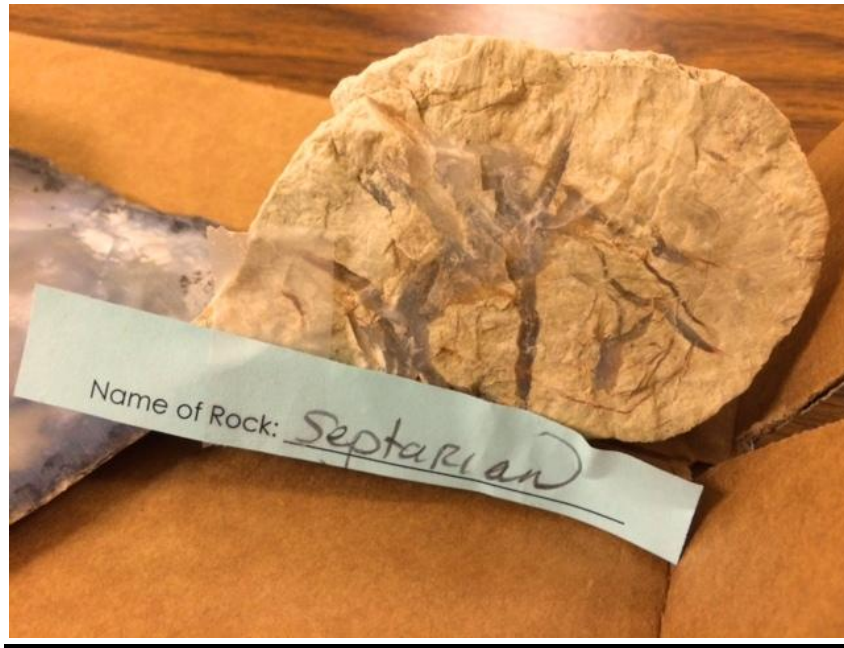


Septarian



This unusual specimen showed up at the Swap Meet. It has a sort of similar design as a thunder egg, and perhaps a similar formation method although formation of Septarian is not clearly understood. The word “septarian” comes from the Latin “septum,” meaning divided into chambers..... just like the septum of your nose divides your nose into nostrils! Septarian is a concretion. A concretion is a hard, compact mass of matter formed by the precipitation of mineral cement within the spaces between particles, and is found in sedimentary rock or soil.^[1] Concretions are often ovoid or spherical in shape, although irregular shapes also occur. Look at these enormous septarian concretions on a beach in New Zealand!



Septaria are usually within concretion specimens of pelitic (clay, mudstone) and are characterized by radiating and polygonal patterns of veins. These may even be harder than the host pelitic rock and stand up like ridges as the host rock erodes.



The veins are often calcite but the ones in this specimen had almost a blue milky appearance of chalcedony. Polished Septarian is very unusual and beautiful and is sometimes called Dragonstone

