Rock Talk

July 2020

Rock Talk

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Cover Photo

Native silver wires with acanthite crystals on a silver matrix from the Hongda Mine. The silver wires are highly lustrous and brilliant with some of the wires displaying a secondary crystallization. The base of the specimen is mostly native silver with scattered acanthite crystals and acanthite micro-crystals. There also appears to be a greenish mineral along the left backside wires that might be sphalerite. The surface patina is golden-brown. From the Hongda Mine, Xiaoqinggou Ag-Mn deposit, Lingqiu Co., Datong Prefecture, Shanxi Province, China. The specimen measures 6.5 cm by 8.2 cm by 3.7 cm (2.6 inches by 3.2 inches by 1.45 inches. Ex. Kevin Ward Mineral Collection Comes with a custom made and labeled display base.

Price $55,000

President's Message

Judith Birx

This year just keeps getting crazier as time goes by. By now you may all know we are not having a club meeting in July. We are taking it month to month. In fact, we are not hosting any meeting or classes in July. The COVID numbers at the time of this letter are climbing.

We are planning to have a Jewelry Class on August 3rd 9am-12pm. The class will be about all your COVID projects that you have done while quarantined. It is a show and tell. Bring your supplies and tools and show us what you have been learning. Bring your masks and keep a safe distance from each other. I will have plenty of hand sanitizer.

We will be planning a Board Meeting on August 4th at 6:00pm at the senior center. The agenda will be on reopening the club meetings safely. Also, on the agenda will be our Gem Show and all the changes that need to be made for it…if we get to have a show this year. Please bring your masks to the board meeting and practice social distancing. I will have hand sanitizer.

Mark Moore will be preparing a program about preparedness during disasters, including hurricanes. This will be at the September meeting, if we have one. Whether or not we will have the meeting will be decided later, but it will give us something to look forward to

I hope everyone is doing well. My family and I are doing fine for now and for that we are thankful. Please continue to send Mike Stone and Peggy Burns your photos and stories to make our *Rock Talk* informative and fun to read.

Hoping to see you all soon.

Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center on **August 4th** at 6:30 PM.

The July Club Meeting Has Been Cancelled

Green Sand Could Reverse Climate Change

From Popular Science

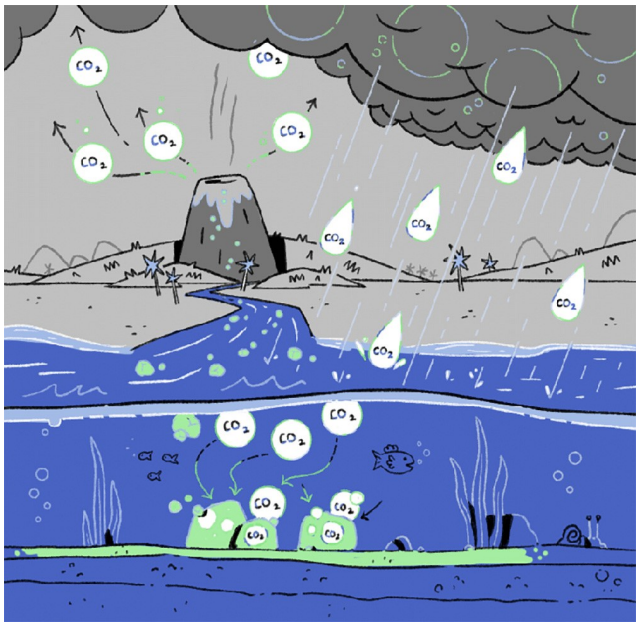
Olivine sand might be able to help slow climate change by reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Olivine is the term for a family of volcanic rocks that includes the gemstone form known as peridot or chrysolite. Olivine can form when volcano eruptions spray magma into the air, where the high crystallization temperatures of magnesium iron silicates allow them to transform into bits of olivine, which are then encased in chunks of lava (often basalt).

Peridot bomb from a volcanic eruption

When waves wash over volcanic rocks like olivine, the water sets off a tiny chemical reaction on the surface called "olivine weathering", and pulls a bit of carbon dioxide (CO_2) out of the air. The byproduct of the reaction is hydrocarbonate (HCO_2), which serves to reduce and regulate acidity in both the human body (such as in Alka Selzer, and also in the oceans.

Once hydrocarbonate (also called bicarbonate) washes into the ocean, organisms consume it and turn the resulting product into seashells and coral structures. "Coccolithophores need carbon dioxide that is dissolved in seawater for photosynthesis, and they need bicarbonate ions in equilibrium with carbon dioxide, to build their calcium shells.



