

Rock

Talk



December 2020



Rock Talk



December Club Meeting

We will have an outside club meeting at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center on December 19th at 1:00 PM. The program will be a show and tell...social distancing-style. The restrooms will be available for use. The usual fee of \$1.00 per member will still be in place, and we will have the usual 50/50. See below for meeting requirements and limitations.

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- Free Rock Hounding Tools
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Cover Photo

Megalodon tooth

Megalodon (*Otodus Megalodon*), meaning "big tooth", is an extinct species of shark that lived approximately 23 to 3.6 million years ago (mya), during the Early Miocene to the Pliocene

Our Board of Directors discussed and decided that it is feasible to have a club meeting under the following circumstances:

- We will meet outside on December 19th (Saturday) at 1:00 pm.
- We will be setting up tables and chairs six feet apart in the yard outside the building.
- Masks must be worn.
- Hand sanitizers will be available at each table.
- As usual, you may bring your specimens and wares to the meeting to be sold or swapped.
- Money can be exchanged with distance kept in mind.
- Rocks can be handled (use sanitizer) (and no rock licking!).
- No food sharing. Bring your own food and drink for yourself or family.
- If you are sick or not feeling well, please stay home
- If you fall into the high-risk category please stay home

Message to Former Club Members

Hello former members! We miss you and would like to see you again. So we are offering something special for you. If you were a member for 2019 or before and did not renew for 2020 we would like to help you pay your club dues for 2021. If you come back and pay your dues for the year 2021, the club will give you \$5.00 off. That's \$5.00 off your dues for all you get from the Rockhounds club for the whole year. We are having an outdoor meeting/sale/rock swap on Saturday, December 19 at 1:00 pm at the Weeki Wachee Sr. Center on Toucan Trail in Spring Hill. Masks are mandatory and hand sanitizer will be on each table. No shared food or drink, but feel free to bring something for your family. Bring rocks to swap or rock related items to sell if you'd like. Come and find out what's new. Oh yes, and check out our YouTube channel – go to YouTube and type in Withlacoochee Rockhounds . COME BACK AND SEE US! WE MISS YOU!

Former members will receive a \$5.00 discount on their 2021 renewal membership, which will be \$20.00 instead of \$25.00 per person. *JB*

The December meeting, Saturday, December 19th at 1:00 PM

Free Rock-Hounding Tools and free rocks

by Roberta Oldread

Judith, Melody, Ginny, and I rolled down to Cape Coral on Wednesday, November 4th to pick up rock-hounding equipment that was being donated by Vicki Smith. It all started out when Vicki Smith emailed the Withlacoochee Rockhounds club website. Mike Stone sent out an email to club members, letting people know that the rock-hounding tools were available to anyone who contacted Vicki.

I saw the email late at night and texted Vicki. She immediately responded and told me that no one had contacted her about her generous offer of the rock-hounding tools that she and her husband had used over the years. I made arrangements with Judith and the four of us rode down to pick up the stuff. We also found that they were going to leave many rocks behind when they move. Vicki told me that we were able to take any rocks from her yard. As you can see from the photo, we filled the bed of Judith's truck with rocks and the rock-hounding tools. There was a six-foot long pry bar, several rock picks, several rock hammers, several varieties of chisels and two hard hats.

