

Rock Talk



January 2020



Rock Talk



January 8th Dinner Meeting Program

The January club meeting will start at 6:00 PM with a short business meeting. Then we will have a buffet dinner. The club will provide the meat and beverages, plastic utensils, paper plates, plastic cups, and napkins. Members are asked to bring food items for others to enjoy.

After dinner we will have the usual Rock Bingo. Members wishing to participate in the popular and fun-filled game will need to bring a wrapped, rock-related gift. This traditionally is a very popular meeting.

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The Cover Photo

Uvarovite crystals

Our 45th Annual Gem Show

by Mike Stone

If you missed our 2019 gem show, you missed quite an event. I have attended more than a dozen or our gem shows and this was one of the best. The variety and quality of items being sold were very impressive.

Club members have been working for months preparing for our gem show. Judith and Ralph have been involved in organizing the show since the end of the gem show last year. Paso County Recreation Department had to be contacted early to be sure that the gymnasium and tables at the Veterans Memorial Park were reserved for the first weekend in December. The food vendor was contacted and arrangements made to provide food for vendors and the general public. Advertising through various media was established. Vendors were contacted and gem show registration forms were collected and tabulated, table deposits were recorded and put into our account. Sec-



tions of the gymnasium and the number of tables for each vendor are assigned and a layout of the room with vendor tables is drawn. Just before the start of the gem show, signs are posted on nearby roads and streets, and tables are set up for the vendors. During the gem show members worked at the entrance table collecting money, affixing wristbands, and disseminating information. Also during the gem show our club secretary collected table fees from vendors and deposited payments into our account. This year the collection we recently received from the Science

Continued on next page

Next Meeting, Wednesday, January 8th, 6:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

2019 Gem Show

Center of Pinellas Count was organized so specimens could be sold to vendors, club members, and the public. Educational displays were retrieved from our storage area and then set up in the gymnasium. Members organized hands-on activities, particularly for youngsters. Members were available during the three-day event to answer questions, identify specimens, and explain various processes such as rock cutting, grinding, polishing, and knapping. Club members manned club tables where the donated specimens were sold. Gem bags were made and filled before the gem show and then sold during the show. Photos were taken during set up day and also during the three-day event, and posted in our newsletter and webpage. At the end of the event, members disassembled displays, cleared off tables, and removed club property from the building. Materials, equipment, and displays had to be stored and ready for use at club meetings or at the next public event and our signs were removed from the roadsides.

Friday, December 7

Many club members arrived well before the nine o'clock start of the gem show. Some were prepared to sell their creations, specimens, gem bags, and club rocks. Others were stationed at the entrance table to collect entrance fees, attach wristbands, and encourage visitors to sign up for door prizes. Throughout the three days, club members made hourly announcements for winners of door prizes. Club members sorted, cleaned, priced and sold rocks, minerals, and fossils from the donated

collection.

At times there were large groups of people waiting at the door to pay their entrance fee and browse the aisles, searching for whatever caught their eyes. This was a good day, as we had more paying customers than usual and all of the vendors with whom I spoke were happy with their sales.

Saturday December 7

We were hoping for a big day, but attendance was down from yesterday. It appears that the real rock hounds arrived on the first day for the gem show and many of those came, ready to spend money. Today there were always people shopping in the aisles, but the volume of sales was down from yesterday.

Sunday, December 8

At the start of the show, and there were few patrons in the gym, but within an hour or so, people were waiting to get through the door. By mid afternoon, as the gem show was winding down, the club announced that we were giving rocks, minerals, and fossils away, since many from the donated collection hadn't sold and we have no area to store them until next year. Within minutes, kids and parents and some vendors gathered around our tables, checking out the specimens. We offered bags to carry home specimens home. I hung around the table identifying rocks, minerals, and fossils, hoping that the people would want them. I also found a few that I thought would be good in our collection; kyanite crystals, another piece that looks a lot like jade, and a nice size chunk of banded iron, which is composed of hematite and silica chert. When I got home,

I read on the Web that banded iron rocks are between 1.8 and 2.5 billion years old. The key to identifying the banded iron was its specific gravity (the heft test, i.e. it is very heavy for its size), and the alternating reddish and black color. I found that a relatively weak magnet easily was attracted and stuck to the banded iron.

