

# Rock Talk

September 2018



# Rock Talk

## September 12th Meeting Program

Rocks...what's hot and what's not? Come to the September club meeting where Mark Moore, a retired nuclear scientist, will present a program about radioactive rocks and minerals. Some rocks, such as granite are slightly radioactive and some like, uranyl nitrate, are very radioactive. What are the uses of radioactive rocks and minerals? Come to the meeting and find out. Learn how

to use a Geiger counter to test several different samples. If you have a rock that you feel might be "hot" (radioactive), bring it to the meeting and find out. Also learn how to "secure" those rocks that you just don't want to give up, that might be radioactive. Learn how to stabilize them so they can be studied and handled safely.

### In This Issue

- The August Club Meeting
- August Club Meeting Photos
- Electronic Rock Hounding
- The David Letasi Report
- Withlacoochee Rockhound tee shirts
- What is it?
- Bench Tips
- For Sale
- Club Membership Form

### Cover Photo

Manganese dendrites on a limestone bedding plane

The term "dendrite" comes from the Greek word *dendron* (δενδρον), which means "tree".

### The August Club Meeting

by Roberta Oldread

I won the 50/50 raffle! Ralph brought in slab specimens to sell. John Fusco had two fossil specimens to show the group. The complete skull is from an Oreodont AKA Merycoidodon. Oreodont means "Ruminating Teeth". This was a pig/cow like mammal that thrived during the Oligocene epoch approximately 30 MYA (Million Years Ago) here in North America. The skull is from the Badlands of South Dakota and was collected in the 1950's by Ernest Schug, who was a prominent Wisconsin historian and paleontologist.

The other piece on the green bubble wrap is an Occipital bone and partial brain case/skull from a Triceratops Horridus, which dates to the Cretaceous period approximately 65 MYA. Based on the size of the skull, it is estimated that the Triceratops would be approximately twelve feet long. This piece was found near the Hell Creek Formation in Montana.

### Our Website

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



Checking out slabs that were brought to the meeting by Ralph.

**Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 12th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**

## August Club Meeting Photos

by Roberta Oldread



Roberta, the 50/50 winner.



## 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  
September 4th at 9:00 AM**

## Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members **Michael Palinic**, Weeki Wachee, FL and **Leon Pinto**, Brooksville, FL.

## New Facebook Group

Roberta Oldread is a member of the gem committee and she has created Facebook group. Please join the group and share it with others so we can spread the word about our club and also about our gem show on November 30, December 1 and 2.

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/236869100274162?tsid=0.4892104165861155&source=result>

## Electronic Rock Hounding

by Mike Stone

When I began rock hounding about sixty years ago, I couldn't have dreamed that someday I'd be able to search for rocks, minerals, and fossils from the comfort of my home by simply looking at electronically generated images on a small window into the (World Wide Web).

Recently while I was browsing through eBay, looking at various for sale specimens, I came across what looked like a nice piece of lapis lazuli. The vivid blue color really popped out of the retina display on my Mac laptop. For \$4.83, including shipping, the beautiful piece could be mine.



So I ordered the specimen, waited for more than a month, and finally the tiny package from China arrived. Instead of a beautiful blue specimen, the package contained a small plastic zip lock bag with a few small

pieces, chips, and several small, broken lapis lazuli slabs.



I contacted the seller about the discrepancy between what was advertised on eBay and what I received, and he/she suggested that I accept a refund of one dollar. I rejected the offer and the seller came back with a second offer to take half off the selling price. I replied with the following, *"I understand that you would like me to accept something that I don't want, something that is of no value to me, something that I didn't order, and something that was incorrectly represented on eBay. But what I want is either a full refund for the purchase price, or the specimen as advertised by you on eBay. Thank you for your attention to this matter."*

