



Learn About Our New
Geoworld Discovery
Products!

Spice it Up for Summer
with Red Coral

Beautiful Finds from the
Shore: Beach Glass and
Shell Jewelry



Dendrites
The Fossil Imposter



Red Coral

By: Katy Lovasco

At Village Silversmith we specialize in red coral, carrying both the branch and sponge red coral. Both of these stones have a stunning saturated red tone, which is rarely found naturally in stones. The difference is in the texture. The branch coral is smooth with deposits of black and the sponge coral looks like that of a sponge, with hints of dark and light red varying throughout the pattern.

What Is Red Coral?

Red coral is an organic gemstone composed of the external skeletal remains of the coral polyp, a very small interesting tube-shaped sea creature. Millions upon millions of polyps build their skeletons, made of calcium carbonate, on the abandoned remains of other polyps, creating massive coral reefs. This type of coral is found in the Mediterranean Sea or in the Pacific off Japan and Taiwan. The branch red coral is becoming scarcer as we

speak due to the overall warming of the waters. This will mean the eventual depletion of the stone and will cause the value to increase greatly.

History of Red Coral

Red Coral has been sought after since the Paleolithic times. In ancient times, the Egyptian and Roman craftsmen used it as a highly sought after form of trade. More recently, the Native Americans have used the material in much of their famous styles of jewelry and have popularized the stone for wear. According to Greek legend, red coral contains such magical powers as overcoming evil, protecting crops, warding off epilepsy, defending ships against lightning, and eliminating hatred from the home. Powdered coral skeleton is sold as herbal or homeopathic medicine to be used as an antacid and astringent.

How We Use It In Our Work

At Village Silversmith, we like to use the stone in more traditional Native American styles of jewelry, setting it with turquoise and in simple settings, but we also like to do the unexpected with the coral like setting it in a modern design. Also, we use the stone for bead necklaces in all shape and sizes, sometimes paired with other stones and sometimes strung alone. Recently, we have stocked our stores with great red coral earrings in all different styles, modern and traditional. In our stores you will also find pendants, rings, and bracelets in red coral. For the best selection, the Dock Square location in Rockport has a specialty case of red coral.



Life's Better At the Beach!

By: Katy Lovasco

Since summer 2010 is quickly approaching, it is only right that we feature our new jewelry that comes from the oh so relaxing place we will (hopefully) be spending hours at this summer, the beach!

Beach Glass Jewelry

Beach (or sea) glass is washed upon our shores every day from a long journey in the ocean. This glass is created from the natural tumbling of glass drinking, medicine, and decorative bottles, windows, and plates that have been submerged into the ocean from ships and other means of depositing. This tumbling creates a very recognizable patina. The color of the glass is determined by its age and the original source. Some of the more rare colors of the glass are the cobalt blue, red, and forest green, which can be found in our collection.

In the past couple of years beach glass jewelry has exploded in popularity, especially on the nautical

driven Northshore. At Village Silversmith, we celebrate this local find by setting it in our one of kind handmade sterling settings.

We have recently set beach glass in our signature wire wrap pendants, composed of a single sterling wire wrapped in different loops to hold the glass securely. You can find this technique and our simple sterling settings in pendants, bracelets, and earrings in our stores, with a specialty case at our store at 20 Bearskin Neck in Rockport.

Shell Jewelry

Another beauty from the sea that aligns our beaches is shell. Shells range in all shapes, sizes, textures, and colors and seem to be just begging to become a centerpiece for a lovely jewelry piece. Each shell has its own personality and pattern.

One of the new shell additions to our collection are our turritella shell pieces. These pieces are a new twist on shell jewelry, taking the spiny look of the turritella cross section and aligning them in a circular pattern. After all of the pieces are aligned on a mother of pearl back, a resin is applied to the shells to hold them in place. This shell jewelry line is very unique and can be found in variations of colors and in earrings and pendants in all of our stores.





Dendrites: The Fossil Imposter

By: Katy Lovasco

At Village Silversmith one of our favorite inclusions is the dendrite. These inclusions stump many of our customers who wonder how we preserved a fern or tree so well or how we found such a clear tree fossil. Well, we didn't! These natural beauties have a much more interesting story of development.

What are Dendrites?

