Rock Talk

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August 2016

Rock Talk

August Club Meeting Program

As of the publication deadline we were not informed of the August meeting program. If we are notified about the program before the meeting, we will contact members by email and post the information on the club website. *editor*

Fossilized Horse Hoof

by Dorwin Skinner

Kelly Johnson brought a fossilized cannon bone from a prehistoric horse to the June meeting. Of course I had to have it to finish the mount that I started in March. The bone was a different color than the bones I had, so it was Kiwi shoe polish to the rescue. In short order it closely matched the rest of the leg bones. I tried to continue using museum putty on the mount but it just wasn't strong enough to hold that much mass together. I needed something that was

Bent nail in the limestone base

Continued on page 3 .

The Club Meeting

as I saw it

by

Dorwin Skinner

The August Meeting

I'm not sure, but I think the meetings are getting bigger and better. I can't wait until this fall when all of our snowbirds return. When I arrived, things where already in motion. Dave Davis was setting up the polishing machine, Melodye and Michael were setting up the DVD projector, and several small groups were looking at specimens that members had brought in. Joseph Riedel had another amazing piece of jewelry featuring fire agate and opal. Mark Moore had his Geiger counter and it wasn't long before Jim Betts was on the polisher working on a cabochon. Our youngest member, Layney Brewer had a couple of nice specimens of calcite. By her smile you could easily tell she was proud of them. Kelly Johnson brought in some fossils. All of this and the meeting hadn't even started. Since Ralph was not there I put myself to work setting up the refreshments and making coffee. At the end of the meeting I noticed most of the refreshments were gone but there was still plenty of coffee. Maybe I need to work on my coffee making skills. At the last meeting Ralph had asked me help with chairing the meeting if necessary. Melodye saved me from a fate worse than death and chaired the meeting in Ralphs' absence. Look out Ralph, Melodye did a great job. At the end of the meeting Melodye started the DVD presentation on Emeralds. Mark More set up his Geiger counter and checked the radioactivity of several specimens. Dave Letasi had one dinosaur bone that was slightly radioactive. Jim Betts was hard at work on the polishing machine to finish his cabochon. It seemed like only a few minutes had passed and the DVD came to an end and it was time to start cleaning up. It was then that I noticed my coffee had not been the hit of the evening. Oh well, maybe Ralph will make it next time.

This month's *Rock Talk* cover is swamp bog jasper.
Dorwin Skinner photo

Fossilized Horse Hoof from page 2

thick enough to replace the natural cartilage but strong enough to hold everything together. I resorted to Magic Sculpt, a two-part epoxy putty that comes in different colors. Of course black was my choice to match the bones. The old mounting block was now too unstable and too light to hold the leg in an upright position. I solved that problem by using a piece of limestone encrusted with crinoids. I drilled a small hole in the base of the hoof and drilled another hole in the limestone. By bending a small steel rod and inserting it into the rock I created a mount that could be removed from the leg. The pin is virtually invisible when the leg is in place.

The finished leg

Uintacrinus

Robert Clark photo

Uintacrinus is an extinct seafaring crinoid from the Cretaceous Era (145.5 to 65.5 million years ago), found in Kansas. Its odd discovery location suggests a massive change in the planet's seascape to what we know today. Uintacrinus lived floating along the ocean floor sifting for drifting food particles with its ten six foot arms. This particular group of Uintacrinus floated together with the tides over time causing them to clump together into a loose colony, using their arms to link together. Colonies of this sort could reach into the hundreds and although the cause of death for this particular herd is unknown, it is speculated that they died almost in unison, either from volcanic ash or disease. Whatever force of death took this colony, it caused a mass burial producing this stunning fossil record.

Sternberg Museum of Natural History
Hays, Kansas

July Club Meeting Photos

Melodye takes over

Fire agate and opal by Joseph Riedel

Members watching the “Emeralds” DVD

Layney Brewer and her calcite specimens

Joseph Riedel

Looking at samples.

Calcite

Polishing

The real meeting.

Photos by Dorwin Skinner

Next Meeting, Wednesday August 10th 7:00 at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

An Inexpensive Rock Grinder and Polisher

by Mike Stone

A while back, Dorwin Skinner contacted me with information about an assortment of rock grinding abrasive disks he bought on eBay.

http://www.ebay.com/itm/181992188516?_trksid=p2057872.m2749.l2649&ssPageName=STRK%3AMEBIDX%3AIT

The disks are designed to grind and polish large slabs of stone, such as granite and marble or concrete. Peg and I were impressed by his description of the disks, their low cost, and the fact that Dorwin was able use the disks to polish the surface of a rock specimen. So we bought a couple of disk sets for less than seventeen dollars each. The grit sizes in each set are (2) #50, (1 each) #100, #200, #400, #800, #1500, #3000, and #6000. Plus a hook and loop-backing pad drive disk. The drive pad has a standard 5/8-11 thread.

