

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



IS THERE GOLD IN THAT ROCK?

6 ROCK TYPES THAT COULD BE HIDING IT

by Rock Seeker. Part 3

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

5. Schist

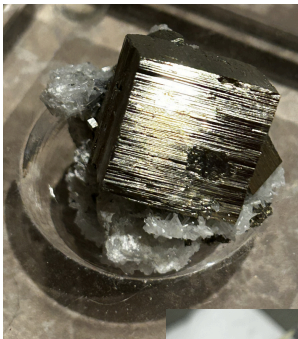
A schist is a stone that has schistosity. This property means that by looking at the stone one can easily see the larger grains of minerals with a small magnifying lens but they're arranged in a way that they can easily be flaked apart. They're often comprised of granular minerals like quartz and feldspar interspersed between the "flaky" elements like mica, chlorites, and graphite. It describes an enormous variety of stones, not all of which can contain gold.

Specifically, greenschist can contain gold. This is a metamorphic rock, formed from ancient igneous stones like basalt and gabbro. Not all greenschist contain it, of course. Auriferous greenschist is still a rarity. There is also the schist surrounding quartz deposits to take a look at, but the matter is rather complex.

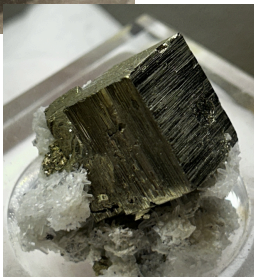
The gold which occurs in these veins is often of the native type and located along shear zones. These are long zones where a change in height has caused rocks to deform or even break after reaching a certain point. The gold can be found in vugs, or holes in the stone, along these points and are often associated with quartz veins. The gold may not be visible at all in the schist itself. I wouldn't suggest it as a starting point for the amateur prospector unless there's a known vein in the schist near you.

Schist with gold has been found in quite a few places across the world, including New Zealand, Finland, and even Virginia.

6. Bonus Mineral: Iron Pyrite ("Fool's Gold")



Fool's Gold is actually a sulfide mineral, known as iron pyrite. It acquired its name due to its close association with gold, which sometimes caused new prospectors to confuse it with actual gold. After all, you may have ended up finding a piece worn down to a round, irregular ball in alluvial deposits in the same area or found specks



throughout a stone like a schist or basalt.

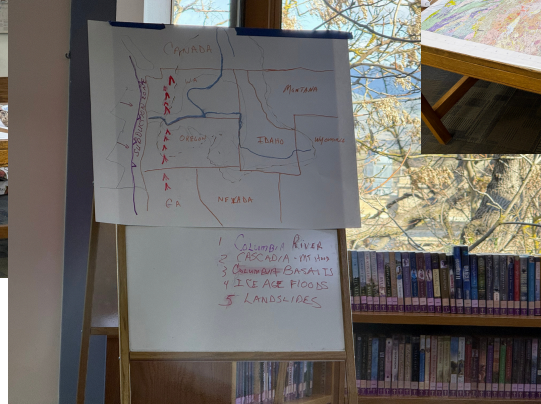
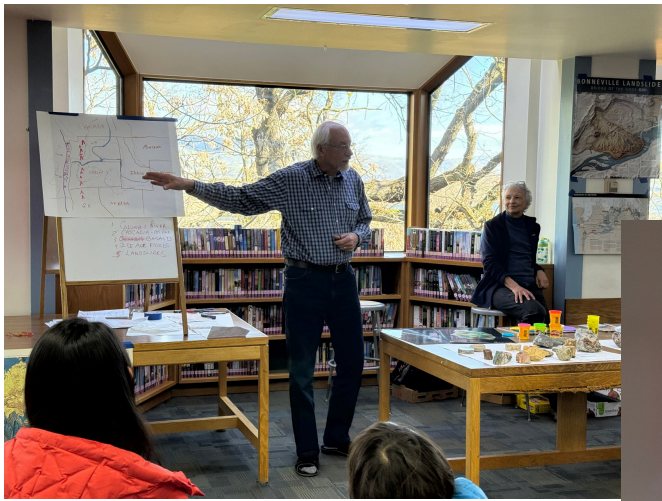
Oddly enough, iron pyrite actually does contain an appreciable quantity of gold in many cases. Native gold deposits and pyrite form under similar conditions, being issued forth in hydraulic activity underground by ancient hydrothermal activity. It was previously thought that pyrite didn't contain gold at

all, after all it's a crystal!

As time has worn on and people search for alternatives to gold ores, pyrite came under question. Using a technique called atom probe tomography (APT) in order to kind of "peel away" the molecules in the sample, gold was found to be hosted in tiny, hair-like faults in the crystal. In these tiny imperfections hides gold, but an industrial-level extraction technique has yet to be settled on.

Oddly enough, it may turn out that Fool's Gold is the next big source of gold. While more of a curiosity than anything at this point, it certainly shows that even when we're studying the largest rocks things are still happening at the smallest scale!

Club Outreach...Dalles Library



CORC was invited to talk at the Dalles Library on the topic of rockhounding. The presentation covered basic geology, included a show-and-tell of specimens, and introduced the tools commonly used in rockhounding. A small group of members departed early on March 7 to lead the event.

Approximately 30 people attended the presentation, followed by a special hands-on “dig” activity that drew about 30 children. Throughout the event, additional library visitors stopped by, noticed the displays of rocks and maps, and joined in with questions and conversation.

