

NEWS FROM *THE FINEST THINGS*

Mineral, Rock, Gem and Lapidary Related News

Winter 2014

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What IS The Finest Things?

The Finest Things (or TFT) is located in Omaha, NE and has been in business since 2004. We specialize in minerals, rocks and gems of high quality yet still at reasonable prices. We have contacts worldwide and enjoy finding minerals from various locales and searching for unique specimens. Bruce, our principle owner has been collecting for about 45

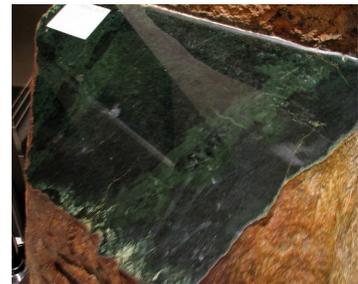
years and is interested in the formation, geology & history of minerals along with their chemical makeup and properties. Bruce began this odyssey as a child with his father starting with rockhounding, then learned together how to tumble, grind, polish, slab, facet, melt silver, and do lost wax casting. He took a few years off from the hobby, but after moving to Omaha began collecting in earnest. This led to the formation of our business and becoming a vendor at shows around the Midwest.

One of our specialties is copper-based minerals and stones such as Turquoise, Malachite, Dioptase, Chrysocolla, Azurite and Shattuckite.

What's New at TFT?

We were fortunate to view and purchase part of a lifelong collection of minerals and rocks in south central Nebraska. We obtained black Wyoming jade along with some green, both of which we will be slabbing. We also got some nice Smithsonite specimens.

We have also acquired several Gypsum Rose specimens from Mexico and Agatized Fossil Corals from Florida as well as more gorgeous yellow and red Tiger Eye **with Hematite**.



Wyoming Jade

Minerals Aren't Just for Collectors!

You don't have to be an expert or spend a lot of money to appreciate rocks and minerals. An unusual specimen or one with a story behind it is a great conversation piece. Minerals of all sizes can be used as décor pieces and integrated into almost any style. They are also fun tools to assist kids in learning about art, geology, chemistry, geography and earth science.



Bruce's Tips

Turquoise has increased in interest and value recently, due to some mines with the best ore closing. This also makes it a prime stone for reproductions or fakes. Here are some easy ways to recognize genuine turquoise:

- Real turquoise is not one solid color — look for natural pigmentation and blemishes.
- Look for chips with white or black beneath the turquoise color. Fakes are often white or black stones that have been dyed.
- Consider the price. You will not likely get a genuine turquoise necklace for \$20!
- Dip a cotton swab in acetone & wipe over the stone. If the color is altered at all or comes off on the swab, the stone is not real turquoise.

Fun Events at TFT

This summer we hosted 2 rock grinding parties at our home. Folks from Omaha & Lincoln & nearby locations came with food for the potluck, questions to ask, latest 'finds' to show, and rocks & gems to cut and grind and polish.

We are also welcoming a couple of groups from local offices in the next month for private events, which will include some cutting demonstrations. If your co-workers, family members, or club members would enjoy something similar just let us know!

Of course if you are travelling in the area & would like to see our collections or are searching for something specific, we can make an appointment with you.



Agatized Fossil Coral, Florida

Agatized coral occurs when silica in the ocean water hardens, replacing the limy corals with a form of quartz known as chalcedony. This long process (20-30 million years) results in the formation of a "pseudomorph," meaning one

mineral has replaced another without having lost its original form.

These fossils from the Oligocene-Miocene period are found in a variety of colors- white, gray, brown, black, yellow and red. Different trace minerals in the agate create these colors.

Divers find the coral heads and saw them open like geodes. Some have mussel holes on the outside and they all have various cavities and formations inside.

We have pairs of sliced coral as well as single halves available. Some are polished, some are in their natural state and some are crystal-lined so have some sparkle. These are fascinating and are selling quickly.

Our Upcoming Show Schedule

We will be a vendor at these Gem & Mineral shows this Spring:

Kansas City, March 13-15

Lincoln, April 4-5

Wichita, April 24-26

We hope to see you there!

For More Info or to Ask Mineral or Geology Related Questions, please go to www.tftgeo.com

If you know someone interested in minerals, rocks, gems or lapidary, please feel free to forward our newsletter. At our website they can send an email to get on the distribution list.

If you collect or are searching for a particular mineral or gemstone it is likely that we have some, so please ask!

We also consider buying collections of mineral specimens and rough.

Email us at sales@tftgeo.com.