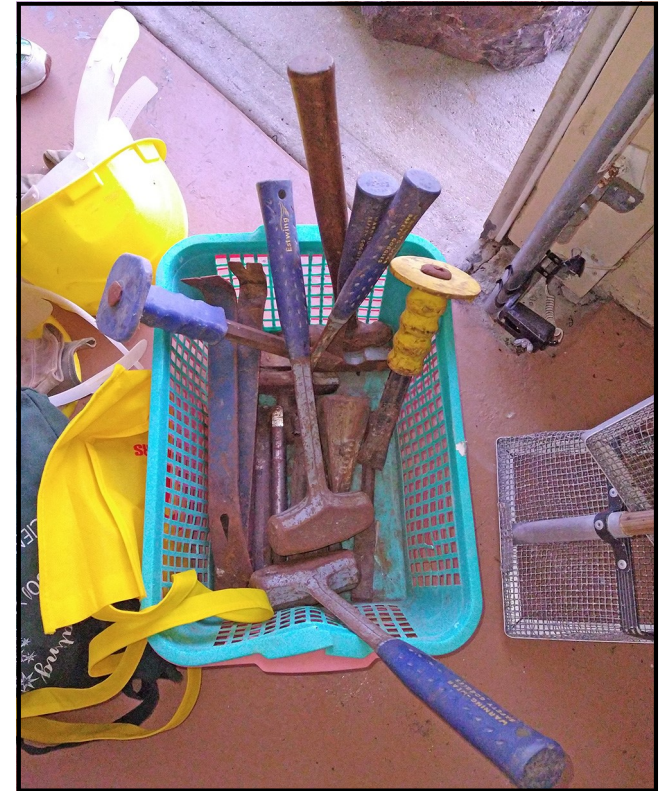
After meeting with Vicki and receiving her generous donations we ventured off to Sanibel Island looking for shells and sharks teeth. Unfortunately we didn't find any sharks



Roberta and Vicki



Truck full of rocks and tools



Rock hounding tools



China Launches Moon Mission to Bring Back Lunar Rocks

Information from www.nytimes.com

Late this November, China launched a mission (Chang'e-5) to collect up to four pounds of rock and soil from the moon. The lunar lander will drill a hole over six feet deep and extract material. If all goes as planned, the lunar soil will be transported back to the Earth for study. editor

It has been four decades since lunar samples were brought to Earth, and the Chang'e-5 spacecraft's bounty could have great scientific value.

If Chang'e-5's journey to the moon and back is successful, China will be the third nation to bring pieces of the moon back to Earth. NASA astronauts accomplished that feat during the Apollo moon landings, as did the Soviet Union's Luna robotic landers, ending with Luna 24 in 1976. Those samples made major contributions to the understanding of the evolution of the solar system, and planetary scientists have waited eagerly for the day more samples would be brought back to Earth.

In this century, so far only China has successfully put robotic spacecraft on the surface of the moon: Chang'e-3 in December 2013, and Chang'e-4, which in January



2019 became the first spacecraft to land on the far side of the moon. Chang'e-4's rover, called Yutu-2, is still operating, studying lunar geology nearly two years later.

The entire Chang'e-5 mission, from liftoff to the recovery of the rock samples, will be over in less than a month.

After the spacecraft enters orbit around the moon, Chang'e-5 will split into two: a lander will head to the surface while the other piece, an orbiter, waits for its return.

Once it gets to the surface, in about a week, the lander needs to accomplish all of its drilling and scooping tasks within a single lunar day, which lasts 14 Earth days. The lander is not designed to survive the frigid dark lunar night.

The Chang'e-5 lander includes a small rocket, and before the sun sets it will blast off with the rock and soil samples. This rocket will rendezvous and dock with the part of the spacecraft that remained in orbit. The samples will be transferred to the orbiter for the journey back to Earth.

The sample is scheduled to land in the Inner Mongolia region of China in the middle of December.

Chang'e-5 aims to deliver more than four pounds of specimens back to Earth. In the 1970s, three successful Soviet Luna missions brought back a total of about 10 ounces of moon. NASA's Apollo astronauts lugged back 842 pounds of moon rock and soil. Scientists are still studying the Apollo and Luna samples.