These organisms are capable of ramping up production to pull even more carbon out of the ocean. Indeed, adding more bicarbonate to the mix could increase production of shells and other limestone and calcium-containing components. Grinding the olivine into sand creates more surface area and that in turn speeds up the rate of carbon absorption.

There are many organizations, governments, and individuals working to stop or slow the release of CO_2 in the atmosphere, but there is not enough focus on reversing the existing damage.

Accelerating a natural process that involves nontoxic compounds such as olivine, "enhanced weathering", results in carbon capture. If deployed on just two percent of global shelf seas, this approach could capture one hundred percent of the annual human emissions.

Article sent to us by Michael Steverson

How to Make a Ruby

Here's an interesting video showing how to make a ruby if you have and arc welder.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLV1pPvTplw

Information sent to us by Dorwin Skinner

An Unexpected Find

by Mike Stone

We visited Peg's family in Rineyville on Sunday and I took a short walk down the hill to their pond. Years ago the pond was made by digging out a big depression and then banking the soil taken from the hole around the perimeter. Rocks are constantly becoming exposed as runoff washes fine clay particles down the hill. I pulled a five pound piece of limestone and chert from the muddy clay, turned it over and saw that it contained a large amount of druzy quartz. (*A layer of small quartz crystals that have formed on the surface of a-quartz-based mineral.*) When we returned home, I cleaned the specimen with a blast of water from the garden hose, and exposed more druzy quartz, including pockets running deep inside the interesting specimen. It's a keeper.

Shungite

From http://blog.goodybeads.com/

Blog Post and Information courtesy of Dakota Stones and DakotaStones.com

Shungite is a modern material, the first instance of the name being coined only dating back to 1879. Then, the material could refer to any mineral with shungite inclusions– and at the time, this meant just about any stone with carbon inclusions. Over time, we've been able to identify what makes shungite special– which comes from the biological material it comes from. The name is derived from where it was discovered, like many other minerals — Shunga, Russia, has the largest deposits of shungite. Shungite is also almost exclusively sourced from Russia, and the mineral has been illusive in most other places in the world. What we do know now is that shungite is almost entirely carbon. Carbon is an organic compound, and an excessively abundant element found in the earth's crust. Carbon is also found abundantly within our bodies! We do know that because of this, shungite was likely a prehistoric plant or animal of some kind, that remained buried in the earth's crust for thousands of years, the pressure and age transforming it into a close relative to carbon. We have yet to discover exactly what these organisms were, but they likely came from prehistoric swamps and volcanic ash.

Shungite has a non-crystalline formation, making it brittle in its raw form and very desirable for pigments in paints. Carbon-based black paint has been a new scientific and artistic achievement in the last decade. These paints create a depthless, abyssal black that absorbs all light. Looking at these extremely dark paints have created scientific opportunities, such as hiding satellites from view in the night sky. For artists and Goths, this new black is an exciting opportunity, but these paints have yet to hit the mass market for regular consumption. You may need to wait a little while longer to obtain a piece of clothing that will finally let you become one with the void– but the possibility is definitely within our lifetime.

Shungite beads

Because these shungite beads are highly carbon-based, they are very lightweight in comparison to other black alternatives. Onyx, for instance, is a dense, chalcedony-based mineral, that provides a rich black, however, shungite

Continued on next page

Shungite from previous page

has a unique, metallic appearance. One could compare it with graphite, which is made primarily from carbon, since it does have a lusty appearance. These beads could look sleek when paired with crystal quartz for a monotone design. Their dark color could be a nice spacer bead to provide breathing room in more colorful designs. If you're designing something with meteorite beads, they could make a light alternative, as meteorite is mostly iron, and tends to be somewhat heavy.

Some say that shungite has metaphysical properties.

Sent to us by Melodye Steverson

Miohippus Partial Upper Jaw

by Dorwin Skinner

With the threat of Covid-19 and my underlying health conditions I cannot get out and look for fossils to add to my collection. So I do the next best thing. I buy them from other collectors and cyber-searches. Recently I was able to obtain a partial upper jaw of an early horse, miohippus.

Miohippus roamed the earth approximately 35 to 25 million years ago. They were small, weighed between 85 to 125 pounds and were about four feet long. They were herbivores and lived on the plains of North America. This jaw was found in the Brule Formation close to Sioux City, Nebraska.

