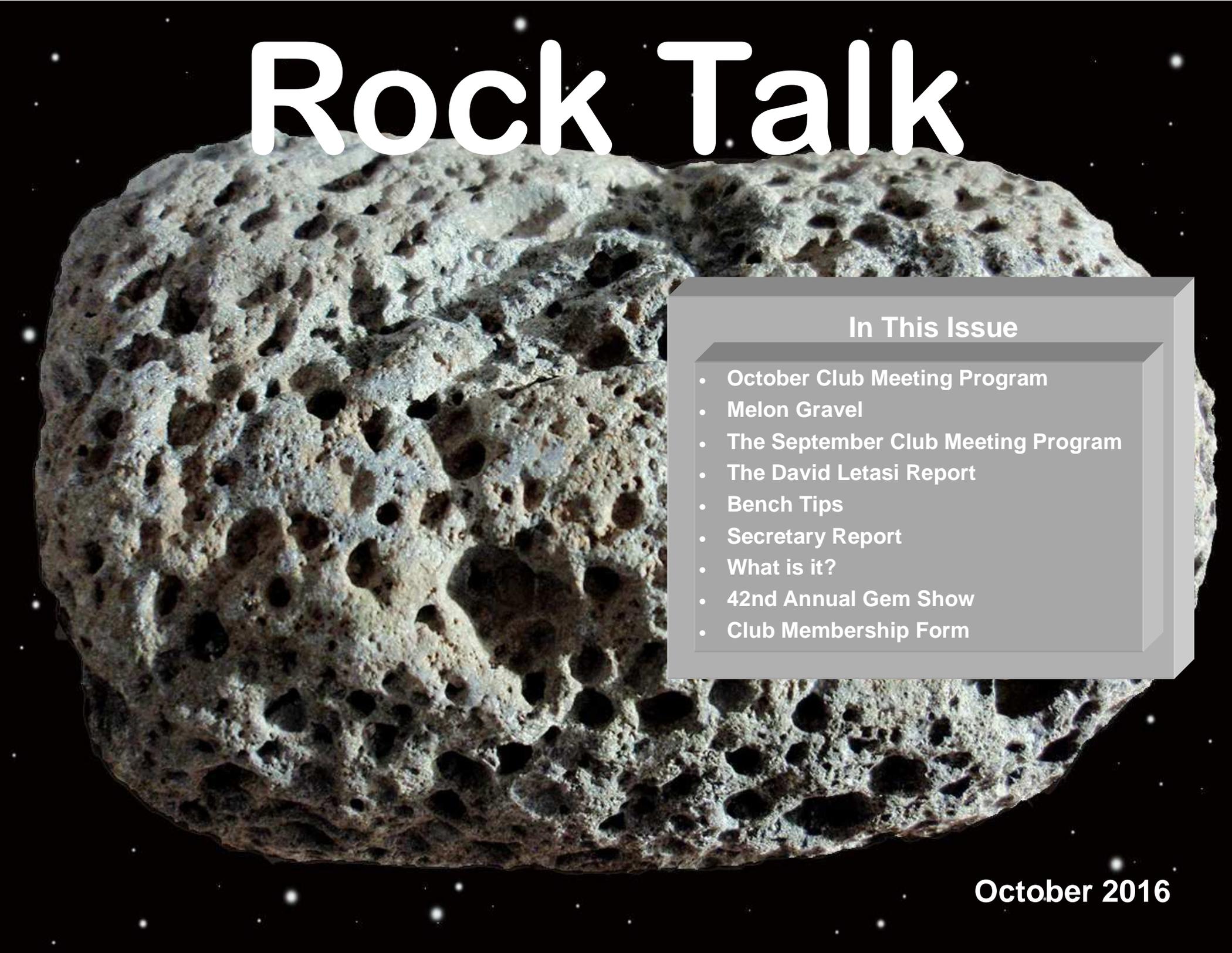


# Rock Talk



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October 2016



# Rock Talk



## October Club Meeting Program

Our October program will be exciting. Anyone who was with us at this time last year will remember the "Show and Tell" meeting. Everyone loved it and begged for more, so it's back for October. Dave Letasi has agreed to oversee the process, as well as help ID the items that will be brought in. So,

here is your part. Bring in any rocks, minerals or fossils that you found and be ready to show them off, and explain where and how you acquired them. I won't be at the October meeting, but I can't wait to hear all about it. Enjoy! Melodye

This month's *Rock Talk* cover is not an asteroid. It is basalt.

