

Rock Talk

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April 2017



Rock Talk

April Meeting Program

During the April club meeting we will be making rings in a silversmithing workshop taught by club members Judith Birx, Melody Steverson, and Dorwin Skinner.

The rock grinding, cutting, and polishing equipment will be set up for member use.

Also during the meeting, a stereoscopic microscope and camera will be available for members to inspect, photograph, and save images of specimens.

For interested members we will have a real-time demonstration of how to access and navigate through our website.

In addition the usual 50/50 drawing, plus several items will be raffled.

The Meeting as I Saw it



by

Dorwin Skinner
Club Vice President



Wow, where do I start? When I arrived there were so many cars in the parking lot that I thought I was late. I actually checked my watch. Then I thought maybe the meeting actually starts at 6:00 and I was late. No, that's another club that I belong to. I continued to carry in my cake knowing that it wouldn't last long. There were specimens on the tables, members on the machines and the snack area was being set up. It was only 6:15 and it seemed like everyone was already there. As I looked around I could see that there would be more arrivals because several of the regulars hadn't arrived. I hardly had a chance to walk around before Judith



Michele and Jan hard at work.

approached me, selling drawing tickets. And believe me she can be persuasive. Social time was in full swing and it was time for me to look at the specimens on display. Janet Wheeler showed me a beautiful necklace with a cabochon that was cut from a manmade composite of spiny oyster shell and turquoise, the colors were exquisite. I took a picture, but the camera didn't do it justice. Gloria DuPont had many of her creations available for purchase. Several new people arrived and we were about to have the largest attendance that I have witnessed. I guess our famous club is starting to be recognized. All too soon Ralph called the meeting to order and we were on to business.

Judith will have a class on making a silver ring. There will be a field trip to Graves Mountain in April. Lauren Bell, who is familiar with the mine, gave an impromptu presentation on what to expect. It appears that a large number of our club members will be going. Before long the business meeting was adjourned and Dave Letasi started his presentation, "The Fossils of Vulcan Mine". Suddenly it was 9:00 P.M. and it was time go home. Yes it was a record meeting, 38 signed in.

The Cover Photo

The cover photo is uranium containing cuprosklodowskite, a secondary uranium mineral formed by alteration of earlier uranium minerals. Cuprosklodowskite was discovered in 1933 at the Kalongwe deposit in the Belgian Congo.

[Wikipedia](#)

New Meeting Signs

Welcome to the Refreshment Bar!

Your club has provided coffee and other drinks for your enjoyment, as well as cups, plates, napkins and forks for your use.

Please help by donating to the "Coffee" fund. This insures that we can continue to provide the items we all appreciate.

Thank you and enjoy!

Welcome to the Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting!

We are glad you are here!

Please help us remain financially sound by kindly donating \$1 for each person that attends the meeting. This will pay for the rental of this facility for tonight.

Also, we would like you to sign in on the paper below.

Members:

You are welcome to use the grinding / polishing machines your club has provided for you.

Please remember to pay the \$1 fee for using the machines. This money goes into a fund to replace wheels when necessary. These wheels are an average of \$85 each. Also, if you use the machines, you are expected to stay to help clean them and put them away.

If you are using the trim saw, please refrain from attempting to cut anything thicker than 1/4".

There is a technique to cutting stones. If you don't know how, you could damage the wheels of the machine. Please ask for instruction or help.

Recently the club has posted signs near the entrance door, at the snack area, and on the machine tables. These signs are to remind members that we must contribute for the use of the building, the purchase of coffee and paper and plastic supplies at each meeting, and the replacement of grinding and cutting wheels for the equipment.

March Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Dorwing Skinner



Gloria selling her wares.



Rovie and Peg checking out a visitor's specimens.



Dave Letasi giving his Vulcan Mine presentation.



Specimens



Man made composite cabochon by Roger Wheeler



Our youngest member



Specimens found at the Vulcan Mine



More specimens

Wire Wrapping Class

by Dorwin Skinner

The Tuesday wire-wrapping class at the Weeki Washee Senior Citizens Club is a big hit with our budding artisans, and class sizes just keep getting bigger. This month the project was a pair of earrings. Judith and Melodye demonstrated each necessary technique and then assisted the students with their projects. One of the first things they had to do was create a small pinhead on each end of a wire. If they had measured and cut their wire properly, these pinheads would become a decorative point on the finished earring. When the students were done it seemed unbelievable that their creations had taken less than two hours to complete. I believe that next month there will be two projects and the "Tree of Life" will be one of them.