We came home with no rocks in the trailer. Every last one was sold, given away, or taken home by club members. The club made over \$1,200 selling specimens from the collection, so the time and effort that went into picking them up, transporting them, sorting them, and selling them was worthwhile.

It's hard to determine the successfulness of the gem show. Of course we can consider our income from the event, but unless the vendors are happy with their sales, they might not come back next year. And without the vendors we will have no gem show. In the future it will be imperative that we flood the area with information about our gem show. This is where every club member can be of tremendous help. Speak to family, friends, and neighbors; encouraging them to come to our show. Post notices on social media, in community buildings such as libraries, schools, clubhouses, and businesses. Contact the gem show chairmen to see what else you can do to help make the gem show a success

Thanks to all who were involved in the 2019 gem show. It is our major source of income and without it, our membership dues might have to increase, and the purchase and maintenance of equipment, educational programs, and other club member benefits could be in jeopardy.



See pages six and seven for gem show photos

Next Meeting, Wednesday January 8th, 6:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

President's Message

Judith Birx



The January 7, 2020 Jewelry Class will be taught by Judith. The projects are resin jewelry and more. The class costs, \$5.00 and \$1.00 clubhouse fee. Bring your favorite items to set in resin, such as rock chips, small rocks, flowers, beads, etc. I will have a selection on hand as well.

It is that time again. We are already collecting dues for the 2020-year. Earlier this year, the Senior Center raised its dues from \$10.00 to \$15.00. Our board decided to pay for the increase from our treasury, so our members' dues will not be affected for the year 2020. Therefore, your dues are still \$20.00 per adult member and \$5.00 for a child under age 18. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with me at the next meeting.

Our gem show, as you might know, was a success. We made a clear profit. Our final numbers are not in yet. The numbers will be published when they become final.

Our party plans are underway for our January 8th meeting. The club will be supplying the main meat dishes and soft drinks. There are 20 members who have signed up to bring side dishes. If you're not on the list, bring something to share. You can call me at 352-587-1702 and ask if your side dish is already being brought. Someone has asked me exactly who may come to our party. The answer is only our immediate family members are invited. Don't forget your gift if you are planning on playing Rock Bingo.

Please keep in mind that the applications for the scholarship to William Holland School of Lapidary Arts for the year 2020 will be accepted until the March meeting and the winners will be announced in April.

A big thank you goes to all of our members. Remember that just being here helps. I would like to add a special thanks to the vendors who spent their hard-earned money on tables at our gem show. This year at our party we will be holding a drawing of \$50.00 for vendors in our membership that rented tables at our show. We also had an awesome group of volunteers at the show and everyone did an excellent job. Thank You.

This year will be memorable and sad, as two of our most beloved and long-term members will be leaving us to be closer to their family. If you see Rovie and Elaine at the party, please remind them how very much we will miss them. They have been an important part of our club over the years

Dues are Due

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

Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center on **January 21st** at 6:30 PM.

January Holiday Dinner Meeting

The January club meeting will start at 6:00 PM with a short business meeting. Then we will have a buffet dinner. The club will provide the meat and beverages, plastic utensils, paper plates, plastic cups, and napkins. Members are asked to bring food items for others to enjoy. Members have volunteers to bring the following to the dinner meeting: vegetable tray, potatoes, bread, cake, banana bread, scalloped potatoes, cranberry-orange relish, green bean casserole, pie, pasta salad, cucumber salad, roasted potatoes, onion casserole, brownies, devilled eggs, beer bread, sweet potato casserole.



After dinner we will have the usual Rock Bingo. Members wishing to participate in the popular and fun-filled game will need to bring a wrapped, rock-related gift. This traditionally is a very popular meeting.

Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members: **Jeff Atkinson**, Homosassa; **Rebecca Hillan**, Hudson; **Jane Newhouse**, Homosassa; **Tyler Young**, Crystal River

RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY
 bottle wind chimes

Hernando County Farmers Market
 US 19
 Spring Hill FL
 352 200 6852
 barbersbloomers@hotmail.com

December Jewelry Class Photos

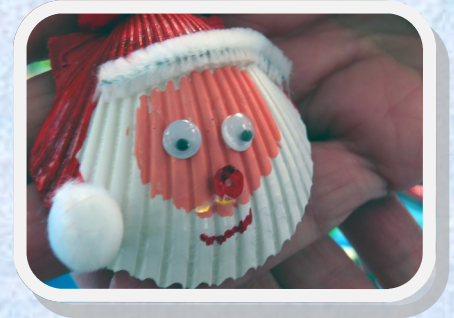
Photos by Mike Stone



The class



Ornament by Elaine



Ornament by Jan



Instructor Gary Spurlock drilling with a rotary tool.



Judith applying hot glue to her ornament.



Gary painting a sea shell.

Gem Show Photos



Club treasurer Janet collecting vendor fees.



Gloria selling gem bags.



Rovie and Elaine at their table.



Bear and Roberta getting ready at the start of the show.



Leslie wrapping a wrist band on a visitor.



Dave and Leslie at the entrance table.



Robert demonstrating knapping.



Judith breaking open a geode.



Anthony, Jim, and Lynn

Gem Show Photos

Photos by Mike Stone



Lauren Bell photo

Mark, Pat, and Dave at one of the club tables.



Holly and Judith at the club rock tables.



Roger demonstrating grinding and polishing rocks.



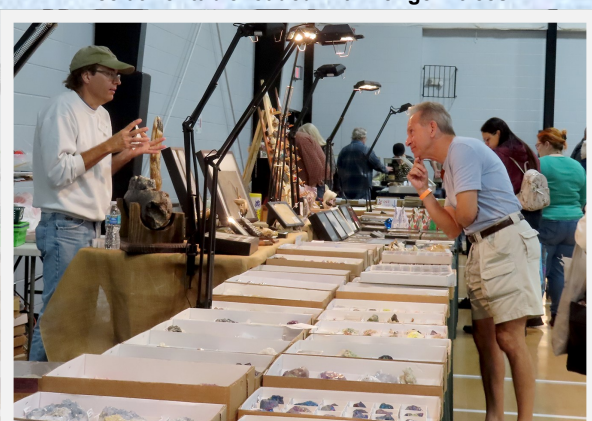
Lee at her table loaded with her gem trees.



Peggy checking out a piece of fossilized coral.



Judith and Sue welcoming a visitor to the show.



Kelly talking with a customer.



Pat and Jim sorting rocks.



Colon and Eric looking over our club rocks.

December Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Mike Stone



Angela and Elaine at the snack bar.



Jim polishing a rock on the Pixie.



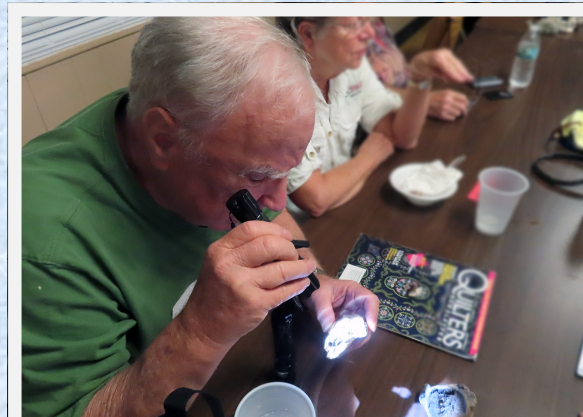
John and Bear



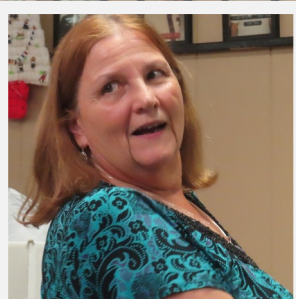
Judith talking to the membership.



Mark and Ralph discussing a specimen



Mark closely scrutinizing a piece.



Sue Letasi



Rock talk between Roberta and Bill.



Pat Gould



Roger Wheeler



Hey everyone. I hope you had a great time at our fabulous gem and mineral show in December.



