

# Rock Talk



June 2018



# Rock Talk

## June 13th Meeting Program

We will be viewing a video from Melodye Steverson's collection. You will find it informative and entertaining. We will have our cut-

ting, grinding, and polishing machines available for member use. Snacks and beverages will be served.

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### The Cover

The cover features a double terminated quartz crystal, also known as a Herkimer Diamond. This tiny 1/4 inch (6 mm) long crystal in limestone matrix was found at the Ace of Diamonds mine in Middleville, New York, not far from Herkimer, New York.

### Club Members Instruct Elementary School Students

by Mark Moore

Four members of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds gave a program on Florida fossils to forty-eight students at the Yankeetown School in Yankeetown, FL on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May. Mark and Leslie Moore, Dave Letasi, and Charlie Blumhardt were the instructors for the classes, which consisted of joint first and fifth grade classes, and a second class for sixth grade students. The first class of first and fifth graders was put together to see if the younger kids could benefit by working with the older kids. It was a great success. The older kids showed the younger ones how to look through the microscopes to find microfossils. Leslie worked with smaller groups, teaching them how to use

magnifying glasses to look at details in their fossils, while Dave showed other students how to look for, and identify fossils, including shark teeth and other late Florida fossils. It was Charlie's task to show the students how to mount the small fossils, including shark teeth, in micro-mount boxes using conservation mastic to hold them in place. All together the kids mounted over seventy-five fossils from the Yankeetown Withlacoochee- Gulf of Mexico (Inglis) and Peace River formations. To insure that we had enough fossils for everyone (we weren't expecting as large a group), Dave pulled one of his old MOSI tricks and broke a few of the larger fossils

into several smaller pieces. One student really impressed Dave when he noticed that some of the pieces fit together and then the student began to reconstruct the original bone fossil with tape. The school was very excited by the results and the professionalism of the instructors. They are anxious for us to return next year.



**Next Meeting, Wednesday, June 13th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

# Yankeetown School Photos



Dave showing first graders how to use the shark tooth identification guide to locate and identify their shark tooth.



Raven and two students



Charlie shows students how to mount their specimens so they can be seen under the microscope



Leslie shows students how to use a magnifying glass to see small details (tooth seriations) on their shark tooth.



Stamped rings →

← Stamped bracelets

# May Jewelry Class Review

by Dorwin Skinner

For those who have not attended a Tuesday jewelry class you should come out and watch at least once. They take a few items such as wire, metal strips, beads, and baubles and end up with a nice piece of jewelry. One visit and you might get hooked. I am amazed at the enthusiasm of the class. The students tune everything out while they concentrate on their project.

This week Melodye provided the stamping tools that each student used to create two rings and a bracelet. As Melodye got them working with the stamps, the staccato sound of the hammers was creating a deafening din. Students might have been able to work thru it, but I had to step outside to talk to someone. My hearing aids were on overdrive; even mute wouldn't handle the noise.

Before long the first ring was finished and by the end of the class everyone completed at least one project. The smiles of success were prevalent. We had an added attraction this week. The Penn brothers Gabriel and Elijah brought in some of the specimens that they found on the Graves Mountain field trip. They have specimens of rutile, lazurite, fluorescent hematite, and more.

Next month will be another good one, Jan Gathj will be the instructor and the class will be making necklaces.

More photos on next page



# May Jewelry Class Photos

Photos by Dorwin Skinner



The Wheelers working on their project



This is how it's done



What do you think?



Family at work



Judith pounding away



John and Gary at work



Instructor Melody demonstrating

## President's Message

Judith Birx



Great news we have been reinstated and are now classified as 501 (c) 3 organization. I know many of you may not know what we have been doing behind the scene. Well the short of it is, we needed to file with the IRS to become exempt from paying federal income tax. During the years we lost the status for a few years and now our Board has been working on the reinstatement, and recently completed the process. After tying up a few loose ends we should be good to go.

What a positively awesome presentation "Raptors from Hell", that Dave Letasi gave at our monthly club meeting. Don't miss the June meeting, We will be viewing a video from Melodye Steverson's collection. Its sure to amaze. We will have our machines available and munches to nibble on! I'm sure some of our members will have their wares and/or specimens for sale.

We have begun the process of creating a gem show committee. Those of you who have already signed up will be getting a call soon. Thank you.

We still need more members for the nominating committee.

Well we proved to the snowbirds that we can handle this while they enjoy their double lives up North. Our 50/50 was a whopping \$80.00! And we still had an attendance of over 40 members. Great job everyone!

## 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 June 4th at 9:00 AM

Jan Gathje will be the instructor for the June jewelry class this month. The first necklace will cost \$5.00 for supplies. Jan would like the class to bring at least 70 head pins for the second necklace. It would be helpful if participants could bring hammers and steel blocks.