Melodye helping Leslie solder



Gary Spurlock hard at work.



Phyllis adjusting her creation.



Earrings by Ron and Linda Parks

Brooksville Heritage Day

February 25, 2016

It was a dreary day with plenty of light rain to dampen the mood but that didn't hold down the spirits of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds that represented our club at the Brooksville Heritage Day Festival. Judith Birx and Lauren Bell set up their booths next to the Withlacoochee Rockhounds booth. Phyllis Ables, Mark Moore and Leslie Moore manned our booth and gave out information about our club. I believe that we signed up at least one new member at this event. Little by little

our club is becoming known to the community. The results of these efforts have resulted in the growth of our club in the last few months. Who knows maybe we will outgrow our present building



Phyllis Ables and Leslie Moore



Lauren Bell



Judith Birx

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

The Wheelers in Action

“Art in the Park”

Club members Janet and Roger Wheeler set up their very attractive “Creations in Stone” vendor booth on March 11, 2017, at Tom Varn Park in Brooksville.

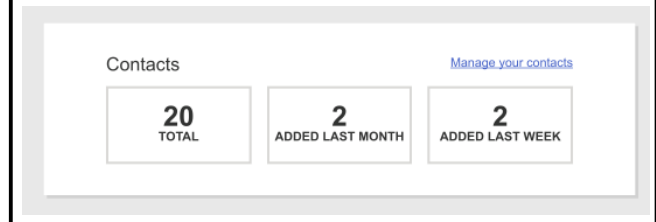
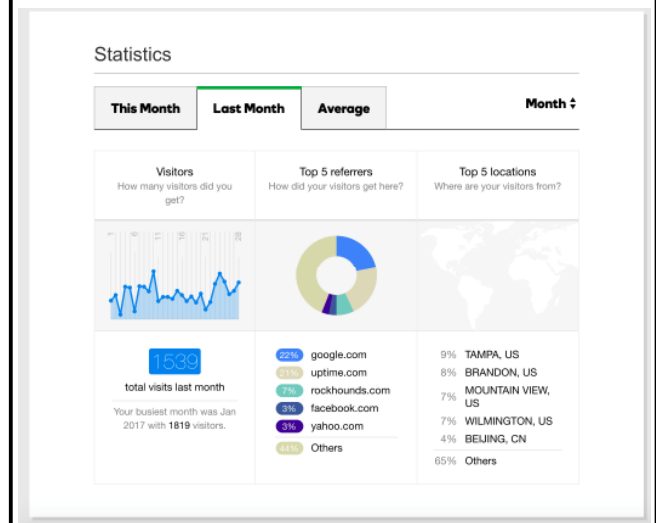


Our Website

withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Withlacoocheerockhounds.com Contacts and Statistics

Our website is being accessed many times each month from users near a far. Below is data showing the number of visitors and the number of contacts with us made by some of these visitors.



Club Website

The latest issue of Rock Talk will be posted on our website about a week before the upcoming meetings. It can be downloaded to your computer as a PDF file. If any club members currently receiving the Rock Talk via email would prefer to download it from the website, please let me know and I will discontinue sending it to you by email.

Mike Stone

Secretary Report

by
Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes March 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order by club president Ralph Barber at 7:30pm.

- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There were no new members to recognize.
- There were four guests in attendance; Harry Koerner and Joann Melcher-Keorner, Barb Mura-tore, and Jaxon Weingarth.
- Michele Evans made a motion to accept the minutes of our February meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Dave Davis and it was passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the treasurer's report.
- Club president Barber announced that the vote held during the February meeting to raise the membership fees, did not follow the club's bylaws and was therefor, invalid.

Old Business

Judith Birx announced that there will be a gathering following the business meeting, at the back of the room for anyone who plans to join in the field trip to Graves Mountain, GA. This will be for distribution of news and information regarding the trip.

New Business

- Michele Evans suggested a time limit for members using the grinding/polishing machines. This was discussed and supported by many. The Board of Directors will make a decision at their next meeting.
- Linda Parks stood and asked everyone to thank the members who put in the time to replace many of the ceiling tiles at the Senior Center. There was

a grateful round of applause.

