Rock Talk

August 2019



Rock Talk



August 14th Meeting Program

Eric Kessel will present his photos of the Smithsonian Museum and tell about his visit to the museum.

Before and after the business meeting and presentation, the rock cutting, grinding, and polishing machines will be available for use by

club members.

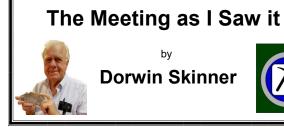
We will have the usual 50/50 drawing, several door prizes and food and beverages will be available.

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The Cover Photo

Apollo 17 astronaut collecting rocks on the moon. 1972



The July meeting promised to be a good one. There is supposed to be a Chinese auction and I had already received a call from a visitor, John Cucinella, asking for directions to our

clubhouse. John said he was bringing some fluorescent minerals that he thought our members might be interested in. I was sure that they would be a welcome change from our typical Florida finds. When I arrived, I could tell we were missing some of our snowbirds, there were fewer cars in the lot. In the clubhouse the membership was enjoying social time and there were plenty of specimens on display for show and tell. If you needed to acquire a new



Gary's colorful creations

specimen there were plenty to choose from. At the back of the room, the auction tables were completely full with geodes, shells, minerals, and even a wind chime. There were plenty to choose from, so I only had to narrow down my choice. I went from there to the nourishment center to check out my choice of carbohydrates. Gary Spurlock claimed to have made healthy brownies, so I made sure to include some on my plate. I am not sure how healthy they were but I know they sure were good. Gary, if you want to make some more it is OK with me. It seemed to me

that things were a little quiet and that is when I noticed that nobody was on the machines. Usually someone is grinding away on a cabochon or cutting something on the saw, and you know how it squeals. Soon it was time for the meeting and Judith quieted things down. She announced that the two William Holland scholarship slots had been awarded to Janet Wheeler and Melodye Severson. These two individuals are certainly

Continued on next page

Next Meeting, Wednesday, August 14th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

2019

The meeting from page one

deserving of the awards. They have given their time to the club for many years. I have been with the club for several years and they were serving in their positions when I first came. Congratulations Janet and Melodye. Get ready to for the silversmithing classes, because that is what the ladies intend to study. They will bring these skills back and teach them to our members. After more business stuff about our gem show and other things it got down to the 50/50 drawing, I pulled out my tickets confident that I would win. I was ready to gracefully walk up and receive my winnings. I had my lucky stone in my pocket and had rubbed it until it was hot. Colen stepped up to the platform and after a few stretching warm ups he reached in, pulled out a ticket and dashed my hopes of going home a winner. As I looked on, Dick Drum proudly stepped forward to collect his winnings. Oh well, easy come, easy go. Maybe I will win next time. Well I can hope can't I?



Colen makes the draw



... and the winner is Dick



Eric and Dave discuss a recent find.



John Cucinella with his fluorescent rocks



Gem tree by Gary Spurlock

July Meeting Photos

Photos by Roberta Oldham

2019



Bear and his American Indian bead bracelets.



Waiting for the meeting to start.



Members bidding at the Chinese auction table.



Liz and Darryl Barney with their colorful tumbled rocks and slabs.



Enjoying the meeting



Roberta's creations and Jim checking out a specimen.

July Jewelry Class Photos

















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 August 6th at 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

The August workshop project will be making a chainmail bracelet. The cost is \$5.00 plus the usual \$1.00 building use fee. Judith will be teaching the class.



Hernando County, FL

Next Meeting, Wednesday August 14th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 7-10-19

The meeting was called to order by club president Judith Birx at 7:08 pm.

- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There were no new members to recognize.
- There was one guest in attendance; John Cucinella.
- Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the minutes of our June meeting as printed in the newsletter the motion was seconded by Dave Letasi, and was passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dave Letasi and approved by all.

Old Business

• Judith Birx announced the winners of the two William Holland Lapidary Retreat Scholarships. Janet Wheeler and Melodye Steverson received the scholarships and will traveling to the school for classes before the end of the year. They will bring back their knowledge to share with the club members.

• Club president Birx also invited embers to come to the Board of Directors meeting next Tuesday to help stuff vendor applications into to envelopes to be mailed to potential gem show vendors.

