

Rock Talk

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October 2017



Rock Talk

October Meeting Program

- The October meeting program will be a silent auction to raise money for the club treasury. Bring anything you have that you can donate to the club for the auction.
- After the business meeting, the rock grinding, cutting, and polishing equipment will be available for members to use.
- We will have the usual snacks and beverages and the 50/50 raffle.

The Meeting as I Saw it



by
Dorwin Skinner
Club Vice President



The meeting that didn't happen.

Irma was coming and the news media was painting a rather bleak picture. It didn't look good for our upcoming meeting, so a decision was made to cancel the meeting. All I knew was that "flight makes right" and I was going to Alabama and watch IRMA on TV. Others headed for Georgia, family homes and one even headed to Orlando. My drive north on US19 had its moments, Homosassa and Crystal River had major traffic back ups. These areas had been previously evacuated but they left their stoplights turned on. With no side traffic we still waited for that green light to turn on. One small town, Inglis, had law enforcement waving us thru their signal light. Once past the Crystal River there was still a lot of traffic but it moved fast. A few gas stations had gas, the lines were long and they were being monitored by law enforcement. I didn't need any gas because I had filled up on Thursday. My problem was that I wanted a meal and almost everything was closed. A few fast food joints had their drive thru lanes open and the lines extended down the highway. I finally stopped at a Citgo and tried one of their previously made and refrigerated sandwiches. Trust me you have to be really hungry to

actually eat one...I ate it. After a few hours we made landfall at our destination in Andalusia, AL. Stores were open and gas stations had fuel. We soon settled in at our nieces' home, turned the TV to a weather station, and enjoyed FREE accommodations with meals included. What more could I ask for?

Our upcoming October meeting should be another good one. I am sure we will have lots to talk about. Make sure your bring "STUFF" for our club auction to be held at our October meeting. Linda Spaulding has already donated a lot of minerals for us to bid on. With no one being scheduled for refreshments maybe I should bring 2 cakes, hmmm, I will have to think about that. I hope to see all of you at our October meeting. Remember bring a lot of CASH. You will want to have it for the auction.

Our Gem Show is Coming

Our annual jewelry, gem, fossil, and mineral show is coming soon (December 1, 2, and 3). Proceeds from the show are used to augment club dues and incidental income derived from club meeting auctions, 50/50 drawing, etc. The money earned from the gem show helps us pay for the use of the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center and helps with other club expenses; provide and maintains club equipment (rock grinding, polishing, and cutting machines, projector, building display cabinets) pays for storage building rent, clerical expenses, meeting expenses, our domain names, website hosting, and liability insurance for club members.

Cover Graphic

Golden coquina is a sedimentary rock that is composed either wholly or almost entirely of the transported, abraded, and mechanically-sorted fragments of the shells of mollusks, trilobites, brachiopods, or other invertebrates. Wikipedia (Dorwin Skinner collection)

To insure success of the gem show we need club members' help. We need people to work at the show. People are needed to run the club sales table and ticket sales. We are in need of items for our club sales table and items for our drawings. A successful show takes time and effort.

Please help out at the gem show by attending the event and offering your services. Help us spread the word, because the higher the attendance we have the more success we will have.

Contact show chairman Ralph Barber, Judith Birx, or Dorwin Skinner if you would like a specific duty for the gem show or if you have any questions about how you can help out.

Our Website

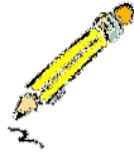
www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Next Meeting, Wednesday, October 11th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Secretary's Report



by
Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes August 9, 2017

The meeting was called to order by club president Ralph Barber at 7:30 pm.

- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There were no new members to recognize.
- There were eight guests in attendance; Marita Begley, Roger Houge, Harry Koener, John Melcher, Barbara Muratore, Cheri Swan and Michael Girwood and his son.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our July meeting as printed in the newsletter, with a correction of the tables for rent at our annual gem show be listed at \$85 each, not \$65 each. This was approved and seconded by Michele Evans and passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

- VP Dorwin Skinner reminded all members that there is a yard sale taking place at the Senior Center next month to help pay for the new roof. Please bring articles to contribute. He also stated that the Wheelers donated a 47" TV to the club to use as needed.
- Linda Spaulding reminded us of the "Touch Table" she will be setting up at our gem show in early December and asked members to bring interesting rocks and fossils for the children to experience. Linda asked for volunteers to help man the "Touch Table" and answer questions for the kids. If you have any ideas for getting children interested in rocks, minerals, and fossils, please contact Linda Spaulding.
- Education chairman, Judith Birx announced that

Jenna Swartzmiller would be creating a Facebook group page for the club. She said there might also be a field trip to Jackson's Crossroads, GA in September. She will keep members informed of any plans.

- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Dorwin Skinner and Dave Davis.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Linda Spaulding seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 20, 2017

- Attending: Ralph Barber, Dorwin Skinner, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Mike Stone (via Skype), Judith Birx,
- Observer; Linda Spaulding
- Board meeting started at 6:30pm and was held at the home of club vice president Dorwin Skinner.
- Club VP Skinner conducted the meeting and began by handing out copies of the financial sheet regarding advertising expenses for the annual gem show. He outlined the Board's choices of venues for advertising the show and the costs involved. These items were discussed and then unanimously approved by the Board. Club VP Skinner was given the go ahead to lock down the ads. He went on to say that member Linda Anderson would be putting our ads in various newsletters in the area. He stated that there is a local magazine that wants to do an article on our club. We will get more info on that at a later date.
- There was much discussion about the gem show; club VP Skinner suggested we use wristbands instead of tickets, that was approved. Members will be asked to distribute flyers. We will put our ads on social media and Craig's List, as well as Bay News 9. The club will have banners made to hang on Mike Stone's trailer, which will be parked on 19 for the week prior to the show. Door prize drawings will be held throughout the show, with the biggest prize left to the last hour of the last day.

- Club VP Skinner asked club president Barber for an accounting of the vendors and tables sold, and how that was going. Club president Barber stated that we have thirty-eight tables sold so far, and expect more. He discussed the layout and said Jerry Johnson will be doing a program at his table about cleaning jewelry.
- Since our "not for profit" status was allowed to lapse, club president Barber and club treasurer Wheeler will work on renewing that status after the gem show, providing we make enough profit to pay for the renewal expenses.
- The Club Nominating Committee will be appointed in October. The nominees will be announced in November, and the annual election will be held at the December meeting. There will be nominations accepted from the floor as well during the election.
- Linda Spaulding was given the floor at this time. She spoke about the progress she is making planning the "Touch Table" for the children at the gem show. She asked Mike Stone to make "kid friendly" club business cards to put in the small bags of rocks she will be giving to the kids. She also suggested the club give a kit (a book and rocks in a bag) to each child that joins our club. She showed us a book that she has used for this purpose in the past, but she can't find them anymore. Judith Birx said she would search to find them.
- The meeting ended at 9:15pm.

Specimens Needed

During our gem show in December we will have an activity table set up specifically for children so they can touch and handle specimens. Also, we would like to give small specimens to children who visit the gem show. Therefore, we are looking for interesting rocks, minerals, and fossils that are large and durable enough so they won't be inadvertently hauled off (five to ten pounds) or broken. We also would like to have small specimens that can be given to young people who visit our display/activity table.

If you have large rocks, minerals, or fossils that can be handled by children at the gem show or small specimens that can be given to children, contact **Linda Spaulding** or **Judith Birx** or bring them to a club meeting.

Linda Spaulding
352-588-0146

Judith Birx
352-587-1702
judithbirx@hotmail.com

October Club Meeting Auction



Specimens from Linda Spaulding's collection that will be auctioned at October club meeting.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
43rd Annual Jewelry Fossil Mineral and Gem Show
 Dec. 1, 2, 3, 2017 9:00AM-5:00PM
withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Featuring:

- Artisan Jewelry
- Gemstones
- Fossils
- Minerals
- Lapidary Equipment
- Educational Displays
- Fluorescent Mineral Display
- Lectures
- Hands-on activities for children
- Famous diamonds of the world










