

Rock Talk

In This Issue

- The August Meeting as I Saw it
- August Club Meeting Photos
- It's a Small World
- Bench Tips
- Tiny Amethyst Crystals?
- Secretary Report
- 42nd Annual Gem Show
- Club Membership Form

September 2016



Rock Talk



September Club Meeting Program

The September meeting program, will be making copper “stack” rings. We will be sizing, cutting and soldering copper wire to make rings, then texturing them as well. Stack rings are very popular and can be mixed and matched to suit your mood. They can also be used for gifts! This will be the

first time we have had a class where we solder copper. All members are welcome. There will be a charge of \$3.00 per class member to cover the cost of the copper, pickle and solder. See you there!

This month's *Rock Talk* cover is Bermuda beach sand.

Pink foraminifera *Homotrema rubrum* gives pink color to the beaches of Bermuda. Corals are light-colored but not all of the pieces are fragments of coral reefs. Molluscs, other foram species, and even echinoids (sea urchin spine in the lower left) are also present. Width of view 32 mm

The August Club Meeting



as I saw it

by

Dorwin Skinner



I was not going to be one of the last to arrive at this meeting so I made sure I was ready to go on time. To make this day special my wife Shirley decided to accompany me. I guess her curiosity finally got the best of her and she had to see what the club is all about. I arrived and saw a couple of people talking in front of the building and I didn't think anything about it. When I grabbed the knob to go in I understood why they were standing outside. The door was locked and for the first time I was one of the first to arrive. Shortly Ralph showed up with the key and

saved the day. In a few minutes several other members arrived and the showing and selling of specimens was in full swing. A returning old-comer, Pat Gould, brought in some specimens and was soon sharing them with us. Linda Spaulding brought in a couple of items and asked if we knew what they were. I believe that unknown #1, the polished stone, might be Oolitic Limestone and unknown #2, the round items, might be the fossilized fruit from a sycamore tree. Melodye brought several of her beautiful creations. If you didn't get a chance to see them they can be viewed on the web at <http://www.designsbymelodye.com/>. Judith Birx had several specimens. She also had a beautiful Nantucket basket. I asked her if she made it, she responded “yes”. I then told her how much I liked it. Later when the basket was empty I saw the bottom. She must have help making the basket from some guy named Japan, because he put his tag on the bottom. Somewhere around 7:30 Ralph remembered we are supposed to have a meeting and he called the meeting to order. After the reports were given, old and new business were discussed. Since I will not be there for the next meeting it was suggested that I make a cake and leave it with someone to take to the meeting. There were several volunteers, but I doubted their sincerity about not eating any of it first. After a few minutes the meeting was adjourned and it was time to help Ralph fold and stuff envelopes with the information for the upcoming Rock Club show in December. A new member, Mike Osterman, was quickly put



Dorwin, Linda, and Pat checking out specimens.

to work and soon there were several people helping Ralph with the brochures. Many hands make short work and we were soon finished. Roger Wheeler had some beautiful examples of Polychrome Jasper from Madagascar. Joseph Riedel brought more of his creations, pendants with inset stones. Chris Lagasse and Jim Betts were back on the polishing machines. Chris was polishing a piece of Ocean Jasper and Jim was working on a piece of Opalite. All too soon it was time to leave.

August Club Meeting Photos



Poly chrome jasper and a crystal-lined geode brought in by Roger Wheeler.



Dave and John checking out the machines.



Chris Lagasse and Jim Betts on the Dixie machines.



Creations by Melodye Steverson



David Riedel and Linda Spaulding looking at specimens.



Shirley Skinner, Dick Drum, Mike Osterman, and Ralph Barber getting ready for the club 42nd gem show in December.



Creations by Joseph Riedel



Pat Gould's fossil coral.



Unknown specimen



Melodye brought lots of stuff to the meeting.