New Business

- Roberta Oldread reported that she spoke with the owners of the Million Souls Mine and they are not ready to do a program for our club about their Pasco agatized coral. She reported that a scientific team is studying the coral and will be writing a book about the stone. Our club will be mentioned in this book, as some members went out to help the scientists remove a large coral head for study.
- Club president Birx announced the monthly jewelry class will be making a chainmail ring with a bead in its center. Cost of class is \$5.00 plus the usual \$1.00 building use fee.
- Our next monthly meeting program will be Eric Kessel who will present his pictures of the Smithsonian Museum and tell about his visit there.
- Roberta Oldread announced that the Million Souls Mine is doing a promo on Facebook and giving away a cab of Pasco agatized coral.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Angela Reid and Cheryl Longenecker.
- Mike Steverson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Barber seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm. *Minutes respectfully submitted by club secretary Melodye Steverson.*

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 7-16-20

Attending board members; Judith Birx, Melodye Steverson, and Ralph Barber. Also in attendance was member Cheryl Longenecker.

There was no board meeting called to order. Those present went directly to the gem show committee meeting and discussed methods of advertising the show.

Envelopes that were prepared by club treasurer, Janet Wheeler, were stuffed with vendor applications, sealed, and stamped. There were more envelopes than applications, so club president Birx volunteered to go to Office Depot to finish the mailing. She then took them all to the post office and deposited them in the mailbox.

The meeting ended at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson

The Cabochon Class



The results of the first night of our recent cab class taught by Melodye Steverson.

Next Meeting, Wednesday August 14th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Coral Head Excavation

by Roberta Oldread

On July 7th, several club members, Lynn and Lindsey Bowman, Anthony Maffatone, Jim Gugliotti and I participated in a private excavation of a coral head on the property of Million Souls Mine in Pasco County. I contacted Dan and Sally Yoder, owners of the mine, who are also club members, about doing a presentation for the club. Here's what transpired.

Dan brought to my attention that there has never been a study on Pasco County coral. He said, "We are starting one with Dr. Jon Bryan. He is a geologist and an oceanographer with Northwest Florida State College." Dan also told me that Dr. Bryan would be visiting on July 11th, along with Bob Austin, an archaeologist from the St. Petersburg, Weedon Island Preserve Cultural and Natural History Center. I've been told that Bob is the go-to guy when it comes to lithics (relating to stone tools). Dan also told me that if a few volunteers want to visit his quarry for the purpose of doing an archaeological type excavation to reveal coral heads in the ground, he would welcome the help. He insured us that, "It would be an informative dig, for sure, so reach out to me if that is something someone wants to do."

The idea was to uncover the coral in such a way that Dr. Bryan could study the geology around and beneath it. There are four scientists who are writing a book, and they all want to study the quarries at the Million Souls Mine.

Using this information, I organized the private excavation on July 7, 2019. We arrived at 9:00 am and were greeted by Dan and Sally. Dan took us out to the area where we would be doing the excavation. Dan had two tents set up. One over the partially exposed coral head surface and another with a table with plastic trays and an array of tools. Another area was set up with a screen to sift each bucket of earth that was removed from the excavation spot. With



Exposed coral head in the excavation area.



Lynn, Jim, and Dan excavating.

7



Anthony, Jim, and Roberta removing the black soil from the excavation area.



The finished excavation site.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Coral head excavation from pervious page

the tools we all brought, Anthony, Lindsey, Jim, and Dan commenced to remove the grass layer surrounding the exposed coral head. Once the sod was removed Lynn, Jim, Dan, and I jumped in and removed the rich dark soil. Dan had small plastic containers for small coral pieces, arrowheads, or pottery that we might find. We didn't find arrowheads or pottery, but we found plenty of small coral specimens. Lynn even found a few earthworms.

We opened up a six-foot square area, exposing the coral head, but leaving large coral pieces in place for the geologists to study.



Lindsey and Anthony sifting the soil we excavated.

Dan took a hammer to a small coral specimen and cracked it open, exposing the rich earthly colors, as seen in one of the photos.

It was getting late and thunder could be heard way off in the distance. Since we had exposed enough coral for the geologists, Dan recommended that we go down to see the mine where he's been getting his coral that is used to make beautiful jewelry and also for slabs he sells for knapping. This area was semi overgrown and nothing like the Vul-



Dan showing a small coral specimen that he split open.

can Mine where we dig.

Then Dan took us to the creek on his property. Everyone except Lindsey climbed down the embankment into the creek. We all walked upstream with Dan as he told us about the coral in the creek. We were each allowed to take one piece of coral from the creek.

The storm was getting closer, so we climbed out of the creek with our coral treasure in hand and went back to the dig site where sub grinders and drinks were waiting for us, provided by our gracious hosts. Then before the storm hit, we went back to the house to eat and check out their shop that is set-up for the Million Souls Mine.