## Melon Gravel

by Mike Stone

Peg and I took a road trip to Kuna, Idaho this past September to visit my sister and brother-in-law. The thirty eight hundred mile round trip was long and sometimes not very interesting, because of the seemingly endless fields of corn, soybeans, prairie grasses, sage brush-covered foothills, and high deserts. But we enjoyed the radical changes in topography and geology. First we saw flat and fertile agricultural land with limestone bedrock, east of the Mississippi River and then dry flat and fertile land with deep, black, topsoil on the high plains of central Nebraska. As we drove west into Wyoming, it was evident that the dry climate required much irrigation for crops. The further west we travelled the drier it became. Next we saw multi layered clay hills similar but much smaller and less colorful than those of the famous Badlands.

There are more wind power generators in Wyoming than any other state on our trip. Wyoming has the potential capacity for producing fifty-six percent of the nation's electrical needs because of the winds

Continued on next page

## The September Meeting Program

by Melodye Steverson, club treasurer

Our September meeting program was a soldering class for a different type of metal – copper. Seven members joined the class that Melodye taught and they all laughed, learned, and loved what they made. We were making "textured stack rings" from heavy copper wire. The students had to shape and file the metal, then solder it to make a closed ring. There were some problems with this as soldering copper is quite different than soldering silver, which we learned in the previous classes. After everyone got their wire shaped and soldered, they added a texture to the metal with hammers and texturing tools. All of the students did well and were happy with their three new rings. Due to the success of the soldering classes, we will offer more in the future!

## 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

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

Welcome New Member  
Welcome new club members: Jennifer, Olivia, Dave, and Ian Spicer, Brooksville.



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

Melon gravel from page 2

blowing across the high altitude plains and ridges. Of course moving the electricity from Wyoming to the big metropolitan areas would be difficult, costly, and inefficient.

We drove through areas on I-70 in Wyoming where the highway cut through pink colored hills and cliffs of conglomerate rock, made up of various sizes of rounded rocks, some as large as beach balls, cemented together with a pink colored matrix. We were more than a mile high, yet the conglomerate rock had been formed in a riverbed millions of years ago.

Eventually when we arrived at the brilliantly colored sandstone cliffs and mountains in eastern Utah, it was like stepping onto another planet. Not too many miles further, as we motored through Ogden, Utah, we were enthralled by the beauty of the Wasatch Range running parallel to I-15/I-84. It seems as if these mountains were placed there for our entertainment on our ride north toward Idaho.



Magnificent red sandstone cliffs in eastern Utah.

Within a couple miles after crossing into Idaho we stopped at the Welcome Center to look for an EarthCache called Lake Bonneville.

Lake Bonneville was a large, ancient lake that existed from about 32 to 14 thousand years ago. It was about 325 miles long, and 135 miles wide with a depth of over 1,000 feet. The lake was filled by direct precipitation, rivers, streams, and water from melting glaciers. There are some major shorelines left by the lake. Originally this lake had no rivers draining from it. The lowest outlet for the lake was Red Rock Pass in Idaho,

which had an elevation of about 5,090 feet. Approximately 17,000 years ago the lake rose to the elevation of the pass and began to flow north into the Snake River; the flow was so rapid through the pass causing a down-cutting process that resulted in a catastrophic flood. Researchers believe that the flood probably lasted less than a year and lowered the outlet elevation 375 feet. Then the lake eventually dried up with the subsequent warming trend. Many little lakes were left from this massive lake, the largest being the Great Salt Lake.

As we moved north into Idaho we found ourselves amongst large outcroppings of ancient lava from relatively recent volcanic activity. These lava fields were created only 5,200 years ago. As we drove through the Magic Valley, named so because like magic, when the valley became irrigated, the once dry and barren area was transformed into lush green and productive agricultural land. We saw crop and hay fields flourishing even in mid September.

Next we entered the Treasure Valley, and our final destination, Kuna, Idaho. The crops grown in the Treasure Valley area are numerous. Of course everyone knows Idaho is famous for its potatoes, but many other crops are commercially grown in the fertile, irrigated valley. During our week in Kuna, we passed by fields of onions, wheat, mint, hay, alfalfa, sugar beets, hops, beans, and also peaches, apples, and grapes.

One afternoon my sister and brother-in-law and Peg and I rode motorcycles into the Snake River Canyon so Peg and I could gather basalt that had been tumbled into



A steep wall of basalt on the side of the Snake River Canyon.