The pad and grinding disks are designed to be used with a four-inch or four and a half inch offset (angle grinder). According to the specifications they can be used either wet or dry. One problem with the offset grinder is that they generally spin at 10,000 RPM, whereas the disks are rated at a maximum RPM of 4,500.

Attempting to grind and polish a small rock or gem would be a bit tricky using a hand grinder, and the mess made by the spinning disk and water would be difficult do deal with, so I thought about ways in which to support the spinning disk, shield the user from the water spray, and limit the RPM to 4,500 RPM or less. This is what I came up with.

I bought a Harbor Freight eight-inch grinder/buffer on sale with a twenty percent off coupon, reducing the original price of $79 to the sale price of $59 and with the coupon to $36. I removed the grinding wheel and shield and the cloth buffing pad from the grinder/buffer and replaced the buffing pad with the four inch drive disk, since the threads on the right spindle are 5/8-11 (The left side are also 5/8-11 but are left handed.) I used a plastic bucket from a 96 ounce margarita mix and drilled three mounting holes and a center hold for the arbor and attached it to the right side of the grinder/buffer. I found that using washers tended to distort the bucket, so I made a spacer plate out of 1/8-inch thick aluminum to replace the three washers between the bucket and the grinder/buffer.

Since I wanted to use water as a lubricant and for cooling the work piece, and to minimize dust, I adapted a piece of ¼ inch clear plastic hose to fit on the end of the faucet in the barn sink. The other end of the hose fits through a 5/16-inch hole in the bucket and directs the water onto the spinning disk.

Operation is quite easy, but there is a bit of water spray that gets on our hands, arms, and clothing if we stand too close to the open end of the bucket.

This grinder/polisher is adequate for small to medium size specimens. Rough grinding surfaces that are not flat or have large irregularities takes a lot of time. To produce a high level of shine, a final polish is required after using the #6,000 grit disk.

If anyone would like to know more about how I converted a Harbor Freight eight inch buffer-grinder, contact me or wait until we attend a club meeting in the fall.

Examples of the first use of the rock grinder/buffer.

http://www.harborfreight.com/8-inch-bench-grinder-buffer-94327.html

Club Website
www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Brad Smith

We have been fortunate to have access to Brad Smith's "Bench Tips" in our monthly issues of Rock Talk for quite some time.

Bradford Smith is a studio jeweler, lapidary, and jewelry instructor based in Santa Monica, California. His teaching career started with eight years in the Los Angeles school system. In 2009, he designed and built a new jewelry facility at Santa Monica's Adult Education Center where he continues to teach Adult-Ed classes in beginner to advanced jewelry fabrication. Brad works with silver, gold, exotic woods, bone, fossil ivory, and meteorite.

Brad is a long-time member of the Culver City Rock Club, the Metal Arts Society of Southern California, the ASPCA, and the Virginia Horse Show Association.

Brad also enjoys photography, scuba diving and robotics, develops web sites, and moderates several jewelry making and rockhounding discussion groups on the Internet.

Examples of Brad's work.

corkscrew

filigree

knife

pendant

Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith

Bench Tips for Jewelry Making **and** ***Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry*** **are available on Amazon**

Sheet and Wire Storage

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you will have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of metal sheets were generally stored in various plastic bags and the wire was in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 gauge fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of metal sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient to use when I want to take my metal sheets to a class or a workshop, and it's colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop !

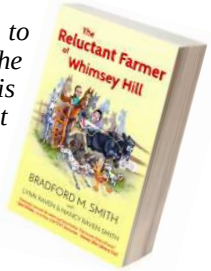
Little Balls

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little sectons, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.

But there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. When you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round pieces roll to the bottom. Bag the good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.

"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon



"As a personal note, I'm excited to tell you about my family memoir. "The Reluctant Farmer of Whimsey Hill" is the true, light-hearted love story about a city boy (me) moving to a farm where dealing with my new wife's crazy rescue animals almost did me in. If you enjoy a good pet story like "Marley and Me" or "All Creatures Great and Small", take a look at the sample chapters on Amazon. http://amzn.to/1XoblsP Brad Smith."

