

Rock Talk



In This Issue

- May Club Meeting Program
- The Meeting as I Saw It
- April Meeting Photos
- April Tuesday Workshop Photos
- April Club Meeting Minutes
- April Board Meeting Minutes
- David Letasi Report
- Kitchen Duties
- Bench Tips
- Membership Form

May 2017



Rock Talk

May Meeting Program

Roger Wheeler will demonstrate making cabochons with our pixie machine and he will demonstrate the use of his small polishing machine (wooden spool set up with six wheels, impregnated with a diamond compound). Roger will be grinding and polishing agates. We will be shown various finished and polished products that he made from a vari-

ety of materials. Roger and Janet will have cabochons for sale, which can be used for wire wrapping.

We will also have a silent auction, so bring in anything rock related for the auction. The proceeds go to our club.

We will have the usual snacks and beverages.

The Meeting as I Saw it

by

Dorwin Skinner

Club Vice President



Just when I think it can't get any better, it does. This was the largest number of people in attendance that I have seen. Forty-four people signed in. Several people brought in specimens to show. John Motzer had some really nice items that he has collected, including dinosaur bones. You know that fossils are what I like and dinosaur bones impress me. Linda Anderson had been collecting at the Vulcan mine. Her collection included some really nice fossilized clams and echinoids. Linda Spaulding's fossilized wood appeared to have been burned before it was fossilized. The outside surface looked like it was exposed to extreme heat. Katie Schmidt was discuss-

ing other specimens with Dave Letasi. Judith Birx was busy setting up the work area for the silver smithing class. The snack bar was set up and the raffle table was becoming covered with items. The 50/50 raffle was won by Dick Drum, I believe the amount was \$55. That's a record amount for our club. There were many things on the raffle table, wind chimes, a dinosaur bone, and even cake. Keep bringing in those donations for the raffle. Maybe some day I will win something. I have tried to bribe Judith, but she still hasn't called my number.

The meeting was called to order, and it was on to the business portion of the meeting. The upcoming field trips to Graves Mountain and the Museum in Gainesville were discussed. The meeting was then adjourned and it was on to silver smithing ring making 101. Judith was the ring-master with assistance from Rovie, Roger, and Dick. A short while later sixteen people had made their first sterling silver rings. It was a great meeting. Next month Roger Wheeler will give a class on making Cabochons. In June we will have a guest speaker from William Holland School of Lapidary.



Linda Anderson with her Vulcan Mine finds.

The Cover Photo

Snowflake (ice crystal)

Is Ice a Mineral?

The word "mineral" is used by geologists for a group of naturally occurring crystalline substances. Gold, pyrite, quartz, calcite, and fluorite are all examples of "minerals."

To be considered a mineral a substance must meet five requirements:

1. naturally occurring (not made by humans)
2. inorganic (not produced by an organism)
3. solid
4. limited range of chemical compositions
5. ordered atomic structure

If we compare the properties of ice to the five requirements of the mineral definition, we find that it clearly meets the last four. However, requirement #1 presents a problem.

A natural snowflake would be considered to be a mineral because it forms naturally in Earth's atmosphere. However, an ice cube made in a refrigerator would not be considered a mineral because it was produced by the actions of humans.

So, ice is a mineral when it forms naturally, but it is not a mineral when people play a role in producing it.

From www.geology.com

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

April Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Dorwing Skinner and Mike Stone



Katie Schmidt, Dave Letasi, and Linda Spaulding examining specimens.



Patti Motzer checks out petrified wood and John Motzer with his specimens.



Work area ready for the silver smithing class.



Linda Spaulding's newly acquired fossilized wood.



Club members participating in the ring making class.



New rings made by Withlacoochee Rockhounds.



Roger Wheeler overseeing the ring making.



Members deep in discussion.



Dennis Brown using the trim saw.



Barbara Clark



Pat Siddons



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes March 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order by club president Ralph Barber.

- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a minute of silent prayer.
- New members in attendance Randy and Gail Erickson, Harry Koerner, JoAnn Melcher-Koerner and Sandy Muratore. All joined our club during the meeting.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our March club meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Mark Moore and passed by all.
- Club treasurer, Janet Wheeler, gave the treasurer report. She gave the breakdown of the two accounts and how the club uses them.
- Old Business:
- Judith Birx reminded everyone about the filed trip to Graves Mountain, Georgia at the end of April.
- Dave Letasi spoke about the field trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. The trip is scheduled for May 13, 2017.
- Refreshments for next month will be provided by Judith Birx.
- Ralph made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 PM. The motion was seconded by Dave Letasi, and it was passed by all.

Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Janet Wheeler

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting April 18, 2017

Those in attendance: Dorwin Skinner, Dave Letasi, Janet Wheeler, Judith Birx, Rovie Alford, Mike Stone, and Roger Wheeler, non-board member

- The meeting began at 7:28 PM.
- Mike reported about sitting in on an audit for another non-profit club. The club had several finan-

cial reports and he needed much guidance to help with the audit. The board felt that since we have so few financial dealings, an audit of our records would be quite simple. After a discussion, the Board decided that we will have a club audit every fiscal year. We will talk about the audit at the September meeting and at that time elicit three volunteers to participate in the audit before the October meeting.

- We are not yet set up for AmazonSmile.
- Dorwin: We need to get more involved in using our Facebook page. Controls are necessary, but we need a few club members who have access and can monitor our Facebook page to allow for appropriate posts. The Board will discuss this with Ralph.
- Gem show vendor list: Ralph was not present at the Board meeting.
- Mike: Should we have a PA system at club meetings? Rovie told us that we have a PA system at the citizen's center and it probably should be used. It would be helpful to have a wireless mic. Dorwin will check out the PA system before the June meeting.
- The Board will look into alternative programs for members, when workshop space at club meetings is limited. However, the activities need to be relatively quiet so as not to disturb the workshop.
- Janet: We need to find an equitable way to provide club meeting workshops for more members, because there are times when more members would like to sign up than we have space. One possibility is to have another workshop, either at the meeting or at another meeting. We cannot allow non-members to participate in workshops because they would not be covered by our liability insurance.
- During club meetings, Janet will be available for dues collecting and other treasurer business until 7:00 PM.
- May Meeting Program: Roger Wheeler told us that at the May meeting he will put on a cabochon demonstration.
- Judith: We need a thank you/ receipt letter for our sponsors. We also need a separate letter for prospective advertisers. Shirley Skinner will compose the letters.
- We also discussed various ways in which to recognize sponsors, such as various levels of sponsorship, certificates, posting in the newsletter and website, and

a thank-you letter.

- We need to have a "sign-in sheet and front door greeter" at each meeting. We will have a signup sheet to insure that we have someone at the front table at each club meeting.
- The next board meeting will be on August 1, 2017
- Discussion of the need for a vendor list for the gem show. We will speak with Ralph, Jerry Johnson, and Kelly Johnson.
- Mike will update gem show vendor registration and the club membership renewal from to show our new Spring Hill Post Office box.
- A portion of the June meeting program will be Scott and Denise Forward from the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. He will talk about the school and classes that are available through the months of April through October.
- The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM
- *Minutes submitted by Mike Stone*





May 13 FMNH Filed Trip

Our Field Trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville will take place on May 13. The parking cost at the museum is \$4 per vehicle and admission is free. The Butterfly Garden is an extra charge if you wish to enter it. Additional information may be obtained at www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu Phone: 352-846-2000.

We will organize a car pool during the May Club meeting, as many are traveling directly to the museum rather than meeting at McDonald's. A map and itinerary will be provided at our May 10th club meeting. The Tour will include information about the prehistoric animal fossils and the prehistoric artifacts featured in their amazing exhibits. All of the fossils in the museum were found in Florida and the museum has one of the top ten vertebrate collections in the country. We will eat at Harry's Seafood Restaurant in downtown Gainesville after the Museum Tour. Harry's Seafood Bar & Grille address is 110 SE 1st.

Those who wish to car pool can meet at McDonalds on US 50 and Bronson Drive in Ridge Manor at 8:30 am. I will talk with all participants to arrange for transportation. We all will meet in the museum lobby at 10:30 am. We will swap drivers' cell phone numbers in case of delays or emergencies.

The Cross Florida Barge Canal

Several of our members occasionally collect fossils at the Cross Florida Barge Canal just south of Inglis. During its construction a sinkhole was discovered just off US19.

Its location of the sinkhole is just west of the US 19 bridge overpass on the north bank of the canal (red circle on map). The south wall of the sink was excavated in 1967 and 1973/4. A large number of rare fossil vertebrates were uncovered which led to a major excavation by the UFMNH Paleontology Department. The fossils included specimens of the first true Hyena ever discovered in North America.

There were the remains of a giant armadillo, two

saber tooth cat species, prehistoric horses, camels and a rare antelope. The site dates to around 1.9 to 1.6 million (Late Blancan North American Land Mammal Age) years old. Fossils have been frequently recovered there over the last 50 years by amateur collectors. The removal of bedrock, Ocala Limestone, from the base of the canal is scattered along the canal banks. This limestone dates from the Late Eocene (35-40 million years ago) and produces many types of invertebrate fossils including several types of echinoids that are popular with collectors. More information may be found at <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/index.php/vertpaleo/home/>, just click on "fossil sites" on the vertebrate collections page near the bottom.

