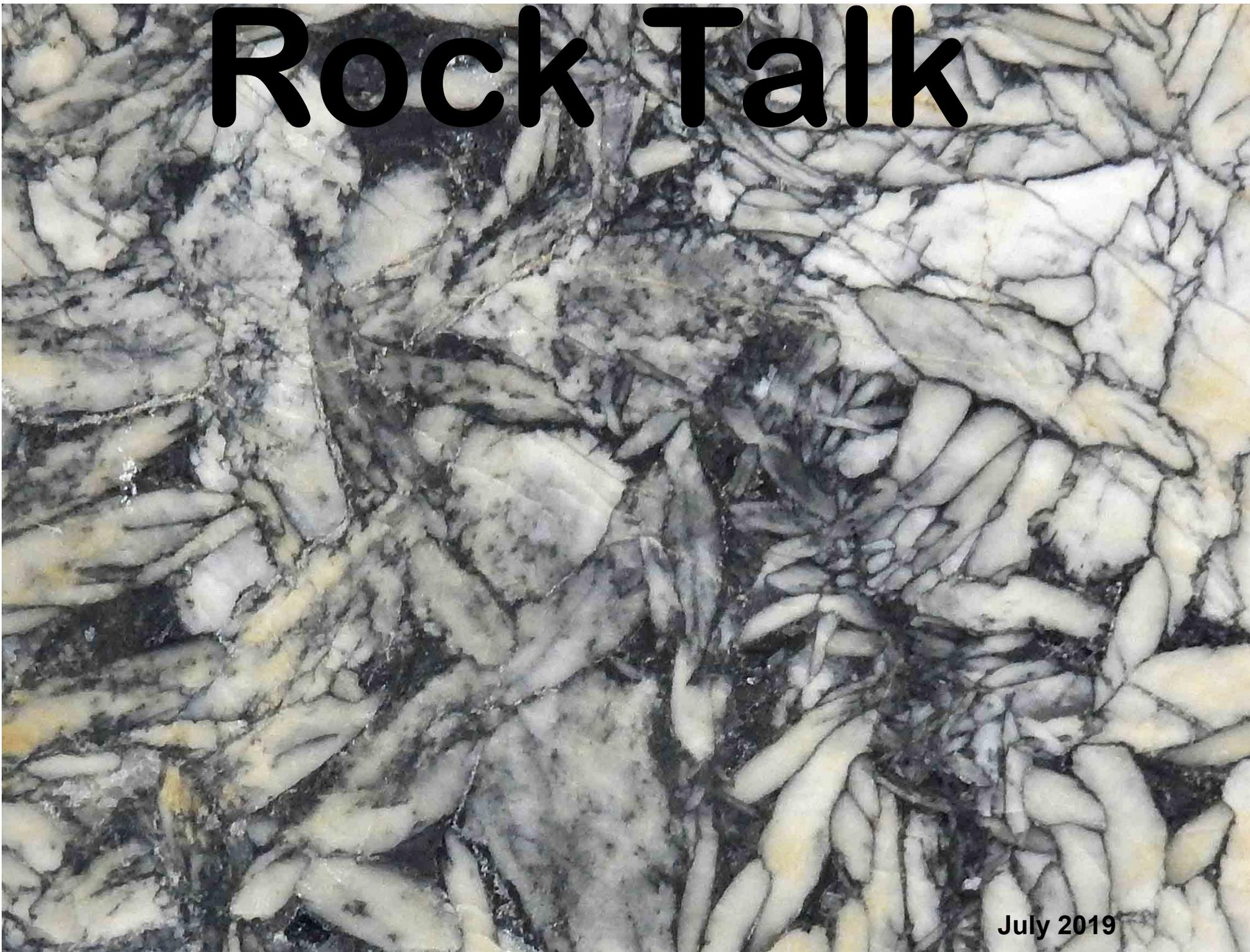


Rock Talk



July 2019



Rock Talk

June 10th Meeting Program

We have not been notified about the July meeting program. Check our website <https://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/>. The program should be listed on our website before the meeting.

In This Issue

- June Club Meeting Photos
- June Jewelry Class Photos
- Getting to Know You
- The David Letasi Report
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- Take a Closer Look
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- For Sale
- Bench Tips
- What is it?

The Cover Photo

The cover photo is rough slab of pinolith jasper. It is a rock composed of magnetite and dolomite and reportedly is found only in Austria.

