

# Rock Talk

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August 2017



# Rock Talk

## August Meeting Program

Roger and Janet Wheeler will tell us all about their outreach program to bring geological interest to our youth of today. After the business meeting and presentations, 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



Forty-one Rockhounds attended our July meeting. This has to be a record for the middle of summer. Maybe it was Mark Moore and John Motzers' presentations that brought them all in. Maybe it was Mike Stones "Rock Talk" or his web site. Maybe it was the ads that Linda Anderson puts in six different fliers each month. Maybe it was word of mouth, but whatever the magic is I hope it keeps working.

It seems that social time starts earlier every month. I arrive an hour early and when I look at the parking area it appears that I am late. All the



Showtime at the July club meeting

good parking spots are already gone. Maybe I need a reserved sign. It was the same this month. I walked in the door and social time was in full swing. John and Mark had the LED projector already set up for the presentation. Linda and Bill Spaulding had her microscope ready. Judith was catching everyone for the 50/50, but I don't know who set up the snack area.

I got around the group, I set up our new TV, donated by Judith, to show a slide show of minerals.

Ralph got up to start the meeting and that is when I realized I hadn't been doing my job, taking pictures. I had only taken two and I had been there for over an hour.

So I got busy and managed to get a few nice shots for the "Rock Talk". Wow, I couldn't believe the number of guests that came. I am not sure, but there had to be at least seven or eight. Katie was the youngest. She is eight years old and already a seasoned collector. She brought her box of specimens and was only too glad to have Dave Letasi

### The Cover Photo

The cover photo is a close-up of oolitic limestone (oolite), found in Rineyville, Kentucky.

identify them. Judith was wearing her new ring made by Melodye Steverson. It was sporting a large setting made from Lazulite that Judith had collected at Graves Mountain.

First, we had a nice presentation by John Motzer on the club's recent field trip to the museum in Gainesville. Next Mark Moore put on an excellent show on early earth and how minerals and fossils were formed. I know Mark had everyone's attention because they were still asking questions when Judith started flashing the lights to tell us it was time to go home.

Next month Roger and Janet Wheeler will tell us all about their outreach program to bring geological interest to our youth of today. Judith will also give us a demonstration of a microwave kiln that she uses in her jewelry making.

### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Has a New Address

Our official mailing address is:

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

**Next Meeting, Wednesday, August 9th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

## July Club Meeting Photos



Early Social Time



Graves Mountain lazurite ring by Melody



Time to start the meeting



Kate and her specimens

## The Club House Needs a New Roof

by Dorwin Skinner, club VP

On Friday, July 14, I attended a special meeting by the Senior Citizens Center Club to discuss funding for the new roof that the clubhouse needs. They have already arranged a loan and they were tossing around ideas on how to raise the funds to pay the bill. Of course doubling the membership fee was brought up. I wished them the best of luck with that idea because we were already having problems raising our dues to cover our expenses. That would raise our dues to \$25 per person and we still would not have enough money to cover our expenses. I also told them that there are other halls that our club could use that would be cheaper.

Their entire membership is 230, that includes our clubs membership making our club approximately 30% of that total. At the present they are planning on advertising to bring in more clubs and to do a craft and yard sale this fall. I told them I was sure that we would support the craft show and we all have something that we could contribute to the yard sale. Participating in the craft show could help us out. Having a presence at the craft show could help us recruit new members. When

the time comes for the yard sale we will need to give up using the NE corner of the hall so they can store the yard sale contributions for a couple of weeks.

The Senior Citizen Center is a convenient clubhouse, offering us plenty of storage and plenty of room for our meetings. They need our help.

Our club owes a special thanks to Dave Davis. In the name of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds he contributed \$200 to the Senior Citizens Clubhouse roof fund. Dave you have a big heart. Thank you!