- Dave Letasi gave a heartfelt thanks to Rovie Alford for setting up and taking down the club tent for the Heritage Day Festival in Brooksville. Dave said the Festival went well, and announced there will be a Fossil Festival at the Tampa Fairgrounds later this month.
- Judith Birx announced that there will be a class held at the April club meeting. Members will be taught how to create and solder sterling silver rings. She asked those who are interested to sign up.
- Dorwin Skinner vowed to donate a cake to be used for the raffle.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Elaine Alford, Katie Schmidt, and Phyllis Ables.
- Dave Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dorwin Skinner seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 21, 2017

Attending: Ralph Barber, Dorwin Skinner, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Mike Stone, Judith Birx, Rovie Alford, Dave Letasi. Observer; Roger Wheeler.

- The board meeting began at 7:00pm and was held at the home of club vice-president Dorwin Skinner.
- Part of the agenda for this meeting was collecting information about our annual gem show from club president Barber. He said he had computer problems and lost much of the information. He said he would rebuild the vendor list and present a copy to the Board. Ralph gave us phone numbers for contacting the Veterans Memorial Park, and general information regarding the tables and access to the building. Ralph also gave us the phone number and a name for the people who run the kitchen during the show. We discussed the floor plan and how to entice more vendors to sign up for the show. Ralph has stated that he will turn over more information when

he gets a chance to look it up and retrieve it from his computer.

- Unacceptable noise levels during presentations was discussed and a reminder will be in the newsletter, as well as Board members reminding people to be respectful to our presenters.
- The April meeting program will be a ring making class, run by Judith Birx and Melodye Steverson. Mike Stone will also bring his microscope to examine rock specimens and provide members with digital images.
- At the March meeting, the number of people signed in was higher than the number of dollars we collected at the door. Someone will be assigned to the door to make sure everyone pays. New explanation and reminder signs will be prominently displayed.
- Regarding the increase in membership dues for 2018; After much discussion, Judith Birx made a motion to raise membership fees in 2018 to \$20 per individual member, \$5 for minors under the age of 18 years or age. We will delete family memberships entirely. Dorwin Skinner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The Board approved this change and now it will be brought to the general membership for a vote.
- We have not received the pledged donation from the sponsor that Judith contacted. The company will be approached again.
- The club Secretary will compose a "Thank You" letter in response to donations given to the club.
- The Board will compile a list of potential sponsors and will take suggestions from the membership as well.
- We will not have a club treasury audit at this time.
- President Barber left the meeting at 8:40pm. The meeting ended at 9:35pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Education Chairman



Judith Brix



2017 Graves Mountain Field Trip

Graves Mountain
Washington Hwy.
Lincolnton, GA 30817

Rock Swap and Dig - April 28, 29, 30th

Lodging:

Elijah Clark State Park, 2959 McCormick Hwy, Lincolnton, GA 30817. Located 18 minutes from Graves Mountain. Cottage and Campground Cottages \$150 per night with a minimum a two-night stay. Rooms in the cottages sleep eight people and have a full kitchen. Many have a lake view. Great for a family or sharing with friends. 800-864-7275 or 706-359-3458.

<https://www.google.com/#q=elijah+clark+state+park+campground>

Cullars Inn, 140 Elm St. Lincolnton, GA 30817. Located 20 minutes from Graves Mountain. Rooms are \$63.76 per night with no minimum stay. The rooms have a mini refrigerator and microwave. Two queen beds per room. 706-359-6161

<http://www.thecullarsinn.com/>

Items to bring:

gloves, pick/hammer, chisel, shovel, newspaper for wrapping specimens, boots/sturdy sneakers, bags, bucket, backpacks, water, sunscreen, fly dope, hat

Specimens to collect:

rutile, kyanite, lazulite, iridescent hematite, pyrophyllite, barite, sulfur, variscite, woodhouseite, crandallite, strengite, phosphosiderite, cacoenite, blue quartz, and quartz crystals

Graves Mountain websites:

<https://www.gamineral.org/ft/commercial/ftgravesmain.html>

<http://www.wncrocks.com/resources/Collecting%20site%20graves.htm>

YouTube videos of collecting at Graves Mountain:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n57-JR4hKvg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0n1ZZFval8>

There is no cost to visit the mountain, however, it is customary to donate \$20.00 per person to the caretaker Clarence Norman Jr. He will have the mountain open from 8:00 AM until 6:00 PM each day. Everyone must stop at the hospitality table to sign in. There will be golf cart type four wheeled vehicles available to transport visitors who have trouble walking long distances. There will be a area in the upper parking for the rock swap and the hot food and drink vendor. Anyone wishing to contact Jr. can contact him at 706-359-1544.

