

MY FAVORITE  
**ROCK**

GR I UT



*My Favorite Rock* is a collection of local residents' favorite rocks and the stories attached to them.

Through the gathering of these stories, we came to realize what those interviewed already knew: these rocks are more than rocks. They're the embodiment of memories, bridges to the natural world, sources of hope and comfort, and ancient unchanging objects in an ever changing world. Thank you to everyone who shared their rocks and stories with us.

# TWINKLES

**OLIVIA GARNETT GLENN** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

I call it Twinkles. It is small, and it's golden.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I got it a long time ago, and I got it when I asked Dad if I could get some rocks.

## ***How do you display this rock***

It is part of my collection, and I carry it in my hand.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

It means that it's beautiful.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"Hi, Liv!"



# **CALCITE**

**MISTIE BASTIAN** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

Its rockish on one side and shiny on the other. It looks like a frozen castle.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

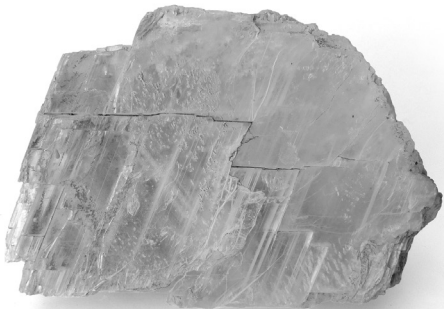
I've had it since 2001 when I moved into my house. We bought the house from Bobby Anderson, an avid rock collector, and we inherited a bunch of rocks like this that were left at the house.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

It's on the back porch on a shelf, right where it was when I found it.

## ***If this rock could talk what would it say?***

"Where's that old lady who picked me up? What the heck happened? Put me out in the desert, set me free!"



# A-ROCK

**JULIE STEUER** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

I'm not quite sure what kind of rock it is. It's a rock in the shape of an "A."

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I found it out in the desert. And I don't really remember when. I pick up all sorts of rocks everywhere all the time. I just picked one up in the First Choice parking lot last week.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

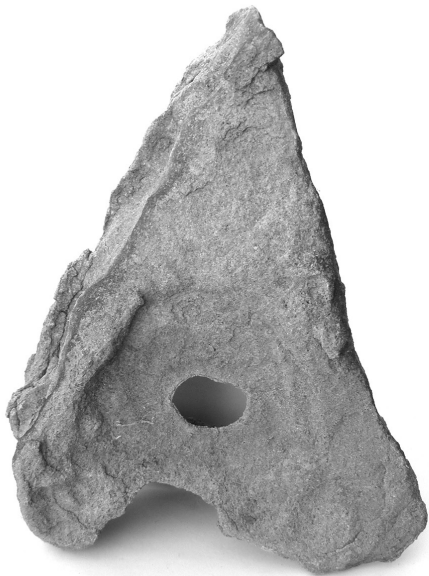
I usually have it upright and leaning up against something facing my house so I can see it daily.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

Because of its "A" shape, it reminds me of my son, Adam.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"Love you too."



# WORM ROCK

**KATHY RYAN** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

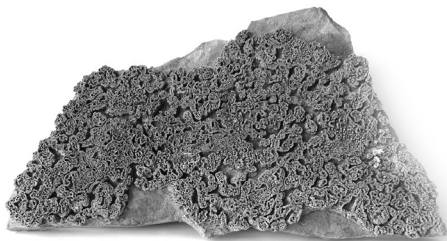
I call it my worm rock. It's just a cool, weird rock. It was in the Mancos Shale and must have had some kind of worms crawling around it, then it just sat and fossilized. Or was it a creature, a bug? Or maybe its ancient algae and alkali? What made you!?

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I found it back in the mid 1980s just wheeling around in the desert, as I do. I was just jeeping around on a nice summer day up towards Bone Hill. Then this rock caught my eye because it seemed so out of place. It was just lying face up.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

It makes me think of Green River and the desert towards Battleship Mountain.



