

# Rock Talk



January 2019



# Rock Talk

*Happy New Year*

## January 9th Meeting Program

The January meeting will be our annual holiday dinner. The meeting will begin at **6:30 PM**, and after the short business portion of the meeting we will have dinner. The club will provide the meat and beverages,

members are asked to bring a side dish or dessert or a salad to share. After the dinner we will play Rock Bingo.

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### The Cover Photo

Garnet, the January birthstone

## The 2018 Gem Show

by Dorwin Skinner

Our Gem and Fossil Show this year was a grand slam. Our organizers knocked it out of the park. More tables were sold, more vendors were there, more volunteers came to help, we had less expenses and we had more profit. Our two chairpersons, Ralph Barber and John Motzer, did a fantastic job of putting this show together and their efforts directly impacted the success of our show. Over 23 volunteers were there to help, I would mention names but I cannot remember them all and I do not want to leave

anyone out. At least seven of our members had tables this year. Each year it gets better and this is the most successful year that I have seen. Every member that participated deserves a big round of applause. To put a cherry on the sundae, we signed up ten new members during the

show. Fossils, minerals and jewelry were everywhere you looked; there was a gymnasium full of them. If you were there, you know what I am talking about. If you didn't come, it's your loss. Take a look at the pictures posted on our website and you will get some idea of what you missed. I can only imagine what next year will be like.



Doug and Gloria near the entrance to the gymnasium

**Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 9th, 6:30 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

# 2018 Gem Show Photos



More vendors this year



Dave talking "flint knapping" with Jacob



Ralph and Karen taking it easy



Katie at the microscope



Tom Mitchell demonstrating faceting



Linda at the kids' table



Peggy purchasing a dugong rib



Roberta chatting with past member Bill



Eric checking out the rocks



Patty doing some shooting

More Gem Show Photos on our website.

<https://www.withlacocheerockhounds.com/2018-gem-show-photos.html>

### The Meeting as I Saw it



by  
**Dorwin Skinner**



It looked like it would be another great meeting when I arrived because the parking lot was full. When I opened the door I knew something was different. I was greeted by Gary Spurlock, John Schaediger, and Jan Gathj. After getting a nametag, raffle ticket, and paying a one-dollar club house usage fee I was free to enter. But before I did all of that, someone relieved me of my cake and took it to the refreshment area. We were having an auction that night and the tables were covered with specimens that were being offered. The raffle table also had many prizes to be won. Maybe I would be one of the lucky ones later in the evening. Guess what? That didn't happen. I keep hoping, but it doesn't seem to happen very often. I looked around and what a difference in our club. There are so many new faces that I don't recognize. I know I have a bad memory for names, but I usually remember faces. On the Pixie machines were Laurie and Doug Rule. I couldn't remember them but they seemed to know what they were doing on a polishing machine. The auction table was a very popular place and everyone appeared to be picking out something that they wanted to take home. It wasn't long before Judith called the meeting to order and started the election of officers for the upcoming year. It was a runaway election, those who volunteered for the positions were

all voted in...imagine that. John Motzer gave a report on the gem show and it appears that it was a successful year. Approximately \$3900 was made after expenses. The upcoming year should be a great one. I look forward to the January meeting because of all the great food that will be there. See you at the January meeting.



Lauri and Doug Rule



Gary, John, and Jan at the entrance table



The Three Musketeers



Front to back Sue, Elaine, and Tommy



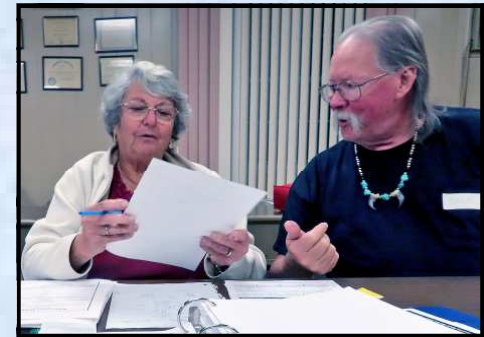
Dues time. Club treasurer Janet Wheeler and her assistant Michele

**Next Meeting, Wednesday January 9, 6:30 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

# December Meeting Photos



Lots of action before the start of the meeting.



Signing up for another year.



