

Rock Talk

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November 2017



Rock Talk

November Meeting Program

- The November meeting will be a workshop to help Linda Spaulding put grab bags together for the gem show.
 - The cutting, grinding, and polishing machines will be available for member use.
- We will have the usual 50/50 drawings and also a plethora of snacks and beverages will be available.
 - Tables of rocks, minerals, fossils, and custom jewelry to wet the interest of those in attendance.

The Meeting as I Saw it



by
Dorwin Skinner
Club Vice President



I arrived early at 5:30 PM and I still wasn't the first. When I walked into the meeting room, the machines were being set up and the kitchen work was going on. Oh well, I guess I will never be one of the first to arrive. So many snacks were on the counter that I could hardly find room for my offerings. The October meeting reminded me of a vacation my parents took me on when I was fifteen. We went to see the swallows return to San Juan Capistrano. Just like the swallows in California, our Snow Birds return to Spring Hill, Florida. There were Elaine and Rovie Alford, and before long Mike Stone showed up, all coming south from Kentucky. Michael Steverson set up our new TV to show a DVD. And the hall kept filling up. People who I had never seen or at least didn't remember seeing kept coming in. Soon came our youngest recruit, Kate with a big ole smile and a box of rocks. She also had a really nice book that she had acquired. She was really proud of the book and believe it or not, it was all about rocks. Later I heard the unmistakable roar of a Harley Davidson. I looked out the door and sure enough one had just pulled in. Another new, at least to me, person walked in and if I remember right he introduced himself as Bear and said he was interested in

rocks. Shortly more youngsters walked in and guess what? They were interested in rocks too. Lots of samples were out to be looked at. The auction tables were filling up and Kelly Johnson brought beautiful specimens for the 50/50 drawing. Oh yeah, and for the second month in a row, young Kate won a specimen. It was social hour at its finest. We had a visitor that evening but most did not know who she was. Ann from one of the local papers was there to check us out. She was interested in doing an article about our club. She talked to several people and took lots of pictures. Who knows, if this keeps up maybe we will be world famous. By my headcount it was one of our largest meetings ever, 49 people were there.

Soon it was time for the meeting, as some very important things are happening. Our gem show will be here the first of December and we need volunteers for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of December. December is our election of officers for the upcoming year, and a nominating committee was appointed. Hopefully we will get enough volunteers to have a whole slate of new officers. The old ones have done a wonderful job but it is time for others to step up to the plate. The meeting soon ended and the next thing I saw was Melodye Steverson teaching our new young guests how to use the rock polishers. She had them mesmerized, and I am sure we will see them again.

I wonder how many people will be at our next meeting? I know we will be missing a few because some are going to attend classes at William Holland.

Meeting photos on next page

Cover

Fluorescent willemite (green), fluorescent calcite (red), and franklinite (black, not fluorescent).

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.

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 Bix, 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.

Next Meeting, Wednesday, November 8th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center



A busy place before the start of the meeting.



Club treasurer Janet Wheeler hard at work



Examples of projects made by the Tuesday morning workshop students.



Kate showing Dave her specimens.



Newspaper reporter talking with Melodye, and Linda



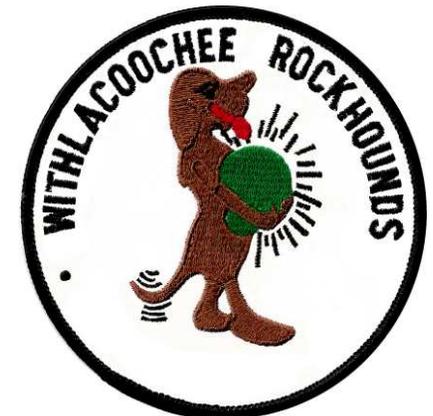
Assorted mica specimens from Massachusetts brought in by John Gajcowski, Roger Houle, and Marita Beezley



Elaine, Judith, and Rovie at the bidding table.