### Business Card Size Advertisement

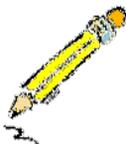
Our club can use the income generated by selling business card size advertisements in our newsletter and website. If you know of anyone who might benefit by advertising in the *Rock Talk*, please contact them and let them know that we can post their ads for ten dollars (\$10) per month. **An ad subscription 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**

## Secretary's Report

by  
Melody Steverson



### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 7-18-2017

Attending: Ralph Barber, Dorwin Skinner, Melody Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Mike Stone (by Skype), Judith Birx, Dave Letasi. Roger Wheeler as Observer; and Linda Spaulding per her request to address the Board.

Board meeting started at 6:43pm and was held at the home of club vice-president Dorwin Skinner.

The Agenda was set as follows;

- \*Advertising for Gem Show
- \*Election of Officers
- \*Ideas for Gem Show Programs
- \*Expanding Facebook page
- \*Yearly Rock Talk ad
- \*Silver smithing class
- \*Linda Spaulding to address Board
- \*Club Dues

#### Advertising:

- VP Skinner called attention to a copy of the Gem Show flyer we have used in the past, compared it to a flyer with new pictures and asked for suggestions for improvement. It was decided that the ad needed a few different pictures that would show well in both color and black and white. Mike Stone will look for new pictures and create a transparent background. On the flyer, there will be a coupon for a free ticket to enter the door prize drawing.
- Kelly Johnson will be provided with a box of flyers to distribute during his shows.
- We will also advertise in the newsletters of Rock and Mineral groups and the SFMS publication.
- VP Skinner produced information from several regional publications detailing how much our ads would cost and how many households they would reach. These will be investigated further and decisions will be made at the next BOD meeting.

- Various suggestions;
- We should have signs posted by the road for a week before the show.
- Have a banner made and display it on the side of Mike Stone's trailer, parked on Hwy 19 for the week before the show.
- Hire "Sign Spinner people".
- Pursue free venues for advertising, i.e. Bay News 9 Community Billboard.
- We should canvas schools, 4-H Clubs, Home School groups, Churches, Scouts and the YMCA.

#### Election:

- The Board agreed on establishing a nominating committee, and discussed several members to ask to be a part of the committee. Several Board members also had members in mind for new officers and board members. Specifics will be ironed out at the next meeting.

#### Ideas for Programs:

- Dave Letasi will present two programs during the Gem Show. One presentation on Saturday and a different one on Sunday. The Board will ask members to suggest other programs for the Gem Show and also for the monthly meetings.

#### Facebook presence:

- It was decided that our club needs a "group" page on Facebook. Judith Birx talked to member Jenna Swartzmiller who volunteered to create such a page.
- Judith Birx made a motion to have Jenna Swartzmiller create and be the administrator of a group page for the Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club. Seconded by Dave Letasi, approved by all.

#### Silver smithing class:

- This will be scheduled and the details researched and reported at the next BOD meeting. Cabochon cutting classes were also discussed.
- A \$2 per hour fee for using the stone grinding machines and use by only members who have completed the Cabochon class was discussed. This would help defray the cost of replacing the grinding wheels and other machine maintenance requirements.

#### Linda Spaulding:

- At this time, Linda Spaulding was given the floor and addressed the Board. She spoke in

regards to our gem show and stressed how important it is for us to reach out to children and have some attractions especially for them. She suggested that we invite Fred Hinderhot to come and share a "Touch Table" where children can come and get hands on contact with different minerals and fossils. She volunteered to help with this endeavor and said they would need three tables, and would ask for "large, unbreakable specimens" from the members for the length of the show. She stated that she would be asking for volunteers from the membership to help man these tables and talk with the children.

- The question of the rock grab bags was brought up. Gloria DuPont is working on them.

#### Club Dues:

- This was tabled for now and will be discussed at the next BOD meeting.
- The matter of the new roof for the clubhouse was discussed. It was suggested that we hold yard sales or craft sales to help pay for the repairs. Further discussion is required after research.

#### Yearly Rock Talk Ad:

- The topic of charges for ads placed in our newsletter was brought up and it was suggested that the charge be \$10 per month for a one-year period, which would include a free one-year club membership for the customer.