Examples of the June 4th projects.

## What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?" was  
Pyritized ammonite



Hernando County, FL

**Next Meeting, Wednesday June 13th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

## The Meeting as I Saw it



by  
**Dorwin Skinner**



Summer is here and the snowbirds are gone, you would hardly notice their absence by just looking at the attendance. It was a large group of Rock Hounders that came to have a great time. The 50/50 table was covered with so many donations that I was sure I would be able to win at least one. Wrong!! Lady luck wasn't in my corner that evening and I went home with empty pockets. The snack bar was covered with goodies. Shrimp was one of the offerings and I had difficulty controlling myself, because I really like shrimp. As usual the sweet stuff went quickly. If you want a share of the sugar you need to arrive early.

Social hour was in full swing when Judith stepped up and tried to start the meeting. She finally got control and it was time for Melodye to do her magic. Melodye would write it all down and keep track of what was happening during the meeting. The part I was looking forward to was the presentation about raptors by Dave Letasi. You know the dinosaur kind of raptors. Dino Dave was at his best. A great program with several examples of the huge claws that some of the raptors had. It is hard to believe that the claws were that large. All too soon the meeting was over and it was time to go home or be locked in. Next month should be another great meeting. I hope to see everyone there.



Summertime attendance



Grinding and polishing stones



Dave Letasi giving the raptor presentation

More meeting photos by Dorwin Skinner on next page



Mark Moore checking radioactivity of a specimen



The door prize table



Ralph setting up for the presentation



Raptor claw



Raptor fossils



Small raptor skull



Articulated raptor finger



Deer antler and rainbow obsidian knife

## Diamonds From Space

Information from Sarah Kaplan, *Speaking of Science*

Ten years ago, an asteroid exploded in the sky, raining shrapnel down on the Nubian desert in Sudan. Students from the University of Khartoum volunteered to search for fragments, ultimately recovering more than 600 pieces of the meteorite now known as **Almahata Sitta**. It was the first time scientists had ever traced an asteroid in the sky to a rock they could hold in their hands. And it is



A piece of the Almahata Sitta



NASA Illustration of the birth of the solar system

reported that the meteorite contains tiny diamonds. Those diamonds contain even tinier impurities called inclusions. Within those inclusions are signatures of a long-lost planet almost as large as the Earth...a 4.5 billion-year-old relic that was destroyed during the earliest days of the solar system.

The diamonds in the meteorite formed during a transition era in the solar system, when the dust and gas that swirled around the sun coalesced into planetary embryos, and then formed into planets.

The meteorite Almahata Sitta belongs to a class of rocks known as **ureilites**. They are partly differentiated — not made of the primitive material that constituted the solar nebula, but also not as well mixed and baked as rocks that come from modern planets. Unlike other meteorites, which can be traced to parent bodies such as asteroids, Mars, or the moon, by comparing the ratios of different elements, these rocks have no known source. They seem to have been formed inside bodies that no longer exist.



ureilite

Because the diamond crystals are so small — much less than a fraction of an inch in diameter — many researchers assumed that they formed when graphite (an alternate form of carbon) was “shocked” by a collision with another body. But researchers noticed that the diamonds in Almahata Sitta were orders of magnitude larger than the type that result from a shock event. It is suspected that these crystals could have formed the same way diamonds do on Earth — under the unbelievably high temperatures and pressures that exist in the interior of a planet — and only afterward were broken by a shock wave into smaller fragments.

Diamond is so strong that it serves as a powerful protective packaging for anything trapped inside; it's nature's safety vault, capable of preserving samples for billions of years.

A researcher says, “If there were diamonds forming inside a planet, inside a parent body, they could have trapped some material from their environment.”

Continued on next page



## Diamonds from space

The impurities trapped within the Almahata Sitta diamonds — crystals of chromite, phosphate and iron-nickel-sulfide — are the first to have been discovered in an extraterrestrial diamond. They could only have formed under incredible pressure — the equivalent of diving 600 kilometers into Earth's interior.

To create these conditions, the meteorite's parent body would have to have been a planet at least as big as Mercury and possibly as large as Mars.

Many researchers believe that the early inner solar system was crowded with large **protoplanets** that yanked and tugged at each other's orbits until they finally crashed, coalesced, or disintegrated. By the end of that era, about 100 million years after the birth of the solar system, only the four current terrestrial planets remained. It is likely that all ureilites come from the same parent body, a protoplanet that lasted just a few million years before it was destroyed in a collision. Searching for inclusions in meteorites might provide clues about their origins.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2018/04/17/these-space-diamonds-come-from-a-long-lost-planet-scientists-say/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.504a8fc5f53a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2018/04/17/these-space-diamonds-come-from-a-long-lost-planet-scientists-say/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.504a8fc5f53a)

## Withlacoochee Rockhounds

PO Box 5634  
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoocheerockhounds.com  
is now a Secure Website

In addition to the yearly fee of \$209.38 for our domain names and website builder, we are now also being charged \$74.99 a year for the Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) certificate.