June Club Meeting Photos

by Roberta Oldread



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

June Jewelry Class Photos

Photos by Judith Birx



Rock Art



My son found this rock on a beach in Massachusetts and it made his day. *editor*

Arrive Early to Our Meetings

On the nights of our club meetings (second Wednesday of the month) the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center is open at 5:30 PM. The rock grinding and cutting machines are set up early so members can use the equipment before the business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 PM. If you have jewelry, rocks, minerals, fossils or equipment to show or sell, specimens to be identified; the best time to do so is between 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM. No equipment can be used during the business meeting or during presentations.

Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members **Sandra Duval**, Hudson; **Beverly McCoy**, Branford; **Samantha Ryan**, New Port Richey; **Ariel** and **Kenneth Russel**, Spring Hill; **Jill Svoboda**, Bushnell.

We now have 100 adult members and 10 junior members.

Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center on **July 16th** at 6:30 PM.

Tuesday Workshop at the

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

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 normally 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
July 2nd at 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

July class will be designing and making gem trees. The class will be taught by Jerri Heer.

Scott Metal Art and Lapidary
Unique Artisan Jewelry
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Bennett Scott

678-642-7953

bscott@scottmetalart.com



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

Getting to Know You

Withlacoochee Rockhound Member Dorwin Skinner

Life beyond rocks and fossils

Awhile back Mike asked for some input about our personal background. To be specific, other hobbies. I am sure that most of you know that fossils are my main rock hound interest and hobby. A lot of you know that I make a pretty good cake. I have even been introduced as “the guy that makes the cake”. No...baking is not a hobby, it just happens to be something I know how to do.

Geocaching, yes that's right, Geocaching is one of my alternate hobbies. It is something I can pretty much do anywhere I go. Some of you might be wondering what is geocaching?

Wikipedia says, “*Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world. A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook.*”

These cache containers come in all sizes and shapes. The smallest I have found was only 3/8 inch in diameter and about 3/8 inch tall. The mandatory log was a tiny rolled up strip of paper with just barely enough room to place our initials. Some containers are the size of a large waterproof Tupperware food containers and a few are even larger. There are millions of caches hidden all over the world. Some are easy and some are almost

impossible to find. Most rest stops along the main highways have at least one hidden cache. When I go cruising, we geocache whenever we are in port.

At present I have found 2,134 geocaches. I have cached in 25 states and 16 countries. It might sound like a lot of caches but many people have numbers that make number sound like a newbie's. My sister has found more than 5000 and one of our rock club members has over 5000 finds. Spring Hill is dotted with geocaches, even Cuba and Russia have them.

I have also hidden many geocaches. For those of you who are familiar with the Weeki Wachee Wildlife Preserve, I currently have 16 caches hidden there. I even have one hidden in Ohio.

Geocaching is fairly inexpensive, all you need to geocache is to download a geocaching app to your smart phone or buy a small handheld device. Once you have your GPS device, download the cache coordinates from geocaching.com and you are ready to go. If you can't find good rocks find geocaches.

Go to <https://www.geocaching.com> for more information.

It will be interesting to read about the alternate hobbies of others. Just write about it, send it to Mike and he will do the rest.

Getting to Know You

It might be interesting to fellow club members to learn about other members' hobbies. If you would jot down a few words telling us about your other interest(s), whether or not they are related to rock hounding, we will print them in future issues of *Rock Talk*



RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY
bottle wind chimes

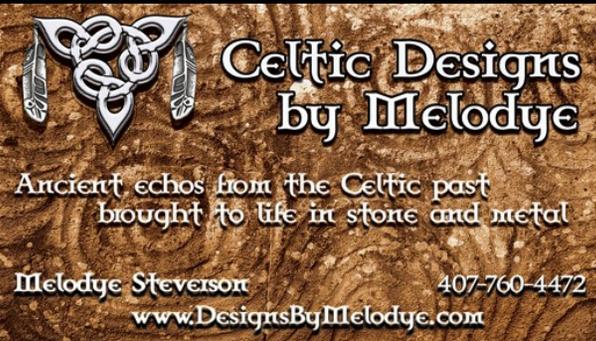
Hernando County Farmers Market
US 19
Spring Hill Fl
352 200 6852
barbersbloomers@hotmail.com



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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www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

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



As some of you might know, I spent three weeks out west visiting numerous museums, rock shops, and national parks with my son Scott. We traveled through twelve western states, visiting many geologically related sites in each one.