The landing site is a volcanic plain called Mons Rümker in the Oceanus Procellarum region on the moon's near side. For planetary scientists, rocks collected from this region promise a glimpse of a much younger part of the moon. The places explored by Apollo and Luna were all more than three billion years old. Mons Rümker is

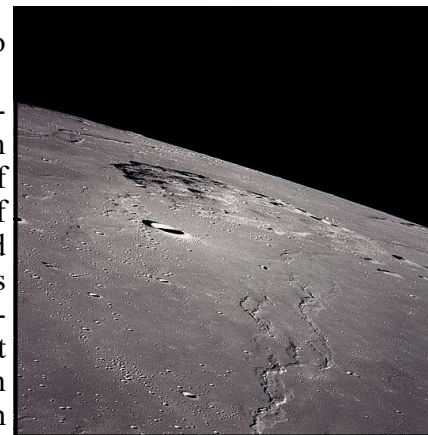
estimated to be around 1.2 billion years old.

Planetary scientists hope that rocks brought back by Chang'e-5 can calibrate a crater-counting technique used to estimate the ages of geological surfaces on the planets, moons, and asteroids throughout the solar system.

A young surface is smooth and almost unblemished, while an old surface is more heavily cratered. But until Apollo, counting craters provided only relative ages; scientists could tell that one place was older than the other but not exactly how old.

The eastern half of Mons Rümker is a plain of basalt — a rock of hardened lava — that is relatively crater-free, suggesting an age not much more than one billion years.

Scientists also want to understand some of the differences in composition of varying parts of the moon, and the samples might also explain how part of the moon was still molten some three billion years after



Mons Rümker

it formed. For example, they want to see whether rocks from Mons Rümker contain high levels of thorium. If the moon's upper mantle in this region contain an abundance of that radioactive element, which generates heat as it decays, that might have produced the volcanism that spilled lava onto the surface before cooling into the basaltic plain.

Secretary's Report

by
Melody Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 11-17-2020

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Mark Moore, Melody Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Mike Stone, Roberta Oldread, Ginny Steverson, and Lynn Walters. Also in attendance; member Michael Steverson.

- The Board meeting started at 6:38 pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.
- Club president Judith Birx previously distributed the meeting agenda via email.
- Mark Moore made a motion to accept the last meeting's minutes, seconded by Roberta Oldread, passed.
- Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report subject to audit, seconded by Mark Moore, passed.
- Club president Birx suggested that we have a club meeting outside the senior center on Saturday, December 19th at 1:00 pm. All the details of what would have to happen to make this safe as possible for attendees were discussed at length. After all ideas had been brought up, Mark Moore made a motion that the Club hold the December 2020 monthly meeting on the grounds of the Weeki Wachee

Board of Directors Meeting

The December Board of Director's meeting will be on **December 15th** at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Senior Citizens Club on 12/19/2020 at 1:00 pm, observing the following guidelines: masks are required at all times; hand sanitizer will be available on each table; maintain a six foot separation from others; no shared food or drinks (you can bring something for your own group/family if you wish). This was seconded by Lynn Walters, and passed by majority vote. Members and former members may bring rocks to show, sell or swap, as long as they observe a safe distance and make use of the hand sanitizer. There will be a 50/50 at the meeting. The clubhouse will be open for bathroom use. We will need a few members to volunteer as a cleaning crew at the close of the meeting.

- The jewelry class for December was canceled by majority vote of Board members.

New Business

- The Election for our 2021 officers and board members has been under discussion by the Board and a decision was made. Ballots will be sent out by email from club secretary Steverson. Members will then press "Reply", and agree to the list of candidates by typing YES, or disagree to the list of candidates by typing NO. Then hit "Send" which will send your vote to club secretary Steverson who will count and record the results. A motion to carry out the election in this fashion was made by Mark Moore, seconded by Roberta Oldread, and passed by the Board. At this time there are no contenders for any positions.
- Per the agenda was a discussion regarding how to regain members that didn't renew for 2020. After much discussion, it was decided to offer non-renewing 2019 members \$5.00 off of their dues for 2021. President Birx made the motion, seconded by Janet Wheeler, passed by the Board. Plans for regaining former members will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Club secretary Steverson brought up the topic

of rock collections being offered to the club. When asked about past protocol in this situation, former club president Ralph Barber stated that the club had been offered collections in the past and the Board had decided to buy the collection with club money. The collection was then either saved and sold as individual pieces during the annual gem show or sold as individual pieces to club members during monthly meetings. All proceeds are to benefit the club.

