Cu (from Latin cuprum) and atomic number 29. It is a soft, malleable, and ductile metal with very high thermal and electrical conductivity. A freshly



exposed surface of pure copper has a pinkish-orange color. Copper is used as a conductor of heat and electricity, as a building material, and as a constituent of various metal alloys, such as sterling silver used in jewelry, cupronickel used to make marine hardware and coins, and constantan used in strain gauges and thermocouples for temperature measurement.



Copper is one of the few native metals, meaning metals that occur naturally in a directly usable, unalloyed metallic form. This led to very early human use in several regions, from c. 8000 BC. Thousands of years later, it was the first metal

to be smelted from sulfide ores, c. 5000 BC; the first metal to be cast into a shape in a mold, c. 4000 BC; and the first metal to be purposely alloyed with another metal, tin, to create bronze, c. 3500 BC.

Commonly encountered compounds are copper(II) salts, which often impart blue or green colors to such minerals as azurite, malachite, and turquoise, and have been used widely and historically as pigments.

Copper used in buildings, usually for roofing, oxidizes to form a green patina of compounds called verdigris. Copper is sometimes used in decorative art, both in its elemental metal form and in compounds as pigments. Copper compounds are used as bacteriostatic agents, fungicides, and wood preservatives.



Copper is essential to all aerobic organisms. It is particularly associated with oxygen metabolism. For example, it is found in the respiratory enzyme complex cytochrome c oxidase, in the oxygen carrying hemocyanin, and in several hydroxylases. Adult humans contain between 1.4 and 2.1 mg of copper per kilogram of body weight.

## State Rock: Cole



Coal is a combustible black or brownish-black sedimentary rock, formed as rock strata called coal seams. Coal is mostly carbon with variable amounts of other elements, chiefly hydrogen, sulfur, oxygen, and nitrogen. It is a type of fossil fuel, formed when dead plant matter decays into peat which is converted into coal by

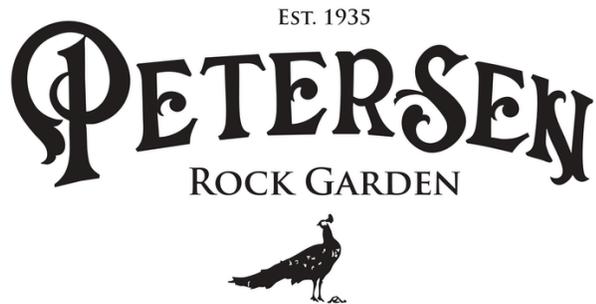
the heat and pressure of deep burial over millions of years. Vast deposits of coal originate in former wetlands called coal forests that covered much of the Earth's tropical land areas during the late Carboniferous (Pennsylvanian) and Permian times.



## References:

[statesymbolsusa.org](http://statesymbolsusa.org) [google.com](http://google.com) [gisgeography.com](http://gisgeography.com) [georgestones.com](http://georgestones.com)  
[geologysciencerockseeker.com](http://geologysciencerockseeker.com) [en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org) [rockchasing.com](http://rockchasing.com)  
[oregondiscovery.com](http://oregondiscovery.com) [duckduckgo.com](http://duckduckgo.com) [sciway.net](http://sciway.net)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Do You Need  
a Rock Cut?**

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

**Come Visit the Garden  
our Gift Shop**

**Museum/Garden/Gift Shop Hours:  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday,  
Sunday and Monday 10-4**

**Sanding/Polishing  
Slabs/Thundereggs**

**.50/square inch**

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

## **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



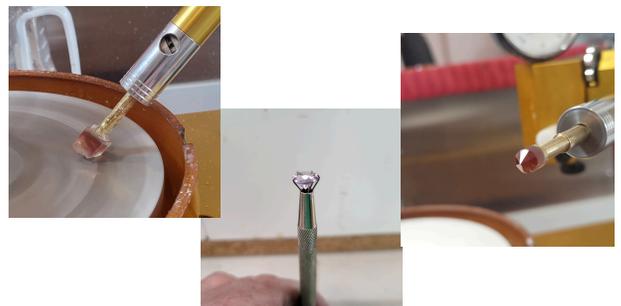
## **Faceting and Cabbing**

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



## 2025 CORC Board Members

President

Tonia Smith

Vice President

Nancy Johnston

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Lupe Severson

Field Trip Committee

Co-Chair

Ken Lawson

Field Trip Committee

Co-Chair

Eric Smith

Claims Committee 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