Correction

Linda Spaulding brought to our attention that there were errors in the answers to the Rock Quiz in the July *Rock Talk*. **Question #1**, Rocks are made of how many minerals put together? The incorrect answer given was two or more, but a rock can be made up of one or more minerals. A rock made up of only one mineral will have individual mineral particles or agglomerates that are all of the same mineral. **Question #2,** How does Igneous Rocks form? In addition to the question having improper grammar, the correct answers were; When magma on the inside of the Earth cools and when lava cools outside the Earth's crust.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds—Rock Talk

Monthly Club Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2016

- The meeting was called to order by Melodye Steverson, club secretary at 7 15 p.m.
- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There was one guest (Layney Brewer) and no new members in attendance.
- Dave Davis made a motion to accept the minutes of the June meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Dave Letasi.
- Club treasurer, Janet Wheeler, gave the treasurer's report.

New Business:

- The club rock show was mentioned and it was stated it is in the same place as last year. (Veteran's Memorial Park in Hudson)
- Dave Letasi said the letter for the grant has been sent out. We will not know if it is accepted until next month.

Old business:

None to discuss

- Refreshments for August will be provided by Dorwin Skinner, Dave Davis, and Judith Birx
- The 50/50 was won by Kelly Johnson and he donated his portion to the club.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Janet Wheeler , club treasurer

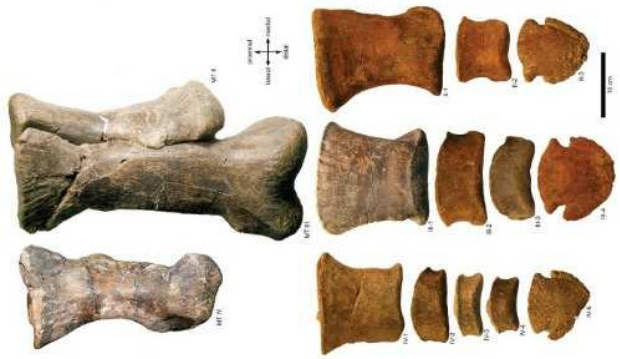
There were 24 members and one guest at the July meeting.

For Sale Items

Club members can post appropriate club-related type **for sale** items in the *Rock Talk* free of charge. Contact your editors by the 25th of the month to have your items posted in the next issue.

Mike Stone
n1ve@amsat.org

At the last club meeting, Mark Moore examined seven samples of dinosaur bone dated from the Jurassic Period to the Cretaceous Period. Three did not show an appreciable amount of radiation. A large toe bone from a duck billed dinosaur from the Cretaceous Period had a fairly strong reading as well as a rib section from a sauropod. A Camarasaurus tail vertebrate showed strong radiation and the hottest was a leg bone (end of tibia) from a meat eating dinosaur from Colorado called Ceratosaurus. The Ceratosaurus leg bone pushed his meter almost half way up the scale. Mark said it was hot enough so it shouldn't be over handled, but is not a public health risk. He believes that meat-eating dinosaurs probably picked up an above average amount of radioactive elements by their diet of dinosaurs that had radioactive elements in their flesh and the skeletal system of the meat eating dinosaurs absorbed an above average amount of these elements.



Duck-Billed Donosur Foot Bones

Show Us Your Stuff

We're always looking for information for the *Rock Talk*. Club members would enjoy seeing other members rock cutting and polishing equipment, display cabinets, projects, and favorite specimens. Take a photo and send it to your editors along with a description and we will be glad to include it in our newsletter.

Camarasaurus tail bones

Ceratosaurus skull

Tuesday Workshop

at the

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

Elaine Alford is giving workshops on wire wrapping (stones), chain making (jump rings) and possibly other related skill at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center in Spring Hill. The workshops are on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon. The cost per workshop is $2.00. To participate in the workshops, one must be a member of the *Withlacoochee Rockhounds*, which covers dues to the *Weeki Wachee Citizens Club*.

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center.
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill FL 34606

Himalayan Salt Lamp

by Mike Stone

The other day we stopped at our mailbox to pick up the mail and found a note from our mail delivery person saying that there was a package for me to pick up at the post office with the word "heavy" printed in bold letters. When I picked up the package there was no doubt that it was heavy and there was no doubt that what ever was in the box was dense, since the box wasn't as big as it should have been considering what it weighed.

When I got home I opened it and discovered a large pink colored rock. At first I questioned if it was a chunk of rose quartz, but then wondered if it could be a huge piece of halite (salt). I quickly ran my tongue over the top of the rock and got my answer… it was salt. After pulling it out of the box, I discovered that a circular wooden base was attached to it and a small lamp socket and a fifteen-watt bulb were also in the box.