This is one of the few collecting areas left in Florida that allows easy access.

Happy Hunting, Dave



Map of Inglis area and part of the barge canal. Red dot is



Smilodon saber tooth cat jaw found at Inglis



Chasmaporthetes jaw only NA hyena from Inglis



Capromeryx antelope jaw from Inglis

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

May 10, 2017.....Leslie M.....Mark M
 June 14, 2017.....Dorwin.....John S
 July 12, 2017.....John M.....Patti
 August 9, 2017.....Ron P.....Phyllis A
 September 13, 2017.....Bill S.....Leslie
 October 11, 2017.....Gary S.....Harry K
 November 8, 2017.....Jan G.....Jenna S
 December 13, 2017.....Mike S.....Barbara M

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*. Contact number: 352-587-1702

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

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

Our Website

www.withlacocheerockhounds.com

Crinoids

Submitted by Roger Wheeler



Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith

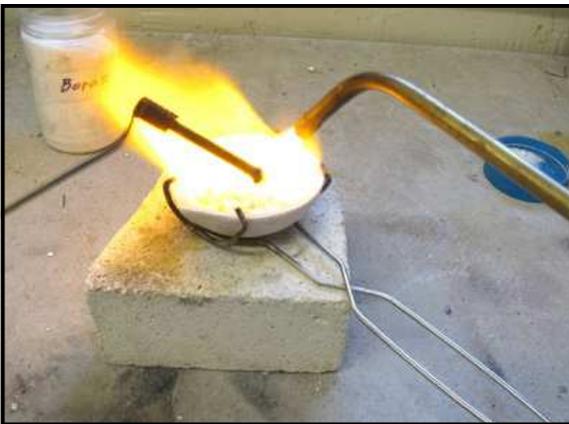


Bench Tips for Jewelry Making and Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry are available on Amazon

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 red 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 over the interior surface of the dish with carbon rod. 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 itself.



Making Filigree Wire

One of my favorite types of jewelry is filigree, and each country seems to have its own variation of it. I love the swirls and the detailed texture of the fine elements. Pieces I've done are generally of the Russian variety. It may look complicated but it really is not. Start with a border of 16 or 18 gauge wire and fill in the interior with swirls of the filigree.

Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here are a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other. I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredoom also works well. Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about twenty-five percent. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.

Cutoff Wheels

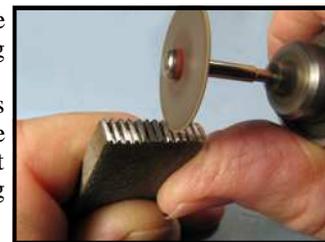
Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drill bit. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your



safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver, and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.



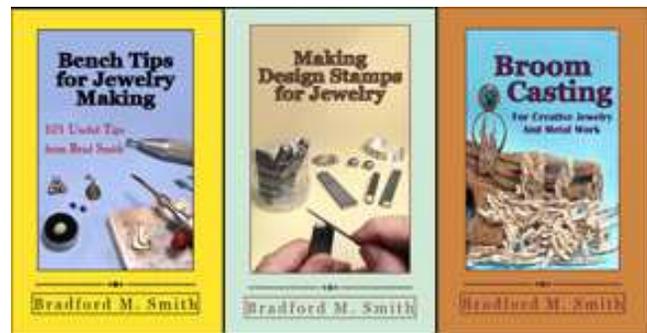
Using a cut-off wheel to slot steel.

Deburring Jump Rings

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chain making, you'll notice that the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It is best not to tumble them with the pyramids for a long period of time, because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

Learn more new skills with:



Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members: **Randy and Gail Erickson**, Beverly Hills; **Harry Koerner and JoAnne Melsher-Koerner**, Hudson; **Barbara Muratore**, Hudson .

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

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

Business Card Size Advertisement

Our club can use the income generated by selling business card size advertisements in our newsletter. 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. The *Rock Talk* is distributed to more than only our club members, it is available on our site and 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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Has a New Address

Our official mailing address is:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

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 is now on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/withlacoocheerockhounds1/?ref=page_internal



What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

Last Month's "What is It?" was a "ruby" crystal



Your Favorite Specimen

We are always looking for something of interest for our club members. We're sure that 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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Dues Form

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

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

Please Print

Primary Member

Last name

First Name

Renewing members check here if no change in information below.

Additional family members:

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Street Address:

City:

State:

ZIP

Phone Number(s):

Email Address:

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