Unknown specimens

Next Meeting, Wednesday September 14, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Photos by Dorwin Skinner

It's a Small World

by Mike Stone

Using a camera, tablet, or smartphone for taking close-up photos of rock, fossil, or mineral specimens can bring out details that our eyes can't. Using a microscope with a camera attachment can open up a whole new micro world and turn ordinary specimens into wondrous images made up of unimaginable intricate shapes, structures, and colors.

Linda Spaulding and Peg and I have Bosch and Lomb stereoscopic microscopes. When using them to view even the most mundane specimens, a fantastic assortment of details become visible. The microscopes are also excellent for viewing specimens that are almost too small to see with the unaided eye. Linda collects what most would refer to as sand, but under the microscope, her "sand" becomes an assortment of minuscule fossilized material (microfossils).

Adding to the value of a microscopic view is the ability to take and record a photos of the images. Digital cameras that fit into one of the eyepieces of the microscope and connect to a computer will produce very nice photos if the lighting and focus are carefully adjusted.



This camera replaces one microscope eyepiece.



Image produced by the Bosch and Lomb microscope and eyepiece camera.

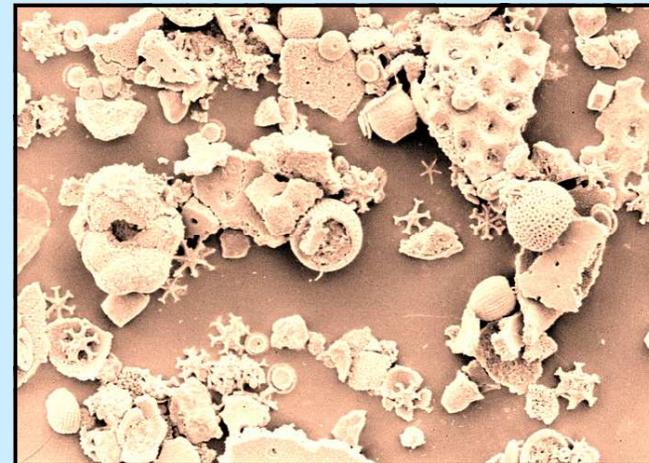
Low cost digital microscopes, capable of producing good images are available. Amazon.com sells several models starting at about twenty dollars. I bought a seventy-nine dollar digital microscope for my grandchildren and it produces very nice images, though the depth of field is limited. It works best on absolutely flat surfaces.



A \$79 "Best Digital USB Microscope" and camera purchased at Amazon.com



An image produced by the "Best Digital USB Microscope".



Microfossils

When referring to rock, mineral, and fossil specimens, remember, they don't all have to be large enough to be easily visible to the naked eye.



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



The camera connects to the computer. The image can be viewed on the computer monitor and then saved as a jpeg.

There were 24 members and one guest at the July meeting.



Bench Tips by Brad Smith



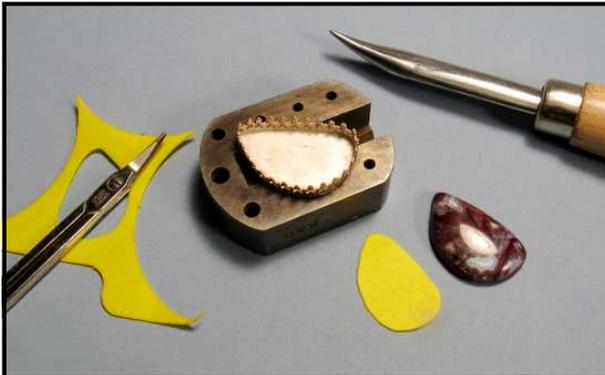
Bench Tips for Jewelry Making and Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry are

Raising A Cabochon

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. If you are going to raise it up, the question is what is the best material to use?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. Rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would become a little loose.

In any case, I now prefer pieces of plastic sheet to boost up my stones. Pieces are readily available from product packaging or from old credit cards. I just cut a piece to loosely fit the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.