## What is an SSL certificate?

*SSL stands for Secure Sockets Layer, a global standard security technology that enables encrypted communication between a web browser and a web server. It is utilized by millions of online businesses and individuals to decrease the risk of sensitive information (e.g., credit card numbers, usernames, passwords, emails, etc.) from being stolen or tampered with by hackers and identity thieves. In essence, SSL allows for a private "conversation" just between the two intended parties.*

*To create this secure connection, an SSL certificate (also referred to as a "digital certificate") is installed on a web server and serves two functions:*

- \* It authenticates the identity of the website (this guarantees visitors that they're not on a bogus site)
- It encrypts the data that's being transmitted

Information from:

[https://www.verisign.com/en\\_US/website-presence/website-optimization/ssl-certificates/index.xhtml](https://www.verisign.com/en_US/website-presence/website-optimization/ssl-certificates/index.xhtml)

## Second Place...or Last?

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies set up a competition among the websites maintained by its members. The competition was intended to recognize clubs who have excellent websites that conform to the various criteria that SFMS deems important. In January, I filled out and submitted the necessary forms. I recently received notice that our website, [withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://withlacoocheerockhounds.com) came in **second place**.

Before you start strutting around with your heads held high, I must tell you that I contacted one of the judges, and asked him how many clubs participated in the contest. His reply was, "Sadly only two".

*Mike Stone, editor, webmaster*



## 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



## Bench Tips

by  
Brad Smith



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

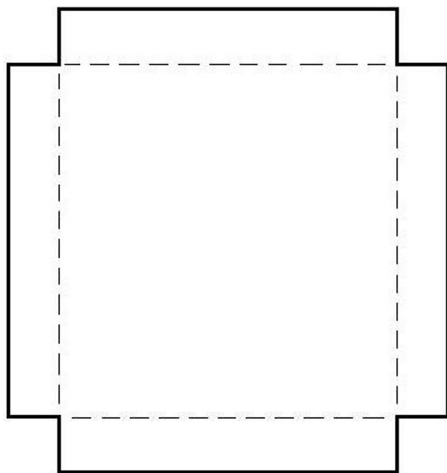
### Rotating Solder Pad

Often when we are soldering, we have multiple pieces on the pad or a single piece and would like to work on several sides of it during the same heat.

One of the ways to deal with this is to put your solder pad onto a turntable. That way you can rotate each piece into position when needed or you can rotate the pad to reach another side of a larger piece.

All you need to make one of these is a piece of aluminum sheet and an inexpensive turntable assembly. A good hardware store will have both, although you can usually find the aluminum in the scrap pile of a local sheet metal shop.

To build a turntable for my six-inch solder pad, I used a seven-inch square

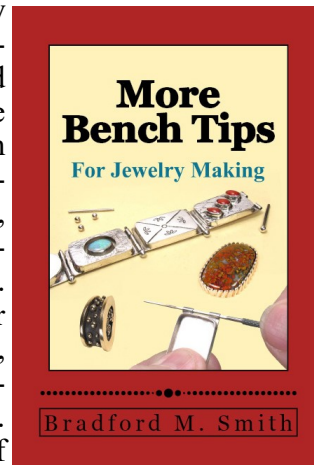


The three basic parts to the rotating soldering pad

piece of aluminum sheet and cut out 1/2 inch notches from each corner. Then I used a bench vice to bend the sides along the dotted lines to form a tray that cradles the solder pad. I attached the tray to the turntable assembly with a couple small flat-head machine screws and nuts.

### New Bench Tips Book

For those who enjoy these bench tips, I'm happy to announce a second volume is now available on Amazon. "More Bench Tips" includes 86 additional ways to save time, avoid frustration, or improve quality at the bench. These new tips cover problems in fabrication, stone setting, casting, soldering, and polishing. Browse through some of the new bench tips at <https://amazon.com/dp/B07D4B45JJ/>



### Quenching

Do you hear that little hiss when some jewelers drop a hot piece from soldering directly into the pickle? That hiss sends small droplets of acid into the air that can rust nearby tools and it can't be all that good to breathe. To avoid this, I keep a coffee cup of water at the solder station to cool a soldered piece before dumping it into the pickle. It's also useful for annealing metals and for cooling off tweezers.