Presently I am starting to prep it by removing some of the matrix from the bone fragments. It will take a long time to free the fossil from the matrix and it will keep me occupied for many hours.

https://www.thoughtco.com/miohippus-miocene-horse-1093245

We are looking forward to seeing your progress and the finished specimen. editor

A nearly completed Miohippus skull and jaw

Use Our Website

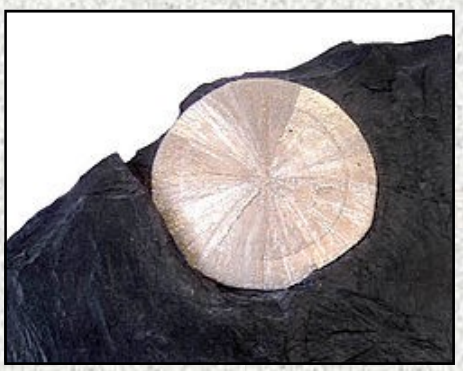
If you don't receive an email with a link to the *Rock Talk*, you can access our website for the newsletter or up-to-date club information. Also, previous *Rock Talk* newsletters can be downloaded from our website. They have been posted from June 2016.

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Mike Stone, editor/webmaster

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?"

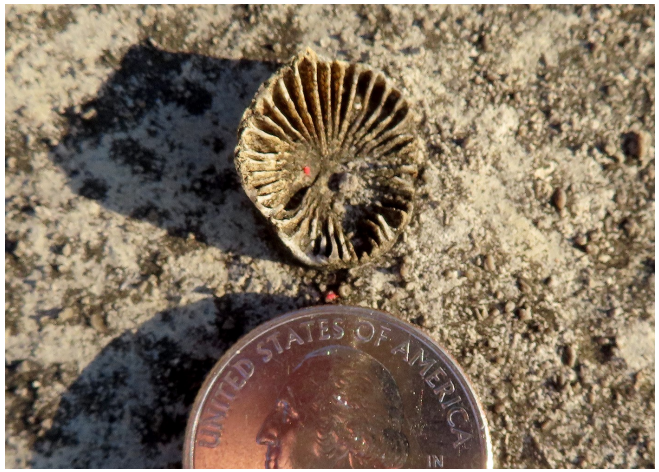
Fluorescence: aragonite sprays in clay from Pantoja, Toledo, Castile-La Mancha, Spain.

Pyrite sun, submitted by Michelle Evens

Micro Collecting

By Mike Stone

Not long after arriving in Kentucky this spring, Peg and I were poking around the big rock pile behind the house. Chunks of limestone were unearthed when the house and swimming pool were built, about twelve years ago. Over the years, acid rain and other weather changed the color of the limestone from white to various shades of gray. Cracks formed in the brittle rock, and some of the limestone has dissolved, leaving the harder silica based mineral fossils protruding from the surfaces.



A coral fossil protruding from the weathered limestone.

A close look at the surface of the rocks reveals thousands of sea life fossils.

Peg and Kitty checking out the rock pile.

Looking at the various coral fossils, it's plain to see that this section of Kentucky was once under salt water. (during the Mississippian period 325 to 360 million years ago). Click on the link for a very colorful file entitled "Kentucky Landscapes Through Geologic Time".

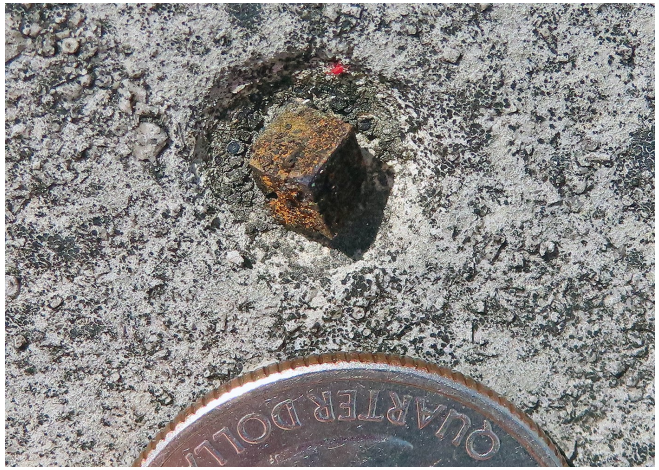
https://kgs.uky.edu/kgsweb/olops/pub/kgs/mc200_12.pdf

We also saw several small pyrite crystals. Here is information about the formation about how pyrite crystals (iron sulphide, FeS^2) form in limestone.