## ***How do you display this rock?***

I had it in my house forever, but had to move it outside because I had too many rocks inside. Also, when I got my grandkids, I needed to move things. Those rocks are definitely not toys for toddlers.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

I think it would be a rock of mystery. It would say "Figure me out if you can."

# ROSE QUARTZ

**TERRY COPPIN** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

Rose Quartz. It's pink.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I've had it for very many years. I got in a time of my life where I was suffering from depression and my friend gave it to me because it helps heal the heart.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

Right now it's on a stairway -- on a bunch of steps that are built out of rock -- next to several other awesome rocks. Previously, it's been displayed prominently in the living room.



## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

Outside of its visual beauty and its aesthetic qualities, it brightens my day. If I feel a little sad, I come look at it.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

The rock would say something like "No matter how hard life gets, strive to find happiness."

# MOQUI BALLS

**GWENN AMBROSE** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

My favorite rock is my moqui balls, aka shaman stones, moki marbles, and thunderballs. They are concretions: a sandstone encased naturally in an iron and hematite shell. I bought mine in Utah. They are similar to the formation found on Mars.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

I display mine on a shelf with my collection of rocks and crystals. Sometimes I carry them in my pocket. The female one is round and goes in the left pocket and the male is saucer shaped and goes in the right pocket.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

They might say “I am alive. I have lived for millions of years. I have seen this land before humans discovered it. I have felt the wetness of the tears of many Native Americans who found the spirit in me. I

have boggled the minds of scientists who wish to understand how I came to be. I have always been and I will always be even after all humans are gone. But for just this moment in time I am yours.”

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

The rocks to me mean a lot. They are said to be spirit stones. In the Hopi language, moqui means “dearly departed ones.” They balance yin and yang. They have a magnetic vibration if you pair a male and female together, you can actually feel them push apart. Shaman have been known to place them in fires, which is where the name “thunderballs” comes from. When a moqui ball is placed in a hot fire, the moisture in the sand at the center of the stone expands and the ball explodes. The shaman would read the debris and use the information in there healing. So many stories and so much energy from these little stones. How could you not love them?



# CROMWELLITE

**BECKY DAVIS** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

The rock is black like the heart of notorious historical villain, but it's also bright, it sparkles with the brilliance of his genius. It shines with an inner light, unperceived by those who would merely scratch the surface.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I got this rock in Downtown Grand Junction on the way when I was supposed to get tattooed, but instead I drank beer and made out with a handsome man.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

I carry it in my pocket.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

It represents a heart that is hardened but yet full of love.



## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

“He once thought it himself that he might die with grief for his wife, his daughters, his sisters, his father and master the cardinal, but pulse, obdurate keeps its rhythm. You then cannot keep breathing, but your rib cage has other ideas, rising and falling emitting sighs. You must thrive in spite of yourself. In so that you may do it. God takes your heart of flesh and takes your heart of stone.”

# AGATE

**JO ANNE CHANDLER** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

I think it's agate.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I found it in the San Rafael Desert seven years ago. I was out there with my best friend, Kathy Ryan, and it was just our time away to have fun. We tend to go off and wander off the trail and go explore. We did some four-wheeling and some heavy hiking up a hill out in the middle of nowhere that and found it -- there was agate everywhere at a flat spot on the top. I can't hike like that anymore.

## ***How do you display this rock, or do you carry it with you?***

It's over in the archives office in a case.



## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

It reminds me of that trip and just exploring the area. It was an extreme trip I no longer can do. Just two girls exploring and having a heck of a good time. No phones ringing or family interruptions. It was just the two of us and all of God's creations.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"How the heck did you find me?" or  
"Oh, my God those crazy women!"

## **PETRIFIED WOOD W/ SMOKEY QUARTZ**

**AMY WILMARTH** • Green River, UT

### ***How would you describe the rock?***

Petrified wood with smoky quartz that grew throughout the middle of it.