#### Other:

- Dave Letasi announced that his presentation on fossils is available on YouTube. A link to this will be added to our website. If you wish to view it, go to YouTube and search for David Letasi.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9:47pm.  
*Minutes submitted by Melody Steverson*

### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 7-12-2017

- The meeting was called to order by club -resident Ralph Barber at 7:20 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 nine guests in attendance; Charlie Blumhardt, Peggy Collins, Sherry Martinec, Cathy Ramsey,

Continued on next page

Sectary's Report from page four

Kira Harris, Roberta Oldread, Ron Payne, Cheri Swan, Mary Ellen Urban.

- David Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our June meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Mark Moore. Passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Sunshine report: Melodye Steverson reported that Bob Jensen, aka. "The Viking" is still having some ongoing health problems, but that he is stable and wanted her to pass on his greetings to all.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business**

- Education Director, Judith Birx, announced that the Board of Directors is actively working on the club's annual gem show. She stated that the tables would be \$80 per six foot table and the show would be at the same location as last year; Veterans Memorial Park in Hudson. She asked all members to put aside some time for volunteering during the show and also asked that we all be on the lookout for vendors to invite.
- Member Linda Parks stood and announced that a meeting was being held at 1:00 PM on 7-14-17 at the clubhouse where we hold our meetings (Weeki Wachee Senior Center) to discuss putting a new roof on the building. She said the owner could get a loan from Suntrust Bank for \$10,000, but the discussion would be regarding how to raise the remaining funds.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Dorwin Skinner, Dave Davis, and Melodye Steverson.
- John Motzer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, David Letasi seconded, passed by all. Meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

## Withlacoochee Rockhounds

43rd Annual

### Jewelry Fossil Mineral and Gem Show

Dec. 1, 2, 3, 2017 9:00AM-5:00PM

[withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://withlacoocheerockhounds.com)

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**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.)		
US 9	Little Rd. (CR1)	Hicks Rd.	Intersecting at
	New York Ave.		
	Hudson Ave.		
	SR52		

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.**

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Last month's "What is It" was  
**Fordite**



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

[www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com)



Hernando County, FL

## Geocaching for Rock Hounds

by Mike Stone

Several years ago, Peg and I put on a geocaching presentation as a program for our rock club meeting. One of our members asked what geocaching had to do with the rock club, and we answered, "Often times while looking for geocaches we come across interesting rocks, minerals, and fossils".



Recently we found an EarthCache in Hardinsburg, Kentucky.

[https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC6404E\\_hardinsburg-sandstone?guid=ebc9d465-d29b-4e99-8beb-f3388e8bf9ad](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC6404E_hardinsburg-sandstone?guid=ebc9d465-d29b-4e99-8beb-f3388e8bf9ad)

*An EarthCache is a special geological location people can visit to learn about a unique feature of the Earth. EarthCache pages include a set of educational notes along with coordinates. Visitors to EarthCaches can see how our planet has been shaped by geological processes, how we manage its resources, and how scientists gather evidence. Typically, to log an EarthCache, you will have to provide answers to questions by observing the geological location. For more information about EarthCaches visit <http://www.earthcache.org>.*

While at the location of the EarthCache, we couldn't help ourselves and checked out some of the rocks in the road cut as well as the debris that had fall-



Stopped at a road cut in Hardinsburg at the site of an EarthCache.

en off the steep sandstone and limestone wall. It didn't take us long to find bi-valve and very tiny crinoid fossils. None were better than what we had in our collection, but it was nice to be able to combine two hobbies.

Over the years while geocaching, we have found, pyrite, quartz crystals, a partial chert spear point, an arrowhead, canal coal, trilobites, petrified wood, brachiopods, Potomac marble, and many more rocks, minerals, and fossils for our collection. We also met Dorwin Skinner for the first time on a limestone road in the Weekie Wachee Wildlife Preserve. We were all looking for geocaches.



Small, but nevertheless fossils found while geocaching.