From https://uwaterloo.ca/earth-sciences-museum/resources/detailed-rocks-and-minerals-articles/pyrite

"…Originally the iron came from the weathering of older igneous or metamorphic rocks. Iron is a common minor constituent of all continental igneous rocks; and occurs in minerals such as ilmenite, magnetite and pyrite, and ferro-magnesian silicates like olivine, pyroxene, amphibole, and biotite mica. Deep weather over long periods of geologic time releases the iron and soluble iron salts form. The dissolved iron then travels in solution to the sea, where ferrous iron is oxidized and deposited.

Much of the pyrite contained in sediments and sedimentary rocks is authigenic, formed in the depositional environment, or early diagenetic, formed during the transformation of the sediment into rock (lithification). The formation of pyrite requires the presence of organic matter in the sediment, sulphate in solution in the pore water, and locally anaerobic (reducing) chemical environment.



A tiny pyrite crystal on the surface of a limestone rock

It is the presence of decaying organic matter in the sediment that creates the reducing chemical environment. In marine environments, decay of organic matter occurs most rapidly just below the bottom of the sea, before more than a few centimeters of other sediment have accumulated on top of it. With deeper burial, most of the reactive organic matter has already been consumed and no more pyrite can form. Pyrite seldom forms in fresh-water environments. The formation of pyrite crystals depends mainly on the iron content of the sediment.

The process of pyrite formation in sediments results from the action of bacteria, which reduce sulphate ions (dissolved in the pore water) to sul-

Continued on next page

phide. If there is iron present, iron sulphide crystals begin to grow. These sulphate – reducing bacteria also need other nutrients to live, which are provided by organic carbon in the sediment…"

Since the fossils and pyrite crystals are so tiny and brittle, the only collecting we did was with a camera. It's good to know that we can go out the back door and take a look at those specimens anytime we choose.

All About Sediment Grain Size

From www.thoughtco.com

The grain sizes of sediments and sedimentary rocks are a matter of great interest to geologists. Different size sediment grains form different types of rocks and can reveal information about the landform and environment of an area from millions of years prior.

Types of Sediment Grains

Sediments are classified by their method of erosion as either clastic or chemical. Chemical sediment is broken down through chemical weathering with transportation, a process known as corrosion, or without. That chemical sediment is then suspended in a solution until it precipitates. Think of what happens to a glass of saltwater that has been sitting out in the sun.

Clastic sediments are broken down through mechanical means, like abrasion from wind, water or ice. They are what most people think of when mentioning sediment; things like sand, silt, and clay. Several physical properties are used to describe sediment, like shape (sphericity), roundness and grain size.

Of these properties, grain size is arguably the most important. It can help a geologist interpret the geomorphic setting (both present and historical) of a site, as well as whether the

sediment was transported there from regional or local settings. Grain size determines just how far a piece of sediment can travel before coming to a halt.

Clastic sediments form a wide range of rocks, from mudstone to conglomerate, and soil depending on their grain size. Within many of these rocks, the sediments are clearly distinguishable--especially with a little help from a magnifier.

Sediment Grain Sizes

The Wentworth scale was published in 1922 by Chester K. Wentworth, modifying an earlier scale by Johan A. Udden. Wentworth's grades and sizes were later supplemented by William Krumbein's phi or logarithmic scale, which transforms the millimeter number by taking the negative of its logarithm in base 2 to yield simple whole numbers. The following is a simplified version of the much more detailed USGS version.

The size fraction larger than sand (granules, pebbles, cobbles. and boulders) is collectively called gravel, and the size fraction smaller than sand (silt and clay) is collectively called mud.

Clastic Sedimentary Rocks

Sedimentary rocks form whenever these sediments are deposited and lithified and can be classified based on the size of their grains.

Gravel forms coarse rocks with grains over 2 mm in size. If the fragments are rounded, they form conglomerate, and if they are angular, they form breccia.

Sand, as you may guess, forms sandstone. Sandstone is medium-grained, meaning its fragments are between 1/16 mm and 2 mm. Silt forms fine-grained siltstone, with fragments between 1/16 mm and 1/256 mm.

Anything less than 1/256 mm results in either claystone or mudstone. Two types of mudstone are shale and argillite, which is shale that has undergone very low-grade metamorphism.

Geologists determine grain sizes in the field using printed cards called comparators, which usually have a millimeter scale, phi scale, and angularity chart. They are especially useful for larger sediment grains. In the laboratory, comparators are supplemented by standard sieves.