All in all it was a great day with cloud coverage

to keep the temperature comfortable when excavating. We had an awesome time and good conversations.



Anthony, Dan, Jim, and Lynn in the creek.



Lynn holding a coral specimen from the creek while Roberta searches for a specimen'

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Getting to Know You Withlacoochee Rockhound Member Roberta Oldread

I started **Custom Leather Creations** in 1979. With 40 years of experience under my leather belt, I've been repairing leather, altering leather, and creating, using leather.



I started off with my grandmother's Singer treadle type sewing machine and upgraded to Singer industrial sewing machine that I bought 1983 and continue to use it today, along with a 1928 Singer Model K cobbler machine, so I can do minor cobblery, pockets, and sleeves (Cobblery-the making and mending of shoes). I also reupholster small end items and motorcycle seats. Besides being a leather crafter, I also enjoy gardening, starting plants from seeds, composting, and trading plants and seeds with local gardening friends. My yard is my "serenity garden" with my latest creation of a rock garden that was made with rocks that I've collected over the years or that were gifted to me from friends. I enjoy crocheting and making gifts for my family. Two years ago I joined the Withlacoochee Rockhounds and, using my creative talents and the love of rocks. I've taken my creative talents to a new level by polishing stones to make cabochons for jewelry, along with wire wrapping to produce handmade items to sell or give as gifts to family and friends.

Rock on



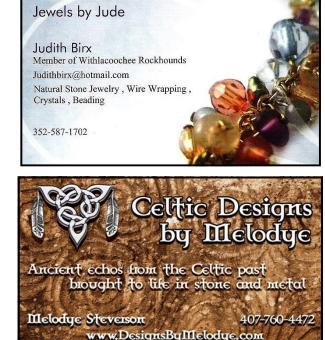
Getting to Know You

Send us a few words about your interest(s) and/or hobby(s), whether or not they are related to rock hounding, we will print them in future issues of *Rock Talk*, and you might find that other club members have similar interests.

Gem Show

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society Inc., a nonprofit 501(C)3 educational organization, is hosting a Rock. Mineral, Gem, Jewelry & Fossil Show on October 4th, 5th & 6th, 2019 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Venders offering beads, minerals, gemstones, hand crafted cabochons and jewelry, fossils, artifacts, rocks, etc. Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations, Family Activities, Scavenger Hunt. Admission: Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Scouts in uniform free. Website: www.cfmgs.org Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or ssfossilhunter@aol.com. If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 407-816-1229. Thank you. Betty Sumner, Secretary, Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.





Our Website www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Next Meeting, Wednesday August 14th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Meteorite Found in Siberia Contains Naturally Impossible Crystal

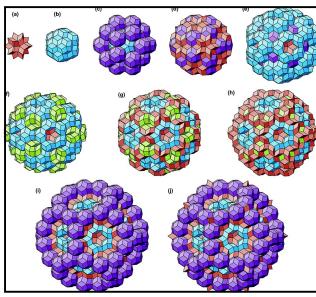
https://www.ancient-origins.net/

In 2009, scientists made a groundbreaking discovery that was ultimately traced to a remote corner of the world. In a box obtained from the Italian Museum of Natural History in Florence, Italy, they found a small grain of extraterrestrial mineral that was formed shortly after the birth of our solar system, 4.5 billion years ago. The mineral came from an area near the Koryak Mountains in eastern Siberia, and was delivered to Earth by an object known as the Khatyrka meteorite. The latter was discovered only after researchers returned to the area in search of more exotic minerals in 2011.

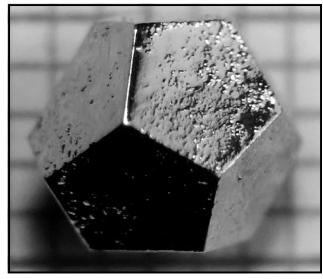


Khatyrka meteorite

This new rock has been designated as a quasicrystal, in recognition of its unique structural properties. A quasicrystal looks like a normal crystal on the outside, but on the inside it is noticeably different. While the atoms in a pure crystal are arranged in constantly repeating patterns, the atomic lattices inside the quasicrystal are both ordered and diverse, displaying a range of shapes never before seen in a natural substance.



Graphic depictions of various quasicrystals patterns.



A Ho-Mg-Zn (holmium-magnesium-zinc) icosahedral quasicrystal formed as a pentagonal dodecahedron. The faces are true regular pentagons.