Moab Rock Shop

After the last newsletter you know that Scott and I continued traveling on our 12 western states adventure. After leaving Durango, we headed to Moab, Utah. First we visited the Moab Rock Shop, famous for dinosaur bones found in the local Cedar Mountain Formation. This formation dates to the early Cretaceous Period (145 million years ago - 100.5 million years ago) and contains fossil remains of sauropods, armored *Nodosaurus* and the famous *Utahraptor*, a giant meat eater. At the shop I was able to find a bone of a *Utahraptor* for sale as well as several radioactive dinosaur bones for Mark Moore. Both the Cedar Mountain and Morrison geological formations contain concentrations of uranium salts that over time were and absorbed into the dinosaur bones. The Moab Rock Shop has



The restored skeleton of *Utahraptor* from the Cedar Mountain Formation

thousands of rare minerals and many fantastic dinosaur fossils for sale. I highly recommend it if you ever travel to Utah.

After leaving Moab we traveled four miles north on US191 to Arches National Monument. This park contains some of the most amazing geological wind and water-eroded sedimentary rock features ever formed. We had a difficult time finding parking because the thousands of visitors that were already entering the park in early May. Scott managed to find us a spot and he hiked the trails as I enjoyed walking around several arches. These arches are in extreme danger of collapsing and

researchers are concerned that they may be eroded to the point of collapse in the near future. There have been attempts to stabilize them and restricted climbing is enforced on these features. They formed from eroding layers of salt beneath layers of sandstone as part of the Uncompahgre uplift during the early Jurassic Period some 200 million years ago. There are many rock pinnacles as well as the numerous arches, one of which is very narrow in thickness.



A very thin rock Arch at Arches Monument in Eastern Utah

We left the Arches Monument late that afternoon and traveled North again on US 191 to Vernal, Utah. Scott decided to take an alternate route east to Fruita, Colorado and then proceed north to Dinosaur, Colorado. We went through some of the worst hairpin turns in the mountains of north-west Colorado. It was a hair-raising drive but we saw beautiful panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains geology. We finally arrived in Vernal for dinner and to spend the night in our hotel. The next day we visited Dinosaur National Monument. We entered the visitor center where dino-

Continued on next page

Dave Letasi Report from previous page



The Dinosaur National Monument Visitor Center and tram vehicle

saur bones, excavated in the 1930s through the 1950s, are exposed on the cliff side. There were bones of the famous *Diplodocus* and a juvenile *Stegosaurus* as well as a mounted skeleton in the hallway of the meat eating dinosaur *Allosaurus fragilis*. In glass cases there were the remains of a new *Titanosaurus* found in the nearby Cedar Mountain Formation. The *Titanosaurus* was discovered by Dr. Daniel Chure and described by him several years ago.



Dave next to the Skull of *Allosaurus madsoni* that Dan Chure Discovered

I had the good fortune of meeting Daniel at a paleontology symposium in 2000. He also had discovered a new *Carnosaur* dinosaur named *Allosaurus madsoni* in the Morrison Formation of the same age as the bones exposed in the visitor center.

We headed North on US191 to the Wyoming border. There we viewed the famous Flaming Gorge. When sunlight hits the sides of the 800-foot face, the rock layers appear to be on fire with brilliant red and yellow reflections. It's amazing to see. Once again we experienced another fantastic adventure. Then it was on to Thermopolis, Wyoming.

I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and a great new year. See you all at our January annual potluck holiday dinner at our next meeting.



The skull of a *Titanosaurus sauropod* dinosaur found in the near by Cedar Mountain Formation



Standing next to *Diplodocus* dinosaur bones at Dinosaur National Monument

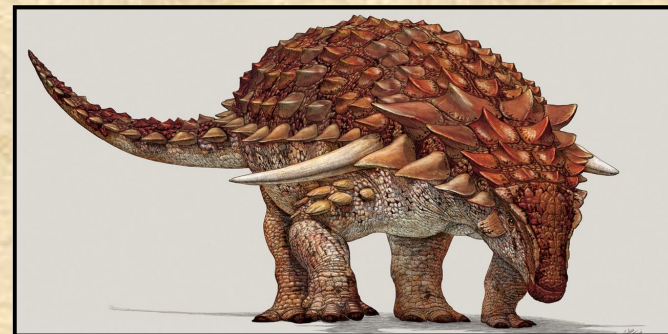


Illustration of a Cretaceous Armored *Nodosaur*



Hoodoo Rock Feature at Arches Monument in Utah

Our Website
www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 12-11-19

The meeting was called to order by club president Judith Birx at 7:05 PM.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

- There were three new members in attendance, Jeff Atkinson, Rebecca Hillan, and Tyler Young, and guest Robin LeBlanc.
- A motion was made by Roberta Oldread and seconded by Dave Letasi that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as posted. The motion passed.
- Club treasurer, Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion by Doug DuPont was made to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Dave Letasi, and passed by all.

