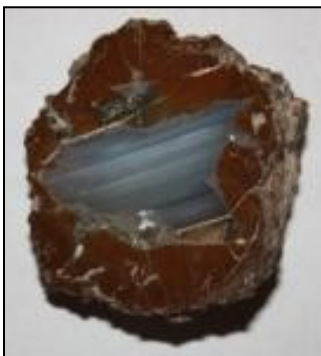


Our club sells geodes at each of the Treasures of the Earth (TOTE) Shows throughout the year. While our geodes currently come from Mexico, Morocco, and Indiana, there are numerous other locations throughout the world. On occasion there is a thunderegg (solid) found in our batches of geodes (partially hollow) that we sell. Depending on the minerals inside, they can be quite beautiful!

In the short time that I have been helping sell geodes at the TOTE Shows, I have seen some really unique and beautiful thundereggs. I found some interesting information on thundereggs to share.



Thundereggs are found in rhyolite volcanic lava flows and are also known as a "lithophysae" (Greek for "rock bubbles"). Thundereggs are formed in gas pockets which become the mold when water percolates through the porous rock. The water usually carries a silica solution into the pocket along with any other minerals that may be present during the formation. Patterns inside the core of the thunderegg can vary from a single lens, triangle-like, box-like, and a star-like pattern, along with seascapes and beautiful agate banding. Sometimes there are no patterns at all, just



striations and globs of mineral content frozen in time, as with some of the thundereggs that come out of the GMSVP geodes.

- Thundereggs are not geodes; geodes have a hollow in them, sometimes with crystal formations.
- Thundereggs are a solid made up of mainly agate, chalcedony, jasper, or opal. It is possible to see quartz and gypsum crystals as well as other mineral growth and inclusions depending on what part of the world the thunderegg was formed.
- Thundereggs look like a regular rock on the outside, so it is difficult to determine what might be inside.
- In my research, I have seen the word thunderegg written both as "thunder egg" and one word "thunderegg".
- Robert Colburn, aka "Paul, the Geode Kid," has written one of the most lengthy articles I found so far on thundereggs. You can read his theory by clicking this link: <http://www.zianet.com/geodekid/thndregg.htm>



(Cont'd on the next page.)

New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

Ronald Deal
J. Wyatt Hall
Sean Harley

Vernon & Shirley Hash
Mary Hood

- (Cont'd from prior page.) David Rix from Australia created the Eibonvale Thunderegg Gallery website to track his own private collection. It has grown and evolved into a great resource for thundereggs from all over the world. My second article for next month will cover more from David's website <http://www.thundereggs.co.uk/>
- Thundereggs got their name from a legend. A Native American legend reportedly considers the rocks to be the eggs of the thunderbirds, which occupied Mount Hood and Mount Jefferson located in Oregon. Thunder Spirits on the mountains hurled the "eggs" at each other.
- In the United States, we currently have thirteen states (with many locations within each state), which have thunderegg deposits. Oregon is one of the states with one of the largest deposit, where there are over 100 known thunderegg beds located in eight counties.
- The thunderegg is also Oregon's state rock.

Last fall I purchased these two thunder eggs on Ebay from the famous Friday Beds located on the Richardson Ranch in Oregon. I will be cutting them open at the next Tote show in Hampton, VA on March 24-26. I can't wait to see what they look like inside.



Disclosure: I am not a geologist or mineralogist. My background is in the tech field, and I am just your typical rock hound/hobbyist. Information for this article came from the internet (so it must be true) and books in my private collection. As more research is being done, and with the help of technology, some of the older theories on how thundereggs were formed are being challenged. I hope you find this information educational as well as entertaining. If by chance you see a correction, please feel free to contact me (gmsvp.web@gmail.com) or the newsletter editor (maineguy@cox.net) and a follow up correction will be printed.

Side note: One thing I noticed in my research on geodes, thunder eggs etc., many locations cannot be disclosed due to lands being private or nature reserves, fear of claim jumpers, or other reasons. This makes it difficult to track where the stones originally come from or other significant information that you may want to know.

References

- Geodes Nature's Treasures – by Brad L. Cross and June Culp Zeitner Geode book
- Wikipedia
- www.thunderegg.uk.com
- www.Statesymbolusa.org
- www.zianet.com/geodekid/
- http://www.achat-almanach.de/html/steinhardt_engl.html



THANK YOU!!! Mary Hood has volunteered to be the GMSVP Field Trip Coordinator! Mary is a new member! Welcome and THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING TO BE OUR NEW FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR!!!!

Source: S.C.R.I.B.E. 2014 Clipart DVD