This pasture in the Snake River Canyon is about fifty percent basalt boulders and fifty percent dry hay.



Melon gravel by the ton.

rounded rocks by the rushing water when the natural dam forming Lake Bonneville collapsed 17,500 years ago. The dark rocks, called melon gravel, are peppered with holes (vesicles), giving the dark colored, rounded rocks a very peculiar look. We found a large pile of melon gravel that had probably been moved there by farmers as they cleaned up their fields. We loaded a couple good size rocks, one in each saddlebag, and several smaller rocks in the rear travel truck, until I felt that we were exceeding the carrying capacity of the motorcycle by several pounds.

Melon Gravel: During the Bonneville Flood, blocks of basalt, some larger than 10 feet across, bounced along

Continued on next page.

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds—Rock Talk

## Melon gravel from previous page

the bottom of the flood channel, continually bumping into one another, creating what is known as melon gravel. The blocks became partially rounded in the process, and when guided by the flood into areas where the water velocity was lower, accumulated into large bars, similar to gravel bars in normal rivers, but of a much larger scale.

Basalt is a major rock type that occurs in virtually every tectonic setting. Basalt is a very common dark-colored volcanic rock composed of calcic plagioclase (usually labradorite), clinopyroxene (augite) and iron ore (titaniferous magnetite). Basalt may also contain olivine, quartz, hornblende, nepheline, orthopyroxene, etc. Basalt is a volcanic equivalent of gabbro.

Basalt is clearly the most common volcanic rock on Earth and basaltic rocks (including gabbro, diabase and their metamorphosed equivalents) are the most common rocks in the crust. Basalt is also common on the Moon and other rocky planets of the Solar System.

What makes basalt so common? Basalt is the original constituent of the crust from which almost all other rock types have evolved. Basalt forms when mantle rocks (peridotite) start to melt. Rocks melt incongruently. It basically means that the melt that forms has a different composition than the source rocks. Of course, it can only happen if rocks melt only partially, but this is exactly what happens in the upper mantle. It melts partially to yield basaltic magma, which is less dense and rises upward to form new oceanic crust in mid-ocean ridges or volcanoes and intrusives (dikes, sills) in many other tectonic regimes. Basalt is the source rock of other more evolved volcanic rocks like dacite, rhyolite, etc. <http://www.sandatlas.org/basalt/>

Vesicular texture is a volcanic rock texture characterized by a rock being pitted with many cavities (known as vesicles) at its surface and inside. This texture is common in aphanitic, or glassy, igneous rocks that have come to the surface of the earth, a process known as extrusion. As magma rises to the surface the pressure on it decreases. When this happens gasses dissolved in the magma are able to come out of solution, forming gas bubbles (the cavities) inside it. When the magma finally reaches the surface as lava and cools, the rock solidifies around the gas bubbles and traps them inside, preserving them as holes filled with gas called vesicles. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesicular\\_texture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vesicular_texture)



**Interested in learning about archaeology?  
Check out these upcoming events near you!**  
**Science Night At Bishop Middle School. Gainesville. October 20, 2016  
WHEN: 5:00 - 7:30pm**

Join FPAN Central archaeologists and several other scientists for "Science Night". Open to friends and family of students at Bishop Middle School in Gainesville.  
Howard W. Bishop Middle School 1901 Northeast 9th Street |Gainesville, FL 32609

**History Bike Gainesville Vs: Haunted Hogtown?  
October 29, 2016  
WHEN: 5:00 - 7:00pm**

On this Halloween themed History Bike Gainesville tour we will ride to several of Gainesville's and the University of Florida's infamously spooky spots. While discussing the eerie myths we will also examine how these legends can shape popular lore and who's job it is to set the record straight - or if that's even necessary. HBG asks folks to come ride in costume! As usual, our ride will start and end at First Magnitude Brewery. For more information, follow the link to the HBG Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/historybikegainesville/>

**FPAN Presents: Tampa Bay Shipwrecks of the Civil War @ Floral City Branch Library, Citrus County.**

November 3, 2016  
WHEN: 10:30am - 12:00pm

The maritime battles of the Civil War employed a greater diversity of ships than any previous sustained naval action. This presentation by Florida Public Archaeology Network Central and West Central Director, Jeff Moates, illustrates this aspect and highlights a few examples of Civil War-related shipwrecks in the Tampa Bay area. Please follow the

Continued on next page



**Bench Tips**  
by  
**Brad Smith**



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

## Testing for Silver

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

Fine silver.....	Red/Orange
Sterling silver.....	Brick Red
80% silver 20% copper ..	Dark red changing to gray
Brass .....	Yellow changing to blue
Nickel .....	Gray-green
Copper.....	Yellow changing to blue
Steel .....	Black
Stainless Steel.....	No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

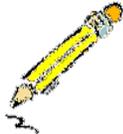
- Wear safety glasses.
- Do not get any testing solution on your skin.
- Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.
- Wash and clean up well when you're done.