## Upcoming Shows

**October 6, 7, and 8, 2017**

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society  
Rock, Mineral, Gem, and Jewelry Show  
Florida National Guard Armory  
Orlando, FL  
[www.cfmgms.org](http://www.cfmgms.org)

**October 13, 14, and 15, 2017**

Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society  
Kerbela Temple  
Knoxville, TN  
[www.knoxrocks.org/gemshow.html](http://www.knoxrocks.org/gemshow.html)

**November 4 and 5, 2017**

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club  
Plant City Strawberry Festival Expo  
[www.tampabayrockclub.com](http://www.tampabayrockclub.com)

**November 18 and 19, 2017**

Gem & Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches  
South Florida Fairgrounds Expo Center East  
West Palm Beach, FL  
[www.gemandmineralsociety.org](http://www.gemandmineralsociety.org)

**December 1, 2, and 3, 2017**

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County  
Veterans Memorial Park, Hudson, FL  
[www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com)

## 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

August 9, 2017.....**Ron P.**.....**Phyllis**  
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**

## Micrometeorites

by Mike Stone

Dave Letasi's article about meteorites in the July Rock Talk was very interesting. It was also coincidental, because I had recently been trying to find micrometeorites (MM) in our swimming pool, using a very strong magnet. I found a few tiny pieces of slightly magnetic rock, but nothing that resembled melted or partially melted MM when I looked at them under the microscope. They looked very much like the tiny rocks used on asphalt roof shingles, and could have simply blown off the house. They looked nothing like the photo below.



Porphyritic olivine micrometeorite (0.3 millimeter) with a nickel/iron bead in the front. Found at Høvik Verk, Bærum, Norway, May, 2017 by Jon Larsen. Photo: Jan Braly Kihle/Jon Larsen.

The Earth is constantly being bombarded with extraterrestrial material. Some are large chunks that can do substantial damage when they impact the surface, but the vast majority are very small, dust to grain size MMs (50µm to 2mm). In other words some are as small in diameter as the thickness of a sheet of paper.



Micrometeorites on a penny

It is estimated that approximately 2,000 tons of this cosmic dust reaches the surface of the Earth each year. That sounds like a large amount, but on the average only one MM per year falls on every square yard of the Earth's surface. Scientists believe that these MMs come from the Solar System and are products of asteroids, comets, and fragments from our Moon and Mars. Nowadays scientists collect most MMs from polar snow and ice.

You can find MMs by using a strong magnet. Attach a string to the magnet and place it inside a strong plastic food storage bag. Drag the bag and magnet over the ground to collect magnetic particles. Dry ground is best because it will more easily release the particles to the magnet. Once the bag has several bits and pieces of magnetic material stuck to it, place another bag over the bag with the magnet and the collected particles. Remove the magnet from the inner bag and the particles will fall into the outer bag. At that point you can label the collection location.

The gutters on a building can also be used to collect micrometeorites. Magnets enclosed in a baggie can be placed in gutters or downspouts and left for a long period of time attract MMs.

When processing the collected particles, use sieves of various mesh sizes from 1.5 mm to .4 mm to help sort and remove obvious material (manmade and organic)

that couldn't possibly be a MM.

Next use a strong magnifying glass, loop, or microscope to explore your finds. A toothpick can be used to sort through the pieces. Separate the spherical objects from the other shaped particles. Because the MMs are so small, they become a liquid when they enter the atmosphere at 30,000 miles per hour, and as their entry speed is reduced, they solidify and normally form tiny beads.

A couple advantages of collecting micrometeorites compared to the usual specimens is that MMs don't take up much space in your display cabinet and also burglars can't see them so they won't steal them. I think it would be great to have a little bit extraterrestrial material that we found in our collection.

Information from <http://www.iflscience.com/space/how-hunt-micrometeorites/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Micrometeorite>

There are several videos about finding micrometeorites on YouTube. Here is one example. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MoGaGYNho8Q>

**Central Florida Mineral and Gem Society  
Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry,  
and Fossil Show  
October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Florida National Guard Armory  
2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL  
32806**

**Show time: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm.**

**Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, artifacts, metaphysical stones, cabochons, etc. Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations and Family Activities. Admission: Adults \$5, Students \$2, Scouts in uniforms free.**