Hi everyone, I'm sure by now that you are all itching to get out and about and to return to somewhat a normal life. As for me, I have been busy as ever. I just sent the Spinosaurus bone to Dr. Paul Soreno at the University of Chicago. Also I've been working on several programs for the Florida Humanities lecture series and planning on Zoom programming in February. I recently latched onto a beautiful Machiarodus saber tooth and will soon be getting a 28,000-year old fossil seal jaw from Doggerland out of Denmark. If you are not familiar with Doggerland please check it out on Wikipedia.com.

The new Machairodus horribilis saber tooth and associated old fossil holding the specimen

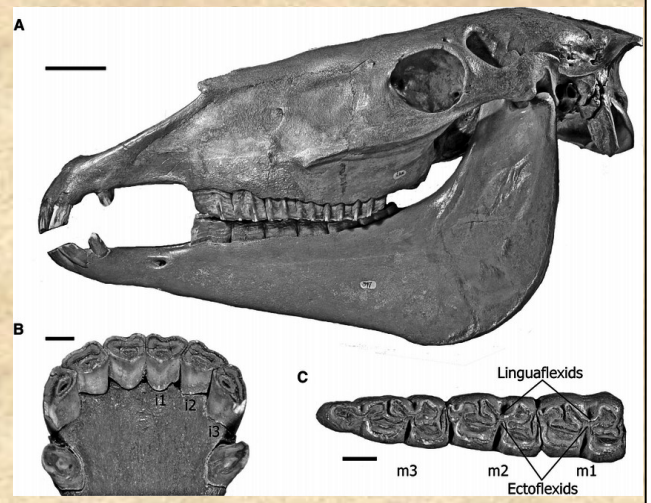
My current project is the reconstruction of the left lower jaw of the prehistoric three-toed horse, Protohippus gidleyi. The specimen was found in the Withlacoochee River fossil site known as WR4A by a good friend of mine in the 1980s.

Protohippus gidleyi from WR4A Citris County Florida under reconstruction

This horse was the size of a modern donkey and was dated between 10 to 6 million years ago. This fossil was found with the lower jaw of a bone eating dog called Borophagus and the front leg bone of the giant rhinoceros called Aphelops. This horse is known from several fossil sites in Florida and several states out west. This specimen is the second most complete in Florida and has two front teeth and the complete set of its pre molars and molar teeth. Preparation has been going for quite while, and will take about 60 hours of work to complete.

Protohippus gidleyi skeletal mount

As you well know from my article last month, I am continuing work on the lower jaw restoration of Spinosaurus for the Yankeetown School. I have the main body of the jaw completed but still have to place the teeth in their proper arrangement and color the specimen, based on the sediments where it was derived. Once finished, if we ever have a meeting this year, I will bring it for our members to view.



Protohippus skull and jaw

Well again that's all for now, everyone stay safe and healthy until we can meet again.

Please: Are You Bored to Tears?

Nothing to do? Maybe you would like to help me. If you have a ten inch or larger rock saw, I have a rock that needs to be cut in two, right through the middle. It's about five inches from front to back and about three inches thick. I would gladly trade a one-hour professional massage for your time.

Thank you.

Michele "Happy" Evans
352-232-0375

Tanzanian Miner Finds Large Rare Gemstones Worth $3.3m

From https://www.aljazeera.com/

Tanzanite is a gemstone found only in a small northern region of Tanzania

A small-scale miner in Tanzania has earned 7.74 billion Tanzanian shillings ($3.35m) after selling the two largest tanzanite stones ever found to the state.

The dark violet-blue gemstones, each about the size of a forearm, were in one of the tanzanite mines in the north of the country, which are surrounded by a wall to control cross-border smuggling of the gemstones.

One gemstone weighs 9.27kg (20.4 pounds) while the second weighs 5.103kg (11.25 pounds).

Tanzania last year set up trading centers around the country to allow artisanal miners to sell their gems and gold to the government.

Artisanal miners are not officially employed by any mining companies and usually mine by hand.

The miner who found the huge tanzanite crystals. According to a relate article, he plans to slaughter one of his 2000 cows to have a party and then he's going to pay for a school to be built in his village.

Tanzanite gem

Information sent to us by Melodye and Michael Steverson.

July Club Meeting Cancelled

My Celestial Bathroom Creation

by Roberta Oldread

I always wanted a way to display more of my rock collection. My first thought was to have a friend build me a wooden shelf.

One day while in my garage, looking through a box of scrap wood to build hanging orchid boxes, I found the ends of my vanity countertop that was cut off seven years ago. Immediately I thought that these would be perfect for the shelves I've been wanting for my bathroom. I dusted them off and brought them inside to see how this project would come together. Hmmm, now for the supports. I started brainstorming. It has to look nice and it has to be sturdy enough to support the weight of the shelf and displayed items. My first thought was to use a four by four by six-inch post. Then my creative mind took over and I started searching for polished agate bookends on Etsy, Amazon and EBay, with blue or gold tones to match the bathroom theme. I found beautiful specimens, but unfortunately they were not flat on the top and all needed to be the same height. My next search was for stone bookends and that's when I found the bookends that now support my shelves. Both are six-inches tall and have flat bottoms and tops. I ordered them and within seven days I had two sets of marble bookends. Once they arrived I had to figure out how to support the weight of the shelf on each bookend since one was much narrower than the other. Once again the creative mind started working…"Hmmm, I've got all those thinly sliced agates that I've been collecting for thee years to make a mosaic window, and maybe those would work if I could find four that were wide enough"? After switching them around, I found four slabs that would support the weight of the shelves. I strategically positioned each slab on top of the six-inch marble bookends and super glued them together and placed the shelf on top of each pair to make sure it was balanced and level. Before setting them up I took wafer thin foam from my leather shop and cut it out and then glued it to the bottom of each support.

The next day I removed everything from the countertop to setup the shelves and then decorated the shelves with what you see in the photo.

I got the huge chunk of labradorite from a guy who won it at a raffle at the Brooksville bike rally. The labradorite was donated to the bike rally by club member Lauren Bell of Madhouse Mine Works. I told Lauren that I will get a chunk of Labradorite one way or another. When the raffle ended I walked up to the guy who won the labradorite and saw a woman who was offering him ten dollars for it. I told they guy, "I'll give ya twenty dollars for it." The woman offered twenty-five dollars, and I offered him the twenty plus a ten-dollar Harley Davidson collectable coffee mug that I was selling at the Freedom Chapter of ABATE tent. The guy asked the woman if she had any Harley stuff to top my offer. She said, "No", and it was now mine. I walked by Lauren's tent holding my chunk of labradorite and said, "Hey Lauren, I got it!"

July Club Meeting Cancelled

Succulent Fairy Garden

by Roberta Oldread

Using my creative mind, I turned a plastic birdbath into a succulent fairy garden. First I drilled drain holes in the bottom of the birdbath. Then, using E-6000 glue, I attached polished, semi precious stones and agatized coral to decorate the outer rippled edge. Next I placed pebble-sized stones in the bottom to provide good drainage. Then I added potting soil and placed succulents in the soil that I bought for this project. I found stones to place in the garden along with a few shell spirals, and made a small lawn from potting soil. Then placed polished stones as a walkway through the garden. I also glued and stacked several flat-sided stones to create a stone tower. Since I had a pewter fairy goddess figurine, I glued it to a flat rock. For the final touch, I added a pewter butterfly hair accessory to my succulent fairy garden.

From the Editor

July Lodestar

I wonder how many club members know that we post the *Lodestar*, a monthly newsletter on our website. The *Lodestar* is the monthly newsletter of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc., of which each Withlacoochee Rockhound is a member.

After you connect to our website (www.withlachoocheerockhounds.com) go to "Newsletters" and scroll down to the bottom of the page to the blue link button and click

Mike Stone

July Club Meeting Cancelled

From the VP

Mark Moore

Since the July meeting has been cancelled, the program on disaster preparations will have to wait. The program will be given at the August or September meeting if I get back to Florida by meeting time and also if prudent leadership decides that it's safe to have a meeting. Here is a short summery of what the program will contain, so you can elect to prepare questions about surviving disasters, either natural or manmade. Always keep one thing in mind when thinking about disaster survival; all biological humans have the same basic needs that are, among others; food, water and an environment that is favorable to life. These and others we'll discuss in the program.

We are well into the novel Covid-19 pandemic so by now you should know what is lacking in your disaster supplies, such as toilet paper, hamburger, disinfectants etc. And since we are just heading into hurricane season we will discuss the generalities of different disasters and what one may need if different types of disasters were to strike. We will also look at what is realistically possible and what is realistically not likely and are beyond our ability to plan for. (Think asteroid impact or Yellowstone event.) We are all presented with disaster "HYPE" daily but what is true and what is improbable? I will show you possible ranking of events as to probability and how life events can change that probability almost daily. For you, the probability might be different than for your friend who is living elsewhere. For example the probability of a "disaster" caused by civil unrest has escalated in the past few weeks to where for some people in major cities it is now the most probable, moving up above pandemics depending on where in the country you are located at the moment. The events that have occurred are just the very beginning of what is possible. For the folks in Florida, the probability of a major hurricane is far above the probability of a blizzard, so one would want to prepare for the hurricane in Florida and the blizzard if in New England. But the process for preparing is the same for both, and the probability of a blizzard in Florida although very, very low still does exist. The same as a hurricane in North Dakota, it also exists.