The Chinese auction



Mike Stone photo

Dave checking out coins instead of fossils



Mike Stone photo

Bear selling his wampum



Mike Stone photo

Checking out Roberta's cabs and pendants

**Next Meeting, Wednesday January 9th, 6:30 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**



On Saturday December 8<sup>th</sup> Sue and I had the opportunity to attend a Vulcan Mine fossil dig. We met with members of both the Withlacoochee Rockhounds and members of the Tampa Bay Fossil Club at the round-about drive way at CMEX property. We entered at 9am under Mr. Saul Mendoza's directions and were guided to CMEX's old soft limestone cement matrix pit. I haven't been there since 2007 and noticed how overgrown with vegetation it had become, due to the pits closure for rock removal. Clearly new vibrant natural flora and fauna habitat was quickly replacing raw excavated rock surfaces. We talked briefly with Lynn Walter's and discussed the latest information about her incredible discovery of the prehistoric box crab fossils she has been finding in that very pit. She has found at least three kinds of crab species in the genus of *Calappilia*. I reviewed several papers regarding previous discoveries in Florida and Venezuela. Clearly Lynn's are the finest examples discovered so far and one will likely be named a new species. The University of Florida Museum of Natural History invertebrate paleontology department under the direction of Dr. Roger Portell has been keenly interest-



One of Lynn's Vulcan Mine finds.

ed in her finds. The geology at this site sits at the top of the late Eocene Ocala Limestone and just under the early Oligocene Period Suwanee Formation. These contact zones between major sediment contact strata frequently produce new fossil species diversity. This is believed to take place due to the impact of climate, environment change, and biological stress. These Vulcan Mine rock features have a potential for producing many new and exciting rare finds.

The diversity of crustacean species from this time period is poorly understood. Lynn's new specimens of fossil box crab will add new knowledge about their range of species and anatomical details. Recently a rare specimen of the genus of the nautilus mollusc *Arturia*, discovered by a member of the Tampa Bay fossil Club, added to new significant finds in central Florida. The vertebrate fossils of early toothed whales in the family Archicetti are rare and poorly known. Also fossils of the Late Eocene dugongs in the family Protosirenia are poorly represent in the fossil record around the world. Numerous rib elements and vertebra have been found here. One of my students in the late 1990's found a partial pelvis bone that demonstrated that these early sirens walked on four legs. Even terrestrial land animal remains may be encountered in the piles of rust colored clay at the site. These clays originated as sinkhole fill deposited during the period of sea level lowering and our peninsula's formation from Miocene times and later. Several years ago a former club member found the foot bone of a fossil Miocene peccary in the rust colored clay during one of our club digs. About 15 years ago I found a fossil molar tooth of the Pliocene horse *Dinohippus*, one of the few I have found in Florida. Our club is becoming a real cutting edge in science and many new treasures are waiting for us to discover at the Vulcan Mine.

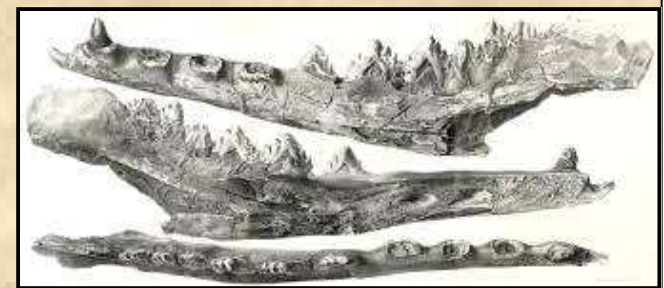
Thanks to the Vulcan Materials Company and CMEX Corporation for allowing us on their property to collect, we have the rare op-



Arturia Fossil Eocene Nautilus Mollusc Shell



Fossil sea cow



Archeocete fossil Eocene Whale Jaw

portunity to make major paleontological discoveries. I have had the pleasure to work with and know Mr. Saul Mendoza over the last 25 years. He is a fossil enthusiast and a major reason why we have the privilege to collect fossils at the

Continued on next page

Dave Letasi from previous page



Dinohippus fossil horse skull, early Pliocene period

mine. Thank you Saul! What an exciting time to be collecting fossils and minerals. Also, a concentration of calcite crystals were collected that Saturday! What a wonderful geological treasure we have at the Vulcan Mine. Keep looking and keep discovering. See you all in January.