- In recent history, some collections offered to the club have not been handled in this manner, which resulted in revenue loss for the club. Due to this over-site, Board members decided to vote -in the process that has been in place since the inception of the club, as standard operating procedure for any collections offered to the club.
- Vice President Mark Moore made a motion: "When a rock/mineral/fossil collection is offered for sale to the Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club, either via the website or contact with Officers, Board members, or general members, an officer must be notified and two Officers/Board members must assess the worth of the collection. If worthy of purchase, members of the Board must be contacted by phone to give consent for the expenditure. After the purchase, the Board must decide whether to save the collection for the gem show or to sell it, or parts of it, to members at the meetings." This motion was seconded by former club president Ralph Barber and passed by the Board.
- A discussion regarding the January "party meeting" has been tabled until the next Board meeting.
- Club president Birx encouraged members to make appropriate videos to be added to the club YouTube channel, to educate and entertain our members during the COVID-19 separation.
- Our next Board meeting will be on December 15th at 6:30pm, on ZOOM.

Continued on next page

The December meeting, Saturday, December 19th at 1:00 PM

Secretary's report from pervious page

- Lynn Walters suggested we purchase an unlimited ZOOM membership for \$200 per year. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The meeting ended at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted by club secretary Melodye Steverson

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors
Emergency Meeting - Minutes
11-28-2020**

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Mike Stone, and Lynn Walters. Also in attendance; member Michael Steverson.

- The Board meeting started at 6:36 pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.
- Club president Judith Birx stated that this meeting was being held due to some confusion regarding the club dues for 2021.
- Club president Birx also stated, "In October of 2018 our club members voted to raise yearly club dues to \$20 for adults and \$5 for children under 18 for the year of 2019. At that meeting, Vice President Mark Moore donated \$100 to cover dues for any children joining our club.
- About the same time, the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center Board decided to raise their yearly dues from \$10 to \$20 to create a maintenance fund for care of the building. Our club treasurer Janet Wheeler and club president Birx got together to come up with an alternative plan, which along with club secretary Steverson, presented to the Senior Center Board of Directors. We informed them that we had just raised our dues by \$5 and could not raise them again at this time. We offered to donate \$500 to the building fund to essentially cover a \$5 "raise in dues" for 100 Rockhounds

club members for the year 2020. This was to cover a \$5 per member increase for the Senior Center, while not increasing the overall dues for our club members who would continue to pay \$20 for 2020. Our Board voted and agreed to the compromise, as did the Senior Center Board. Our club provided \$500 for the building maintenance fund.

- Our agreement with the Senior Center Board was that their yearly dues would continue to be \$15 for 2020 and they would address their dues again at the end of 2020. They have since decided not to raise their dues for 2021, so their dues remain \$15 per year, per member, the same as 2020.
- Now that we are at the end of 2020 and Covid has kept us from meeting, our Board of Directors voted and decided to pay the dues for all members who paid for 2020. This includes the \$15 dues per member for the Senior Center and \$10 per member for our club, which totals \$25 in dues per year, per member.
- Former club members who did not renew for the 2020 year will be charged \$25, however the Board voted to offer a \$5 reduction of dues as an incentive for them to re-join our club in 2021.
- Children under 18 years of age are still being paid for by the donation from vice president Moore.
- As a matter of record: Club president Birx stated, "For the year 2021, we recognize the yearly dues for the Weeki Wachee Senior Center are \$15 per member, per year. Also the Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club yearly dues are \$10 per member, per year. The sum of those fees being \$25 per member, per year. Current 2020 members 'dues for 2021 will be covered by Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club funds.
- Former members of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club will be charged \$20 for membership in the year 2021. New members joining the

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club will be charged \$25 for the year 2021." She asked for a vote from Board members. The vote was a unanimous "Yes".