What does this have to do with Rockhounds? Not much unless you happen to be out on a collecting trip and you are suddenly confronted with a drastic major change of your environmental situation. Maybe you are out on spoil bank islands collecting echinoids with a major storm coming (one of the best times to collect), you get back to your car only to see the road is flooded. Or maybe you're in North Carolina on a mountain back road when a sudden storm washes away the dirt road you drove in on. Remember the Storm of the Century in March of 1993? It was a winter hurricane in Florida and we lost our house outside of Crystal River. My mother and dad were staying there but refused to leave. Later that morning they were rescued by jumping out of the front window, which was under four-feet of water, into a neighbor's boat. It was a Hurricane in the south but a blizzard in the north. We were caught in Maryland returning from rescuing Leslie's mom who had a broken collarbone, from a hospital in New England. We made it back to the Maryland house just in time to be stuck for well over ten days as 18 inches of snow closed everything, including shutting electrical power down. Within a day or two we were feeding the whole neighborhood (15 to 20) and had the only warm house for over a week, as we had the only cooking capability in the semi-rural area on the Chesapeake Bay.

In each situation there will be different requirements one must solve to insure coming through with at minimum a moderately satisfactory outcome. (At least your are still alive.) Les and I have taught over 50 programs dealing with disasters of various types. For example, a hurricane and a blizzard, although very different, have many things in common as far as preparation. What our program will show, is how to construct your own "preplan" so you will have the necessary materials and training needed to for a successful outcome (remember you're still alive and in reasonable health.)

Is our current pandemic a worst case scenario? Not even close. We'll take a short look at pandemics from both relatively recent times and the historical past. Do you know which disease has killed the most people? Look it up, some are surprised others not. We'll look at two major response actions available when facing a disaster. Do we stay and brave it out or do we leave and get to a safer place. In this recent event, Les and I were in Georgia where we are fully supplied, including toilet paper (TP), food, and emergency supplies, because of the many classes we have taught. Hearing that there was a definite lack of some essentials in Florida, we decided to extend our stay for a few weeks (so our kid could help himself to our Florida freezer.) Once the word got out that we were staying a few more days up there we spent a good bit of time giving out TP to those in desperate need, and helping folks make hand sanitizer and modify their sanitizers that were not adequate to kill the novel coronavirus. Despite what you hear, you need 70 to 90 % alcohol to be truly effective, but about 80 percent is best, and we had several gallons of Everclear 190 on hand. Remember wood

Continued on next page

alcohol can be toxic, so use ethanol as a sanitizer. Why are the higher percentages of alcohol not the best? Come to the program to find out.

Why was there a shortage of toilet paper both here and there? There are several reasons, not the least of which were the number of folks from the major cities south and east of here coming and filling their cars and trucks to take back and they could carry and sell it at outrageous prices. If you were prepared, other than making you angry, it wouldn't have affected you. We were well supplied and were willing to help others. This occurred not only here in Florida but also in the North Georgia Mountains where our other house is located. Folks from Atlanta (one tank rule away) decimated the local store supplies within a day or two. What is the "one tank rule"? Come to the program to find out.

These shortages are not only of TP and hamburger. Think about what you need daily or weekly and what happens if you can't replace your supply. For some folks, like Leslie, that means alcohol of the imbibing kind, for others (like me) maybe not. There are alternatives; one just needs to be aware that they exist. Think about what our ancestors did without TP! Have you worked with your doctor to insure a reasonable supply of meds on hand? If not maybe you should.

A major factor is consideration of whether or not to shelter in place, which in many cases is the best if you are prepared, or to hit the road for a safer place. For example if you live west of US 19 and a major tropical cyclone is headed our way no matter how prepared and how full your supply locker is, it doesn't help you a bit if it's underwater. On the other hand if you are forced to leave, what MUST you have with you? We will show you several things you might not have thought about, and how to keep them in a place so they can be retrieved at a moments notice. It goes by several names, Bug-Out Bag, Grab and Go Bag among others, but they all have the same purpose. They have supplies at the ready to go if needed. Les and I have one of two different levels of bags in whatever vehicle we are traveling in for more than a few miles. One is for short trips and a larger one for longer trips. In our program if time permits, we will show you what is in one and what the items are used for. For example going to visit Dave and Susie is a short half hour trip. It is about the furthest we go without or Grab and Go bag. Pat and Sandi on the other hand are about 45 minutes away, so if we travel to see them, the bag goes in the trunk. When going anywhere it's always a judgment call, what could happen, and am I prepared?