Old Business:

- The January meeting will be our annual holiday dinner meeting. We will have a short business meeting beginning at 6:00 PM followed by the meal. After the meal, we will have our usual Rock Bingo game. Members wishing to participate in the Bingo game must bring one wrapped, rock related present.
- Next BOD meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:30 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center. Club members are invited to attend.
- New Business:
- Dues are due and will be overdue by next meeting/party \$20 /PP.
- The Jewelry class will be held on January 7, 2020 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon at the Weeki Wachee Citizens Center
- Election of Officers/Directors
- Under the club rules and since no one

wished to serve as officer or board member, a motion was made by VP Mark Moore and seconded by Doug DuPont to re-elect the current officers and board members. The motion passed.

Announcements:

- The Vulcan Mine field trip will be this Saturday, December 14. Usual rules apply. Contact Lynn Walters for information.
 - Roberta announced that she is attempting to arrange for our club to have field trips at another local mine.
 - The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM
- Minutes respectively submitted by Mark Moore, acting secretary*



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 12-17-2019

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Mark Moore, Melody Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, and Lynn Walters. Also in attendance was member Leslie Moore.

- The Board meeting started at 6:38 pm and was held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center.
- Club president Judith Birx began by announcing that she had turned in her application to be considered for the 2020 William Holland School scholarship.
- The Board decided the scholarship applications must be turned in before, or at, the monthly meeting in March, 2020 so the Board can choose from the applicants before the school opens for classes on April 5th, 2020.
- A question was brought up by email from Board member Mike Stone. Are non-member guests al-

lowed at our annual holiday dinner in January? The decision was no guests unless the guest is the spouse or child of a member in good standing. Keep in mind, anyone who wishes to play Rock Bingo MUST bring at least one gift for the gift table.

Gem Show

- All agreed that our annual gem show was a success. Attendance continues to increase each year. VP Moore stated that the Educational Table should be separate from the Club Sales Table next year, as it's too hard to educate and sell at the same time. Board members agreed.
- Lynn Walters brought up that we need more activities for kids to do. Although they loved the rock/fossil dig, she had many ideas for other educational and fun things to get them interested in rocks and minerals. Club president Birx put her in charge of the kids' area and said, "Run with it. Start now!"
- Club president Birx proposed that we not take table deposits from vendors a future gem shows. It makes more paperwork than is needed and is not the procedure at most shows. The Board agreed to dispense with taking deposits on vendor fees. Vendors will be expected to pay the entire sum before the show.
- Club president Birx said the "Outside Vendor Only" \$50 gift card raffle was so successful that she proposed a "Member Vendor" \$50 gift card raffle for any club members that vended at our gem show. Motion to establish this gift card raffle was made by Mark Moore, seconded by Lynn Walters, and passed by the Board.
- Club president Birx informed Club secretary Steverson that some of the slabs from the latest rock/mineral collection donation had been saved for use in the cabochon stone cutting class that Steverson teaches.
- The Board decided that our donation to the USF Endowment Fund this year would be \$300.
- The Board then discussed ways of procuring funds for purchasing more equipment, tools and other items that we might have need of as a club. VP Moore will look into grants that we might be eligible for and the other Board members will investigate other means of generating funds. This discussion will be continued at our next Board meeting in January.
- The meeting ended at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melody Steverson

Gemstone Found In King Tut's Tomb Formed When A Celestial Body Collided With Earth

From forbes.com by David Bressan, Contributor

On November 4, 1922, a boy accidentally stumbled on a stone that turned out to be the top of a flight of steps cut into the bedrock of the Valley of the Kings. The Valley of the Kings is a remote valley located in the desert west of the river Nile. In Pharaonic Egypt, this valley was considered the land of the dead, and many pharaohs were buried here. In 1922, British archaeologist, Howard Carter, was searching in Pharaonic Egypt for the tomb of Tutankhamen, a relatively minor pharaoh who ruled over Egypt from 1332 to 1323 BCE.