References: *Paleobiogeography of the Box Crab Calappilia with a New Species From The Eocene-Oligocene of Florida* Journal of Crustacean Biology 2016 Benjamin T Ramsey, Adiel A. Klompmaker Roger W. Portell

*The Fossil Vertebrates of Florida* University Press of Florida 2001 Richard C. Hulbert. *A Study of The Lithological and Petrographical Changes Across the Eocene-Oligocene Transition of The Ocala and Suwanee Formation in Northern Florida and South Georgia* Florida State University Library 2015 Kayla Smith



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

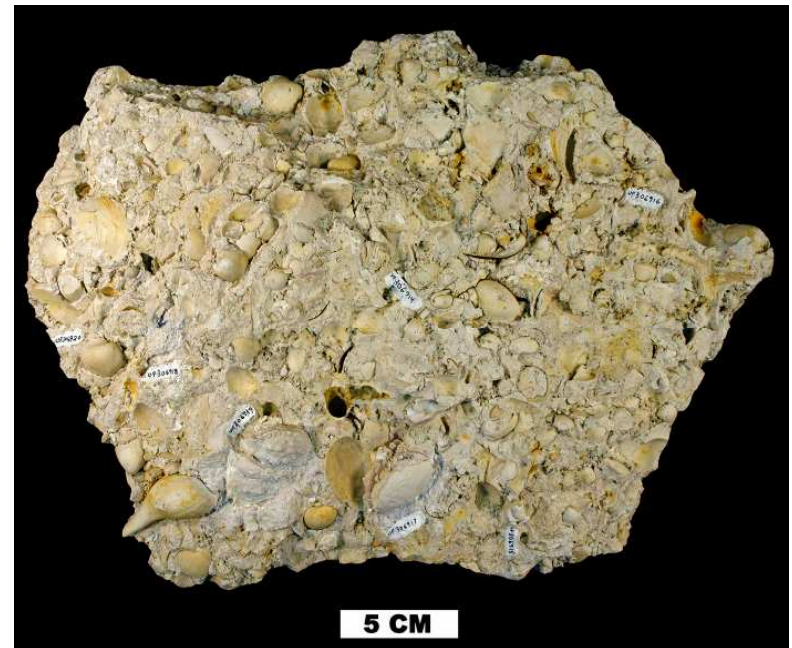
### Lynn Walters Donates Heavily Fossilized Limestone Slab to the Florida Museum of Natural History

The Florida Museum of Natural History was appreciative of Lynn's donation of a limestone slab containing many sea life fossils, including those of a rare calappilia crab.

The list of specimens embedded in the slab are listed on the certificate.



Roger Portell awarding the certificate to Lynn



Lynn Walters photos

### Visit the Vulcan Mine

Club members have been collecting rocks, minerals, and fossils at the Vulcan Mine for a number of years. The mine is open for digging on the first Saturday of the month, weather permitting. Our next dig will be on January 12, 2019. We meet at the gate to register at 8:30 AM. The address is: **Vulcan Materials Co.**



**16313 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Brooksville, FL 34614**

**The Google plus code (address shortcut): MG5R+6W If you type the code into Google Maps it will direct you to the proper location.**

Because of insurance requirements, only current club members can enter the mine.

At 9:00 AM, we are escorted through the gate by a mine employee, and convoy to the digging site. The gate is closed and locked behind us until we are led back out of the mine later in the day.

There is no shade or shelter in the area, so dress accordingly and bring plenty of water. There are no bathrooms, so you will have to be creative about where to go. There are plenty of large rocks to hide behind. Snakes, sharp rocks, mud, and steep inclines can be a problem. Vehicles cannot always be parked close to the digging areas.

You might consider bringing some of the following: boots, gloves, hammer, chisel, pry bar, shovel, pick, buckets, newspapers to wrap delicate specimens, two-wheel dolly, first aid kit, suntan lotion, sunglasses, hat with a visor or wide brim, and a lunch.

In addition to a wide variety of sea life fossils, you might find calcite crystals, mammal fossils, colorful chert, and who knows what else?



Rock hounds in action



A rare Vulcan find by Lynn



Roberta picking through the rubble.



Fibrous calcite druzy pocket and seam



Jim is really digging in



Look at what Sue found



Digging through newly excavated rock

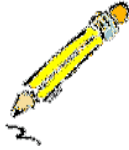
Photos by Lynn Walters



## Secretary's Report



by  
Melodye Steverson



### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 12-12-18

The meeting was called to order by club president Judith Birx at 7:00 pm.

- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There were four guests in attendance; Daryl Barney, Robert Jacob, Barb and Jim Levasseur.
- Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our November meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Roger Wheeler, and it was passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.

#### New Business

Club president Birx announced;

- The annual club election of officers and board members will take place tonight.
- 2019 dues are due now and need to be paid by the end of January 2019.
- She then asked John Motzer, our gem show committee co-chair, to give a report regarding the recent gem show. John said the show went great. There were many volunteer members that came out to help; 16 on Friday, 19 on Saturday and 13 on Sunday. A full report will be in the next newsletter.