Admission: Adults \$3.00 • Teens \$1.00
 12 and under Free • Parking Free

Veterans Memorial Park
 14333 Hicks Rd., Hudson, FL 34669

Show Chair: Ralph Barber
 352-200-6852

Show Info.: Judith Brix
 352-587-1702

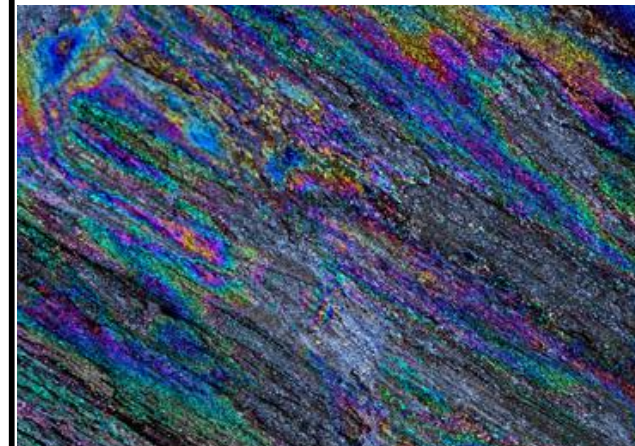
SR50 (Cortez Blvd.)			
Little Rd. (CR1) New York Ave.	Hudson Ave.	SR52	Show Site
			Hicks Rd.

To download color and black and white printable versions of this flier, connect to:

<http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/annual-gem-show.html>

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?" was
Rose Quartz



The answer to this month's "What is It?"
 Can be found on our website.

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com



Hernando County, FL



Opal Expo

Join us during the week of **October 2nd - 13th** for an AMAZING showing of rare and unusual Boulder Opals! One of a kind pieces and remarkable specimens will be available for sale.

This is your chance to own something that is truly one of a kind.

2 weeks Only!

B&D WHOLESALE JEWELERS | 4427 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 125, Tampa, FL 33609
813-289-9303
(Inside the 5/3 Bank Building)

Business Card Size Advertisement

Our club can use the income generated by selling business card size advertisements in our newsletter and website. If you know of anyone who might benefit by advertising in the *Rock Talk*, please contact them and let them know that we can post their ads for ten dollars (\$10) per month. **An ad subscription for one year will include a one-year club membership.** The *Rock Talk* is distributed to more than only our club members, it is available on our website and therefore it has the potential for being distributed to over one thousand readers each month.

Contact newsletter editor Mike Stone at:
n1ve@amsat.org
603-524-0468

Monthly Meeting Kitchen Duties

In an effort to spread the kitchen duties at our monthly club meetings, Katie Schmidt has come up with a sign-up sheet so members can choose when they would like to take over the kitchen duties.

Duty Descriptions


- Arrive by 5:30 PM
- Gather two large Rubbermaid containers from the storage room. The containers are inside the large white wall cabinet, on the bottom shelf on the left side of the cabinet.
- A bowl to contain ice for drinks is either in the same cabinet or located in a cabinet in the kitchen.
- Plug in the electric strip bar in the kitchen, and then plug in the coffeemaker.
- Prepare the coffeemaker. Make eighteen (18) cups for a regular meeting. Use one scoop per two cups of coffee. Start the coffeemaker. *Coffee usually takes 15 to 20 minutes to brew.
- While coffee is brewing place coffee cups, sugar, creamer, and stirrers around the coffee maker.
- Set out waters/drinks and ice bowl. (Ice is in the freezer.)
- Set out disposable saucers, forks, and napkins for desserts.
- Tongs and a large knife (for cutting cake) are in the kitchen drawers.
- Set out the donation can and the framed donation sign.
- After the meeting, clean up and return all supplies from where they came.

Thank You

2017 Kitchen Duty Sign-up

October 11, 2017.....**Gary S**.....**Harry K**
November 8, 2017.....**Jan G**.....**Jenna S**
December 13, 2017.....**Mike S**.....**Barbara M**

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

Layout Tools

Dimensions on some features of a design can be fluid while others must be accurate for the design to work. When precision is important, good layout techniques are essential.

These are the tools that I rely upon to get holes located correctly, to achieve proper angles and to cut pieces to the correct length.

I like crisp sharp lines to follow, so I often coat surfaces with a dark marker and scribe my layout lines onto the metal. A square makes quick work of checking right angles or marking where to cut, and a small diameter center punch helps me place a dent exactly where I want to drill a hole. A good set of dividers is probably my favorite layout tool. The dividers let me quickly mark a strip for cutting, swing an arc, or divide a line or curve into as many equal segments, as I need. I keep at least one set of dividers in every toolbox.



