

CENTRAL OREGON ROCK COLLECTORS



IS THERE GOLD IN THAT ROCK?

6 ROCK TYPES THAT COULD BE HIDING IT

by Rock Seeker. Part 2

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

3. Slate

Slate is another stone that can be considered auriferous, depending on the exact formation. In this case, gold ends up deposited in the thin faults and cracks in the slate over time. Slate is

actually the metamorphic form of shale. In this case, shale has been under intense pressure and heat for geological amounts of time.



Slate is most well-known for being used as roof tiles. Here the basic nature of slate can be taken advantage of, it separates into layers of almost uniform thickness. It's also been used in other forms of construction and it's found in many places around the world. The most important accessory minerals to slate are primarily sulfides, the result of long-dormant hydrothermal vents, and the others are iron oxides.



You may have noticed a trend here: most of the sources of gold that we can exploit are associated with ancient hydrothermal activity and iron oxides of various types. The presence of these in slate can point to the inclusion of gold in the extremely thin cracks in the material. While some slate is auriferous, it's

rather uncommon. The richest sources generally have rusty streaks through them, a tell-tale sign of larger than usual amounts of iron deposition.

The two primary places where slate has been exploited for bearing gold in the USA include the Carolina Slate Belt and, naturally, the Sierra Nevadas of California.

4. Basalt (Greenstone)

Basalt is an igneous stone that's rather common. It often includes incredible minerals, whether it's from the floors of the Great Lakes or in the Ametista do Sul fields of Northern Brazil.

Quartz and amethyst are regularly found weathered from this stone, along with other various forms of silica such as agate. It's less an indication of gold, and more of a stone that may bear it under the right conditions.

Like most gold deposits, the deposits in basalt are hydrothermal in origin. The basalt in question must be in a region that contained hydrothermal activity and must also have been cracked enough to allow the deposit of minerals. This isn't the case with most basalt.

The tell-tale clue that a region may have auriferous basalt is the presence of Greenstone belts, specifically those that are Archaean in age. That's just a short jaunt back in time, roughly 2.5 billion years. Greenstone derives its name from the color of the stone. The green color is given by large amounts of copper and chlorite-bearing minerals settling throughout the region, but basalt remains a large component of many. In this fractured rock, it is sometimes possible to find gold.





The Greenstone belts in the US are concentrated in Wyoming but are too young to be auriferous. Instead, the main belts mined are those in Australia and Canada, where they often prove a rich source of gold.



First Club Meeting of 2026

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

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

Show and Tell

Bring something to share, that is Rock Related

Meetings are held at:

3800 SE Airport Way, Bldg 3, Redmond, OR 97756

**We will be playing Bingo so
please bring a rock related item.**



Club Meeting Dates

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

March 25th

April 29th

May 27th

June 18th

**July 19th American Legion Park
for the Annual Picnic**

August 19th

September 16th

October 21st

Holiday Party TBD

***Field trip dates and locations are being finalized. Watch
your email and the Club Newsletters for announcements.***

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

Druse, Druzy or Drusy Druse is the correct word and it is a layer of crystals that formed within a cavity of rock. But people often use Drusy or Druzy. The inner cavity of agate geodes is often lined with druse of tiny sparkling quartz crystals. These crystals reflect (or appear to be) the color of the rock underneath. Sometimes in the rock trade, minerals that have a fine layer of tiny sparkling crystals can be referred to as druses, such as Cobalto Calcite being called Pink Drusy, or Uvarovite Garnet being called Green Drusy. These minerals can sometimes be cut into designer cabochons for jewelry.



Flaw A flaw is an imperfection in a mineral or rock. Flaws include: cracks, chips or “dings”, and some natural inclusions or fractures. A flawless stone is called “clean”. Flaws can sometimes greatly reduce the value of a stone.

Fluorescence Fluorescence is when visible light is emitted from an object during exposure to invisible radiation. Ultraviolet light can produce vibrant red, green, blue, yellow, and other colors in a variety of minerals. Some 500 minerals are fluorescent.

Fracture A crack in a mineral or rock that can be natural or man made. It can be naturally healed, meaning something happened, perhaps the ground shifted and cracked, and then the crack was filled with natural material.

Hardness The Mohs scale of mineral hardness rates the scratch resistance of various minerals on a scale of 1 to 10. It rates the ability of a harder material to scratch a softer material. The scale runs from 10-Diamond, the hardest substance known to man, to 1-Talc, the softest. Though diamond is the hardest, jade is actually the toughest, or least likely to break.

Mohs Hardness Scale			
	Mineral Name	Scale Number	Common Object
Increasing Hardness ↑	Diamond	10	
	Corundum	9	Masonry Drill Bit (8.5)
	Topaz	8	
	Quartz	7	Steel Nail (6.5)
	Orthoclase	6	
	Apatite	5	Knife/Glass Plate (5.5)
	Fluorite	4	
	Calcite	3	Copper Penny (3.5)
	Gypsum	2	
	Talc	1	Fingernail (2.5)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Come Visit the Garden &
Gift Shop

*Gift Shop
is in the Cafe & Open*

**Grand Reopening of the
Museum April 4th**

Winter Hours
Friday, Saturday, Sunday 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

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(541) 954-8234**

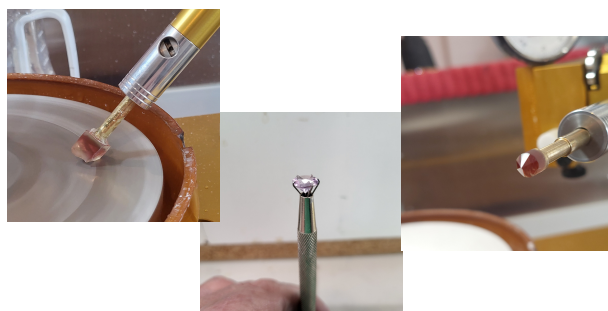
Faceting and Cabbing

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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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