One month later, Carter entered the Pharaoh's tomb and was asked if he could see anything in the burial chamber? Carter allegedly responded, "Yes, wonderful things". Tutankhamen's tomb was filled with statues made of ivory, precious jewelry, and even a complete golden chariot. In one treasure chest, Carter discovered a large breastplate decorated with gold, silver, and various precious jewels, and a strange looking gemstone. The breastplate shows the god Ra as a winged scarab, made from a yellow-translucent gemstone carrying the celestial bark with the Sun and the Moon into the sky.

Carter identified the gemstone at first as chalcedony, a common variety of the mineral quartz. Ten years later the British geographer, Patrick Clayton, was exploring the Libyan Desert along the border of modern Egypt and Libya when he discovered strange pieces of glass in the sand. The pale yellow color and translucent material seemed to be identical to the gemstone found in Tutankhamen's tomb. Two years later he published a short note, suggesting that the pieces of Libyan Desert Glass



Tutankhamun's breastplate features a scarab carved from Desert Glass. Credit: Wikipedia/J.Bodsworth J.BODSWORTH/WIKIPEDIA

(LDG) were the quartz-rich deposits of a dry lake. In 1998, Italian mineralogist Vincenzo de Michele analyzed the optical properties of the gemstone in King Tut's breastplate and confirmed that it was indeed a piece of LDG.

LDG is



A piece of Libyan Desert Glass (LDG).

Credit: Wikipedia/H. Raab CC BY-SA 3.0.H.RAAB

almost pure silicon-dioxide, like quartz, but its crystal structure is different. It also contains traces of an unusual combination of elements, such as iron, nickel, chromium, cobalt, and iridium. It is among the rarest minerals on Earth, as it is found only in the Great Sand Sea, north of the Gilf Kebir Plateau, one of the most remote and desolate areas in the Libyan Desert.

The origin of desert glass remains uncer-

tain. Glass forms in nature when quartz-rich rocks melt and rapidly cool. Tektites are natural glass formed from terrestrial debris ejected high into Earth's atmosphere during meteorite impacts. Tektites have been found across Asia, Australia, and Antarctica. If the LDG is a tektite, it formed 28 to 26 million years ago when an impact melted the quartz-rich sand of the desert. The unusual elements found in the LDG are explained as traces of a vaporized meteorite.

However, no impact crater was ever found in the Libyan Desert. In an alternative scenario



Tektite from China with regmaglypts, structures created by melting and ablation while falling...D.BRESSAN

proposed in 2013, a comet, composed mostly of ice, might have exploded above the desert. The generated heat that burst at an estimated 3,600°F would be sufficient to melt the upper layers

of sand dunes, forming the desert glass, but without forming a crater.

It's also uncertain just how the desert glass became part of Tutankhamen's treasures. Today, caravans rarely cross the Great Sand Sea. Archaeological evidence suggests that an ancient system of caravan routes existed around the Gilf Kebir Plateau, but it doesn't appear that the routes were used to search or trade for desert glass. It seems that the piece used for the scarab was discovered by chance or perhaps was an exotic gift. It remains the only known example of where an Egyptian artist used this mysterious material.

Easy Pickins

by Mike Stone

My riding buddy and I stopped at the Lake Rousseau Dam and Recreational Area in Inglis for a break during a motorcycle ride through the area in late October. As we were looking around the dam and spillway, I spotted several large piles of rocks in the distance, not far from the boat ramp to the Withlacoochee River. Before we left, we rode to the parking lot and checked out the rocks. Several piles of fossiliferous rocks and chert, up to about twenty pounds, had been dumped on a grassy area. I saw several large rocks filled with sea life fossils (mostly scallops, cone snails, and also large tube corals) and lots of chert, some containing cavities with linings of rudimentary druzy formations. I couldn't carry anything as large as these rocks on my motorcycle but I knew that Peg and I would need to return one day to give those big piles a good once over. Since it appeared that the rocks had been piled there for months, I was in no hurry to return.