Typical layout tools

Inventory Record

In an ideal world each of us has a complete pictorial record of all pieces of jewelry in our inventory. We use images for marketing, and we use the record for insurance. We use photos to remember which items have been sent out on consignment, or we use them to mark items that we are taking to a show. And eventually we note in the record the pieces that have sold.

Unfortunately, we don't always have time to take good pictures of each piece for a detailed inventory. In situations like this I've been able to make a quick group shot with the help of a smart phone, a camera, a scanner, or a color copier. The quality is more than sufficient to accurately identify the pieces.

Tuesday Workshop at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

The Withlacoochee Rockhounds is giving workshops on wire wrapping (stones), chain making (jump rings) and possibly other related skills at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center in Spring Hill. The workshops are on the **first Tuesday of the month from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon**. The cost per workshop is \$1.00. To participate in the workshops, one must be a member of the *Withlacoochee Rockhounds*, which covers dues to the *Weeki Wachee Citizens Club*.

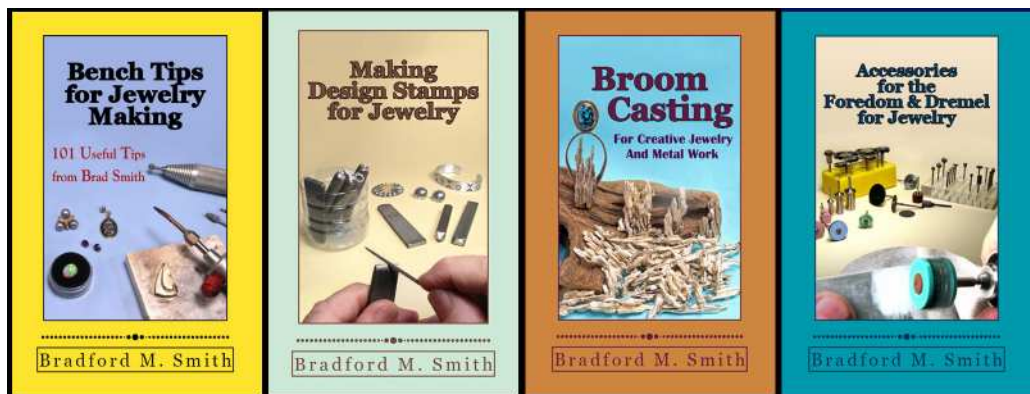
**Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center.
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill FL 34606**

For more information call Judith at: 352-587-1702

**Next Workshop
October 3rd at 9:00 AM**

Newsletter on our Website

The latest issue of Rock Talk will be posted on our website about a week before the upcoming meetings. It can be downloaded to your computer as a PDF file. If any club members currently receiving the Rock Talk via email would prefer to download it from the website, please let me know and I will discontinue sending it to you by email.



Next Meeting, Wednesday October, 11th 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

Complete this form and bring it with you to the Withlacoochee Rockhound meeting.
Attach your membership dues to this form.

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

Please Print Clearly

Primary Member

Last name

First Name

Renewing members check here if no change in information below.

Additional family members:

Last name

First Name

Check if
under 18

Last name

First Name

Check if
under 18

Last name

First Name

Check if
under 18

Last name

First Name

Check if
under 18

Street Address:

City:

State:

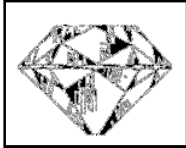
ZIP

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 the club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 5634, Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Rock Talk



His Nibs

Diamonds and Jewelry
Insurance Appraisals
Gemstone Identification
Professional Repairs

Jerry Johnson, G.G.
Graduate Gemologist-GIA
(352) 573-0830

12470 Spring Hill Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34609

Hours: By Appointment Only

5-15

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost to advertise your 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.

RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY
bottle wind chimes

Hernando County Farmers Market
US 19
Spring Hill Fl
352.200.6852
barbersbloomers@hotmail.com

4-15

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

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.

2017 Club Officers

President.....	Ralph Barber.....	352-200-6852.....	barbersbloomers@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	twoantiques2@yahoo.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.....	Judith Bix.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbix@hotmail.com
Publicity Officer.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	twoantiques2@yahoo.com

Board of Directors: Rovie Alford, Ralph Barber, Judith Bix, Dave Letasi, Melodye Steverson, Dorwin Skinner, Mike Stone, Janet Wheeler