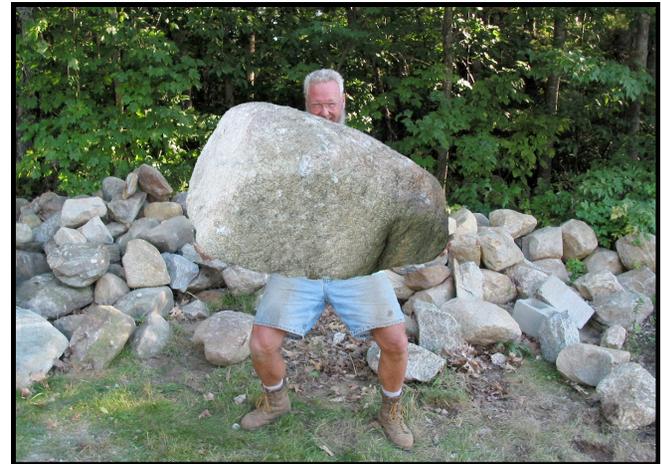
Of course it wasn't the money, it was the principle. Why should I accept a handful of broken rocks, when what was described on eBay was a single piece of lapis lazuli?

The next day I received a message from the seller, indicating that my PayPal account would be credited with the full amount of the purchase.

Dorwin has been adding to his exceptional collection. Some of his most beautiful speci-

mens were purchased on eBay. I asked him if he had any problems when purchasing pieces through eBay. Here's his reply. *"Just once but there is really no problem, eBay will step in and make sure you are paid back in full including the shipping and force the seller to pay shipping to get their merchandise back. EBay does not put up with shoddy sales."*

Technology might have taken giant leaps over the past sixty years, but from my one and only experience when buying a specimen online, I think that I will do most of my rock collecting with my rock hammer and chisel.



Collecting rocks the old fashion way.

But the lure of adding something special to our collection that I know we will never be able to dig out of the ground is very alluring, and no doubt we will be using the WWW, rock swaps, and gem shows to add to our collection.

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds**

**PO Box 5634  
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634**



## The Dinosaur Store and Museum

On May 16<sup>th</sup> Susie and I went with Mark and Leslie Moore to the Dinosaur Store and Museum at Coco Beach, Florida. We had an incredible time exploring the amazing gift shop and fantastic dinosaur museum. The owner, Mr. Steve Cayer, met with us and gave us a private tour.

Fortunately I have had the pleasure of studying his incredible fossil dinosaur specimens over the years. Up on the second floor are the major dinosaur exhibits. It features the skeletons of Diplodocus and Stegosaurus. My favorite skeleton is that of Utahraptor. And in the next hall is the South American giant meat-eating Giganotosaurus.

I love the fossil dinosaur egg nests on display and the rare skeleton of a pterodactyl with dendrite mineralization, the only one you will ever see!

Mr. Cayer invited us into his lab to see some of his study specimens. He has the leg bone of a giant marine reptile called an elasmosaur, the second ever found in Morocco.

We studied a giant claw of what we believe is an undescribed new bird from the middle Cretaceous Period of North Africa. There is an excellent early fossil man exhibit that features every significant prehistoric hominid fossil skull. Also a Neanderthal skeleton that stands next to a skeleton of a modern man for comparison. On the third floor is the fantastic King Tut Egyptian exhibit, featuring many ancient authentic artifacts. There is even a major Mayan and ancient Chinese exhibit that has numerous art and ancient world-class pieces.

On June 26<sup>th</sup> I returned to the museum with Dorwin Skinner. We all had a fantastic trip, and again Steve invited us into his amazing dinosaur-lab. He showed us a baby dinosaur raptor skeleton and a rare early bird fossil that had teeth in its jaws and claws on its wings.

I highly recommend that you to visit the Dinosaur Store and Museum, it rivals any of the major dinosaur museums in the world. For information about the Dinosaur Store and Museum and its hours an directions may be searched at [www.dinosaurstore.com](http://www.dinosaurstore.com).

I would also like to express my appreciation to Mr. Steve Cayer for his gracious hospitality and kindness in sharing his expertise and beautiful museum. Also Mark, Leslie, Dorwin, and Susie made those two days a lifetime experience and memory. Nothing is better than sharing your interests with you best friends.

Everyone, keep looking down, that's where some of the greatest treasures lay.