We left on April 27th and made it to Louisiana that night, on our way to the University of Texas paleontology lab the next day. I have been working on the restoration of the skeleton of a primitive mammal-like reptile called Dimetrodon. Most folks think Dimetrodon is a dinosaur with a sail on its back. However because of the holes in its skull it is considered a to be synapsid, making it more closely related to mammals than reptiles. In early April, I called Dr. Chris Sagebiel, head of the paleo lab in Austin Texas, requesting to study their Dimetrodon specimens in their collection. He kindly arranged for our visit and set up an appoint-



Dimetrodon fossils at the University of Texas paleo-lab

ment. When we got to the lab, Chris had pulled out many of their specimens for me to photograph and study. Above the work bench we were using were the wing bones of the giant pterosaur quetzalcoatlus from Big Bend, Texas, discovered in the 1970s. I told Scott to take several photos of it.



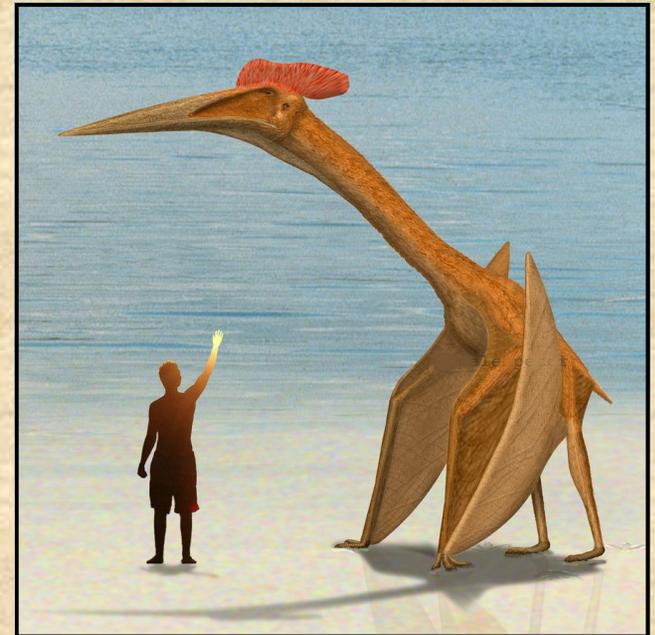
Actual bone elements from the giant pterosaur

Chris asked if we would like to see the actual fossil of it? Of course we said yes. We followed him through the giant warehouse-size lab to the cabinets that contain these rare treasures. We spent nearly an hour studying them and photographing the several bones that compose its giant 18-foot long wing. The pterosaur was the size of a small airplane with a 35-foot wingspan. Chris told us that he is re-studying the specimens that were found at that site and believed that there have been several pterosaur species represented from several partial wings that were recovered. That information will be



Giant pterosaur wing bone reconstruction at the UT lab

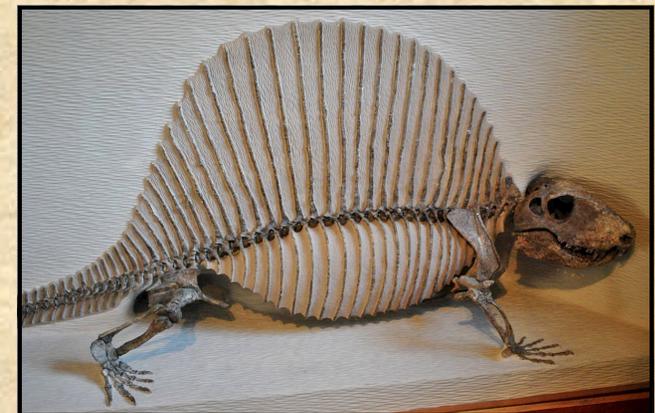
in a new science publication.



Quetzacoatlus, the giant pterosaur from Texas

We continued studying the Dimetrodon fossils that are stored in their massive file cabinets filled with hundreds of fossil bones.

I have also been working with the staff from



Dimetrodon in the Harvard University Museum

Continued on next page

The David Letasi Report

the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They have been providing me with numerous high-resolution photos of Dimetrodon fossils from their collections. I also have been in communications with Dr. Scott Hartman of the University of Wisconsin, regarding the walking stance of Dimetrodon; related to the range of motion in their shoulder and arm bones. My visit in Austin will be extremely helpful in allowing me to restore the nearly 100 skeletal elements from my Dimetrodon

I call it "RUSTY". Rusty was named due to his bones being covered by a coat of iron oxide. His remains had to be soaked in acid to remove the coating. All in all, Rusty will take several years of detailed work before his nearly seventy percent complete remains will be totally repaired. Rusty is not fully-grown, it is considered a juvenile at only six feet long. He could have reached a length of ten or twelve feet as an adult.