Some members have expressed interest in sharing a room with someone and carpooling. So let's get together and start planning.

Contact Judith Birx at 352-587-1702

Tuesday Workshop at the

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

The Withlacoochee Rockhounds 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 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*. Contact number: 352-587-1702

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center.

3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill FL 34606

For more information call Judith at: 352-587-1702

Our First Sponsor



700 Desoto Ave
Brooksville, FL 34601
352-796-3374

Thanks to Judith Brix for contacting Creative Environmental Solutions, Inc. of Brooksville. They have become the first sponsor of our organization by graciously donating one hundred dollars (\$100). This local environmental, engineering, and geological consulting firm is showing their appreciation and support of our efforts in helping provide scholastic achievement for geology students and the fostering of interest and promoting knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, and the earth sciences with our community.

WILLIAM HOLLAND SFMS WEEK JUNE 11TH 2017



Join us for the 2017 SFMS week at William Holland. We have an awesome week planned for you this year with a talented group of instructors. Please follow the links below to the website, to download the registration form and Facebook page to read more about each instructor, check out the photo album of their class samples.

We look forward to seeing you this year for Federation week! The class descriptions, pictures and registration form are on both of these sites.

<http://sfmsworkshops.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/Southeast-Federation-of-Mineralogical-Societies-317959434999844>



Tampa Bay Fossil Show

On Sunday March 12th I attended the Tampa Bay Fossil Show at the Florida State Fairgrounds on US 301 in Tampa with my wife Suzanne and Dorwin Skinner. The show ran from March 10th through the 12th. Linda Spaulding attended on Saturday, while Linda Anderson and Lauren Bell attended on Sunday the 12th as well. The show had dealers displaying fossils, minerals, and jewelry. A Wholly Rhino jaw was taken home by Dorwin, fossil shrimp fossils from Lebanon were treasured by Linda, Sue, and Dorwin. I collected two early whale vertebra fossils that were discovered in Georgia from fossil dealer Terry Sellari. Check out (<http://tampabayfossilclub.com/>). Our own club member Kelly Johnson had several tables of excellent fossils and minerals. Over two dozen vendors were set up, and attendance was very strong. What a great day!



Wholly Rhino jaw

Heritage Day

On February 25 several of our Club members had a wonderful day at the Heritage Day Festival in Brooksville. Rovie Alford set up our booth. Elaine Alford, Mark and Leslie Moore, and Phyllis Ables volunteered their time to man our set up. 800 guests attended the event and it was well received. Many visitors showed interest in our organization. I feel

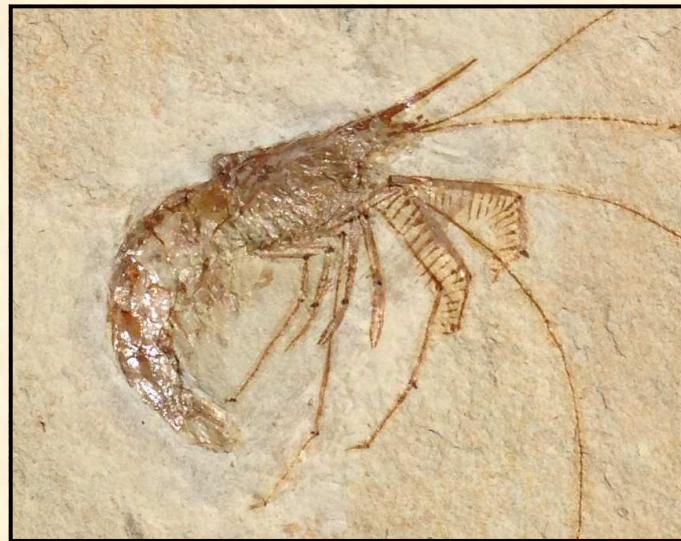
that our name is becoming more known to our community. Our club fossil exhibit was on display in the 1885 Train Depot. Thanks to all for making this a successful event.

Florida Museum of Science Field Trip

Our Field Trip to the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville will take place on May 13. We are going to meet at McDonalds on US 50 and Bronson Drive in Ridge Manor at 8:30am and then proceed to the museum. The parking cost at the museum is \$3 per vehicle and admission is free. The Butterfly Garden is an extra charge if you wish to enter it. Additional information may be obtained at (<http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/>) Phone: 352-846-2000.