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds—Rock Talk

## Secretary Report



by  
**Melodye Steverson**



### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes September 14, 2016

- The meeting was called to order by club president Ralph Barber at 7:25 pm.
- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There were no new members to recognize.
- There were two guests in attendance; Jennifer and Olivia Spicer.
- Betty Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of our August meeting as printed in the newsletter, the motion was seconded by Roger Wheeler and passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.

### New Business

- Club president Barber stated that we have had six vendor contracts, with checks sent in for our gem show in December.
- He also said there is a complete jeweler's set up for sale. For information, contact Jerry Johnson.
- Linda Spaulding reported that the October 8<sup>th</sup> trip to the Vulcan mine will be covered by a reporter from the Hernando Times. Linda reminded anyone who is interested in participating in the field trip to get there early to register for admittance.
- Linda also told members about some events of interest coming up in our area; A Fossil Fest in Bradenton on October 1<sup>st</sup>, as well as others. These will be listed in our newsletter.
- Linda stated that she would be interested in field trips to GA, SC, NC, and TN, and would like to hear from members who are willing to travel to "rockhound".
- Linda and Dave Letasi will be available at the October club meeting to ID your minerals, fossils, and rocks.

### Old Business

- There was no old business to discuss.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Michele Evans, Jennifer and Olivia Spicer, and Dave Davis.
- Dennis Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dave Davis seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.  
*Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.*

## 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 25<sup>th</sup> of the month to have your items posted in the next issue.

Mike Stone  
[n1ve@amsat.org](mailto:n1ve@amsat.org)

## What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



**Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.**

Last month's mineral was Petoskey stone.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petoskey\\_stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petoskey_stone)

David Letasi report from previous page

link below for more information about the upcoming event at Floral City Branch Library  
<http://citruslibraries.evanced.info/signup/>

## Upcoming Events Club Events

The South Florida Museum in Bradenton is having a Fossil Fest on Oct 1, 2016 featuring a dinosaur exhibit from the American Museum of Natural History, NY.

The Fossil Hunters Club of Orlando is having their annual fossil show on Nov 5 and 6, 2016 at the State Fairgrounds on Centennial Drive, Orlando.

We can do a club tour of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville in Jan or Feb if club members are interested.

An interesting program that is offered at the Crystal River Archeological Site is an event called "The Moon over the Mounds". It features a tour of the mounds at night during a full moon by an archaeologist and open labs with artifacts in their interpretive center.

**Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club  
Mineral Show  
October 15-16, 2016  
Strawberry Festival Expo Center, Plant City**

<http://www.tampabayrockclub.com/annualshow.html#>

**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**

# 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 42<sup>th</sup> annual gem and mineral show. The show will take place on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> (set up on December 3<sup>rd</sup>) 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

Show chairman Ralph Barber 8034 Montrose Ave. Brooksville, FL 34613  
352-200-6852  
[barberbloomers@hotmail.com](mailto:barberbloomers@hotmail.com)

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds

## Membership Dues Form, 2016

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.....	<a href="mailto:barbersbloomers@hotmail.com">barbersbloomers@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	Doug DuPont.....	352-515-1517.....	<a href="mailto:ddupont6@tampabay.rr.com">ddupont6@tampabay.rr.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>
Program Coordinator.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	<a href="mailto:melodye@designsbymelodye.com">melodye@designsbymelodye.com</a>
Education Chairman.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-515-1517.....	<a href="mailto:ddupont6@tampabay.rr.com">ddupont6@tampabay.rr.com</a>
SFMS Stamp Program.....	Audrey Stead.....	352-688-7821.....	<a href="mailto:audreyste35@gmail.com">audreyste35@gmail.com</a>
Gem Mine Chairman.....	Jean Casanova.....	352-442-2667.....	
Sunshine Chairman.....	Audrey Stead.....	352-688-7821.....	<a href="mailto:audreyste35@gmail.com">audreyste35@gmail.com</a>

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