Mark Marchand of GG2 Treasures (Airport Flea Market) with specimens for sale.



Hernando County, FL

Tuesday Morning Workshop

by Dorwin Skinner

The jewelry class was already hard at work by the time I arrived. They were putting beads in the loops that they had created at the previous class. Now those chains were starting to look like something. Of course not everything went perfectly, from time to time beads were bouncing all over the floor. Another thing became apparent, not all beads are created equally. Even though the beads were marked the same size, it did not necessarily mean it was true. One manufacturer's beads would fall out and others would stay where they belonged. Just a slight difference in diameter and one would not work. Well, the group kept at it, and it wasn't long before they had success. Next month the class will be working on a coin necklace. Judith has completed one and is now ready to lead the class on a new project.



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
November 7th at 9:00 AM
Learn how to make a coin necklas**

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

Dissolved Salt

by Mike Stone

A year ago, we bought a couple fist size chunks of Himalayan salt for two dollars each to add to our rock collection. The pinkish colored specimens looked somewhat like quartz or calcite, and we thought they'd make good conversation pieces in our display cabinets. When we returned to Florida last month after spending the summer away, the rock salt specimen had begun to melt. A foot of area around the rock salt was a milky colored brine that had formed in several nearly concentric layers. This liquid contained grits of recrystallized salt and the chunk of rock salt was noticeably smaller than when we bought it. The bottom of the specimen was flat where it had melted on the glass shelf. Obviously, the high temperature and humidity in the non-air-conditioned room was the cause of the meltdown. The mess was cleaned with a paper towels and Windex and the salt specimen was thrown away. If you have a Himalayan salt lamp and you live in Florida, be sure you store it in a cool, dry area.

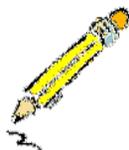


Himalayan salt lamp

Secretary's Report



by
Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes October 11, 2017

- The meeting was called to order by club president Ralph Barber at 7:38 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 six guests in attendance; John Fusco, "Bear", John Gajcowski, Pat and Dan Moran, and Ben Penn.
- Rovie Alford made a motion to accept the minutes of our September meeting as printed in the newsletter, the motion was seconded by Roger Wheeler and it was passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Sunshine Report; Phyllis Able will be out for three months due to her health.
- Dave Letasi is doing OK after his cardiac surgery. He has completed his therapy, has lost weight, is still weak, but is recovering.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

- Judith Birx stood and informed members that there will be an annual election of officers at the December meeting. She said our nominating committee needs help preparing for the election, and asked for suggestions of members to nominate for officers and at least one member to the board of directors.
- If a member wants to run for an office, or knows someone who might want to run, please contact

Judith.

- Judith continued with regard to our gem show in December. We need more volunteers to man the ticket booth, to help set up and/or tear down, and to sit at the club booth. Please sign up now.
- Linda Spaulding will be in charge of the Children's table. She will be creating bags of rocks at the November meeting to give to children at the gem show, and asked members help by bringing small rocks, minerals, and fossils for the grab bags.
- Ralph Barber reiterated; "If you are not volunteering during the show, you will need to pay for admission".
- Next month's meeting refreshments will be provided by Judith Birx, Dorwin Skinner, Julie Lane, and John Fusco.
- John Motzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Gloria DuPont seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by club secretary, Melodye Steverson.

Officers and Board Member Positions

Term limits for officers are generally a good thing for the overall health of a club. It forces its members to step up and assume leadership roles, rather than following the easy path of perpetuating the roles of those currently holding an elected office. We have a nominating committee: Elaine Alford, Judith Birx, Doug DuPont, and Jenna Swartzmiller.

The committee will bring forward a slate of candidates for 2018, to be voted on at the December meeting. We must elect a President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, each to serve a one-year term. Also, we will elect at least one Board member who will serve for three years.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds has many talented people who are capable of leading us through another club year. Those who would like to run for office or become a board member need to contact someone on the nominating committee.