- President Birx tried to address the members, but the microphone began to cut out. Dorwin Skinner made a motion that we buy a new microphone. The motion was seconded by Gary Spurlock and passed by all members.
- The Chinese Auction was being held tonight and all profits go to the club.
- The next board of directors meeting will be held on December 18, 2018 at 6:30 pm.
- Judith also asked everyone to sign up for what they will bring to the pot luck dinner at our January holiday party meeting. There was a discussion about the "Rock Bingo" game we play every year. The Board has slightly changed the rules and they will be listed in the newsletter.
- At this time, the floor was turned over to club secretary Steverson who began the annual election by handing out ballots to all members in good standing. Jan Gathj assisted. Ballots were filled out by members, then collected and counted by Steverson and Gathj. Results were as follows: President - Judith Birx, Vice president - Mark Moore, Treasurer - Janet Wheeler, Secretary - Melodye Steverson, Retained Board members - Mike Stone, Linda Spaulding, and past club president Ralph Barber. New board members - Lynn Walters and Ginny Steverson.
- Leslie Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Davis seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.*

### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 12-18-18

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Melodye Steverson, Dorwin Skinner, Mike Stone, Mike Moore, Lynn Walters and Ginny Steverson. Also in attendance; club member Leslie Moore.

The board meeting started at 6:33 pm and was held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center.

Club president Birx handed out the agenda. She began by welcoming our newly elected officer and board members.

- Judith brought up her conversation with the Weeki Wachee Senior Center Board members and reported that they had considered raising the Senior Center yearly dues to \$15 per member. When Judith heard about this, she called Carol Hechler, the Director of the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizen Club. Judith explained that our group had just raised our dues to keep us from going into the red because of each member's financial obligation to the Senior Citizen Club, and that we could not raise them again right now. Several members of our group attended the Senior Center Board of Directors meeting the next day. After much discussion, with information and opinions given on both sides, it was decided that the Senior Center would not raise their dues at this time. Our club's dues will remain as they were voted on in October.
- The next topic was the holiday dinner meeting in January. Some of the directors didn't know how the details of the party were handled, so the long-time members explained

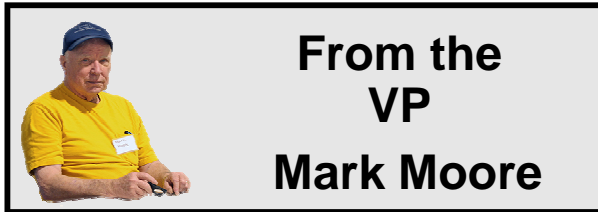
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**Next Meeting, Wednesday January 9th, 6:30 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

how it had always been done. The “Rock Bingo” game came up and it was decided to change some of the rules to make it more friendly. These will be listed in the next newsletter.

- There was much discussion regarding our many Facebook pages. This will be discussed more at the next meeting.
- The discussion regarding the proposed scholarship to The William Holland School of the Lapidary Arts was tabled until our January Board meeting.
- Mark Moore made a motion to end the meeting. It was seconded by Mike Stone and it was passed by all.
- The meeting ended at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.



#### Happy New Year to All

Mike Stone thought club members might be interested in a few articles about some of the rocks, fossils, and artifacts Leslie and I have discovered over the years. Along with a bit of the interesting science about them. So to give you some of my background;

I have degrees in radiation science and nuclear engineering, as well as many certifications in emergency response (fire and rescue, hazmat, scuba diving, etc.) I retired from the Defense Department with 34 years of service. I retired as a physical scientist, since that was the position needed to serve as the

director of a nuclear lab facility and run various programs dealing with a mix of the hard and biological sciences. Les has a degree in math and science, which is strange since she has trouble keeping a check book balanced.

Since retiring I have served as a County Fire Chief and a Battalion Chief for Search and Rescue. For over 13 years and many classes Leslie and I have been indirect delivery (off campus) instructors for New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology programs in antiterrorism. I also did some graduate work and Leslie did undergraduate work in energetic materials. Now, however, we are retiring from that position to move on to other activities. We were both coxswains, search and rescue specialists and commanders for the Coast Guard serving in the Auxiliary. Leslie just retired after 21 years and I will retire next year.

