

Oil Well Core Rock Featured in Jewelry

Williston Economic Development
by Barb Peterson

Chris Traeger was looking for a conversation piece to use at the Oil Expo... but what she found could end up in some of the jewelry she makes.



Traeger bought this stack of core samples from a company in Midland, Texas. These samples are from 4,000 to 4,850 feet below the surface and they are about 230,000,000 years old.

Traeger originally bought the samples to display in the Altitudes Analysis/Fairlight Medical Center booth at the Oil Expo. She says it was fun quizzing people about what they were and where they came from – geologists were the only people who knew they were core samples from the San Andreas Formation in Texas.

Now that the Oil Expo is over, Traeger may turn some of the core samples into jewelry. “I have always had a love affair with rocks. You could always hear the clanging of rocks in the dryer as they spilled out of my pockets as a kid,” she said.

Today, she mainly collects agates and jasper for jewelry making. She also likes to work with marble, quartz, shell, pearls and handmade glass. “Making jewelry is a great stress reliever. If I don’t like it – I just take it apart and start over,” she said.

Traeger began making her own jewelry in high school – she says it started as a Girls Scout project and because she couldn’t find the type of jewelry she wanted. At first, she only made jewelry for herself – but that changed a few years ago. “I started getting into retail about 4-5 years ago when a gal bought a necklace off of my neck in Minneapolis and I thought – I really need to do something with this.”



Traeger thinks it would be great if you could buy core samples from the Bakken Formation in North Dakota. “They would give you something fun to play with, look at and I think they would make lovely pendants.”