Having your name placed in the candidates' pool

will not guarantee that you will be nominated nor guarantee your election to office. If you want to learn about the responsibilities of a particular position, contact one of the club officers or board members, or connect to our website at <http://www.withlacocheerockhounds.com/> (home page), scroll down and click on Withlacoochee Rockhounds Bylaws.

Elaine Alford
270-999-9144
roviea712@yahoo.c

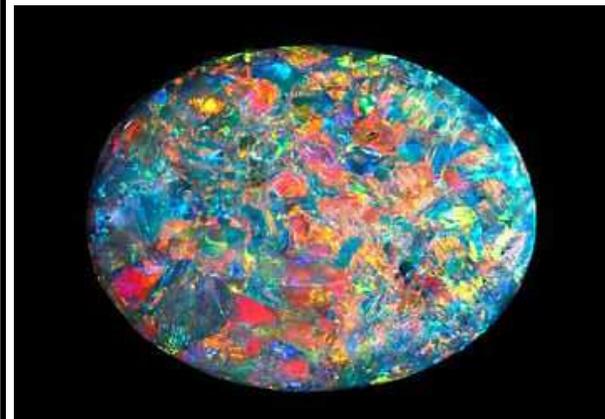
Judith Birx
352 587 1702
judithbirx@hotmail.com

Doug DuPont
352-848-5199
ddupont6@tampabay.rr.co

Jenna Swartzmiller
352 616-8090
jennaanng@gmail.com

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?

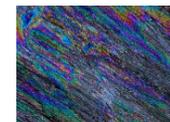


Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?" was
Rainbow Hematite

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

www.withlacocheerockhounds.com





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)

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

Special programs for children on Saturday, Dec. 2nd at 11 AM and 2 PM. See and touch fossils.

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

Show Chair: Ralph Barber
352-200-6852

Show Info.: Judith Brix
352-587-1702



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

November 8, 2017.....**Jan G**.....**Jenna S**
December 13, 2017.....**Mike S**.....**Barbara M**

November Rock Show

November 11-12—MELBOURNE, FL, FLORIDA: Show and sale; Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society, Melbiurne Auditorium; 625 East Hibiscus Blvd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$5; Jewelry, gems, minerals, crystals, fossils, tools and rocks.;

contact Don McLamb, 570 Seabreeze Drive, Indian-antic, FL 32903, [\(321\)-723-2592](tel:321-723-2592);

e-mail: fdjmc@aol.com;

Web site <http://www.canaveral-mgs.com>

To download color and black and white printable versions of this flier, connect to:
<http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com/annual-gem-show.html>

Our Website

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Crinoids

by Mike Stone

Linda Spaulding wants fossils, rocks, and minerals for our gem show in early December. Specimens will be available for the children to see and feel. A special table will be set up for the children so they can learn and ask questions. Also youngsters who visit the "Touch Table" will be given small rock, mineral, or fossil specimens to take with them.

Last September, I went to our favorite section of the Route 313 road cut between Radcliff and I-65 in Kentucky. It had been over a year since we'd visited the area to look for fossils, and during our absence Mother Nature had been hard at work exposing more crinoids. It didn't take me long to spot a few very nice limestone plates containing a multitude of specimens as I worked my way along a gully, created by runoff. Erosion is a rock hound's friend, and as I expected, there were many very nice specimens containing crinoid fossils, however several were imbedded in the surface of limestone bedrock. Some of the limestone would have required a large amount of force (hammer, chisel, or maybe even TNT) to break apart to expose the fossils, but since there were plenty of small plates and hundreds of loose crinoid stems sitting on the surface along the steep wall of the road cut, I didn't have to work very hard to fill my pockets and motorcycle saddlebags.



A huge boulder filled with crinoids.