Leslie and I worked for the State of Maryland (I was loaned out on a time-available basis) on Historic St. Mary's City's project, lead coffins. Leslie served as project documentation coordinator and took over 60 hours of video and over one thousand photographs. I served as the project technical director to exhume three lead coffins containing the remains of the Calvert family, one of the founding families of the United States. In a very strange coincidence it turns out that I was a direct descendent of the Calverts, the very family that we were studying. I have done forensic studies about the remains using, at the time state of the art nuclear and electron instrumentation, in cooperation with a half a dozen university and government labs. Leslie, having a certification from her field school in archaeology from St. Mary's College, was an all-around go to person for many difficult problems arising in a

project of this size, working with many diverse very talented and well-known scientists.

I have been collecting rocks and minerals for most of my life. Being a nuclear type guy, I collect radioactive rocks and ores, natural as well as man-made having built my first Giger-counter when I was 12. Also living my young life on the battlefields of the Civil War (war of northern aggression to you southerners) in Virginia and Maryland. I also have a good collection of bullets and associated artifacts. And as most of you know I really have a passion for meteorite and tektite materials Leslie, having worked at the Smithsonian in Washington DC in malacology (shells) for 10 years, has a natural interest in fossilized shells.

If you have a special interest in a geology or artifact topic, let us know and we will try to research it and write a short article about it. Since several of you had questions on the radioactive rocks talk I gave a couple of months back. I will try to do a piece on general radioactivity of minerals for the next newsletter. It might not be every month as some of our duties take us away for a few weeks at a time, but look for future articles coming up soon.

### Election Results

Elections were held at the December club meeting. The following are the results:

President – **Judith Birx**

Vice President – **Mark Moore**

Secretary – **Melodye Steverson**

Treasurer – **Janet Wheeler**

Board member – **Ginny Steverson** (2021)

Board member – **Lynn Walters** (2021)

**6-inch Micro Mark Band Saw**

Variable speed, water reservoir, drain board with hoses, mounted on a plywood base, variable work height to 3-inch maximum, diamond blade and wood blade included.

Contact Bear

360-528-0757

[MRBEAR1948@yahoo.com](mailto:MRBEAR1948@yahoo.com)



**14" Highland Park, Model M3 Slab Saw**

Totally reconditioned with new belts, bearings, caster assembly and motor pulley. All have been cleaned and/or repainted. The 14" blade is good but should be reconditioned. \$750 OBO.

Phone or text Darryl at

(847) 420-8705.



Acetylene tanks, sizes NC and B, \$50 each



Oxyacetylene welding outfit, including tanks, regulators and micro torch, \$175

**For Sale**

Contact

Rovie Alford

270-999-9144

[roviea712@yahoo.com](mailto:roviea712@yahoo.com)

- Six inch Raytach slab saw, like new, \$375
- Grit and polish available for all tumblers.
- Lortone 6 inch Expando drums for cabbing \$20 each.
- Lortone 8 inch Expando drums for cabbing \$25 each



Rotary tumblers, both single and dual barrels, \$45 to \$95 each

2) Mini Sonic vibrator tumblers, four-pound barrels, \$150 each



Two ten inch slab saws, \$300 each.

**For Sale Casting unit**

Includes long casting arm, burnout oven, tongs, flasks, casting shot, casting tub, scales, charcoal stirring rods, hot gloves, plus lots of odds and ends. All can be seen at my residence. Price around \$600.00. Must see to appreciate.

Jerry Johnson  
11511 Fairfield Ct  
Spring Hill, FL 34609  
352-573-0830

**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](mailto:n1ve@amsat.org)

## For Sale



### For Sale

Brazilian agate pendants, very rare, 3 inches by 2 inches, \$25.00 each. Contact:

**Michele**

**352-232-0375**

**healinghands@tampabay.rr.com**

## President's Message

**Judith Birx**



I am hoping that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I'm wishing you all a happy and healthy new year. I am very much looking forward to our holiday dinner meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 6:30 pm.

We have accomplished much over the past year. Our 501 ( c ) 3 status has been reinstated and we are now in compliance with the rules set by the state and federal governments. We were able to donate \$1000.00 to our USF endowment fund. We have raised our club

dues, which, now allows us to operate without a loss.