On Christmas day we drove to Inglis and parked near the big piles of rocks. A couple was poking through the material, occasionally hauling a chunk to their pickup truck. Since there was so much to look at, Peg and I concentrated on other areas of the piles so as not to tread on their turf, so to speak. It didn't take long for us to pull out a few keepers, mostly rocks that were densely packed with sea life fossils, particularly scallop shells. This was one of the easiest fossils hunts we've experienced in a long time. Just look over the big rock piles, pull out a rock, and if it looks like a keeper, lug it seventy-five feet to the vehicle.

The couple lives a few miles from the Lake Rousseau Dam and after talking with him about where we collect in local areas, I found that he was quite knowledgeable about good spots to hunt for rocks and fossils.

We will clean the rocks we brought home and we'll bring some to a meeting to show club members and also donate one or two for door prizes.



Pulling an interesting specimen from the pile.



A small section of one of the fossil bearing rocks.



Peg and another rock hound at the rock piles.



One of the smallest pieces of chert in the rock pile

Next Meeting, Wednesday January 8th, 6:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

SUPPORT US. If mindat.org is important to you, click here to donate to our Fall 2019 fundraiser!

mindat.org

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Photo of the Day 27th Dec 2019: Mangani-pargasite from Långban, Filipstad, Värmland County, Sweden - submitted by Joy Desor. Click here to open.

Mineral species	Rock names	Other names	Localities	Occurrences	Photos	Articles	Glossary Items	Registered Users
5,555	2,881	43,713	301,056	1,266,880	998,718	2,707	25,945	47,889

mindat.org mines, minerals, and more

by Mike Stone

The other day I was trying to identify a cluster of crystals, but after looking through a mineral identification book, Googling its general description, and looking at several photos on Google Images, I stumbled across a website called “mindat.org”. So I clicked on a section of the site called “Discussions” where I found several threads where questions were posed about minerals, localities, meteorites, tools, etc.

Before I could ask a question, I had to join mindat.org by supplying an email address and a password. Then I opened a new thread asking for the identity of the crystal cluster (What is It for this issue of Rock Talk). I included a close-up photo of the crystals, and also the approximate size of one crystal and the approximate specific gravity (similar to that of quartz). Within fifteen minutes someone responded with the name of the mineral

and the probable location of where it was found. I went to Google Images, and immediately saw that the answer was correct, including the problem location.

If you are interested in learning about minerals, this is an excellent site, because it is filled with photos. I found a search function where the name of a mineral and a location can be entered to find where this mineral can be found. I typed “quartz” and “New Hampshire”, and an interactive map popped up showing 944 locations throughout the state where quartz can be found. Just zoom in to see a detailed location.

Minedat.org is a 503 (c) 3, (non-profit) organization and they ask users for a donation. If I find that I am using the website enough, I will donate to them, as I do for Wikipedia.

Checkout this site, I am sure that you will find it interesting, helpful, and educational..

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 7th at 9:00 AM—12:00 PM**

Judith Birx will teach the January jewelry class. The project will be resin casting, using both UV-curing resin and self-curing resin to create jewelry. Students will need to bring small bits and pieces (rocks, minerals, fossils, flattened and dried flowers, etc.) that can be cast in the resin. The cost for the class will be \$5.00 per person plus the \$1.00 building fee. If you have questions about items to imbed in the resin, contact Judith. 352 587 1702 or judithbirx@hotmail.com

Arrive Early for Our Meetings

On the nights of our club meetings (second Wednesday of the month) the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center is open at 5:30 PM. The rock grinding and cutting machines are set up early so members can use the equipment before the business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 PM. If you have jewelry, rocks, minerals, fossils or equipment to show or sell, specimens to be identified; the best time to do so is between 5:30 PM and 7:00 PM. No equipment can be used during the business meeting or during presentations.