- Board members Ginny Steverson, Mark Moore, and Roberta Oldread voted affirmative by proxy.
- Some Board members, who are concerned about the fees for the clubhouse, suggested that we find another place to meet. Club president Birx responded that we are set for 2021 at this time and that if deemed necessary by those Board members, a committee could be formed to research another site for our meetings. She stressed that if a suitable location was found, we need to give the Senior Center at least three months notice before vacating.
- Club president Birx made a motion: We will address and entertain any proper opportunity to relocate to another facility (should we find one) no earlier than the end of September 2021 and will give three months notice to the Senior Center Board at that time. Lynn Walters seconded. Passed by majority.
- Board member Lynn Walters made the following motion : Our club should explore opportunities for field trips with proper waivers and procedures in Florida and beyond. Mike Stone seconded. Passed by majority.
- Our next Board meeting will be on December 15th at 6:30pm, on ZOOM.
- The meeting ended at 7:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson

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



Hernando County, FL

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.

Mike Stone
n1ve@amsat.org

Withlacoochee Rockhounds YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCypD_GIEEWcI9R3TWjwd9tQ

New Videos: Mark Moore and Dave Letasi have a short video on the channel about the Spinosaurus they are working on. There is also a video of Judith's recent resin casting class.

If any member wants to be notified when a new video is posted, etc., all they need to do is subscribe to the channel. Once subscribed, click on the bell icon next to the subscribe button. This will start notifications and will alert members when a new video is posted.

Michael Steverson our audio visual director and YouTube Channel supervisor says that we have almost fifty subscribers and would like to have at least one hundred subscribers so we can get a vanity URL that will make our channel easier for users to access.

Warning to Withlacoochee Rock- hound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations. These are **SCAMS**.

Be advised that our club has **never** and will **never** ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monetary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.

CUSTOM LEATHER CREATIONS

&

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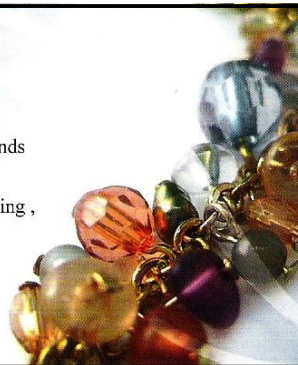


bertahdhugger98@yahoo.com

Jewels by Jude

Judith Birx
Member of Withlacoochee Rockhounds
Judithbirx@hotmail.com
Natural Stone Jewelry, Wire Wrapping,
Crystals, Beading

352-587-1702



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The December meeting, Saturday, December 19th at 1:00 PM

TAU and Israel Antiquities Authority believe copper-producing technology was a closely guarded secret.

Tel Aviv University

A new study shows that an archeological site in the Neveh Noy neighborhood of Beer Sheva, the capital of the Negev Desert might have made the first use in the world of a revolutionary apparatus: the furnace.

Excavation revealed evidence for domestic production from the Chalcolithic period (Copper Age), about 6,500 years ago. The surprising finds include a small workshop for smelting copper with shards of a furnace — a small installation made of tin in which copper ore was smelted — as well as a lot of copper slag.



Although metalworking was already in evidence in the Chalcolithic period, the tools used were still made of stone. (The word “chalcolithic” itself is a combination of the Greek words for “copper” and “stone” .

During the Chalcolithic period, when copper was first refined, the process was made far from the mines, unlike the prevalent historical model by which furnaces were built near the

mines for both practical and economic reasons. The scientists hypothesize that the reason was the preservation of the technological secret.

Refining of copper was the high-tech of that period. There was no technology more sophisticated than that in the whole of the ancient world. Tossing lumps of ore into a fire will get you nowhere. You need certain knowledge for building special furnaces that can reach very high temperatures while maintaining low levels of oxygen.