**Website: [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org).**

**Show Chairman George Wood**

**321-663-8805**

or

**[geow98@gmail.com](mailto:geow98@gmail.com).**

## Tuesday Morning Workshop

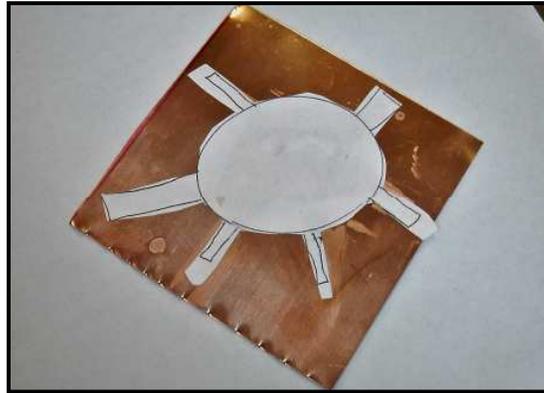
Photos and text by Dorwin Skinner

The Tuesday jewelry class was attended by ten eager students. Katie Schmidt brought in specimens being offered for sale by Jerry Johnson. One was a dark brown specimen of Henanite. When Katie showed it to me we both misread it and thought it said Hematite. I didn't catch my mistake until I looked at the photos. It is in the quartz family and is mined in China. It is identical to Pietersite mined in Namibia. Judith donated a 32-inch flat screen TV to the club. What a difference it made when she used it to show a short video demonstrating techniques. You could actually hear and see it without straining. I think that it will work well at our meetings for showing our videos.

The class activity was making mounts for their cabochons they had brought with them. Just in case someone needed one Judith had extras. Step by step she took them through each procedure needed to complete the mount. There were a couple of eager beavers who kept getting ahead of her. I won't mention any names, they know who they are, don't we Leslie. While Judith gave them the basics, several took artistic license and added their own personal touches to the mounts. I am not sure what next month's class will bring, but there seemed to be a lot of interest in silver-smithing.



Items for sale.



Make a pattern and cut it out.



Final adjustments



Hematite (center)



The finished products



### New Raptorial Dinosaur

Recently a new raptorial dinosaur has been discovered, based on two 71 million year old skull fragments. These remains were named after their origin of location and famed paleontologist Dr. Phillip J. Currie. *Albertavenator curriei* ("Currie's Alberta Hunter") was discovered from specimens at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta Canada. This new dinosaur is believed to be related to *Troodon inequalis* a meat-eating dinosaur with a sickle-like claw on its feet, used for killing prey. These feathered dinosaurs had binocular vision and one of the largest brain-to-body-mass recorded in dinosaur fossil skulls. Although a rather small animal, about turkey to emu size, they are considered apex predators.

During the 1980's, I was fortunate enough to collect in South Dakota, the remains of the foot bones of a Troodontid dinosaur in the Hell Creek Formation. They are believed to be from a dinosaur similar to *Pectinodon bakkeri*. In 1996 a friend gave to me several apatite crystals encased in rock and bone. After nearly a decade of studying and prepping them, I was able to determine that I had five fragmentary hand elements of a large raptor. These hand bones are similar to *Deinonychus* a large raptor made famous by the movie Jurassic Park. The specimens are found in association, northeast of Moab, Utah. They are from an animal earlier in geological age and also somewhat larger. The restored hand was completed in 2016.

Last year Dr. Currie had a museum named after him called the Phillip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum. It was named in honor of his work on Tyrannosaur and Ceratopsian dinosaurs from both Canada and Asia. I had the honor of working on various projects with Dr. Currie, including the designing of the sauropod dinosaurs at MOSI in Tampa, and in 2000 the CT scanning of dinosaur eggs under an In-Kind Donation from the University South Florida Hospital. One of the eggs we were studying was found in a nest with the famous Baby Louie Embryo, therefore we believed our egg might also have had embryonic skeletal remains within its shell. The 18 inch long dinosaur egg and embry-

onic skeleton was recently named *Beibeilong sinensis* and came from a giant oviraptor dinosaur nest discovered in central China. It was featured in a 1990's National Geographic Magazine article. I was very fortunate to have been involved in these raptor discoveries and to work with Dr. Currie.