I would like to thank everyone who has made the job of being club president much easier than I could have expected. Thanks to all who have volunteered over the year. I have been told by our members, members of other clubs, and from people at the William Holland School that our newsletter and website are among the best they have ever seen. Thanks to Mike Stone and Peggy Burns for their design, editing, proofreading, and publishing skills. Thanks go to Dave Letasi and Dorwin Skinner for their interesting monthly articles and photos. Lynn Walters has put us on the map with her terrific finds at the Vulcan Mine. I appreciate the work of our field trip coordinators, our jewelry class instructors, and students. Thanks to our mineral, fossils and rock identification people and our gem show organizers and volunteers as well as our club members who rented tables at the gem show and club members who signed thank you notes for the vendors. Thanks to Gloria DuPont for selling the gem bags at the gem show and thanks to Doug DuPont for taking care of the club displays at the gem show. Thanks to Linda Spaulding for helping to make the gem show special for so many youngsters. I'd like to thank our gem show door attendees, demonstrators, and relief people who gave vendors free time so they could eat meals and use the restrooms. Thanks for the door prize donations for the gem show. And thanks to members who passed out flyers and advertising for the gem show. Also thanks to our social media people. Oh my, Ralph Barber and John Motzer did an excellent job with the committees and the overall organization of the gem show. Our club tables did very well and we should be proud of the overall level of success

we had with our gem show.

Continuing on in the spirit of our success, we elected new board members and a new club vice president. We are going to move forward toward forming a William Holland School of Lapidary Art Scholarship, so we can look forward to having larger beginner classes and more advanced classes.

Thanks to the club officers and board members for their time and effort at keeping the club running smoothly. Thanks to Michael Steverson for his help operating and caring for the audiovisual equipment. Thanks to everyone who donated food for club meetings and those who set up the food counter and cleaned up after the meeting. Also thanks to those who set up and maintain the rock cutting, grinding, and polishing equipment. And thanks to all of you who brought in door prizes for our club meetings. And thanks to all members who help clean up at the end of each club meeting.

Thanks to members who bring specimens and custom jewelry to our meetings, they add a lot of interest each month. And thanks to those who have put on lessons and presentations at our club meetings.

And of course thanks to all club members for supporting our club by coming to meetings and thereby adding to and maintaining a high level of camaraderie

I am sure we will have challenges in our near future. But with a group of this caliber, I am equally sure we can meet them head on.

### Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center at 6:30 PM on January 15, 2019

**Next Meeting, Wednesday January 9th, 6:30 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

# Egg Size Diamond Found in Canada's Northwest Territory

Information from Fox News

Miners about 135 miles from the Arctic Circle found a 552-carat yellow diamond in October. The rough diamond is the largest discovered in North America. It is the seventh-largest diamond ever found. South Africa holds the title for the largest diamond, a 3,106-carat Cullinan found in 1905. The value of the 552-carat diamond when it is cut will depend on the size and quality of the finished gem.

editor



## Scott Metal Art and Lapidary

by Peggy Burns

On Sunday at the gem show, I spent a few minutes talking with Bennett Scott of **Scott Metal Art and Lapidary** at his table. He explained how he creates some beautiful jewelry (pendants and earrings) with the figure of a fertility deity, soldered to a silver backing. The figure was familiar to me but I hadn't known the significance or

Pendant



even the name of it.

Kokopelli is usually depicted as a hump-backed flute player. I found that there are spas and cafes in the Orlando area using the Kokopelli name.

Mr. Scott explained how he created his jewelry: He actually cuts the intricate Kokopelli figure by hand using a jeweler's saw on either copper or brass. He then solders it onto a silver backing. He guessed it takes him approximately an hour to complete a piece.

Very nice and unique Christmas gifts!



Earrings

## Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members **Darryl and Liz Barney**, Homosassa; **Scott Bennett**, North Port; **Jacob Bowman**, Spring Hill; **Gary and Karen Galarneau**; **Jose Andujar**, Hudson; **Vickie Kayuk**, Hudson; **Sasha Klemawesch**, Seminole; **Anthony Mafatone**, Spring Hill; **Gary New**, Brooksville; **Doug and Lorie Rule**; **Daniel and Sally** and **Daniel Yoder**, Wesley Chapel

## Withlacoochee Rockhounds Holiday Dinner Meeting January 9, 2019

6:30 PM

Our Holiday Dinner Meeting will be held on the second Wednesday of January. Note the time change from our regular meetings. We will have a short business meeting and then we will eat. The club will furnish the meat, beverages, plates, cups, plastic utensils, and napkins. Members are asked to bring casseroles, salads, or desserts for everyone to share.

To help you determine what to bring, the following are foods that club members have signed up to bring for the holiday dinner meeting.

**Vegetable plate, three pies, Italian pasta salad, scalloped potatoes, calico beans, cupcakes, meat and cheese tray, salad, corn, green bean casserole, hot dish, broccoli salad, brownies, brownies, ham and bean soup, pumpkin bread, cake, onion casserole, sweet potatoes, macaroni salad.**

After the dinner, we will have Rock Bingo, a popular form of Bingo where winners are awarded gifts, often pertaining to rocks, minerals, fossils, and custom jewelry.