### ***How and when did you get it?***

Me and my dad found it on a hike in Farnsworth Canyon, Southwest of Green River in the Temple Mountain area, last year. I chose this one because it's a really nice specimen that I found locally.

### ***How do you display this rock, or do you carry it with you?***

It kind of moves around my bedroom, sometimes it hangs out with the other rocks.



### ***What does this rock mean to you?***

It reminds me of hiking with friends and family and the treasures of hiking in the area. I need to do that more often.

### ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"My beauty took a long, long time to grow."

## **RED SPIRIT STONE**

**NANCY DUNHAM** • Green River, UT

### ***How would you describe the rock?***

It's a red medicine rock: A wrinkled red rock and very hard. If you look closely you can see it has a wrinkles in it and you can imagine that there are faces in the wrinkles. It's from a sacred medicine site in the San Rafael Swell.

### ***How and when did you get it?***

I've had it for many years. It was given to me by an Indian and his people consider it a sacred stone. He gave it to me because he knew I would appreciate it and take care of it.



### ***How do you display this rock?***

It's protected in a leather pouch at my house.

### ***What does this rock mean to you?***

I can feel its energy and can see why people have a real spiritual connection to it. It was of great value to those who recognize its value and was used for sacred ceremonies. I feel very blessed to own such a thing and to have the privilege to look after such a spectacular piece of earth.

# SANDSTONE

**JACKIE NELSON** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

I think it's a composite of sandstone. It's just got different little holes.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I got it four years ago. Me and my husband went up Tuscher Canyon to look for a big rock that I can plant succulents in and we found this one.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

It's outside in the rock garden.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

It's just memories of the day we went up there. Our truck broke down when we went out there and fortunately he was a mechanic, so luckily it was something he could fix. It was just a fun outing. Also, Tuscher is a special place for me-- we used to run cattle up Tuscher and it's just a good place to go up. It always brings back good memories.

## ***What do you think of when you see it?***

My enjoyment of the outdoors and being outdoors. If I had my choice of working outside or inside, I'd definitely be outside.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"What an adventure."

# MY BLUE SHINY ROCK

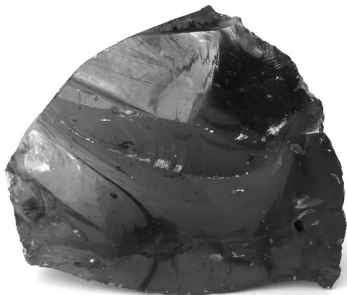
**CINDY BOWERMAN** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe it?***

I'm not quite sure what kind of rock it is. It's dark blue, shiny, and the size of a cantaloupe. Dark blue is both mine and my husband's favorite color.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I got it at a rock shop in Salida, CO on the way to my son's wedding at Royal Gorge around 9 years ago. The wedding was neat, it was windier than heck out there, but it was neat. My husband and I had been out three years previous, and the place had changed so much. It was such a great place.



## ***How do you display this rock?***

I have it outside on the front porch on a piece of carpet.

## ***If this rock could talk what would it say?***

It would probably be mad at me for taking from it Colorado to this desert of Green River, UT. Don't you think?

# GREEN MARBLE

**GAYNA SALINAS** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

Green Marble. It's a variegated green with a few intense markings through it. In the mine where it came from, most of the marble is white; anything that comes with a tint of green is rejected. This marble was from the same place [Marble, CO] as the marble they took to Washington to build the Capitol Building and a lot of the other structures out there.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

When my dad was in college, he built a coffee table from this marble. He also had family from out there, and we went on a summer camping trip to Marble with the cousins and the family when I was about 6 or 7. It was cold and miserable, but so much fun. I hadn't been back until last year. So, this rock reminds me of the coffee table set and the time we visited Marble, CO.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

At the Marble, CO mine, if the marble isn't ivory white or has any veins of green, it can't be sold in the same way. People around the world use this type of marble for vanity sinks, buildings, kitchen counters and a lot of other purposes. They take some of those big marble blocks and ship them to Italy and China to be fashioned. Then they come back fully polished as marble tops and kitchen counters. I got this rock in Marble last year from a guy who buys the rare green slabs of marble and carves things out of it as a hobby.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

It's on my bookshelf. I haven't glued it on a base yet, so it just sits there.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"Even the imperfections are beautiful and unique."