People who lived in the area of the copper mines traded with members of the Ghassulian culture from Beer Sheva and sold them the ore, but they were themselves incapable of reproducing the technology. Even among the Ghassulian settlements along Wadi Beer Sheva, copper was refined by experts in special workshops. A chemical analysis of remnants indicates that every workshop had its own special “recipe” which it did not share with its competitors. It would seem that, in that period, Wadi Beer Sheva was filled with water year-round, making the location convenient for smelting copper where the furnaces and other apparatus were made of clay.

Even within Chalcolithic settlements that possessed both stone and copper implements, the secret of the gleaming metal was held by the very few members of an elite. At the beginning of the metallurgical revolution, the secret of metalworking was kept by guilds of experts. All over the world, we see metalworkers’ quarters within Chalcolithic settlements, like the neighborhood we found in Beer Sheva.

Society seemed to have consisted of a clearly defined elite possessing expertise and professional secrets, which preserved its power by being the exclusive source for the shiny copper. The copper objects were not made to be used, instead serving some ritual purpose and thus possessing symbolic value. The copper axe, for example, wasn’t used as an axe. It was an artistic and/or cultic object modeled along the lines of a stone axe. The copper objects were probably used in rituals while the everyday objects in use continued to be of stone.

At the first stage of humankind’s copper production, crucibles rather than furnaces were used,” says Prof. Ben-Yosef. “This small pottery vessel, which looks like a flower pot, is made of clay. It was a type of charcoal-based mobile furnace. Here, at the Neveh Noy workshop that the Israel Antiquities Authority uncovered, the technology was based on real furnaces. This provides very early evidence for the use of furnaces in metallurgy and it raises the possibility that the furnace was invented in this region.

It is also possible that the furnace was invented elsewhere, directly from crucible-based metallurgy, because some scientists view early furnaces as no more than large crucibles buried in the ground, the debate will only be settled by future discoveries, but there is no doubt that ancient Beer Sheva played an important role in advancing the global metal revolution and that in the fifth millennium BCE the city was a technological powerhouse for this whole region.

Sent to us by Michael Steverson

Member at Work and Play

Peggy Burns has been wire wrapping while isolating in Rineyville, Kentucky.



Labradorite cabs purchased for one dollar each from Gail's Gift Hut at Howard's Flea Market in Homosassa.



Turquoise pendant.

Scientists discover beautiful blue new mineral petrovite



www.cnet.com

It's not just a pretty face. The mineral could find a use in next-generation rechargeable batteries.

This lovely blue mineral discovered in Russia is named petrovite. Its chemical formula is $\text{Na}_{10}\text{CaCu}_2(\text{SO}_4)_8$

The world of minerals is just as wild as the world of animals when it comes to discovering new specimens.

A research team led by crystallographer (crystal specialist) Stanislav Filatov at St. Petersburg University found a lovely new entry into the world of minerals: petrovite. Petrovite is beautiful to look at, but it could also help inspire advancements in next-generation batteries.

The bright blue mineral comes from a wild place: a volcanic landscape formed by major eruptions in the 1970s and the 2010s in the Kamchatka Peninsula of Russia. This territory is unique in its mineralogical diversity. In recent years, researchers have discovered dozens of new minerals here, any of which are one-of-a-kind in the world.


The mineral is named for another St. Petersburg University crystallographer, Tomas Petrov. The team published a study on petrovite in the journal *Mineralogical Magazine* earlier this year.

Petrovite is particularly interesting because it's a bit of an oddball in its composition and structure. The mineral consists of oxygen atoms, sodium, Sulphur, and copper, which form a porous framework," the university said. "The voids are connected to each other by channels through which relatively small sodium atoms can move."

This means petrovite could be useful as a component of sodium ion batteries, a type of rechargeable battery that could become an affordable alternative to the lithium ion batteries, common today.

Petrovite was born in a fiery place in the wild, but researchers could look into synthesizing a compound with its same structure in a lab for use in battery development. That would be quite a journey from a volcano to powering gadgets in people's homes.