The salt lamp is sitting on a solid chunk of polished oak that I made for it. The can of cranberries is for a size comparison.

Ah ha, a salt lamp. Though I had never seen one, it all made sense. I inserted the bulb and socket and plugged it in. The salt glows and produces a very pleasant, pinkish colored light over its entire surface.

Later when talking with my son, who sent it to me for a birthday gift, I was told that the salt light produces some kind of health benefit, in the form of invisible ions.

After Goggling salt lamps I went to Amazon.com and found the following information:

"Pure Himalayan salt works Himalayan natural air purifying salt lamps are 100% authentic, hand-cut and produced in the largest stretch of the Himalayan Mountains known for its infamous pink salt. Our salt lamps feature UL approved power cords, your assurance of the highest standard of safety. Pure Himalayan salt works lamps are beautiful to look at. They also act as a natural air purifier by emitting a stream of negative ions into the air. These bind to positively charged dust particles leaving air fresher and cleaner. Excellent for those suffering from allergies, sinus congestion and stress. Also known to increase energy levels and rejuvenate the body. Each lamp is hand-cut so each lamp is an original work of art. Perfect for home, office and spa. Makes a great night-light. Includes 15W bulb, 6-foot cord with on/off switch. 100% satisfaction guarantee. Size and color may vary due to the nature of rock."

This rock was once two pieces of salt that have been glued together and then drilled for the light bulb.

I found some contradictory information as to the claimed benefits of the negative ions produced by the salt lamp. There is some research that indicates that positive ions can have a negative effect on humans and there might be a benefit to producing negative ions to counteract positive ions that are produced by electronic and electrical equipment around the house.

According to http://blog.golbsalt.com/2012/09/27/healthy-or-hype-himalayan-salt-lamps-negative-ions/

"It [salt lamp] does generate some negative ions, but not nearly enough to cause a change in your environment. You are much better off if you buy a high-density corona discharge negative ion generator. Yes, they do make something with a ridiculously long name like that for home use. The negative ions generated by that type of device in one hour would take a Himalayan salt lamp hundreds of years to produce."

Even though the ions produced by my salt lamp are doing nothing to benefit my health, I enjoy the soft light produced by this naturally formed sedimentary mineral with the chemical formula NaCl (sodium chloride).

For Sale

Lady's Rings

Jasper, goldstone, blue goldstone, agate, rose quartz, amethyst.

sizes 6.5- 7- 7.5

Electroplated silver

$25.00 each

Michele: 352-232-0375

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?

Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

Last month's mineral was barite.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Dues Form, 2016

Please complete the form and bring it with you to the December or January Withlacoochee Rockhound meeting. Attach your membership dues to the form.

Annual Dues: $15.00 for an individual member or $25.00 for a family

Please Print

Primary Member

Last name First Name

☐ **Renewing members check here if no change in information below.**

Additional family members:

Last name First Name

Last name First Name

Last name First Name

Last name First Name

Street Address:

City: State: ZIP

Phone Number(s):

Email Address:

Please give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at the club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to Janet Wheeler 338 Appaloosa Rd. Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost to advertise your businesses in *Rock Talk* is $25.00 for twelve issues—one year . Contact Mike Stone or Peggy Burns to set up an ad in both the club newsletter and our website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS our annual gem and mineral and jewelry show. Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are $25.00 annually for a family and $15.00 annually for a single member

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Drive in Spring Hill. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

2016 Club Officers

President	Ralph Barber	352-200-6852	barbersbloomers@hotmail.com
Vice President	Doug DuPont	352-515-1517	ddupont6@tampabay.rr.com
Secretary	Melodye Steverson	352-683-9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer	Janet Wheeler	727-938-3644	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editors	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns	603-524-0468	n1ve@amsat.org
Club Web Master	Mike Stone	603-524-0468	n1ve@amsat.org
Mailing Reporter	Janet Wheeler	727-938-3644	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Program Coordinator	Melodye Steverson	352-683-9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Education Chairman	Gloria DuPont	352-515-1517	ddupont6@tampabay.rr.com
SFMS Stamp Program	Audrey Stead	352-688-7821	audreyste35@gmail.com
Gem Mine Chairman	Jean Casanova	352-442-2667	
Sunshine Chairman	Audrey Stead	352-688-7821	audreyste35@gmail.com

Board of Directors: Rovie Alford, Ralph Barber, Doug DuPont, Gloria DuPont, Dave Letasi, Melodye Steverson, Mike Stone, Janet Wheeler