# ICELANDIC VOLCANIC ROCK

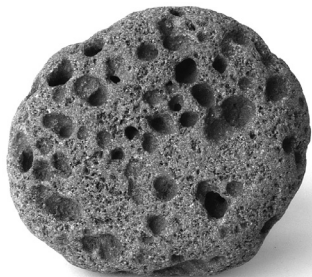
**MARIA SYKES** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

Volcanic, probably scoria.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

During my time in Iceland, I found myself in the Þórsmörk valley between Myrdalsjökull and Eyjafjallajökull, two glacier-capped caldera volcanoes. I was enamored with all the different rocks, formed by immense heat and pressure, found on the banks of the river of glacial-runoff that runs through this valley. This rock is my invitation to daydream on tectonic shifting, geologic time, and the clashing of fire and ice. It reminds me of the conflicting landscape in Iceland that has shaped its culture and mythology. This rock is the surprising peacefulness I felt in that Icelandic valley despite being surrounded by active volcanoes.



## ***How do you display this rock?***

I display this rock on my bookshelf with all my other rocks, travel souvenirs, and family photos. It is usually in a pile with the other volcanic rocks I picked up while traveling.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

“I might not look like much at first glance, but don’t underestimate me.”



# COPROLITE

**IRENE WLIZLO** • Hanksville, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

It's a 130 lb. fossilized dinosaur dung displaying plops on top of plops. It's like there was a dinosaur that walked, then stepped on it to create a divot.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I got it rockhounding two springs ago, in the spring of 2014 in the Henry Mountains

## ***How do you display this rock?***

Got it sitting in the ground in sand. It's a nice turd. Never seen a nicer one.



## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

I just think it's a beautiful thing and just a sight to behold. It just thrills me. It's just a beautiful poop. Even my friend says that it's a beautiful poop.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"Coprolite happens."

# SANDSTONE

**PAT BRADY** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

The shape of the rock goes with the circles and the circles are different on both sides. It's not layered, so you can't say it was due to different deposits. In most rock formations, the lines tell you how the season was: the thinner the lines, the drier it was. This one doesn't.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

I found it a stream bed of what must have been a billion year old stream.

## ***How do you display this rock?***

I don't show it off. I just had it in the garage, but I knew where it was.



## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

All these rocks are cool. I have a bachelor's degree in geology and when I was a rock hound, this was one of the best rocks I found. It's just a cool rock.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"I would have been here for a million years. Look at all these beautiful lines."

# DINOSAUR BONE

**DOREEN LEHNHOFF** • Green River, UT

## ***How would you describe the rock?***

Dinosaur bone about the size of my hand.

## ***How and when did you get it?***

My father found it on one of his many trips to the desert many years ago and I got after he died.

## ***What does this rock mean to you?***

It's hard to believe that this area was covered by a sea and there were dinosaurs out here. Who would ever suspect, driving along I-70 and seeing this "barren" place, that it was beautiful like that? And it still is, just in a different way, and I love it. It also reminds me of going out and getting rocks. It's something everyone can do in this town, just go out in the desert, walk and run around, or have a picnic. It's something everyone can afford to do.



## ***How do you display this rock?***

It's in a metal crate sitting in my shed with a bunch of wood, agate, and all types of rock. It used to be displayed in my house.

## ***If this rock could talk, what would it say?***

"Take care of me."

The exhibit will be on display on Saturday, April 1st and Sunday, April 2nd 2017 from 10 AM - 4 PM at the entrance to the JWP River History Museum.

**EPICENTER**