Transparent Cab

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

Tiny Amethyst Crystals?

by Mike Stone

A while ago I took a ride on the motorcycle toward the Ohio River. As I was passing through road construction just south of Brandenburg, Kentucky, I rode past a large pile of freshly unearthed rocks. After making two quick U-turns I pulled off the pavement and parked next to the rock pile for a look and see. Nothing can be more boring than a pile of pure, clean limestone, but nevertheless, I wanted to look for fossils, calcite crystals or anything that might pique my interest. It didn't take me long to find a small, deep pocket containing a few dog tooth spar (calcite) crystals. But I knew if I tried to remove them from the limestone with a hammer and chisel they'd become a handful of white powder. As I continued looking over the rocks, I spotted a strange purplish coating on a fist size piece of limestone. It appeared that minerals had formed a thin layer on one surface of the rock. So I threw it in one of the saddlebags and contin-



Parked beside an unimpressive pile of limestone.

My solution is one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish. Mylar is readily available in craft and giftwrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may even want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

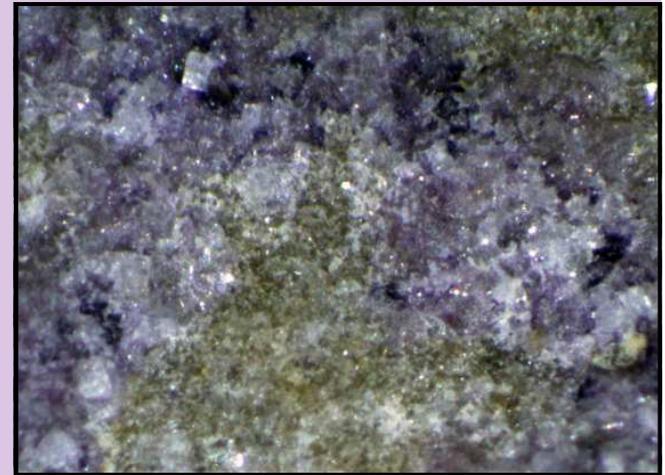
See all Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com.

Welcome New Member

Welcome new club member: **Mike Osterman**
from New Port Richey.

ued riding.

When I returned home, I put the rock with the purple coating under the microscope, set the magnification level to maximum, and took a photo. Even at full power the crystals were so small that I was unable to see much detail, but I could tell that some of the coating was made up of a purple crystalline mineral. I was unable to perform any tests on the vividly colored mineral, but I assume that is it amethyst due to its color and brilliant, sparkling sheen.



A magnified view of the purple coating on the limestone.

Club Elections

Our club officer elections will be coming soon. All members are encouraged to consider how they can best serve our club. There will be several openings for officers and appointed positions. We could use some "new blood" to help plan and guide the future of this club. New ideas are always a good starting point! If you have the imagination, and interest in seeing our club continue to flourish, please consider filling one of these positions. At our next meeting let any officer or member of the board of directors know that you are interesting in a position, or call one of them from the list of numbers on the back page of this newsletter.

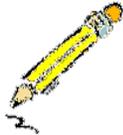
Melodye Steverson, club secretary

Withlacoochee Rockhounds—Rock Talk

Secretary Report



by
Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes August 10, 2016

- The meeting was called to order by club president Ralph Barber at 7:20pm.
- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There was one new member to recognize; Mike Osterman.
- There were two guests in attendance; Pat Gould and Shirley Skinner.
- Michele Evans made a motion to accept the minutes of our July meeting as printed in the newsletter. It was seconded by Judith Birx and passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the treasurer's report.

New Business

- Roger Wheeler suggested that we have a write up in our newsletter about Robert Jensen, aka. The Viking. Dave Davis agreed, as did all members that know The Viking. It was also agreed that the club secretary should be the one to write it, "since she knows him better than anyone else".
- Melodye will write the article for a future newsletter.
- Since Dorwin Skinner will not be at the September meeting, Bill Spaulding offered to take pictures for the newsletter.

Old Business

- There was no old business to discuss.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Richard Drum, Janet Wheeler and Dave Davis.
- Judith Birx made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dave Davis seconded the motion, and it was passed by all.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Redesigned Club Website

The club website has been rebuilt. Check it out and let me know of any errors, omissions, additions, or changes you'd like to see.