More than 100 synthetic versions of these minerals have been produced in laboratories, between 1982 and the present day. Until these experiments, such a form of matter had never been seen before, and in the past had been believed to be theoretically impossible according to accepted ideas about the laws of nature. Previously the only thing ever found were crystals, with their rigidly repetitive patterns, and so-called normal solids, which are comprised of atoms arranged in no particular order.

Sent to us by Michael Steverson





A jadeite pendant. A good project for the jewelry class?

August

Roadside Fossil Hunting

It was a blistering hot afternoon when I took an indirect route to Radcliff, Kentucky As I was riding on Route 60 in Flaherty, I saw an area that was once covered with grass, but over the years, heavy rains have been washing away the topsoil and exposing red clay and all sorts of local rocks. I expected to find fossils among the rocks, since they are very common in this area that was once a tropical seabed during the Mississippian Period, 325-360 million years ago.

We have been having record-breaking rainfall for months and today was only the second rain free day in more than a week. Rain is both good and bad. It erodes the softer, lighter, and finer material, leaving stones and sometimes fossils fully exposed and ripe for the picking. Rain also turns clay soil into the most slippery and tenacious substance imaginable. The sun was bright and high overhead, so I had excellent lighting conditions for picking out various colors, textures, and shapes. But it took me several minutes before



In many places when the ground cover has eroded away, rocks and fossils are exposed.

I spotted anything of interest. Sunlight reflected from a small piece of glittering, druzy quartz in a small pocket on a chunk of banded chert. Once I had it in my hand, I found several more of these pretty specimens.



This could be a Martian landscape. Can you find the coral fossils?



A small specimen of horn coral



A handful of small horn coral pieces.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Roadside Fossil Hunting from pervious page

But I really wanted to find sea life fossils, so I continued looking closely at the bits and pieces scattered over deep, copper colored clay. It was several more minutes before I picked up a small piece of horned coral fossil. Once I found the first piece of fossil, I was able to fine-tune my eyes and brain so I could eliminate rocks that didn't have the same visual characteristic as the coral. Within minutes I had a handful of horned coral fossil and had accomplished my objective.

I continued walking along the rocky



A flint nodule broken into pieces by freezing and thawing.

This flint looks quite blue in the bright sunlight.

bank, looking for anything of interest. It didn't talk long to spy beautiful pieces of Kentucky blue flint, where a nodule had cracked and split apart, perhaps due to freezing and thawing conditions over several winters. I had heard about Kentucky blue flint and figured it was basically a black flint. But these pieces were absolutely blue in color.

We will bring the horned coral fossils and some of the Kentucky blue flint to one of the club meetings in the fall or winter.

When out and about, be sure you "Think Rocks" because if you don't look for them you won't find them.

Here's a bit of information about the Devonian Period when this part of Kentucky was covered by a shallow sea.

Common Mississippian fossils found in Kentucky include corals (Cnidaria), bryozoans, brachiopods, trilobites, snails (gastropods), clams (pelecypods), squid-like animals (cephalopods), crinoids and blastoids (echinoderms), fish teeth (Pisces), and microscopic animals like ostracodes and conodonts.



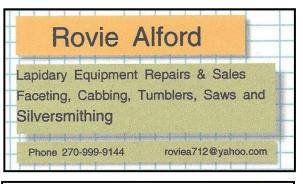


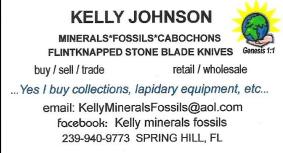
For Sale

Smith Little Torch, acetylene and oxygen soldering outfit with a steel tank caddy. The tanks have fuel in them. The tanks are about twenty inches tall, with regulators. The outfit sells new for over \$600, asking **\$300**.

Richard Drum 727 862 7457

Scott Metal Art and Lapidany Unique Artisan Dewelmy With a Southwestern Flain Bennett Scott 678-642-7953 bscott@scottmetalart.com







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

Finishing Pierced Patterns

After sawing patterns there is always a little cleanup to do, and the smaller cutouts can be a challenge. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners. But I often find myself wanting even smaller files. I couldn't find them even at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in the Dremel or Foredom.



Grinding the tip of a file.

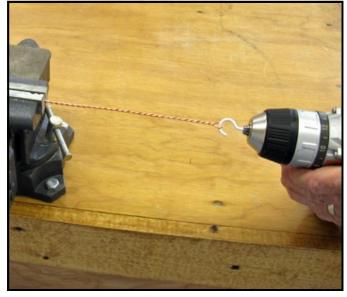
Be sure to wear your safety glasses when using this tool. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

Making Filigree Wire

Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here are a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other.