Sent to us by Michael Steverson



Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith

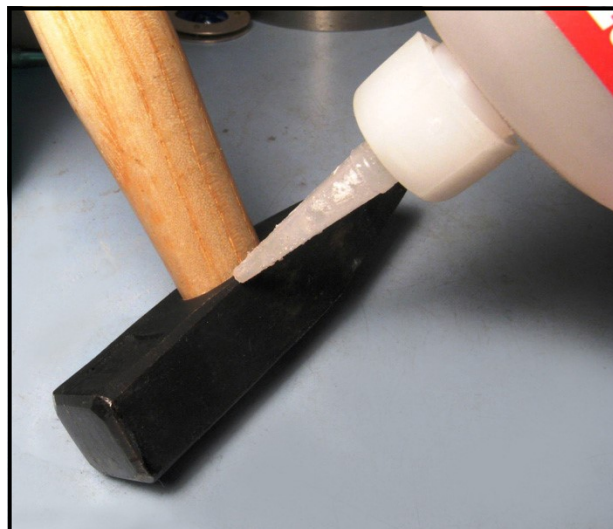
Bench Tips for Jewelry Making and Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry are available on Amazon

Loose Hammer Handle

Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammerhead. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammerhead is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not the gel. It penetrates better. Packages of two superglue tubes are usually available at the 99-cent store.

Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammerhead is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammerhead that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.

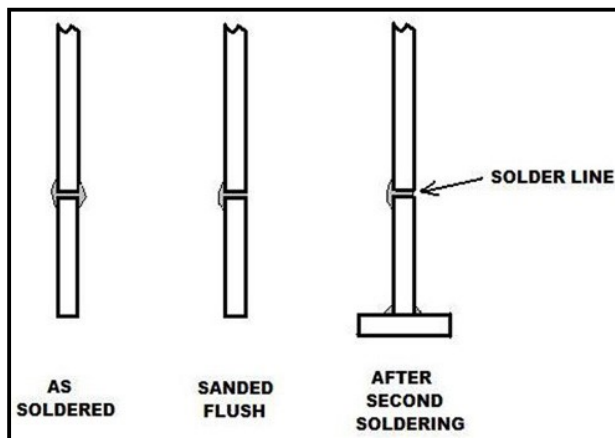


Avoiding Soldering Lines

After finishing a soldered joint on, for instance a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What is happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible, as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.



Templates

Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like <https://www.cooltools.us/> and <https://www.kingsleynorth.com/> sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginko leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template, which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.



Ochre Applicator

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal

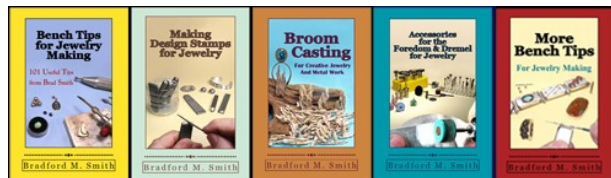
Bench Tips from previous page

well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.



Wishing you happy holidays.
Hopefully 2021 will be a better year.

Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques
with Brad's Jewelry-Making Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's
How-To-Do-It Books

Rock Art Rock Painting

If you are looking for something to occupy your isolation time, how about “rock painting”? One might argue that painting rocks is an act of geo-vandalism or a form petro-perversion. But when compared to sawing a slice from a rare specimen to make a cab or polished stone, painting is less destructive. Paint can be removed from a rock, but there is no way to put a slabbed piece back together. Besides, rock painters are using the naturally shaped and naturally patterned stones to provide a base for their artwork. So perhaps instead of negatively altering nature’s creations, rock-painting artists are enhancing, highlight-

ing, and beautifying them.

There are instruction books about rock painting that not only provide designs and ideas, but their instructions enable the inexperienced to by-pass some of the learning-by-doing and learning-by-making-mistakes that one encounters when trying something new, and enables the reader to produce interesting, unique, and beautiful artwork.

Check out examples of books about how to paint rocks.

