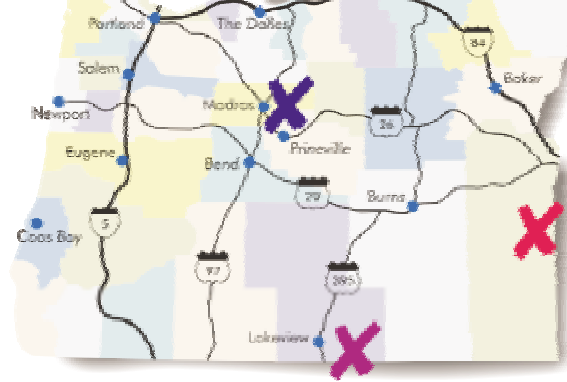


Thunderegg Localities



Madras-Prineville Area

Richardson's Recreational Ranch

Gateway Route, Box 440, Madras, OR 97741
541-475-2680 — www.richardsonrockranch.com

White Fir Spring, Whistler Spring

Prineville Chamber of Commerce
390 North Fairview, Prineville, OR 97754
541-447-6304 — www.prineville-crookcounty.org

Lucky Strike Thundereggs

P.O. Box 128, Mitchell, OR 97750
541-462-3176 (Summer only, see site)

Fallen Tree

Mt. Hood Rock Club Claim
503-760-1825

Southeastern Oregon Area

Succor Creek and McDermitt

Bureau of Land Management
100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918
541-473-3144

Lakeview Area

Crane Creek

High Desert Craft Rock Shop
244 North M Street, Lakeview, OR 97630
541-947-3237



The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society, Inc.

The Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (WAMS) was organized to stimulate interest in the study and collection of agates, minerals, gems, and fossils; and support lapidary work, education, and scientific study of natural earth sciences.

WAMS is a nonprofit organization and an Oregon Corporation, founded in November 1947. WAMS is affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS), the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies (NFMS), the Oregon Council of Rock and Mineral Clubs, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), and the Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors (SCRIBE).

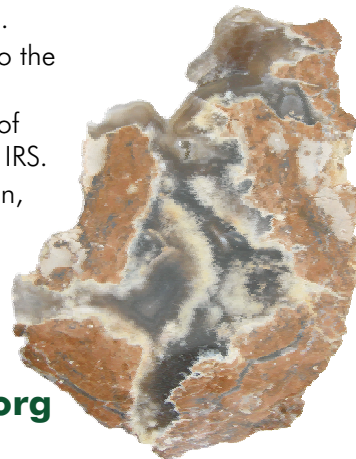
Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm at the Salem Senior Center, 1055 Erixon Street NE, in Salem, Oregon. Executive Board meetings are held monthly and all members are invited to attend.

WAMS adheres to the charitable purposes within the meaning of Section #501(C)(3) IRS.

For more information, comments, or suggestions email: info@wamsi.org.

P.O.Box 13041
Salem, OR 97309

www.wamsi.org



WAMS Dedicated to Education Thundereggs



Thunderegg of Oregon

Thunderegg are one of Oregon's oldest curiosities. Whether a collector is a novice or life-long enthusiast, Thunderegg are treasured by everyone.

The History of Thunderegg

In 1965 the Oregon legislature designated the Thunderegg as the official state rock. However, the Thunderegg has been a very important treasure to Oregonians for much longer. According to ancient American legend, when the thunder spirits living in the high recesses of snow-capped Mt. Hood and Mt. Jefferson became angry with one another, amid violent thunder and lightening storms, they would hurl these spherical rocks at



each other. The hostile gods obtained these weapons by stealing eggs from the thunder birds' nests, thus the source of the name "Thunderegg."

The mountains are still key landmarks in

the beautiful Cascade mountain range, and millions of Thunderegg are on the lower lands as evidence of the legend—and for all to enjoy.

The Thunderegg has been highly prized by collectors, lapidarists, jewelry makers, and interior decorators for nearly 100 years. In 1893, Dr. George F. Kunz, Tiffany's famed gem authority, estimated that as much as \$20,000 worth of opal-filled eggs from one Oregon deposit had been sold on the market in 1892.

Since the mid-1930's, thousands of visitors from every state and many overseas companies have visited Oregon to hunt Thunderegg. These highly prized stones are made into beautiful jewelry, pendants, pen stands, and bookends.

Without question, the Thunderegg is by far the most popular rock in Oregon.

How Thunderegg are Formed

Although the Thunderegg is an honorary rock by legislative decree, it actually is not a rock. It is a structure—sometimes a nodule and sometimes a geode. It occurs in rhyolite, welded tuff, or perlitic rocks.

Scientists do not agree on the process that formed Thunderegg. Some believe the characteristic and unique internal pattern of the typical Thunderegg is due to expansion and rupture of rocks by gasses. Others suggest the pattern is due to desiccation (drying) of a colloid or gel. Whichever theory is correct, once the cavity is formed, structural characteristics can be variable relative to the time needed to complete the egg.

Thunderegg range in size and weight from less than an inch and under one ounce to over a yard in diameter and over a ton in weight. Most eggs collected are between two and six inches in diameter. Eggs can be found not only as a single formation, but doubles and triples as well.

What's in a Thunderegg?

Typically an egg has a russet-colored outer shell that is often knobby and has a characteristic ribbed pattern. Frequently the inside of the outer shell has a relatively thin intermediate or transitional lining. This is sometimes composed of an iron or magnesium compound. Eggs often have a thin coating of opal or agate.

The center of the egg is usually filled with agate, opal, or jasper. Sometimes they might form with inclusions, pattern growth, or crystals. In some variations the egg may be hollow or have a thin layer of chalcedony (agate) coating the interior. Occasionally algae-like tubes, plumes, or moss—formed by manganese or iron compounds—may be present in the center of the egg.

Thunderegg are sometimes found with internal bands just inside the shell that may be colored blue, yellow, red, white, pink, or green.

They may also be found with any combination of these colors.

Many eggs have the potential to fluoresce under ultraviolet light—a "glowing" green color suggests the presence of Uranium, which is prevalent in Central Oregon.

Where to Find Thunderegg

Thunderegg can be collected all over the State of Oregon, however the largest concentration will be found East of the Cascade Mountain range.

Although many of the known localities that are "free to dig" and are on public lands, they are sometimes difficult to locate and you can never guarantee what you will find.



Fortunately, there are numerous private claims that permit "fee" digging. If you go to a private claim, you are guaranteed to get your fill of good quality Thunderegg.

Equipment for Collecting

As in all hobbies, in order to make the most of it; you will need the proper tools, including a pick, shovel, and bar. Using these tools will make collecting much easier. It is also wise to take a good bucket or bag to carry your prize home. Remember to always drink plenty of water.

The "fee" sites typically have tools to loan, as well as having the preliminary work done for you, such as over-burden removal. This is something to keep an eye out for—many people have been injured when digging under a bank and having the top of the overhanging cliff collapsing on top of them. Conditions change so collectors should contact claim owners for the current fee status as well as information on accessibility to the dig site.

Happy Hunting!