Following the success of this program, the Maupin library has invited CORC to offer a similar presentation. Any club members interested in giving this presentation please contact Nan or Tonia.



April Club Meeting 2026

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Doors open at 5:30pm, meeting starts at 6pm

Topic will be Fluorescent Rocks
Bring a rock that you think will fluoresce

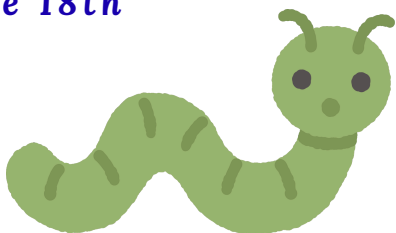
Meetings are held at:
3800 SE Airport Way, Bldg 3, Redmond, OR 97756

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

Club Meeting Dates

Make Sure to Mark Your Calendar
as some meetings are not on Wednesday

April 29th
May 27th
June 18th



July 19th American Legion Park
for the Annual Picnic

August 19th
September 16th
October 21st
Holiday Party TBD

Projected CORC Field Trips 2026

Note: Field trip dates and locations are subject to change due to weather, and fire conditions. Watch your email and the Club Newsletters for updates.

April

OCH Thundereggs
Fee dig
Saturday, April 18th

May

Congleton Hollow
Saturday, May 2
Saturday, May 9

June

Pole Creek and Smoky Butte
Saturday, June 6
Sunday, June 7
Both locations each day

August

Richardsons Rock Ranch
Saturday, August 15
Sunday, August 16

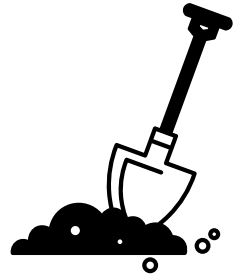
October

Ochocco Jasper (Walton Lake area).

Saturday, October 16
Sunday, October 17

October may be changed to Haystack Res due to weather and material

NOTE: April and May trips may be switched and the trip to OCH may be on a different day, due to it being a joint field trip and the egg bed being newly opened

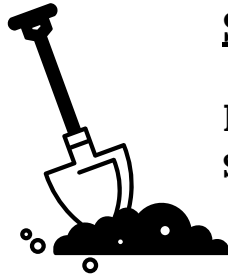


July

No scheduled field trip.
Annual Picnic July 19th at
American Legion Park

September

Fieldtrip to Ginger's Mine.
Saturday, September 12



Overnight Trips

Possible to
Delintment Lake
and
McDermitt



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

High Grade/Mine Run

High Grade material is exceptionally good. Also to “high grade” a mineral collection is to sort out the best specimens. Mine Run is usually used to state that the material is sold as it comes out of the mine. The good and bad mixed, it has not been sorted or high graded.



Iridescent/Labradorescence

An iridescent or labradorescent object displays many lustrous, changing colors. Iridescence and labradorescence are caused by dispersion of light in cracks and flaws resulting in a rainbow-like play of color (as often seen in an oil slick or a soap bubble). The colors tend to change as the angle of view changes. The word Iridescent comes from the Greek word “iris”, which means rainbow.



Inclusion

An inclusion is a particle of foreign matter contained within a mineral or gemstone. Inclusions can be solid, liquid, or gaseous. A water filled pocket is called an enhydro. Organic inclusions are only found in Amber. Inclusions are natural and not always considered flaws.



Lapidary

Lapidary is the world of stones and gems and the work involved in engraving, cutting, or polishing them. The person who cuts and polishes stones is also called a Lapidary.



Opaque

Opaque means no light passes through the material.



Psuedomorph

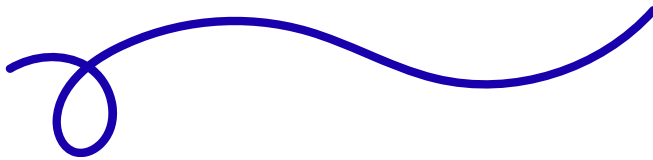
When one mineral completely replaces another, but retains the same outer shape of the replaced mineral.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Come Visit
The Garden
&
Gift Shop**

**Hours:
7 days a week 10-3**



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

**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

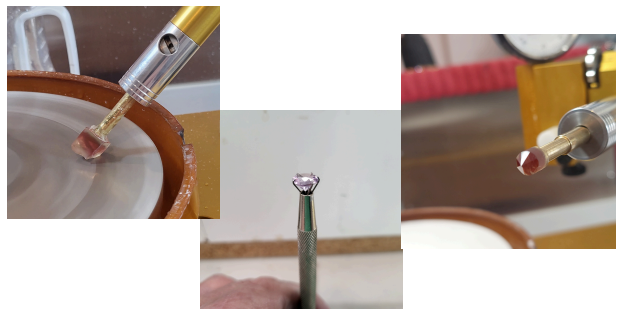
**Contact: Dan Siroshton
(541) 954-8234**

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

Brenda Ashworth

Treasurer

Lupe Severson

Field Trip Committee

Co-Chair

Ken Lawson

Field Trip Committee

Co-Chair

Eric Smith

Claims Committee Chair

Vacant

Program Committee Chair

Scott "Plaid" Peterson

Past President

Patricia Moreland

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Nancy Johnston

Webmaster

Ashton Bowlin

Volunteer Coordinator

Vacant

Social Media

Chenowa Hartley

James Shaman

Barb Thompson

Ed Taft

OCRMC Representatives

James Shaman

Bruce Vanderzanden

MEMBERSHIP

Deadline to Renew is April 30th

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