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

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

### 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)

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds

## A Real Fire Island

It would be remiss for any organization that deals with natural history, mineralogy, geology, etc. to ignore the recent increase in volcanism that is taking place on the island of Hawaii.

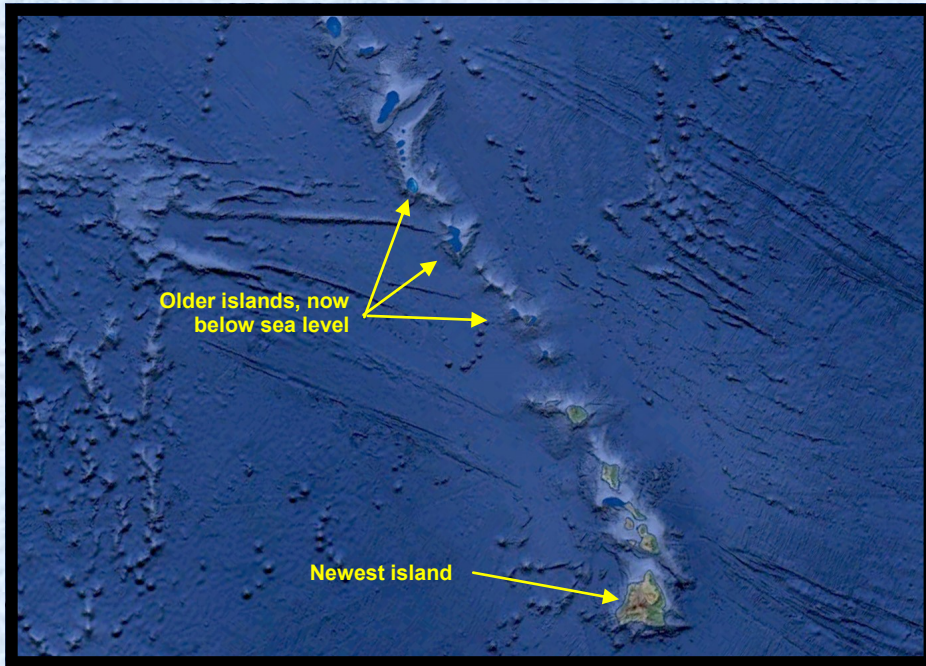
Those who live along the Gulf coast shouldn't be surprised when their property is destroyed by a storm surge. And those living in the Midwest shouldn't be surprised when the whirling force of tornados destroys their homes. For one reason or another some people choose to live where there is the likelihood of devastation from one geohazard or another. So it shouldn't be surprising to the residents of the island of Hawaii that the biggest and the youngest of the two volcanoes on the island is creating devastation from molten lava, searing heat, ash, lava bombs, poisonous fumes, earthquakes, and the opening of huge fissures in the ground. After all, Kīlauea rose out of the ocean

50,000 to 100,000 years ago. And since then volcanic activity has likely been a continual stream of explosive eruptions of roughly the same pattern as what has been recorded for the past 200 to 300 years.

The Hawaiian Islands have undergone building for millions of years and will most likely continue to do so for many thousands of years to come. The video below is a bit crude, but does a decent job of explaining and depicting how the Hawaiian Islands have been, and are still being created.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/cosmology-and-astronomy/earth-history-topic/plate-tectonics/v/hawaiian-islands-formation>

*Mike Stone, editor*



**Next Meeting, Wednesday June 13th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds

## Membership Form

### 2018

Complete this form and bring it with you to the 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**Renewing members check here if no change in information below.**

**Additional family members:**

Last name _____	First Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if under 18
Last name _____	First Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if under 18
Last name _____	First Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check if under 18
Last name _____	First Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	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 the 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 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.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
facebook.com/gailsgifhut

ROCKS, CRYSTALS, JEWELRY, TAPESTRIES, OILS, AND MUCH MORE

**Gail's Gift Hut**

[gailsgifhut@gmail.com](mailto:gailsgifhut@gmail.com)  
FIND US ON ETSY  
[etsy.com/shop/gailsgifhut](http://etsy.com/shop/gailsgifhut)

Howards Flea Market  
M 13,15,17,19  
HOMOSASSA, FL. 34446

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.

## 2018 Club Officers

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	<a href="mailto:judithbirx@hotmail.com">judithbirx@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	Kelly Johnson.....	352-688-9399.....	<a href="mailto:KellyMineralsFossils@aol.com">KellyMineralsFossils@aol.com</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>

### Board of Directors

Rovie Alford (2018)  
Ralph Barber (past president)  
Judith Birx (president)  
Linda Spaulding (2020)

Melodye Steverson (secretary)  
Dorwin Skinner (2020)  
Mike Stone (2019)  
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)