Rusty, my dimetrodon under reconstruction

Thanks to the staff of the University of Texas and Harvard University, work will continue on Rusty. He represents only a few dozen partially complete Dimetrodon skele-

tons discovered in North America. I will continue in later newsletters about the many adventures Scott and I had on our amazing road trip. Our next adventure was at the West Texas University Panhandle Plains Museum studying saber tooth cat fossils. Sue and my daughter-in-law Sabrina suggested to Scott and I that we take a vacation together out west. It has become a memory Scott and I will share for the rest of our lives.

I hope you all are enjoying the summer and getting out to search for rocky treasures. See you in July.



View from Airless Space



A Further Explanation

The June issue of the *Rock Talk* featured an article written by Mark Moore entitled "Fire in the Sky". I would like to clarify a possible misunderstanding due to an editing error. A meteoroid as seen in open space appears black in color, so it would essentially be invisible, because there is no source of light to produce a reflection. All one would see is blackness with the sun in the distance...*editor*

Southeastern Gem and Mineral Show

The first annual Southeastern Gem and Mineral Show is scheduled for August 30th through September 2, 2019 in Pensacola Florida.

The show will be held at the main exhibit hall of the Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM daily.

Many exciting exhibits are planned, including an "Ice Age Exhibit", featuring our sabretooth cat, woolly rhino, and more, as well as a kids zone for the children.

Dealer space is available. The entire show is FREE to the public with no charge for admission or parking.

Please see the links below for more information:

WEBSITE: www.segms.org

DEALER INFO: www.segms.org/dealerssheet.pdf

SPECIAL INTEREST: www.segms.org/specialinvitation.pdf

DEALER PRICING: www.segms.org/boothpricing2019.pdf

APPLICATION ONLINE: <http://segms.org/index.php/dealer-application-form/>

APPLICATION BY MAIL: www.segms.org/application.pdf

**Contact Lee Baker, Director
Southeastern Gem & Mineral Show
2172 W Nine Mile Road #356
Pensacola, FL 32534
850-999-9865**

A Worthwhile Stop or Not?

by Mike Stone

It was a hot and sticky afternoon when I headed toward Bardstown, Kentucky to look for a few geocaches. While riding along Route 62, as I was cresting a ridge between Bardstown and Boston, Kentucky, I rode past an unusual outcropping along the side of the highway. I made a U-turn and parked on the side of the road next to an old road cut through very flaky shale.



Parked on the side of the road next to a peculiar looking road cut.



Extremely thin layers of shale.

We've had a lot of rain for the past year or more and water was seeping between some of the microscopic layers of rock. Thin, brittle pieces of shale have been continuously breaking off the ledge, causing it to erode away from the edge of the pavement. I climbed the steep bank and walked along the top of the rock, my feet making a crunching sound as the thin pieces of shale broke under my weight. It was hard to believe that trees were able to grow on the rocky ground. It didn't take me long to realize that I wouldn't be finding any specimens worth bringing home or back to Florida for a club meeting, but the outcropping was so unique and interesting that I was glad that I took the time to stop.



The crunching sound when walking on this shale is similar to walking on broken ice when the temperature is below zero.

Shale and slate are closely related rocks. Shale is a sedimentary rock, formed when layers of clay are compressed and solidified under the weight of rock above. However, slate is formed when shale, under high pressure, substantial heat, and much time is compressed deeper within the Earth. As a result, shale is very brittle and easily breakable; an unstable

rock. Slate, often called flagstone, is much less breakable and can be used as floor and walkway tiles and roofing.



Some of the layers are so thin that they are almost invisible.

Differences between shale and slate

Shale is a fine grained rock or a clastic (denoting rocks composed of broken pieces of older rocks) sedimentary rock, mostly composed of mud which is a mixture of clay mineral flakes as well as tiny fragments or silt sized particles of other minerals that include calcite, quartz etc. The ratio of clay to other minerals is very variable. Slate, which is also a fine-grained, is foliated and homogenous metamorphic rock.

