



Arizona Rocks 58

Text and photos by Ray Grant

My wife, Cynthia and I collect mineral spheres and we recently obtained a very interesting sphere of Arizona material. It is a sphere cut from the “great unconformity” near Payson. I wrote about unconformities in Arizona Rocks 45 in the February 2017 *Earthquake*. In that article, I have a photograph of the unconformity north of Payson where there is a 1.1 billion year time gap. Wolfgang Mueller of Tucson carefully collected a sample across the unconformity at that locality, stabilized it, and made a sphere (pictured below). In a way you are holding over one billion years of history in your hand. Only a geologist, who Wolfgang is, would go to the trouble of making such a unique sphere.

Spheres of Arizona minerals are not very common, petrified wood probably being the most common material used. Part of our collection is on display at the Pinal Geology Museum and there are only two from Arizona.

If you go to Wolfgang’s website www.diwolf.com you can find some interesting spheres and cabochons made from Arizona minerals.



Sphere of the “Great Unconformity” from north of Payson, left side 1.1 billion year old granite, right side 500 million year old sedimentary rock.



Unconformity north of Payson, granite on bottom, and the sedimentary rock sandstone on top



Sphere of campbellite, a mixture of cuprite, native copper, and chrysocolla from Bisbee, Arizona



Mineral spheres on exhibit at the Pinal Geology and Mineral Museum, Coolidge, Arizona