**The holiday dinner is for members and their families only.**

**Dr. Got Rox**  
 Darryl Johns  
**Offering:** polished stones, specimens, slabs, jewelry, fossils, shells, rough stones, and more  
 5109 Harbinger Rd. Spring Hill, FL 34608  
Text for Appointment (847) 420-8705  
 Facebook—Dr.GotRox Email—dr.gotrox@gmail.com

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
 facebook.com/gailsgifhut  
 ROCKS, CRYSTALS, JEWELRY, TAPESTRIES, OILS, AND MUCH MORE  
**Gail's Gift Hut**  
 gailsgifhut@gmail.com Howards Flea Market  
 FIND US ON ETSY M 13,15,17,19  
 etsy.com/shop/gailsgifhut HOMOSASSA, FL. 34446

**Celtic Designs by Melodye**  
 Ancient echoes from the Celtic past brought to life in stone and metal  
 Melodye Stevenson 407-760-4472  
 www.DesignsByMelodye.com

### 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:

[nive@amsat.org](mailto:nive@amsat.org)

or

**Mike Stone**  
 4504 Kingston Dr.  
 Hernando Beach, FL 34607



Bob Janoswky and his stones.



The Chinese province where Grass and Flower Stones are found.

### Grass and Flower Stones

During the gem show, I spoke to Bob Janoswky who operates "Juying's Chinese Stones". He had tables covered with unique stones from China and I stopped to ask him if some of what he had on display were dendrites. He told me that they are like dendrites, but are formed differently with different minerals. As the end of the show neared, Bob gave me several explanation sheets that he has written about some of the stones he sells. The following is information he gave me about Grass and Flower Stones.

Although you can sometimes find these

stones, called "Painting Stones" in the literature; in China that are called "Grass and Flower Stones". They are deposits of siltstone, a sedimentary rock, formed between two and a half and five million years ago, during the Paleozoic Era. Siltstone forms when a liquid medium containing numerous minute particles, in this case, sand and clay and mineral matter, is deposited, and then, in time, and under pressure it hardens into stone. As the stone hardens, it develops minute cracks, fissures, and holes that are filled by the mineral material found in its surroundings. It is this intrusion by mineral material that gives rise to the beautiful patterns that develop in these stone.

Deposits of these stones, beginning in the early 1990's, have been found in Liuzhou County in the Guangxi Autonomous Region in the South of China. Since that time, there have been no other deposits found elsewhere. It has become one of the most affordable of the Scholar's Rocks, because of its relative availability and the ease in which it is cut and shaped. We have found that the supply these top quality stones has decreased with each of our visits to the stone markets in Liuzhou, and consequently, prices of these stones seem to almost double nearly every few years.

Continued on next page

Glass and flower stones from previous page

In China, stones like there are used to promote a harmonious balance in the natural elements of your home or office, based on the ancient theory and practice of Feng Shui.  
*editor*

### Thanks for Your Help

Thanks to all club members who contributed articles, reports, and photos to the Rock Talk over the past twelve months. Ralph Barber, Lauren Bell, Judith Birx, Peggy Burns, Barb Clark, Gloria DuPont, Michele Evans, Dave Letasi, Sue Letasi, Leslie Moore, Mark Moore, John Motzer, Roberta Oldread, Dorwin Skinner, Brad Smith (Bench Tips), Melodye Steverson, Michael Steverson, and Jenna Swartzmiller.

Your efforts are much appreciated.  
*Mike Stone, editor*

### Rock Art



RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY  
bottle wind chimes

Hernando County Farmers Market  
US 19  
Spring Hill Fl  
352 200 6852

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**Our Website**  
[www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com)

Jewels by Jude

Judith Birx  
Member of Withlacoochee Rockhounds  
Judithbirx@hotmail.com  
Natural Stone Jewelry , Wire Wrapping ,  
Crystals , Beading

352-587-1702

### What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?

Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?"  
Cinnabar  
the ore of mercury

Sulfur crystal

**KELLY JOHNSON** 

MINERALS\*FOSSILS\*CABOCHONS  
FLINTKNAPPED STONE BLADE KNIVES

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**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

**Tuesday Workshop**  
at the  
**Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center**

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 normally on the **first Tuesday of the month from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon**. The cost per workshop is \$1.00. To participate in the workshops, one must be a member of the *Withlacoochee Rockhounds*, which covers dues to the *Weeki Wachee Citizens Club*.

**Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center.**  
3357 Susan Dr.  
Spring Hill FL 34606  
For more information call Judith at: 352-587-1702

**Next Workshop**  
**January 8th at 9:00 AM—12:00 PM**  
The project will be wire wrapping a bracelet.

**Needed material: 6 feet of wire, 36 crystal 3mm or beads or 40 crystals 6mm or beads, one S shaped clasp or S shaped closure**

**If you cannot bring the above material, the cost of the class will be at least \$5.00**

**Tools needed: wire cutters, round nose pliers, chain nose pliers**

**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**

**Use Our Website**

I try to send an email to all members, with a link to the *Rock Talk* before the jewelry workshop, which normally is a week and a day before the club meeting.

If you don't receive an email with a link to the *Rock Talk*, you can access our website for the newsletter, club meeting program, and the project for the next Tuesday morning jewelry workshop.

Also, previous *Rock Talk* newsletters can be downloaded from our website. They have been posted from June 2016.

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

**Dues are Overdue**

The club year runs from January 1st to January 1st, so it's time to sign up for the next club year. Janet, our treasurer, will be accepting membership forms and payments at the club meetings, or you can send the form and your check to:

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



# Withlacoochee Rockhounds



## Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

### Stiffening Earring Posts

Soldering an earring post will always soften the wire a bit. The easiest way I've found to harden it is to grip it with pliers and twist it a couple half turns. This work-hardens the wire and also tests your soldered joint.



Two half-twists hardens the wire and checks the soldered joint.

### Solvent Dispenser

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, such as the bottle from alcohol lamp or a nail polish bottle that I use for yellow ochre anti-flux. Often I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful and the fumes aren't too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab-dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents most frequently

used. The bottles have a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the fine tip on the bottle, I don't spill a drop.



A Google search will turn up many suppliers. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at [www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com). The bottle is Catalog # 716580 Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 mL US \$5.00. They have several sizes and other bottles labeled for specific solvents.

Discover New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

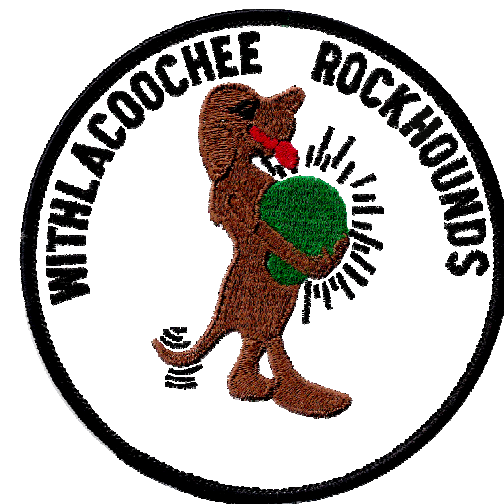


Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's How-To-Do-It Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

## Upcoming Gem and Mineral shows

2/2/19—2/3/19-Central Brevard Rock and Gem Club Kiwanis Recreation Center

3/1/19-3/3/19 Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society, Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show and Sale. Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM -6:00 PM, Sunday, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Mineral Hall, 6340 126<sup>th</sup> Ave. North, Largo, FL 33773



Hernando County, FL

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds

## Membership Form

\_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues:** Individual member, \$20. 00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00.  
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**

# Rock Talk

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds**

Our monthly club meeting is held at the  
Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club,  
3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on  
the 2nd Wednesday of each month  
from 7:00 to 9:00 PM



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

**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](mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com)  
or send to:  
Withlacoochee Rockhounds  
PO Box 5634  
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

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 \$20.00 annually for adults and \$5.00 annually 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.

**2019 Club Officers and Appointees**

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	<a href="mailto:judithbirx@hotmail.com">judithbirx@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	<a href="mailto:markles@bellsouth.net">markles@bellsouth.net</a>
Secretary.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	<a href="mailto:melodye@designsbymelodye.com">melodye@designsbymelodye.com</a>
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Club Web Master.....	Mike Stone.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	<a href="mailto:ddupont@tampabay.rr.com">ddupont@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	<a href="mailto:highlander56@gmail.com">highlander56@gmail.com</a>

**Board of Directors**

Ralph Barber (past president)  
Judith Birx (president)  
Linda Spaulding (2020)  
Melodye Steverson (secretary)

Ginny Steverson (2021)  
Mike Stone (2019)  
Lynn Walters (2021)  
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)