

Rock Talk

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July 2017



Rock Talk

July Meeting Program

Mark Moore will be giving a presentation about rocks and fossils of early Earth. John Motzer will also give a presentation on a trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville.

After the business meeting and presentations, the rock grinding, cutting,

and polishing equipment will be available for members to use.

As usual snacks and beverages will be available during the meeting, and we will have the usual 50/50 raffle.

The Meeting as I Saw it



by
Dorwin Skinner
Club Vice President



The June Meeting

I arrived early, 5:35 PM because it was my turn to help make coffee. There were already half a dozen cars in the parking lot. I grabbed my cake and headed in. Judith met me at the door shaking the 50/50 jar and wanting a donation. John Schaediger was already hard at work and the kitchen was half set up. Looked like I was late, but I was an hour and a half early. I guess if I want to be an early bird I will have to camp out at the door. Several rock collections were brought in. Raymond Kalavsky had a fantastic collection of petrified wood that had belonged to his father. Guests Steve and Sandy Sombers had some



Scott Forward of William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

of their collection with them. Steve had rock that he believed to be a chondrite meteorite. I am pretty sure he is right. Tommy Blackman also had a box of specimens to show. Scott Forward and his wife Denise from William Holland School Lapidary Arts were there to tell us about the school and what was available. Denise brought a collection of her custom jewelry to show and to sell. Talk about custom jewelry, she even made a lot of the glass beads that she used. Soon enough Ralph brought the social time to a halt and started meeting. After the business part of the meeting was over Scott Forward started his presentation about the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts. He teaches mineral identification and he also takes his class on field trips to area mines. He did an outstanding job of captivating the audience. Questions, questions and more questions, and he was answering them all. Finally it was after 9:00 PM and Judith had to flash the lights and tell everyone that it was time to close. We will have to invite Scott and Denise back and continue the question session. This is summertime and we had 38 in attendance. It was on a couple of years ago that closing the club for

the summer was discussed. The club sure has grown since then. If it keeps growing we will need a bigger clubhouse.

The Cover Photo

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

Fordite

Last month's "What is It", was a bit unfair and probably should have been used in the April Rock Talk.

Fordite, also known as Motor Agate, is a unique automotive enamel material with an interesting history. The original layered automotive paint slag "rough" was made incidentally, years ago, by the now extinct practice of hand spray-painting multiples of production cars in big automotive factories. The over-sprayed paint in the painting bays gradually built up on the tracks and skids that the car frames were painted on. Over time, many colorful layers built up there. These layers were hardened repeatedly in the ovens that the car bodies went into to cure the paint. Some of these deeper layers were baked



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Next Meeting, Wednesday, July 12, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

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one hundred times.

Eventually, the paint build-up would become obstructing, or too thick and heavy, and had to be removed. As the story goes, some crafty workers with an eye for beauty realized that this unique byproduct was worth salvaging. It was super-cured, patterned like psychedelic agate, and could be cut and polished with relative ease.



Wow! "RECYCLE IT!" seemed to be the resounding sentiment. And so it was... As word spread about this remarkable material, it has been said that rock hounds started showing up at auto factories, offering to help remove that problematic paint!

Sadly, the techniques that produced this great rough years ago, are no longer in practice. Cars are now painted by an electrostatic process that essentially magnetizes the enamels to the car bodies. This leaves little, or no overspray. The old factory methods that created this incredible material are long gone.

The Fordite "mines" are dry, so get some while you still can.

From <http://www.fordite.com/>
editor

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club Meeting Minutes June 14, 2017

- The meeting called to order at 7:12 PM by club president Ralph Barber.
- We stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer.

- Guests were Scott and Sandy Sombers and Carol Bright, who signed up as a vendor for our annual show.
- Guest speakers were Scott and Denise Forward from the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Georgia.
- Minutes of the meeting as printed in the newsletter were approved by Dave Letasi and seconded by Dorwin Skinner.
- The treasurer report was given and accepted.
- Sunshine report: Melodye Steverson's father-in-law has undergone surgery and therefore she wasn't at the meeting.

New business

- Ray Kalavsky , a new member, brought in excellent specimens of petrified wood and green calcite. Harry Koerner brought in a tapir (a large, herbivorous mammal) bone that he found while walking a Pasco County beach. Dave Letasi said in order to clean specimens similar to what he found it should be cleaned with vinegar and then neutralized with baking soda.
- Dorwin Skinner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Letasi, and passed by all. The meeting adjourned at 7: 28 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary Janet Wheeler

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.cfmg.org

October 13, 14, and 15, 2017

Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society
Kerbela Temple
Knoxville, TN

www.knoxrocks.org/gemshow.html

November 4 and 5, 2017

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club
Plant City Strawberry Festival Expo
www.tampabayrockclub.com

December 1, 2, and 3, 2017

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County
Veterans Memorial Park, Hudson, FL
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

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

June 14th Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Dorwing Skinner



Hand crafted jewelry by Denise Forward.



