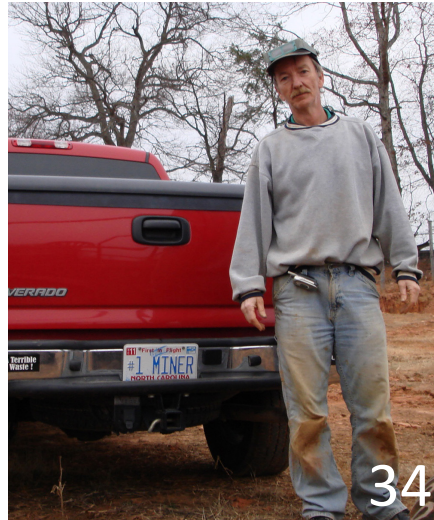


AMERICAN ROCKHOUND



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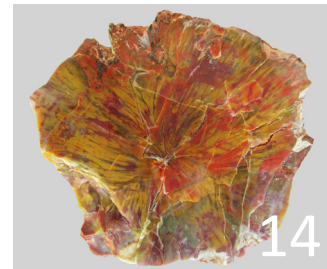
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On the front cover: Petrified logs at the Petrified Forest National Park, Carl Barton photo, 2014. Inset: Top view of a 60 lb. (27 kg) petrified log section collected in Arizona by Victor J. Jacquot II in 1937.

On the back cover: Petrified logs at the Petrified Forest National Park, Carl Barton photo, 2014.

ROAD TRIPPING PETRIFIED WOOD DOBELL RANCH, ARIZONA



Sandee Barton, Ph.D.

For the first time in over 35 years, I did not work during the summer. Instead, I went with my husband on a major road trip which lasted four months. Wooo-hoooo! We are members of our local rock club and of the National Park Travelers Club so we combine rockhounding with visiting National Parks on any trip we take.

As Carl planned our extended vacation, he asked if I wanted to dig at the DoBell Ranch for petrified wood. Oh my, thoughts flew through my head. Being a geologist, I have several nice specimens, not to mention a 3 gallon bucket of petrified wood from Saskatchewan, Canada. And, being a rockhound, I've accumulated another bucket or so of petrified wood from unknown places, which of

course, like all good rockhounds, I plan to identify someday, when I have time! (wink-wink). Anyhow, as these thoughts flew through my head, my last thought was, "Is it possible to have too much petrified wood? Hummm, no, I don't think so." Therefore, my answer was an enthusiastic, "Yes, of course!" and the DoBell dig was on the agenda.

We made plans to camp at the Meteor Crater RV Park so we could spend several days with Carl's two brothers, sister, and seven year old nephew while visiting the Crater, the Grand Canyon, and the Petrified Forest National Park. Digging at the DoBell Ranch would be the perfect opportunity to try and turn his family members into rockhounds! I was secretly hoping the digging wouldn't be too

American Rockhound
Terry Ledford
1956 - 2014



FAVORITE FINDS - PETRIFIED WOOD



Top: Robin Heafner beside a huge petrified tree stump in the middle of Yellowstone National Park at a place called Specimen Ridge, 1998. It took us all day to hike up the mountain and back. There were lots of huge logs like these just below the top of a real steep ridge. Too bad we couldn't keep any, those Rangers are real serious about not collecting anything in the park. Tim Heafner photo.

Above left: Petrified wood with quartz crystals. Found on a hillside in Park Co. Wyoming in 1998. This is the only piece I found that had crystallization. 2" x 2" x 4.5" (5.08 cm x 5.08 cm x 11.43 cm) The crystals average about ¼" in height (0.635 cm). Tim Heafner collection and photo.

Above right: Side view of the same specimen. 2" x 2" x 4.5" (5.08 cm x 5.08 cm x 11.43 cm). Tim Heafner collection and photo.

HIDDENITE, NORTH CAROLINA MINING DISTRICT UPDATE

Sharpes Emerald Prospect

Richard Jacquot, Mark Randle

In October, 2014, the Hiddenite Gems Investment Group LLC spent a week at the Sharpes Emerald Prospect. We used a large track hoe to explore the mine for gems and minerals and also worked to make the collecting area safer for our crew and visiting rockhounds. We hope to have a field trip after the new year and a three day campout and dig. Stay tuned to www.americanrockhound.com for more information on upcoming trips to this site.

Our efforts paid off, we located several nice veins of quartz and beryl. Some of the quartzes are tessin habit, some have gemmy red rutile crystals attached and some are excellent facet grade clear crystals. The quartz crystals range in size from an inch up to several inches in size, some clusters as well. The beryls also ranged from small to one crystal that measures around 5" in length. The quartz crystals are clear to root beer brown in color. The beryl's are a light green, some translucent and glassy. We also found a lot more of the gemmy green muscovite mica, crystals and clusters.

Specimens from this mine can be obtained by attending planned field trips and by visiting the 'Jacquot & Son Mining' booth at upcoming gem shows in Asheville, NC, Hiddenite, NC and the Graves Mountain Rock Swap and Digs in April and October. See the 'Rock Shopper & Shows' section for show dates.



Above: Light green beryl crystal in quartz matrix. Sharpes Emerald Prospect, October, 2014. Beryl crystal approx. 5" (12.7 cm).

Top right: Facet grade smoky quartz crystal cluster. Sharpes Emerald Prospect, October, 2014. Approx. 6" (15.24 cm).

Middle right: Tessin quartz crystal cluster. Sharpes Emerald Prospect, October, 2014. 5 1/2" x 3 1/2" x 3" (13.97 cm x 8.89 cm x 7.62 cm).

Bottom right: Tessin quartz crystal. Sharpes Emerald Prospect, October, 2014. 3 1/2" x 2 1/8" x 1 3/4" (8.89 cm x 5.40 cm x 4.45 cm).