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Mike Stone, webmaster

WITHLACOOCHEE ROCKHOUNDS
of Hernando County, Florida.

HOME CONTACT US GFM SHOW/DEALER INFO CLUB MEETINGS
CLUB OFFICERS CLUB NEWSLETTERS ANNUAL GFM SHOW PHOTOS

Download Club Brochure.pdf (PDF)

WITHLACOOCHEE ROCKHOUNDS

We are a non-profit organization with the purpose of fostering interest and promoting knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, and earth sciences.

We conduct:

- regular meetings
- informational programs - guest speakers, videos,

Club Positions Needed

Club vice president, **Doug DuPont**, and club educational chair, **Gloria DuPont** have notified us that they will not be taking on their positions for the next club year. If any club member is interested in becoming a club officer, director, or would like to fill any other club position, contact one of the members of the board of directors.

Tuesday Workshop

at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

Elaine Alford is giving workshops on wire wrapping (stones), chain making (jump rings) and possibly other related skill at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center in Spring Hill. The workshops are on Tuesdays from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon. The cost per workshop is \$2.00. To participate in the workshops, one must be a member of the *Withlacoochee Rockhounds*, which covers dues to the *Weeki Wachee Citizens Club*.

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

For Sale

Ladies' Rings

Jasper, goldstone, blue goldstone,
agate, rose quartz, amethyst.

sizes 6.5- 7- 7.5

Electroplated silver

\$25.00 each

Michele: 352-232-0375



What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

Last month's mineral was a sapphire crystal.

The Withlacoochee Rockhounds 42nd Annual Rock, Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry, and Gem Show is Coming

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Annual Gem and Mineral Show 2016

The Withlacoochee Rockhounds invites you to participate in their 42th annual gem and mineral show. The show will take place on December 2nd, 3rd, and 4th (set up on December 3rd) at the **Veterans Memorial Park, 14333 Hicks Rd., Hudson, FL.**

The show will open to the public on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM.

Spaces must be reserved in advance for the full three days of the show. Please send your deposit as soon as possible. No tailgating will be allowed.

Indoor Booths: (foot frontage only) includes one eight-foot table and chairs. \$85.00 per booth. A \$30.00 deposit per booth is required to reserve your space.

Setup: Starting at 9:00 AM Thursday, December 1st.

We will have special programs and demonstrations. If you are interested in demonstrating or putting on a program, please note this on your application.

Food will be available during the show and many restaurants are close-by for evening meals.

Send all requests for booth space to the show chairman. Because of postage costs, your canceled check will be acknowledgement of your deposit. Please make your check payable to **Withlacoochee Rockhounds**. Deposit money will be refunded up to 30 days prior to the show.

Website: www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Show chairman Ralph Barber 8034 Montrose Ave. Brooksville, FL 34613
352-200-6852
barberbloomers@hotmail.com

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Dues Form, 2016

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

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

Please Print

Primary Member

Last name

First Name

Renewing members check here if no change in information below.

Additional family members:

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Last name

First Name

Street Address:

City:

State:

ZIP

Phone Number(s):

Email Address:

Please give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at the club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to Janet Wheeler 338 Appaloosa Rd. Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

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 \$25.00 for twelve issues—one year . Contact 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.

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

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.

2016 Club Officers

President.....	Ralph Barber.....	352-200-6852.....	barbersbloomers@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Doug DuPont.....	352-515-1517.....	ddupont6@tampabay.rr.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.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-515-1517.....	ddupont6@tampabay.rr.com
SFMS Stamp Program.....	Audrey Stead.....	352-688-7821.....	audreyste35@gmail.com
Gem Mine Chairman.....	Jean Casanova.....	352-442-2667.....	
Sunshine Chairman.....	Audrey Stead.....	352-688-7821.....	audreyste35@gmail.com

Board of Directors: Rovie Alford, Ralph Barber, Doug DuPont, Gloria DuPont, Dave Letasi, Melodye Steverson, Mike Stone, Janet Wheeler