Guest Steve Sombers with part of his collection.



Petrified Laurel, central Oregon .



Petrified mesquite, Nevada.



A golf ball-size rutile crystal found by Scott Forward at Graves Mountain



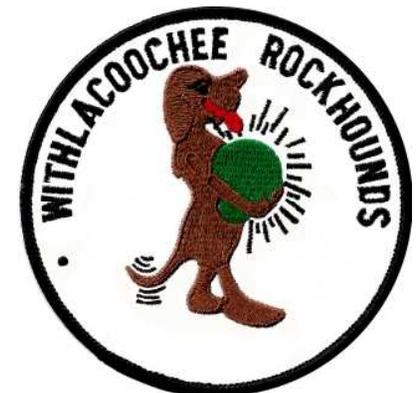
Mineral specimens by Tom Blackman .



Petrified wood collection by Ray Kolusky



Linda Anderson with her finds from Inglis, FL .



Hernando County, FL

June Tuesday Workshop by Dorwin Skinner

Our rock club, wire-wrapping class had a special day this month to listen to a presentation by Denise and Scott Forward from the William Holland School of Lapidary. Judith Birx took the opportunity to give instructions on a mount that the Tuesday workshop would be making next month. Judith told them about a new procedure she was using with dichroic glass and a microwave kiln. This is a kiln that uses a home microwave to fuse glass in nine to twelve minutes. I had to look that one up when I got home.

Before long Judith introduced Denise and she told the group about her affiliation with William Holland. She is a student at the school and continues to

improve her skills in making custom jewelry. Scott, her husband, then proceeded to tell the group about gem identification and some of the gems he has found. Our club visited Graves Mountain in late April, and little did we know that Scott was there at the same time. Since he did not know anyone, it was not until he read our *Rock Talk* that he realized we had crossed paths at the mine. He showed us a large rutile crystal he found while he was there. And also suggested that the next time we take a field trip to the mine we should call him and maybe he can meet up with us.

July Tuesday Workshop
The July Tuesday workshop will be held on July 11th, the second Tuesday of the month.



A microwave kiln sold by Amazon for \$40.00



Denise Forward with the wire wrapping class.



Scott Forward talking with the Tuesday workshop



Glass pendent by Judith Birx



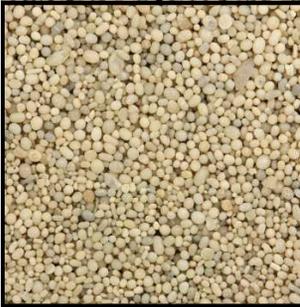
Watching an instructional video

Photos by Dorwin Skinner

Ooides

by Mike Stone

"Ooides are small (2 mm or smaller in diameter), spheroidal, "coated" (layered) sedimentary grains, usually composed of calcium carbonate, but sometimes made up of iron- or phosphate-based minerals... The name is derived from the Ancient Greek word *ὄον* for egg". <https://www.wikipedia.org/>



Oolitic sand (calcium carbonate)

Not long after moving to Kentucky, while looking for rocks and fossils in newly exposed soil, I picked up a strange looking chunk of reddish rock. What was odd about this rock was that it appeared to be made up entirely of tiny spherical beads cemented together. I thought the rock could be an accumulation of tiny fossilized fish eggs. Rather than attempt to identify the rock, I simply set it in one of our specimen cabinets and forgot about it.



Some time later, a friend from Rhode Island visited us. (Now deceased) Dr. Jon Boothroyd was a professor and geology department head at the University of Rhode Island. He was also the State Geologist for Rhode Island. While Peg and I were showing Jon a

few of our recent Kentucky finds, I handed him the rock made up of tiny spheres. He took a quick look at it and said, "That's oolite".