Dave



## Weeki Wachee Senior Citizen Center

**Crafts and Treasures Sale**  
**Saturday, October 27, 2018**  
**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

There will be a craft and unique treasures sale at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizen Center, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill. Shop for plants, baked goods, jewelry, baskets, quilts, soaps, pottery, home decor, rocks, minerals, fossils, with miscellaneous vendors, and much more. Hot food and a raffle will also be available. Free admission. Proceeds benefit the Weeki Wachee Senior Center roof replacement fund. Please come and show your support for a worthy cause while having a good time and getting a jump on your holiday shopping.

**POC Louisa Amato (352-684-6315)**

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

*Editor/webmaster*

## Withlacoochee Rockhound Tee Shirts

Withlacoochee Rockhound tee shirts are available on Amazon.com.



Shirt with large logo

The shirts are now being sold to the general public, so a special club member link is no longer needed. The price is the same as the previous shirts, at \$18.25 for a shirt with both a front and rear logos, and \$12.99 for either a front logo or a rear logo.

The shirts are available in black, two shades of blue, and dark heather.

Check out the shirts on Amazon.com

Shirt with front and rear logos:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07G5ZCY9P>

Shirt with rear logo

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07G5YS7G8>

Shirt with front logo

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07G5XBY7X>

*Michael Steverson*

## What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in this *Rock Talk*.



Last month's "What is It?"  
was

Native Platinum



Hernando County, FL

**Next Meeting, Wednesday September 12th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**



## Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

### Setting a Rivet

Riveting is usually done with a cross peen hammer, but I've found that it is a lot easier for me to hit the rivet wire when using a small ball peen hammer; and the smaller the better. Shown here is one that I typically use. It's about 3/8-inch diameter on the back of a chasing hammer, but I've been thinking that a 3/16-inch ball might be even better. Look for a yard sale hammer you can modify to work.



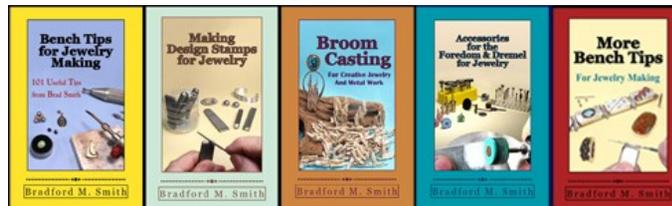
### Sheet Wax with Adhesive

While shopping in the Los Angeles jewelry district for supplies for our class, I found a new product that might interest some of you. Often before casting, I want to increase the thickness of a model by adding a layer of wax on the backside. For in-

stance, models like a leaf or a flower petal do not cast well unless you add a little extra thickness. The problem is trying to apply a coating of wax that is smooth and even.

The new product I found is an easily moldable sheet wax with an adhesive coating. This lets me easily add thickness to a very thin model. With a leaf, just press it onto the wax, trim excess wax around the outer edges, and then gently bend the sandwich to the contour you would like. The wax is available in a number of different thicknesses from about 26 ga to 14 ga.

If interested, my supplier is  
**Jewelry Tools & Supplies**  
412 W. 6th Street #1011  
Los Angeles, CA 90014  
213 624-8224  
[jtstech@sbcglobal.net](http://jtstech@sbcglobal.net)



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

### Having Problems Downloading Rock Talk?

If you are unable to download the *Rock Talk*, you might need to install Adobe Reader in your computer.

Go to <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>  
Click on download and follow the instructions.

## For Sale

**14" Lowertone Slab Saw**  
Slightly used, original paint, steel stand.  
\$800  
**Ro vie Alford**  
270-999-9144



## For Sale Items

Club members can post appropriate club-related type **for sale** items in the *Rock Talk* free of charge. Contact your editors by the 25th of the month to have your items posted in the next issue.

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

# Withlacoochee Rockhounds

## Membership Form

### 2018

Complete this form and bring it with you to the Withlacoochee Rockhound meeting.  
Attach your membership dues to this form.