We will car pool for those who wish, a map and itinerary will be provided at the May 10th Rock Club meeting. We will eat at Harry's Seafood Bar and Grill (<http://hookedonharrys.com/location/gainesville/>) in down town Gainesville after the Museum Tour. The Tour will include information about the prehistoric animal fossils and the prehistoric artifacts featured in their amazing exhibits.

Keep Collecting! Dave



Fossil Shrimp

Withlacoochee Rockhounds is now on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/withlacoocheerockhounds1/?ref=page_internal



Upcoming Show

April 22 and 23, 2017 Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show Memphis, TN
www.theearthwideopen.com



Hernando County, FL

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

Bezel Problems

When bezel-setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had difficulty pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common situation, often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter, so it can lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in, so they touch.



If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the

bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. This way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. When the corners are set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

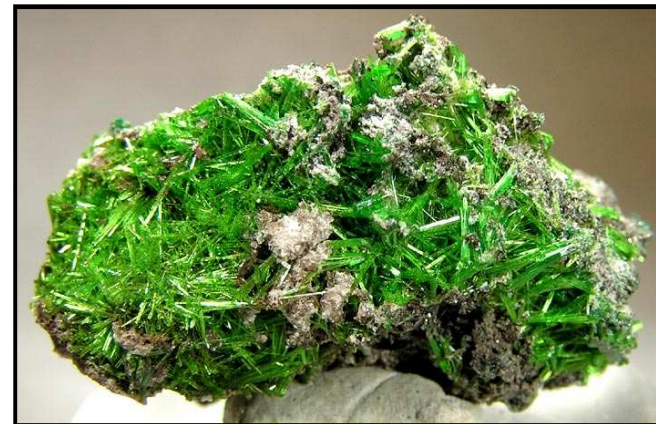
Cheaper and Better Pickle

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It is sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that has 95 percent or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.



Cuprosklodowskite



What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

Last Month's "What is It?" was
"rhodochrosite"



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

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

Business Card Size Advertisement

Our club can use the income generated by selling business card size advertisements in our newsletter. If you know of anyone who might benefit by advertising in the *Rock Talk*, please contact them and let them know that we can post their ads for ten dollars (\$10) per month. The *Rock Talk* is distributed to more than only our club members, it is available on our site and has the potential for being distributed to over one thousand readers each month.

Contact newsletter editor Mike Stone at:
n1ve@amsat.org
 603-524-0468

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Has a New Address

Our official mailing address is:
Withlacoochee Rockhounds
 PO Box 5634
 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

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

What do you think, are these real?



GAIL'S GIFT HUT
 USA FLEA MARKET
 AVE 3, BOOTH 7
 JEWELRY, CRYSTALS, ROCKS,
 FINDINGS AND MUCH MORE
gailsgifthut@gmail.com



Your Favorite Specimen

We are always looking for something of interest for our club members. We're sure that 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
n1ve@amsat.org

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Dues Form, 2017

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

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

Please Print

Primary Member

Last name _____ First Name _____

Renewing members check here if no change in information below.

Additional family members:

Last name _____ First Name _____

Last name _____ First Name _____

Last name _____ First Name _____

Last name _____ First Name _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

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

Rock Talk



His Nibs

Diamonds and Jewelry
Insurance Appraisals
Gemstone Identification
Professional Repairs

Jerry Johnson, G.G.
Graduate Gemologist-GIA
(352) 573-0830

12470 Spring Hill Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34609

Hours: By Appointment Only

5-15

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost to advertise your businesses in *Rock Talk* is \$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.

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
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.

2017 Club Officers

President.....	Ralph Barber.....	352-200-6852.....	barbersbloomers@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	twoantiques2@yahoo.com
Secretary.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	n1ve@amsat.org
Club Web Master.....	Mike Stone.....	603-524-0468.....	n1ve@amsat.org
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Program Coordinator.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Education Chairman.....	Judith Bix.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbix@hotmail.com
Publicity Officer.....	Dorwin Skinner.....	352-610-9422.....	twoantiques2@yahoo.com

Board of Directors: Rovie Alford, Ralph Barber, Judith Bix, Dave Letasi, Melodye Steverson, Dorwin Skinner, Mike Stone, Janet Wheeler