I wanted to know something about oolite, so I did a bit of reading. Here's what I learned about the oolite that can be found in our area (north central Kentucky) which 325 to 360 million years ago was covered by a warm, tropical sea. http://kgs.uky.edu/kgsweb/olops/pub/kgs/mc200_12.pdf

"Ooids are most commonly composed of calcium carbonate (oolitic limestone). They are usually formed in warm, supersaturated, shallow, highly agitated marine water intertidal environments, though some are formed in inland lakes. The mechanism of formation starts with a small fragment of sediment acting as a 'seed', e.g. a piece of a shell. Strong intertidal currents wash the 'seeds' around on the seabed, where they accumulate layers of chemically precipitated calcite from the supersaturated water. The oolites are commonly found in large current bedding structures that resemble sand dunes. The size of the oolite reflects the time they were exposed to the water before they were covered with sediment." <https://www.wikipedia.org/>



A close-up of the oolite to the left. The distance between lines on the steel rule is 1/64 inch (.4 mm)

Over millions of years, with the massive pressure of overlying sediments, the individual limestone spheres

became cemented together and formed solid rock.

Oolitic limestone has many uses, building stone, paving stone, garden decorations, cement manufacturing, cobblestones, landscaping, artwork, jewelry, and also it is used in aquariums. <http://rocks.comparenature.com/>

Oolitic limestone is used as local building stone, for instance, the Train Museum in Bowling Green, Kentucky is made of a soft, solid white color, indicative of limestone, but when looking closely, it is easy to see the individual ooides that have been cemented together millions of years ago. The limestone for the museum was mined in the Bowling Green area, but the rock can found in many areas in Kentucky as well as in other localities throughout the world.

"The massiveness of the Bowling Green bed is one of the factors that determine its value. Blocks of large dimension can be cut from the quarry face either horizontally or vertically, with no appreciable difference in the appearance or strength of the stone. The quarried blocks average about four by five by eight feet, with the horizontal dimension being the largest.

The individuality of grains composing the stone and their similarity in composition and size, together with the great uniformity of conditions under which the material was deposited, have resulted in a massive stratum without intermediate bedding planes. The stone is a true oolite, the particles being rounded in shape like that of the roe of fish, about one-fiftieth of an inch in diameter, and firmly cemented by clear calcite." http://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/ky/ky-oolithic_1909.html

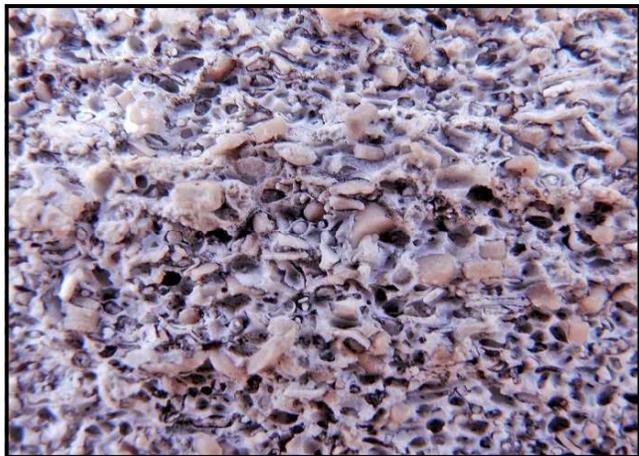


Parked in front of the Train Museum in Bowling Green. The building is made of oolitic limestone.

Continued on next page

Next Meeting, Wednesday July 12th at 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Ooides from page six



A close-up photo of the surface of the limestone used on the Train Museum.

I was told by a family member in Kentucky, who worked at a limestone mine on the south side of the Ohio River, that oolitic limestone is shipped on barges to a nearby coal burning plant. The limestone is pulverized and inserted into burning coal to reduce the amount of sulfur dioxide emitted into the air.

The simple act of picking up a strange looking rock eventually led me to learn much about the formation, uses, and importance of oolitic limestone, which is made up of "ooides".

Keep Your Eyes Peeled

by Mike Stone

Keeping our heads down and our eyes peeled can come in handy. As Peg and I were walking out the door at a brand new McDonalds in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, we saw that two to three inch river rocks were used extensively for landscaping. Naturally our eyes went to the ground as we quickly scanned for something of interest. What I saw were thousands of semi-spherical naturally tumbled igneous rocks. Nothing about the color, texture, or shape caught my eye. But when we got back to the truck, Peg showed me an interesting rock that she'd picked up. It was a piece of quartz with two corners showing shiny brown chalcedony. Turning the specimen over brought into view tiny quartz crystals. This was a real anomaly and something we certainly didn't expect to see mixed in with all of the egg shaped, smooth surfaced landscaping stones.



Botryoidal chalcedony on the surface of the rock.