I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. You'll need a small hook in the spindle, either a cup hook from the hardware store or a nail that has been bent into the shape.



Using a slow-turning electric drill or screw gun to twist the wire.

Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks. The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.



Making a filigree shape after twisting and annealing the wire.

Learn New Jewelry Skills With Brad's How-To-Do-It Books <u>Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith</u>



Next Meeting, Wednesday August 14th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

August Rock Talk

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

Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center on **August 20th** at 6:30 PM.

Arrive Early to Our Meetings

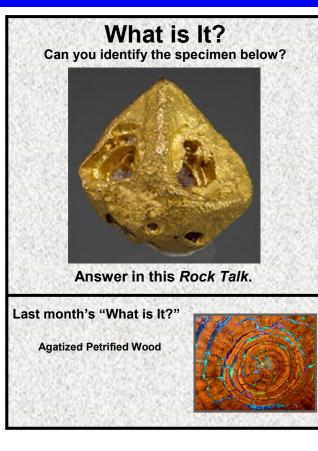
On the nights of our club meetings (second Wednesday of the month) the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center is open at 5:30 PM. The rock grinding and cutting machines are set up early so members can use the equipment before the business portion of the meeting begins at 7:00 PM. If you have jewelry, rocks, 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. The Annual Withlacoochee Rockhounds Gem Show is Coming Veterans Memorial Park

14333 Hicks Road Hudson, FL 34669 December 6, 7, and 8, 2019



Club member volunteers are needed for the 2019 gem show committee. Sign up at the June club meeting..

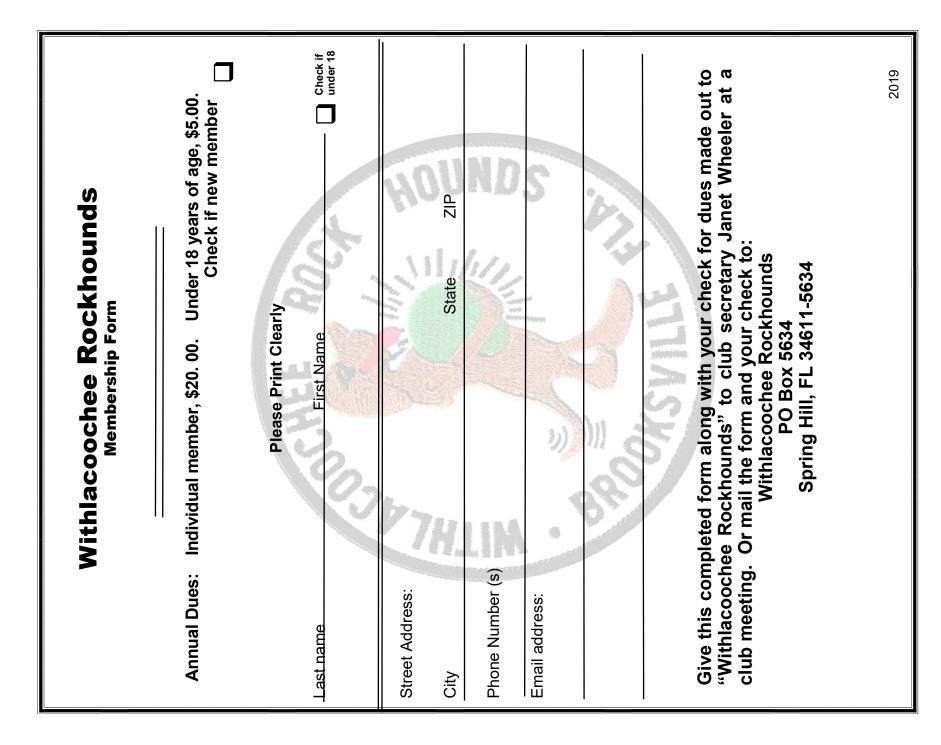






Native American Style Jewelry Necklaces & Chokers & Bracelets & Rings Silver & Turquoise & Bone Custom work available 360-528-0757 mrbearone@gmail.com

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.

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

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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS our annual gem and mineral and jewelry show. Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$20.00 annually for adults and \$5.00 annually for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and Time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Drive in Spring Hill. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

2019 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Judith Birx	352-587-1702	iudithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President	Mark Moore	352-586-9607	markles@bellsouth.net
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	ceecoirl@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 (2019) Melodye Steverson (secretary) Ginny Steverson (2021) Mike Stone (2019) Lynn Walters (2021) Janet Wheeler (treasurer)