1. *Shale is derived from the original shale type rock that is composed of volcanic ash or clay through a process known as low-grade regional metamorphism*
2. *Shale has many breaks along thin laminae or bedding or parallel layering, which is normally about one centimeter in thickness.*
3. *Slate gives a slightly more metallic sound when hit with a hammer than shale that gives a dull thumping sound.*

Continued on next page

Shale from previous page

4. *Slate is harder than shale; hence it cannot be broken easily, unlike shale that can be broken easily*
5. *Shale has quite a dull look in sunlight whereas slate shines and looks silky in the sun.*

<https://www.reference.com/science/difference-between-shale-slate-a5f30adb90895b40>



Take a Close Look

A few years ago we picked up a rock in the corn/soybean field across the road, here in Kentucky. The small pocket of calcite crystals is what caught our attention, and the reason why we brought it home. Peg put the fist size rock in her flower garden. It wasn't until the other day, after the rock has been weathering for so long that she noticed the tiny oolite spheres making up about half of the specimen. I took a close up photo of the rock and when looking at it in Photoshop, I saw a tiny bivalve fossil imbedded in the upper section of the rock. Can you find it?



Golden Asteroid



An asteroid named Psyche 16, located between Mars and Jupiter, is made of solid metal, including \$10,000 quadrillion worth of gold. NASA will be launching a mission to probe the asteroid in 2022.

Artist's impression

RV Trip Out West – 2004

Peg and I took the motor home from Gilford, New Hampshire to Boise, Idaho and back, shortly after we retired. It wasn't a direct two-way journey, because we spent a lot of time taking side trips by motorcycle to collect rocks and explore the western deserts under the "Big Sky".

I wrote a journal of the trip, documenting our stops, problems with the motor home, weather conditions, physical maladies, rock collecting, and changes in the geography and geology as we crossed the US. One of the photos shows a rock we found containing gold from mine tailings in Idaho. We lost the rock when we moved from New Hampshire to Kentucky four years later.

If you'd like to read the document, "Rock Collecting 2004" from our website, click on the link:

https://mikeastone.weebly.com/uploads/1/0/8/4/108476433/rock_collecting_2004.pdf

editor

For Sale

Coffey polishing machine, used in very good working condition. Has custom built-in watering system with individual water controls to each of the three wheels. The machine comes as you see it with a 100 and 300 grit hard wheels and one flex wheel that you can be fit with whatever grit you need. It is powered by a Craftsman 1/4 horsepower, split phase motor with a new pulley on motor. **\$400.00**

Contact Roberta Oldread
352-302-2487



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

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Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith



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

New Melting Dish

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally

does not have to be repeated. The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to a red color with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle.

When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half-teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over the entire interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat the pouring spout.