Another patch of chalcedony on the opposite side of the rock.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds is now on Facebook

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



Trilobites Video



PBS Digital Studios has announced a new YouTube channel called EONS. The first episode explores the evolution, diversity, and extinction of trilobites:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aji2VnQFUCs&sns=em>

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

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





these wonderful aliens from outer space at arizonaskiesmeteorites.com. Meteorites may be validated with the University of New Mexico for free at meteorite.unm.edu. They will not return specimens that do not test positive for meteoritic origin. Keep collecting! See you all in July

Meteorites

At last month's meeting Gary Spurlock and I were discussing the identification of meteorites. During my tenure at MOSI I was occasionally confronted with a "so called meteor fragment" found locally in Florida. Of all these finds no example seemed to me a valid meteoric specimen. The vast majority of these celestial wonderers are composed of iron and nickel with traces of the rare element iridium. There are several classes of meteorites that include the Irons, Stony, Stony Iron and the rare glass meteoric impact ejecta called tektites. The Irons are frequently slabbed and acid etched to reveal Widmanstatten crystalline patterns (lamacite and taenite). Irons also may be mixed with other crystal elements such as olivine {peridot} and or numerous other minerals to form a stony iron class of meteorite. Tektite meteorites are considered glass meteorites that were once believed to be meteoric impact debris from the moon's surface. Recent studies suggest they are meteoric/earth impact debris. Tektites are high in silica but are chemically more similar to sedimentary shale rock.

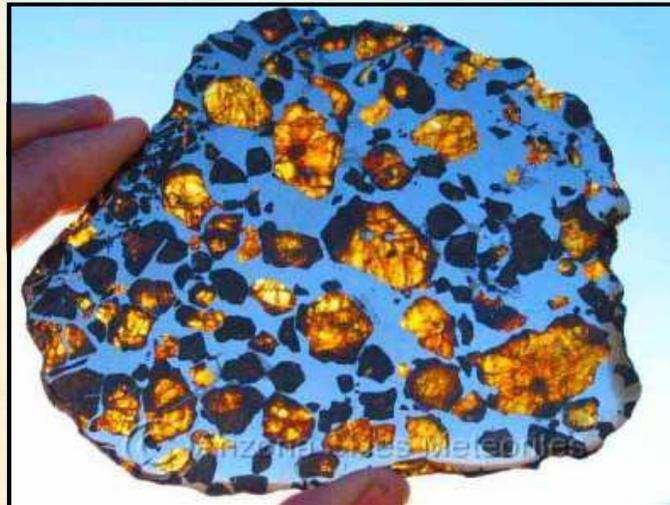
Although Mars meteorites are stony in nature they are believed to be the ejecta from a major meteoric impact event on the Mars surface millions of years ago. Their Mars origin has been supported by Mars Lander chemical composition data.

Trying to identify a meteorite can be very difficult. All irons and stony Irons are magnetic and many have flow stream marks formed from extreme heat during its entry into our atmosphere. Suspected stony and stony irons lacking flow marks and valid fall witnessing may require chemical and spectral analysis to determine its origin. This also may be required for tektites unless they have been collected in well documented fall site localities such as the Moldavite Tektites found in the Czech Republic. Their beautiful pale green color makes them extremely popular with collectors.

You may wish to further seek information on



Bolide (large meteor exploding in the atmosphere)



Pallasite (stony iron meteorite)



Mars meteorite



Etched iron meteorite



Moldavite Tektite

Next Meeting, Wednesday July 12th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

Fancy Rivet Heads

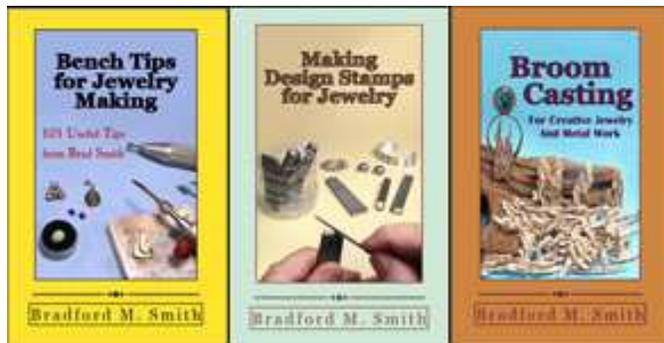
For a nice looking rivet heads use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet. The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin".

For best results, select a drill bit that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the backside. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.



Easier Prong Setting

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers. The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel. Then rough polish the slot with a medium-grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.



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.

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

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 July workshop will be held on the 2nd Monday of the month, July 11, 2017)**

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



The July project for the next Tuesday morning workshop

Our Website

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Next Meeting, Wednesday July 12th, 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.....	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