You may wish to further seek information on these wonderful creatures and sites at:

Discover Dr. Philip J. Currie at [en.wikipedia.org/phil-currie](http://en.wikipedia.org/phil-currie)

Discover *Albertavenator* at [canadajournal.net/science/albertavenator-curriei-new-species-bird-like-dinosaur-discovered-57806-2017](http://canadajournal.net/science/albertavenator-curriei-new-species-bird-like-dinosaur-discovered-57806-2017)

Discover *Troodon* at [en.wikipedia.org/troodon](http://en.wikipedia.org/troodon)

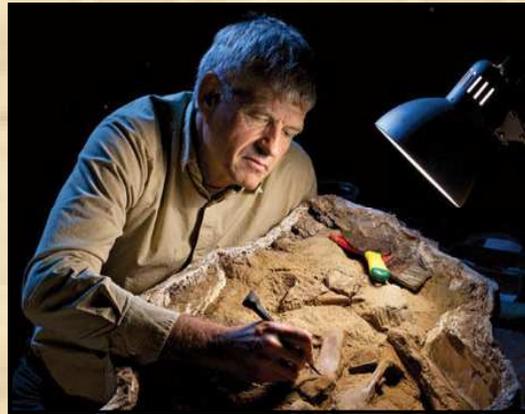
Discover *Deinonychus* at [en.wikipedia.org/deinonychus](http://en.wikipedia.org/deinonychus)

Discover *Pectinodon* at [en.wikipedia.org/pectinodon](http://en.wikipedia.org/pectinodon)

Discover Baby Louie and giant Oviraptors at [scien-cenews.org/baby-louie-fossil-identified-as-new-dinosaur](http://scien-cenews.org/baby-louie-fossil-identified-as-new-dinosaur)

*Keep collecting!*

*See you all in August*



Dr. Phillip J. Currie



Deinonychus-like hand elements, Moab



*Albertavenator c. curriei*



Troodontid foot elements



*Beibeilong* embryonic skeleton from China

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds



## Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

### Find the Balance Point

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it is often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.



Balance tweezers

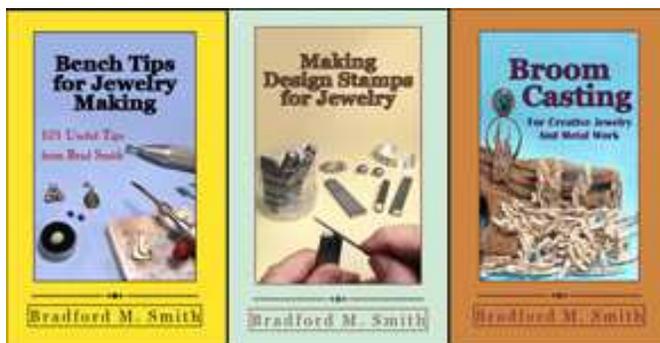


Using the balance tweezers

### Drill Bit Breakage

Using a small drill bit is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it is in the hole. Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill bit against the side of the hole, keeping the bit cooler.



### 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 bring them to a club meeting.

352-588-0146

[wlsPaul@yahoo.com](mailto:wlsPaul@yahoo.com)

## 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**

**Next Workshop  
August 1st 9:00 AM  
The topic will be soldering.**

## 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.



## Our Website

[www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com)

**Next Meeting, Wednesday August 9th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds

## Membership Form

Complete this form and bring it with you to the December or January 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Renew-

ing 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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.....	<a href="mailto:barbersbloomers@hotmail.com">barbersbloomers@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	<a href="mailto:twoantiques2@yahoo.com">twoantiques2@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	<a href="mailto:melodye@designsbymelodye.com">melodye@designsbymelodye.com</a>
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Club Web Master.....	Mike Stone.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Program Coordinator.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	<a href="mailto:melodye@designsbymelodye.com">melodye@designsbymelodye.com</a>
Education Chairman.....	Judith Bix.....	352-587-1702.....	<a href="mailto:judithbix@hotmail.com">judithbix@hotmail.com</a>
Publicity Officer.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	<a href="mailto:twoantiques2@yahoo.com">twoantiques2@yahoo.com</a>

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