

While researching for an article on thundereggs, I stumbled across a great website: [www.thundereggs.co.uk](http://www.thundereggs.co.uk). The website tracks the different type of thundereggs found all over this planet and is a living website, in that it is updated with new finds as the webmaster/collector, David Rix, is notified. David started the website as a hobby to keep track of his collection, and it grew into what it is today—a wealth of information on thundereggs. In writing to David, he mentioned that he has some additional articles to add to his site coming up. David gave me permission to use the photographs from his website and any information that I found of interest for others.

In the blog section of the website, David discusses thundereggs as follows:

- The crystallographers report that geodes (as many thundereggs are) can aid breaking addictions. I am inclined to agree from my own experience. The things themselves are so darned addictive that no other addiction stands a chance!
- Put simply, thundereggs (or lithophysae) are a structure, not a mineral. They form in rhyolitic lava flows, probably as nodules split on cooling, creating a hollow space inside. This then fills with a agate, quartz, jasper, opal, and other things in various combinations. The result is a rock that, when cut in half, reveals a self-contained center of sometimes magical beauty, surrounded by a rock matrix. The filling is as varied as agate can be, and this variation can be highly location specific. Every bed (site where thundereggs are found) has it's own characteristics – its own flavor, like some unique variety of wine. Thundereggs from just a few miles away can be almost unrecognizable. That is part of their charm and what makes them so highly collectable. Set a French Esterel next to an American Friend Ranch egg, next to a Buchanan Ranch egg, next to a vivid agate from St. Egidien, and you might well wonder how these things can be related at all. But the similarities are there in the shapes and structures – the sense of torn rock and the seeming 'energy' in their history, which is very different to a sedate classic geode or agate window ornament.
- The name thunderegg comes from American Indian legends, but the appearance of these things – the way they seem filled with the frozen energy of torn and stretched rock (far more so than a sedate classic agate) and the layering of colors inside them . . . they really seem to merit their name. Sometimes they look almost organic or as though made of gel or water. Some even seem to have swirling storm clouds frozen inside. Or jagged crystalline lightning or murky rockpools. The Eibonvale Thunderegg Gallery seeks to classify them according to location as far as possible, though true completeness is utterly impossible.

Here are some pictures of thundereggs from around the world from the [www.thundereggs.co.uk](http://www.thundereggs.co.uk) website. This is in no way inclusive of all the different types of thundereggs found worldwide, but it gives the reader an idea on the vast differences in thundereggs formations. Some of these look like they would make some interesting cabochons. (Cont'd on the next page.)

## GMSVP Invited to TGMS Annual Auction

Robin Stoughton, TGMS President





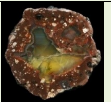

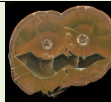
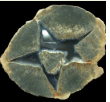
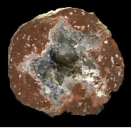
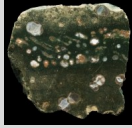
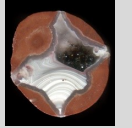
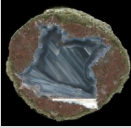



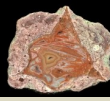
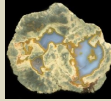

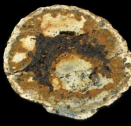

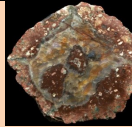
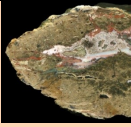

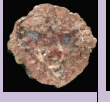

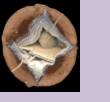
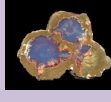

Greetings fellow Rockhounds! GMSVP members are cordially invited to the Tidewater Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS) Annual Club Auction. The TGMS Auction is on Friday, March 20th at 7 PM at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3396 Stoneshore Road, VA Beach, VA.

Hope to see you there! Robin

## New GMSVP Members—Welcome New Rockhounds!

**There were no new members during the last month.**

(Cont'd from prior page.)

Agate Creek - Australia	Yita Ridge (Mezezo) - Ethiopia	Rotterode #2 / Koppenstein - Germany	Maiskoje Deposit - Kazakhstan	Piedra Parada - Argentina	Star Spirit, Haida Gwaii - Canada	The oldest thunder egg - Wisconsin Fluorite Thunder eggs – est 1.1 billion years old	Smallest Thunder egg - Little Naches River, Bed 2 Green Conglomerate – Washington - >2mm Zoom in close and it looks like a surreal artwork depicting the night sky.	Smallest stand-alone thunder egg Keweenaw / Lake Superior Michigan 1cm	Earthquake thunder egg Mojave National Preserve California. This is a tilt, where the horizontal layers indicate that it has moved in the ground.
									
Agate Core - Seascapes	Opal Core	Agate Core	Content not disclosed	Content not disclosed – double thunderegg	Agate – Starlike Pattern				
The Lava Road - Hollow Moor UK	Cubuk Turkey	Esterel - Le Louve France	Nowy Kosciol Poland	Yadrino Russia	Dumbrava Romania	'Metal' thunder egg - Wingshausen Germany- Steinhorst Thunder egg with Metallic Core - 350-400 mya	Most fragile thunder egg - Kemmlitz Kaolin Mine Germany with water clear quartz, when trying to polish it's more like trying to polish a clump of cat litter	Most flawed thunder egg All Gottlob Germany Thunder eggs have flaws, but this one is something else entirely. It has been totally pulverized - disintegrated - mashed - pureed, creating what is actually quite a unique-looking specimen.	New Location - First Creek in Washington State. This is an obscure but very interesting location producing relatively large eggs with distinctly elongated and sometimes lens-shaped appearance. The cores tend not to contain fancy agate, but a complex blend of minerals, sometimes very attractive in an earthy way.
									
Chalcedony	Opal, agate and crystal with Seascapes bottom	Content not disclosed with leveling lines (aka seascapes)	Pseudomorph agate	Blue agate	Four pointed star with red agate				
Little Naches River, Bed 2.5 Oregon	Gold Basin California	Triple Tavernier New Mexico	Contact Nevada	Richardson Ranch Oregon	Chinati Mountain Texas				
									
Clear brown agate - looking almost like some kind of plant cone	Cores are composed of blends of crystal and a distinct red mineralisation	Rich and dark agate – Triple chambers	Called Thundernuts because they are the size of walnuts – agate and crystal 4 point star	Opal with moss garden – triple chambers	Muddled core of pale agate and crystal within a greyish brown matrix				

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. 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](mailto:gmsvp.web@gmail.com)) or the newsletter editor ([maineguy@cox.net](mailto:maineguy@cox.net)) and a follow up correction will be printed.

Online Resource: Eibonvale Thunderegg Gallery <http://www.thundereggs.co.uk/>

## Virtual Museum of Geology

Dan Fontaine

Here is a website that you may want to explore: ([http://www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com/store/c1/Featured\\_Products.html](http://www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html)).

The website provides an online geological archive and mineral and fossil shop. The site is an online museum for fossils and minerals and has rockhound resources, including a directory of rock shops and geology attractions; geology clubs; mineral and fossil shows; online presentations and educational resources; recommended locations to visit; an online rock shop; and a highlighted specimen.

Disclaimer: I am not promoting this site. It is merely shared as a site that may be of interest to our club members.

## New Year, New Items in our rock shop!

Visit the Virtual Museum of Geology's Online Rock Shop and check out all of the new mineral and fossil specimens just added!



[www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com](http://www.virtualmuseumofgeology.com)  
CLICK BELOW to visit the VMG Rock Shop

Virtual Museum of Geology  
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