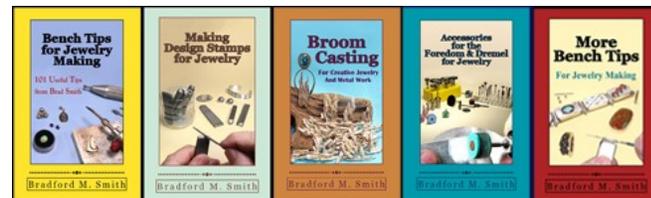
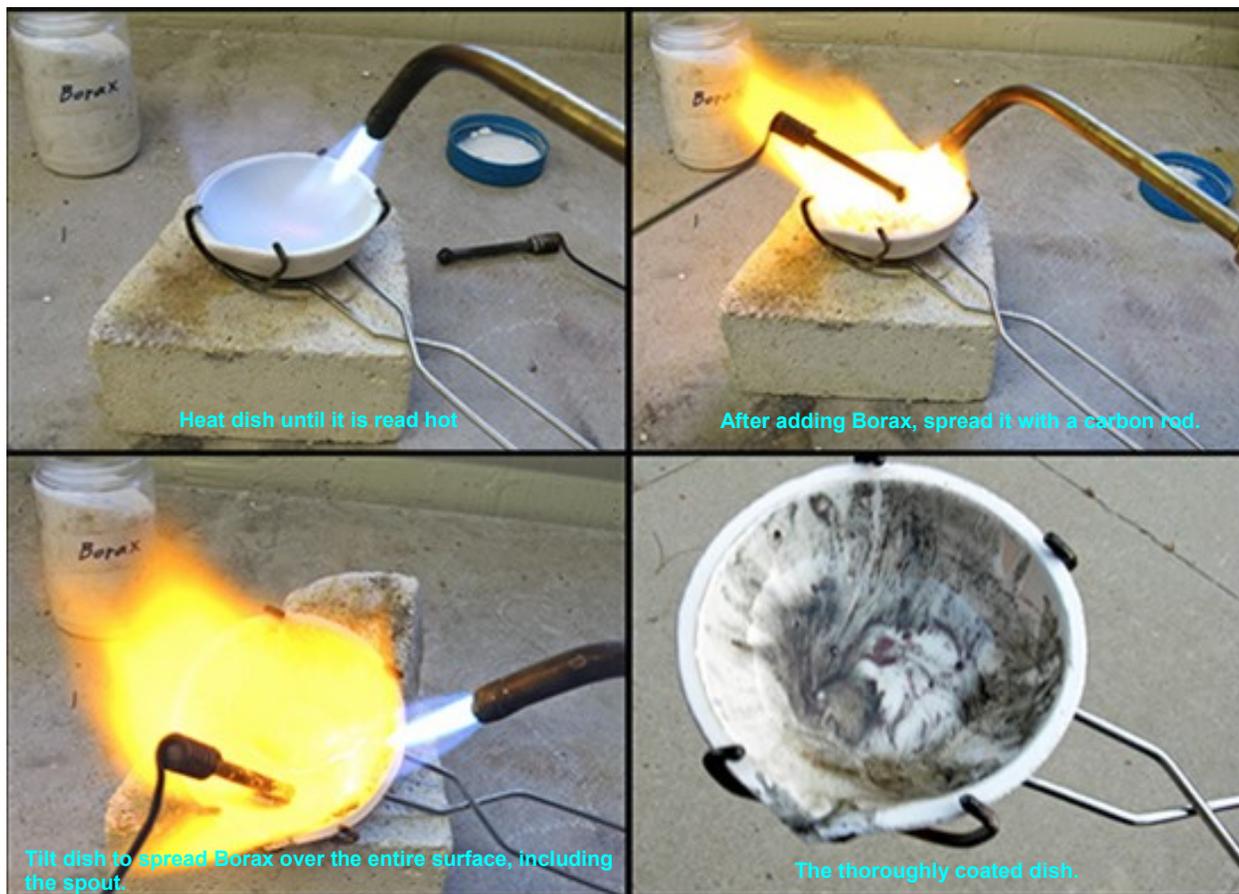
Ring Size Variation

Numerical sizes marked on ring gauges and ring mandrels are often not the same across different manufacturers. If you are using a ring gauge to measure a customer, be sure to compare the markings on the gauge with the markings on the mandrel that you use to make the ring. They might not be the same.

Also, you may have to adjust the ring size for the width of the ring shank. If you are making a wide shank ring, the ring generally has to be a little bit larger in diameter than the ring gauge size in order to get a comfortable fit.

Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books

Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's How-To-Do-It Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Lauren M Bell
Artist/Owner
Facebook.com/MadHouseMindWorks
www.MadHouseMindWorks.etsy.com

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Other designs offered include:
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Next Meeting, Wednesday July 10th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

July Rock Talk



Join us for the
2019 SFMS Workshop
at William Holland

June 9th - 14th, 2019



Please find all the information regarding
classes, registration form and payment at
our new website...

www.sfmsworkshops.org
(click here)

For questions please contact

Kristine Robertson
kristine@kmarella.com
863-640-2887

The Annual Withlacoochee Rockhounds Gem Show is Coming

Veterans Memorial Park
14333 Hicks Road
Hudson, FL 34669
December 6, 7, and 8, 2019



Club member volunteers are needed for the
2019 gem show committee. Sign up at the June
club meeting..



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Email: dr.gotrox@gmail.com

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?

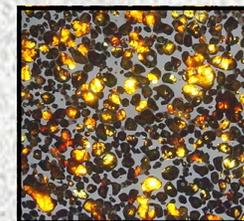


Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?"

Pallasite

A stony-iron meteorite comprised
of iron, olivine silicate (peridot).
They are the most unique and rare
of all the meteorite types



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Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

Annual Dues: Individual member, \$20. 00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00.
Check if new member

Please Print Clearly

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 a
club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:**

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

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



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

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 \$20.00 annually for adults and \$5.00 annually 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.

2019 Club Officers and Appointees

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	markles@bellsouth.net
Secretary.....	Melody 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

Ralph Barber (past president)
Judith Birx (president)
Roberta Oldread (2019)
Melody Steverson (secretary)

Ginny Steverson (2021)
Mike Stone (2019)
Lynn Walters (2021)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)