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/269090146469738929/>



The Art of Stone Painting

30 Designs to Spark Your Creativity

F. Sehnaz Bac



What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?"

Garnet Crystals



Dendritic Quartz
Sent to us by Michelle Evans

November Rock Talk

MR BEAR
Native American Style Jewelry
Necklaces 🐾 Chokers 🐾 Bracelets 🐾 Rings
Silver 🐾 Turquoise 🐾 Bone
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MadHouseMindWorks@Gmail.com
Other designs offered include:
Wire Wraps, Crystals and
Cast Aluminum Ant Hill Sculptures

Your Favorite Specimen

We are always looking for something of interest for our club members. We're sure many club members have specimens in their collections that would be of interest to others in the club. If you would send us a digital photograph of your specimen we can publish it in the *Rock Talk*. A bit of information such as what it is, when, and where you found it would be great. If you don't have a digital camera, bring your specimen to a club meeting for others to see, and perhaps someone at the meeting could photograph it for the next issue of *Rock Talk*.

Rock Talk editors: Mike Stone and Peggy Burns
n1ve@amsat.org

Dr. Got Rox
Offering: Darryl Johns
polished stones, specimens, slabs, jewelry, fossils, shells, rough stones, and more
5109 Harbinger Rd.
Spring Hill, FL 34608
Text for Appointment
(847) 420-8705
Facebook: Dr.GotRox Email: dr.gotrox@gmail.com

KELLY JOHNSON
MINERALS*FOSSILS*CABOCHONS
FLINTKNAPPED STONE BLADE KNIVES
buy / sell / trade retail / wholesale
...Yes I buy collections, lapidary equipment, etc...
email: KellyMineralsFossils@aol.com
facebook: Kelly minerals fossils
239-940-9773 SPRING HILL, FL

Getting to Know You

Send us a few words about your interest(s) and/or hobby(s), whether or not they are related to rock hounding, we will print them in future issues of *Rock Talk*, and you might find that other club members have similar interests.

Club Members' Business Cards

Club members who have businesses related to any of our club activities can have the images of their business cards posted in each issue of the *Rock Talk*. This is an additional benefit of being a **Withlacoochee Rockhounds** member. You can send electronic images or an actual business card to:
n1ve@amsat.org
or
Mike Stone
4504 Kingston Dr.
Hernando Beach, FL 34607

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DILS, AND MUCH MORE

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etsy.com/shop/gailsgifhut HOMOSASSA, FL. 34446

Rovie Alford
Lapidary Equipment Repairs & Sales
Faceting, Cabbing, Tumblers, Saws and
Silversmithing
Phone 270-999-9144 roviea712@yahoo.com

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
is now on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/withlacoocheerockhounds1/?ref=page_internal



Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

2021

Annual Dues: New individual member, \$25.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00. No charge for paid 2020 members who are renewing for 2021. Returning members from 2019, \$20.00 (\$5.00 discount) for 2021 membership

Check if returning member

Check if current member with change of information

Check if new member

Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name

First Name

Street Address:

City

State

ZIP

Phone Number (s)

Email address:

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

PO Box 5634

Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Renewing 2020 members : No charge for 2021 membership. Please fill out form and give it to club secretary Janet Wheeler or send it to the above address.

Rock Talk

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the
Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club,
3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on
the 2nd Wednesday of each month
from 7:00 to 9:00 PM



of
Hernando County

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in *Rock Talk* is \$10.00 per month. . Contact Mike Stone to set up an ad in both the club newsletter and our website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the *Rock Talk* and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the *Rock Talk* and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
or send to:

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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 \$20.00 annually for adults and no cost for children under 18 years of age.

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.

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	markles@bellsouth.net
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
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Judith Birx (president)
Mark Moore (vice president)
Melodye Steverson (secretary)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)

Ginny Steverson (2021)
Mike Stone (2021)
Lynn Walters (2021)
Roberta Oldread (2020)
Ralph Barber (past president)