Rock Art



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

Scott Metal Art and Lapidary
 Unique Artisan Jewelry
 With a Southwestern Flair

Bennett Scott

678-642-7953
bscott@scottmetalart.com



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

Mike Stone, editor/webmaster

Lauren M Bell
 Artist/Owner
[Facebook.com/MadHouseMindWorks](https://www.facebook.com/MadHouseMindWorks)
www.MadHouseMindWorks.etsy.com

MAD HOUSE MIND WORKS

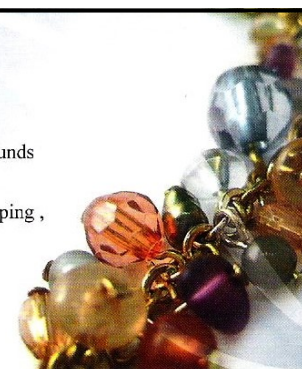
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Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith



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

Depth Gauge for Drilling

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the surface of the part when the hole is deep enough.

You can set the depth either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.



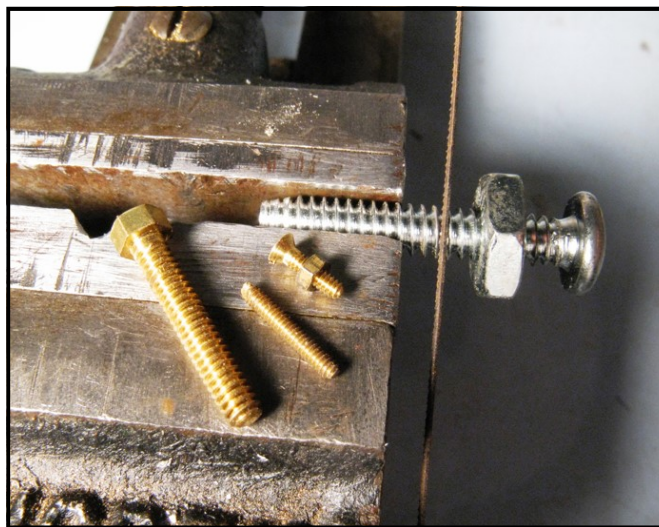
Drilled hole depth is determined by the location of the tape.

Cutting a Bolt

Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.

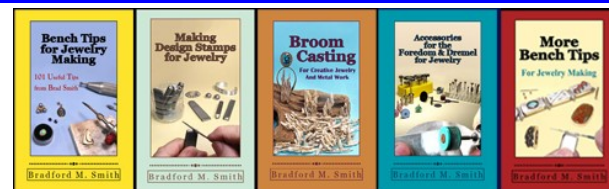
First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing have done to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away



Solve Your Jewelry Making Problems With Brad's "How To" Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Vulcan Mine Field Trips

The Vulcan mine in Brooksville is open for rock, mineral, and fossil clubs on the second Saturday of each month. Everyone is to be at the gate before 9:00 AM. Please make sure that you park off to the side of the road because of trucks entering and leaving the property. First we will go into the mine for a brief safety meeting. Then we have three hours to dig and collect specimens, or you can stay the full five hours. You can leave the mine either at noon or at 2:00 p.m. No one can leave the property before these times unless it's an emergency as a mine employee must escort us into and out of the mine.

Even during the winter months the temperature in the mine can reach 80 plus degrees with high humidity, so bring water, a hat, and sunscreen (also shade if you think you'll need it, because there is none in the mine). Sturdy shoes are helpful, also a rock hammer, chisel, eye protection, a bucket or another suitable container, and newspaper to wrap delicate specimens.

No bathroom, no water, no shade, please be prepared and dress accordingly.

Children are welcome with proper adult supervision. This is a retired limestone pit. There are sharp rocks, wild animals, insects, and other hazards to be mindful of.

Vulcan Mine Address

16313 Ponce DeLeon Blvd.


Brooksville, FL 34641

Lat./long. 28.656481, -82.457544

Next Meeting, January 8th, 6:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

January Rock Talk

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What is It?
Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in this Rock Talk.

Last month's "What is It?"

Goethite from the Gem and Mineral Museum in Tucson, AZ. Submitted by Michele Evens




argonite

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

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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:
n1ve@amsat.org
or
Mike Stone
4504 Kingston Dr.
Hernando Beach, FL 34607


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**Withlacoochee Rockhounds
is now on Facebook**
https://www.facebook.com/withlacoocheerockhounds1/?ref=page_internal


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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

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
or send to:

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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.

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	markles@bellsouth.net
Secretary.....	Melody 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
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Ralph Barber (past president)
Judith Birx (president)
Roberta Oldread (2020)
Melody Steverson (secretary)

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