The word dendrite translates from Greek to "tree", which is what this inclusion depicts. Dendrites as they are related to the stone world, are iron or manganese inclusions in a variety of stones. Usually these inclusions are dark in color, either black or brown. They appear like they are fossils or organic matter because of their fern like pattern or structure, but they are not.

Dendrites occur when there is a small fracture in a stone. The manganese will begin to seep

into the stone and crystallize in the branch-like formation. This formation can occur in many different types of stones but the most common stones to find this formation in are agate, quartz, Chinese picture stone, limestone, and sandstone.

Qualities of the Inclusions

The dendrite can vary in intricacies depending on the size of the fracture where the crystallization is happening and the type of stone that it is forming in. In the dendritic agate (pictured to the left) the dendrite is very clear and fine in pattern. This is a very fine quality of the dendritic agate. Dendrites in Chinese picture stone (pictured below) and in sandstone are a bit larger and not as fine but can be just as interesting.

Stones with dendrite inclusions can be very hard to cut. This is due to the angle at which the dendrites are formed within the stone. If the stone is not cut in the correct spot and at the correct angle, the dendrite will not be seen or will not be clear.

You will find dendrites in all of our stores, set in pendants, earrings, bracelets, and in display pieces.





Geoworld Eduproducts

By: Curtis Sarkin

Kids can discover dinosaurs, fossils, minerals, and bugs with our new collection of educational science products!

Founded by geologist and paleontologist Dr. Stefano Piccini, Geoworld is an Italian company dedicated to creating high quality Eduproducts, including science kits, fossil replicas, and various nature gifts. Village Silversmith is pleased to offer a wide variety of products from this distinguished company at many of our stores.

Dig & Discover

These fun science activity sets include everything you need for your very own excavation. The kits include necessary digging tools and mineral bricks containing unique treasures. Numerous kits are available with various items to dig for, including genuine space rocks, fool's gold, and marine fossils, as well as miniature dinosaur skeleton replicas and much more.

Dinosaur Fossil Replicas

Geoworld offers a wide variety of dinosaur fossil

replicas. The tooth and claw collections feature life-sized fossil replicas from several dinosaurs, including familiar types such as *Tyrannosaurus rex*, *Velociraptor*, and *Triceratops*, and many unusual types including *Carcharodontosaurus* and *Ornithomimus*. These fossil replicas are available both individually and in collectors' sets and include information about each dinosaur.

Bug's World

Bug's World is a collection of genuine beetles, scorpions, spiders and other invertebrates. These are available in a collection of resin blocks that include a full color information card. Bug's World also has sets of collectible transparent marbles with various genuine invertebrates inside.

These and many other Geoworld Eduproducts can be found at several Village Silversmith stores. We have an especially large Geoworld collection at our Northshore Mall location in Peabody, as well as many items at our Bearskin Neck and Tuna Wharf locations in Rockport.



Summer Block Parties!

Every summer on Main Street in Gloucester there is a series of block parties on weekend nights. They include music, food, shopping and tons of fun and best of all it is free for everyone! Village Silversmith stays open extra late on these nights so come have some fun with us! The dates and times of these parties are as follows:

Saturday June 19 6pm - 11pm

Saturday July 17 6pm - 11pm

Saturday August 21 6pm - 11pm

Friday Sept 3 6pm - 11pm

Also, **August 5th-August 7th from 9am-5pm** is the Sidewalk Bazaar on Main Street in Gloucester. This is the only time Village Silversmith does sales! We will have merchandise



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SILVERSMITH

www.villagesilversmith.net

For All Inquiries:

Call Us:

978-283-8811

Email Us:

contactus@villagesilversmith.net

Visit Us:

In Rockport, MA

20 Bearskin Neck

6 Tuna Warf

27 Dock Square

In Gloucester, MA:

138 Main Street

In Peabody, MA:

Northshore Mall

210 Andover Street

Find Village Silversmith on the Web!

Get up to date information on gemstones, fossils, new jewelry styles and new ventures of Village Silversmith Ltd. and Sierra Madre Mining Company.

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Not Able to Visit Our Stores?

Check our website for our trade show dates to see if we're coming to an area near you!

www.villagesilversmith.net/ShowSchedule.ivnu