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

**Please Print Clearly**

**Primary Member**

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Additional family members:**

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  Check if under 18

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  Check if under 18

Last name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_  Check if under 18

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 the club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 5634, Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

# Rock Talk

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds**

Our monthly club meeting is held at the  
Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club,  
3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on  
the 2nd Wednesday of each month  
from 7:00 to 9:00 PM



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

## Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost to advertise your businesses in *Rock Talk* is \$10.00 per month. . Contact Mike Stone to set up an ad in both the club newsletter and our website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

**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. Any club member who takes out a yearly ad, gets a **free club membership**.

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: [ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com)  
or send to:  
**Withlacoochee Rockhounds**  
PO Box 5634  
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

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## Withlacoochee Rockhounds

### Purpose

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

### Dues

Dues are \$25.00 annually for a family and \$15.00 annually for a single member

### Club Meeting Location and Time

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

## 2018 Club Officers

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	<a href="mailto:judithbirx@hotmail.com">judithbirx@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	Kelly Johnson.....	352-688-9399.....	<a href="mailto:KellyMineralsFossils@aol.com">KellyMineralsFossils@aol.com</a>
Secretary.....	Melodye Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	<a href="mailto:melodye@designsbymelodye.com">melodye@designsbymelodye.com</a>
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Club Web Master.....	Mike Stone.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	<a href="mailto:ddupont@tampabay.rr.com">ddupont@tampabay.rr.com</a>

### Board of Directors

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

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

## Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting

-Date 8/8/18

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Former President Ralph Barber at 7:10pm.

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

There were no new members to recognize.

There were 3 guests in attendance; Lee Pinto, Mike Palinic, Jean Young.

Betty Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of our July meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Dave Letasi. Passed by all members.

Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report.

### Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

### New Business

Roberta Oldread announced that the Gem Show Committee would meet next Tuesday, 8/14 in the Senior Center at 6:30. She invited all interested members to join the Committee. She also stated that she had set up a new FaceBook page for the club.

At their next Gem Show Committee meeting, they will stuff envelopes with applications and mail them out to all the vendors on our list. Members of the GSC suggested we also send flyers to people who signed up at last year's Gem Show.

Next month's refreshments will be provided by Karen Fernandez, Katie Schmidt and Lynn Wysong.

Dave Letasi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Joyce Koenig seconded, passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Date 8/21/18

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler (by phone), Ralph Barber, and Dorwin Skinner. Also in attendance; members John Moetzer and Ginny Steverson.

Board meeting started at 6:37 pm and was held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center.

President Judith Birx opened with business from the Gem Show Committee; Ralph Barber stated they met on 8/14. Ralph, along with Committee members Pattie & John Moetzer, Lynn Wysong, Joe Jaconi and Roberta Oldread, stuffed envelopes with Gem Show flyers to mail out to vendors.

Advertising for the Gem Show was next on the agenda; Dorwin Skinner suggested we should notify all the other rock clubs in Florida. John Moetzer added that he is having the show flyer printed at ¼ size, 4 to a page, and we will cut them to distribute to stores and other locations. The next Gem Show Committee meeting will be on 8/28 at 6:30.

President Birx brought up an invitation she received from the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS). There will be a meeting for representatives from each club to learn what is going on in SFMS and their direction for the future. This will be held in Jacksonville, FL at the same time the Jacksonville Rock and Mineral Show is going on. President Birx stated that we should send at least one representative from our club to have a presence there and show we have grown into a more serious club. Many of the Board members were in agreement. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

Our Club's presence on Social Media was discussed and the decision was made to have an Official FaceBook page created to allow everyone, members and non-members alike, access to information about our organization. It was decided to allow someone who is experienced in both creating and successfully administering FaceBook pages to proceed with this endeavor. Member Ginny Steverson has such experience and has volunteered to take on this project.

Secretary Melodye Steverson made a motion to approve Ginny Steverson to create a professional Official FaceBook page for our club. Seconded by Dorwin Skinner, approved by Board members present and on the phone. It was suggested that Miss Steverson set up an Instagram account for the club as well.

The meeting ended at 7:26pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson