



Rock Talk



September 9th Meeting

The September meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 9th at 7:00 PM, at the Senior Citizen's Club of Hernando County, located behind Brewers Funeral Home on the east side of US 19 in Spring Hill, FL.

Gems on Gems

by Jerry Johnson G.G.

The birthstone for September is the lovely sapphire. This gemstone is a member of the corundum family of gems of which the ruby is also a member. The sapphire has a hardness of "9", so it is very resistant to wear. Sapphires are found in many colors, ranging from inky blue black to yellow and even light pink, with vibrant blue being the most valued. Sapphire prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$3,000 per carat.



The finest sapphires are from Kashmir, and other major producers are Burma, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Cambodia. The gem is also found in many other locations around the world, including in the state of Montana. Almost every sapphire we see today in the marketplace has been heat treated to some extent. Synthetic sapphires are quite common but they are easily detected with a jeweler's loupe or a gem microscope. When we test a blue colored stone and suspect that it is a synthetic, we look for curved

straie, which is one of the telltale indicators.

Curve straie is the result the manufacturing process. Blue synthetic sapphire is being sold as Tanzanite. As usual, buyer beware, know who you are dealing with, and if you have any doubt, have the stone checked out by a professional.



Greetings From Your New Editors

Mike Stone and Peggy Burns



Mike and Peggy on the rock pile near the house.

Summer is winding down here in Kentucky and before long we should be enjoying fine fall weather. We've heard about the oppressive heat and humidity in the Spring Hill area and are thankful that we've had temperatures for most of the summer in the 80s and occasionally in the low 90s. Kentucky has received an unusual amount of rain this summer and we're pleased to know that Florida seems to be working its way out of the three-year drought. The rain has been good for the farmers and it sure has given our new lawn a much-needed boost, but the rain has also been good for the parasitic bug population. We've spent some time out in the woods and bushes both geocaching and looking for rocks and fossils, but at this point the ticks, chiggers, and turkey mites are just too voracious for us, so we have postponed any more outings until the crisp fall weather arrives.

Our geocaching travels have taken us to areas in central Kentucky where we've had opportunities to pick up a

(Continued on page 2)

Rock Talk

(Continued from page 1)

few interesting rock, mineral, and fossil specimens. For instance, our GPS units brought us to a large, new industrial park in Shepardsville, about twenty miles south of Louisville. As we approached the industrial park we could see that the relatively flat area had been carved out of hills of shale. After locating the geocache we spent some time poking around the piles of rubble at the base of newly exposed cliffs.



It didn't take us long to realize that some of the broken pieces of shale were dotted with pyrite, both massive and in crystal form. Some of the pyrite has a beautiful iridescent, metallic sheen, indicative of chalcopyrite.



A handful of pyrite that we picked up off the ground near the shale cliff.

Another area of the property adjacent to the shale deposits had been filled with large boulders of limestone from a local quarry. We enjoyed hopping from one refrigerator size rock to another, inspecting the fantastic collection of crinoids that were exposed on the surfaces of many boulders. We didn't have a hammer or chisel with us, so instead of bringing home fossil specimens, we took photographs.



This summer, one of our major projects has been building a parking area and stone retaining wall beside the barn. While pulling rocks for the wall out of the newly cleared power line right-of-way behind our property, we found several nice hand-size specimens of Kentucky blue flint that had been recently exposed by runoff during numerous downpours over the summer. We will bring a bucket of this flint to share with club members for their collections and perhaps some will be suitable for knapping and some of the more colorful ones might polish well.

We have offered to take over editing of the *Rock Talk* newsletter from Susan McGowen. As editors, we will compile articles, notices, schedules, and other club information that need to be distributed to the membership. We will edit them for grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and length, and publish them in the monthly newsletter. Club members do not have to be concerned with their writing ability to submit articles for publication. Just send us your article as an email, or as a Microsoft Word document, a text file, or handwritten on paper and we will prepare them for publication. We'd like to have photos for the newsletter and those can be sent to us as jpeg files or simply send them by snail mail. Please let us know what you've been doing; new projects, field trips, jewelry and silversmith classes, new cutting and polishing equipment, new specimens for your collections. Anything that you'd like to share with your fellow rockhound members. We're sure they will appreciate reading about it.

Send articles and other information for *Rock Talk* by the first of the month to:

Mike Stone or Peggy Burns
9067 Rineyville Big Springs Rd.
Rineyville, KY 40162
Email: n1ve@amsat.org
Phone: 603-524-0468

William Wagner

We are sorry to announce that Danie Thornton's grandfather and club member William Wagner has passed away. His memorial will be in Bushnell at 10:00 AM on September 14.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Trivia Quiz

The Emerald



1. If I bought my mom a birthstone ring, with an emerald setting for her birthday, what month would I have given it to her in?
July, May, November, February
2. When buying an emerald, you need to be careful not to buy a fake. Which of the following would be a synthetic emerald? **Columbian Emerald, Kimberly Emerald, Brazilian Emerald, Star Emerald**
3. Which of the following famous emeralds can be seen at the Smithsonian Museum? **Peggy's Pick Emerald, Kelland Stone, Sweet Morning Glory, Chalk Emerald**
4. In 1973 the emerald was chosen by the US General Assembly as a state gem, for which state? **Oregon, Alaska, North Carolina, New Mexico**
5. Which country is known by the term "Emerald Isle"? **Ireland, Australia, Iceland, Greenland**
6. Evidence indicates that the pharaohs of ancient Egypt enjoyed emeralds. What is the name that modern civilization gave the emerald mine where many of the emeralds for the pharaohs were found? **Nefertiti's Treasure Box, Emeralds of Ra, Tut's Hut, Cleopatra's Mine**
7. The Mohs scale is used worldwide to measure the hardness of gemstones. What does the emerald register on the Mohs scale? **6.5- 7, 8 -8.5, 7.5 – 8, 6 - 6.5**
8. How long ago did the oldest known emeralds form? **2000 million years ago, 2.600 million years ago, 600 million years ago, 1600 million years ago**
9. It is acceptable for the emeralds to contain flaws. The flaws add character. It is also acceptable for an emerald to be treated before it is sold. What is used to treat the emerald? **Fine sand, Oil, Polish, An acid bath**
10. In the legend titled, "The Story of the First Emerald", the King of India wished to possess a particular emerald. The emerald at that time was an unknown gem, in what shape did the emerald come? **A necklace, A ring, A vase, A square stone**

<http://www.funtrivia.com/submitquiz.cfm?quiz=274038>

The answers are on page 4

Can You Identify these Metallic Minerals?



Answers in next month's "Rock Talk".

Advertise in *Rock Talk*

The cost to advertise in Rock Talk is \$25.00 for nine issues during the club year, from September through June. Contact the Mike Stone or Peggy Burns to set up an ad in both the club newsletter and our website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Check out Our Website

<http://withlacocheerockhounds.com/>

Rock Talk

Secretary's Report

by

Danie Thornton



Hello all. I hope the summer has been productive and restful for everyone. There are many issues that we need to discuss at the September meeting. We need several volunteers for different committees. Also the need to be present when volunteering was an issue of concern that was raised at the May meeting. For those of us who were not present, I have information that I would like to share with you and would like you to consider for the next meeting.

1. I contacted PHCC about their choice for the recipient of our scholarship. The way the scholarship was written, it can be awarded to anyone attending his or her school. There are ways in which we rewrite the requirements so students pursuing an earth/space science field will be given preference.

2. We are considering the purchase of a projector. We have members working on the pricing, but if anyone has ideas or suggestions please let us know.

3. Harry Wilson, who was a very helpful individual towards our Silver Smithing classes, is retiring. We decided to give him a \$50.00 gift card, plaque, and a lifetime honorary membership to the club.

4. The suggestion of moving of the monthly club meetings from Wednesday to Tuesday was discussed and some issues were raised.

5. We need volunteers for the board of directors and also in the kitchen during meetings.

6. We ask that yellow not be used in the *Rock Talk* newsletter. We all agreed and it does not seem to be an issue that needs further discussion.

7. The Gemboree was a major point of discussion; specifically volunteers. Over the years people have signed up but have not shown up for their duties. We are asking that everyone sign up early for volunteer work and if they cannot show up, please call so we can find coverage. If there is an easier way that we can solve this situation, we are open to suggestions, as we seem to be lacking in the volunteer department. It was also suggested that perhaps it should be mandatory for all members to participate in some club activity or duty, however the issue was not discussed any further due to the lack of attendance at the May meeting.

8. We need a mailing reporter for *Rock Talk*. This position requires picking up copies of the newsletter at Office Depot, then addressing the copies applying postage, and mailing them to club members who have requested printed copies.

9. We are also looking for a membership chairman to keep a current membership roster and distribute it when needed.

As you can see we have several things to discuss and I want to put them out there so we can all see them and perhaps decide on a position in which to volunteer.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Danie Thornton

May Club Meeting Minutes May 13, 2009

- The meeting was opened at 7:05 PM by club president Ralph Barber with a salute to the flag and a silent prayer.
- There was no treasurer's report.
- New Committee member information was discussed, as well as the need for volunteers. Dee Graham recommended that each member be given a copy of the club by-laws.
- Equipment needs were discussed as well as approval of a plaque, gift certificate, and honorary club membership for Harry Wilson.
- There was no Sunshine Report.
- Anne Virginia, the Viking, Regina Aquaviva, and E. Heist will provide refreshments for the September meeting.
- A change of meeting date was discussed.
- No old business needed to be revisited.

Having no further business, the meeting was closed at 7:38 PM.

Submitted by Dani Thornton

Trivia Answers

May, Kimberly Emerald, Chalk Emerald, North Carolina, Ireland, Cleopatra's Mine, 7.5-8, 2,600 million years ago, Oil, A vase

What a Fantastic Patch



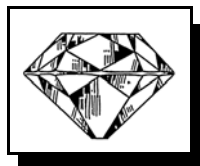
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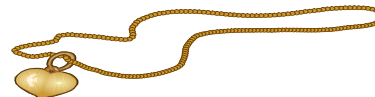


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Withlacochee Rockhounds

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

Senior Citizens Club of Hernando County Inc., behind Brewers Funeral Home on the east side of US 19 in Spring Hill, FL. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month.

2009 Club Officers

President.....	Ralph Barber.....	352-300-6852.....	barbersbloomers@hotmail.com
1st Vice President.....	Jim Raffone.....	727-862-4560.....	blackythebossman@yahoo.com
2nd Vice President.....	Kelly Johnson.....	352-688-9399.....	
Secretary.....	Danielle Thornton.....	352-683-5107.....	surferchick03@hotmail.com
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Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone/Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	n1ve@amsat.org
Mailing Reporter.....
Membership Chairman.....
Program Chairman.....	Flora Barker.....	352-527-9844.....
SFMS Stamp Program.....	Jean Casanova.....	352-442-2667.....
Gem Mine Chairman.....	Audrey Stead.....	352-688-7821.....
Sunshine Chairman.....