This program has been given to emergency response teams (ERT), fire and rescue, law enforcement, the Coast Guard (and military) and local CERT teams. I have modified it for general citizen presentation and have given it several times in that format. The normal program is from 4 to 50 hours but it has been sufficiently shortened to fit into an hour and half to two hour time frame for the club meeting. Since I'm looking at having handouts and possibly some samples, please drop me a note via email or by phone (both are in the newsletter or website) so I can have one for you. It's not required but those who let me know they plan to come (this includes officers, Board members, and friends) will get first shot at whatever I have for handouts and samples. I must order new stuff since I have given a lot away in the past few months.

We also have many folks who feel they will always be taken care of. One of our ex-friends told everyone that they never put anything away and when disaster strikes they would come and visit us and other friends. During a major storm that isolated many folks for several weeks, that is just what they did. They now are ex-friends, not only of ours but also of our mutual and well-prepared friends. As a Florida sheriff acquaintance once told me, in a major disaster you can't count on my deputies, the fire department folks, or me as they might be overwhelmed and not be able to reach you. You had better be prepared to fend and protect yourself for quite awhile, which for instance in 2004/5 hurricanes proved to be true.

There are several things in the First Responders Creed that everyone should think about. " First; take care of yourself, you're no good to anyone if you're missing or dead, second take care of your team members as they are no good if they are missing or dead, then do your best to take care of the rest of the world." Come to the program and I'll give you some more of Mark's words of wisdom on disaster and lifesaving tips and ideas.

Give a shout if there is something unusual you need help with and I will try to find an answer for you before the program.

Stay safe out there,

Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith

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

Sheet and Wire Storage

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire was in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26ga. fine sheet that I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from an office supply store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge, put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop, and it's colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop!

Expanding file folder

Little Balls

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.

But there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. When you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round pieces roll to the bottom. Bag the good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.

Casting grain in a pan for separating the balls

Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's How-To-Do-It Books

Continued on next page

July Club Meeting Cancelled

Bench Tips from previous page

During the last couple months, I've shared the news about my Culver City, CA club that has started to hold monthly meetings online to try to keep the club active and together. We have already done three, and the presentations are going over well with our members. The neat thing is that the speaker does not have to be from our local area. As a result we have a far greater variety of presentations to choose from.

Here's our June presentation - a field trip to Davis Creek, CA for obsidian, presented by Terry Wilson from the Ventura, CA club. Good explanations of what to look for in the field and how to cut the material for best color.

https://zoom.us/rec/play/vp0kfuqorT43GICdswS-DA_YqW9W0fa6shiMarKcMzEi3AnlWYFv3ZeARNDWgwM-CFwwbJm1BT6bCAks
Password: **#1meeting**

My club now looking for additional speakers for August through November. Honorarium (compensation) is $120 for around 40 minutes. If you know any rock hounds who have an interesting talk and can do it via Zoom, please ask them to get in touch with me.

Rock Art

Twelve inch diameter decorative marble bowl.
$250

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

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

Club Members' Business Cards

Club members who have businesses related to any of our club activities can have the images of their business cards posted in each issue of the Rock Talk. This is an additional benefit of being a **Withlacoochee Rockhounds** member. You can send electronic images or an actual business card to:

n1ve@amsat.org
or
Mike Stone
4504 Kingston Dr.
Hernando Beach, FL 34607

Your Favorite Specimen

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

Getting to Know You

Send us a few words about your interest(s) and/or hobby(s), whether or not they are related to rock hounding, we will print them in future issues of *Rock Talk*, and you might find that other club members have similar interests.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds is now on Facebook

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

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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
Membership Form

Annual Dues: Individual member, $20. 00. Under 18 years of age, no charge.

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

2020

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:

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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 no cost 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.

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Judith Birx	352-587-1702	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President	Mark Moore	352-586-9607	markles@bellsouth.net
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
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)
Mark Moore (vice president)
Roberta Oldread (2020)
Melodye Steverson (secretary)
Ginny Steverson (2021)
Mike Stone (2021)
Lynn Walters (2021)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)