This section of road, where limestone knobs (steep knobby hills) were cut through, stretches for a few miles. About twenty years ago while checking out these ledges, the only area where crinoids could be found is a small section on one side of the road, about three hundred feet in length. Apparently conditions were just right, hundreds of million years ago, for crinoids to live, die, and become preserved as fossils.



Crinoids for the picking.



Crinoid stems

Painted Rocks

by Mike Stone

At the October club meeting I met John Fusco, who was one of many visitors that night. I asked John about his interest in rocks and he told me that he was new to the hobby of collecting rocks and minerals and wanted to see what Withlacoochee Rockhounds had to offer. He also explained to me that he was involved in a hobby where he finds painted rocks and he also paints rocks and then hides them for others to find.

John told me that he has a large collection of painted rocks, some dating back to the seventeenth century. John pulled a beautiful example of one of his painted rocks from his pocket and handed it to me. He said that I could either keep the rock or hide it for someone to find. I am keeping the rock and it is on display in a bowl of sea-worn rocks from the Northeast that I polished.



Rock painted by John

Some painted rocks have hashtags and/or labels with information about where to post your find on Web. Then you are expected to re-hide the rock so the owner can track its travels. This rock painting, hiding, and finding activity involves about 500,000

people worldwide.

As I was browsing through information about hiding painted rocks, I came across a couple of websites indicating that leaving painted rocks in certain public parks is considered littering, and painting rocks found in some parks is considered an act of vandalism. So choose your hiding places and your rocks carefully. Of course some rock hounds might object to this hobby as being sacrilegious because they feel that painting a rock is desecrating, covering up, enhancing, or manipulating the work of Mother Nature.

If you are interested in the rock painting and hiding activity there is plenty of information on the Web, such as paintedrock-life.com, "The Home of Painting Hiding & Finding Rocks". Remember "Google" is your friend.



Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

Mandrels

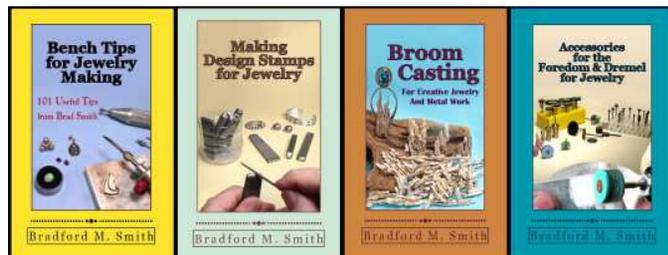
Straight rod mandrels have a multitude of uses in helping to bend sheet and wire, and frequently we need a round rod for winding jump rings. Common sources for different sized rods are knitting needles, wooden dowels, and clothes hangers. Metal rods can also be found in hardware stores and hobby shops. But to get the right "look" in chain mail designs, you must have exactly the right size mandrel, and often those are not easy to find. Jewelry catalogs sell selections of straight rod mandrels for \$50 or more, but my choice is a set of transfer punches used in woodworking. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, and costs only about \$12. In the US it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577, and in Europe, it's available from MZS in the Netherlands as item number 250575.



Just Say No to Optivisors

I was having my annual vision-check and the light-bulb went on: why not have my reading glasses made with bifocals that would magnify the same as the Optivisors? So I asked the ophthalmologist if he could add around +2.00 diopters into bifocals.

He checked with his supervisor and came back all excited. They all agreed that was a great idea and even gave him a special device to measure how far I hold a jewelry piece from my eye, so they could get the focal distance exactly right. So if all goes well, no more sweaty bulky Optivisors! (Thanks to Gary Strickland)



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

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

November Clearance Sale

Jewelry and Collectables

Gemstones, diamonds, gemology reference books and gem and gold scales

Hisnibs Jewelry

12470 Spring Hill Dr.

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

Next Meeting, Wednesday November 8th 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

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 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.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Come to the Withlacoochee Rockhounds monthly meeting and learn about rocks, minerals, fossils, and geology See and touch wonderful and interesting specimens.



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