

Rock Talk

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February 2017



Rock Talk

February Club Meeting

Club member Dave Davis will give a knapping demonstration. Dave has been knapping stone and other materials for many years. He produces beautiful points, blades, and implements using hand tools and techniques. After the demonstration we will have the rock cutting, grinding, and polishing machines available for use.

The club will be raffling a group of specimens, and we will have the usual dessert type snacks and beverages. During the business portion of the meeting we will be discussing our declining treasury, establishing a gem show committee, and the need for someone to become our club publicity officer

The Meeting as I Saw it

by

Dorwin Skinner
Club Vice President



I wait all year for this annual celebration. Good food, rock bingo, and fun times with special people. When I arrived, the clubhouse was being transformed into a party den for the Withlacoochee Rockhounds. Table clothes were being spread, a buffet line was set up, the dessert line was taking shape, and the gift table was starting to fill. Looking around I could tell that it was going to be a great evening. As more members and guests arrived I could tell that this was going to be a special time. I kept watch of the dessert table as each new delight was set in place. All too soon it was evident that I would have to limit myself to sampling just a few of the available treats. I kept waiting for the signal to eat knowing that we wouldn't eat until after

the official meeting.

Shortly thereafter, Ralph called the meeting to order and I knew food would follow. After our guests introduced themselves and a few other business matters were discussed, the meeting was adjourned and it was time to enjoy the food. It was then that I realized that being the photographer had its drawbacks; I would never be first in line. Oh well, there was so much food that I knew there would be some left for me. There was a cornucopia of food; ham, turkey, potatoes, bread, green bean casserole, onion casserole, and baked beans. Even a healthy choice was available, gluten-free low-salt mac and tuna salad. Finally it was my time to start down the line. The first thing I noticed was the size of my plate. It was really too small to hold everything that I wanted to taste, so I had to fill it twice and then it was on to deserts.



Chow hounds,

After dinner Ralph started the rock bingo game and it wasn't long before someone called bingo. Wouldn't you know it; it was our newest member who was the first winner. It wasn't long before several more people called bingo, and it

The cover photo is a close-up of an Echinoid

Echinoids live in the sea. Their name is derived from echinos (Greek) which means 'hedgehog'. They are also called sea urchins ('urchin' is an old word for a hedgehog). You can understand their name when you look at a live sea urchin (left). It is covered in spines. However, these spines drop off easily, so the fossils only have the skeleton, called the 'test'.

<http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/fossils/echinoid.htm>



2017 Dues are Overdue

A reminder that the dues for 2017 club year are overdue. The 2017 membership dues form is on page thirteen in this issue of *Rock Talk*. Please fill out the form and bring it with your dues to the next meeting and give them to club treasurer Janet Wheeler. Or mail the form and your check made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds", Janet Wheeler, 338 Appaloosa Rd., Tarpon Springs, FL 34688.

Continued on next page

Next Meeting, Wednesday, February 8th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

The Meeting as I Saw it From Page 2

started to seem like everyone had won something, as there were no more gifts on the table. I still did not have a bingo. I started to think that I had the curse of Melodye, because last year she didn't win one bingo. Then it finally happened and I got a bingo. Of course there were no gifts left on the table so I had to steal one from a player who had way too many in front of him. All too soon someone got a coverall and the game was over. I ended up with a nice crystal formation.

It was a wonderful evening and I only have to wait another year for the next one. 🙏



A Bountiful Table



Skeletal Quartz found by Pat Gould



Having Fun



Dorwin's Bingo Card

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



Bingo Time

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

Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members: **Barbara Aycock**, Spring Hill; **Kathleen Schmidt**, Spring Hill, **Wil Wiman**, Homosassa; **Brian and Jenna Swartzmiller**, Spring Hill.

Think Rocks

by Mike Stone

We had to have our boat trailer weighed at a certified public scale for registration purposes. The Rock Solid Stone Center on the Hernando County side of County Line Road not only has a public scale but it also has a full scale size Brontosaurus standing next to the office that looks surprising similar to Barney Rubble's house. As we were gaping at the enormous repli-



Peg standing next to the Brontosaurus.

ca, Peg spotted a large rock not far from its big foot. One side of the naturally tumbled stone was well cov-



The fifty pound rock with kainite crystals.

ered with several light blue, elongated, columnar crystals or kainite. While Peg was in the office asking about the price her find, I moseyed around the rock storage area, looking at the steel baskets, pallets, and crates of various landscaping stones. That's when I saw a wooden crate half full of the most peculiar rocks I've ever come across. Small individual chunks of light colored, sharp-edged and finely layered rocks were cemented together with a minimal amount of black to brown, once-molten lava. The density of these rocks was roughly half of what one would expect. There was no way that I could leave the premises without one of those beauties.

The price of what I assume is lava breccia was fifty-three cents a pound, so I paid \$9.40 including tax for the seventeen pound piece. Peg paid \$16.58, including tax for her fifty three pound specimen. Buying a rock is nowhere nearly as satisfying as finding one, but there is no way we could resist adding these sizable "finds" to our collection.



A nine dollar piece of what I think is lava breccia.

If finding rocks, minerals, and fossils is your thing, then you probably understand that it is important to "think rocks" no matter where you are..

Education Chairman



Jenifer Brix



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

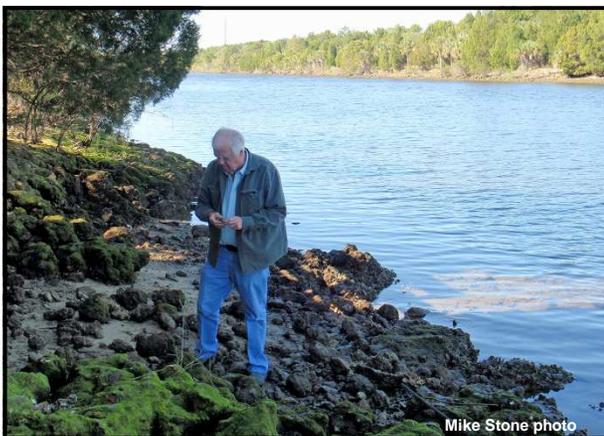
Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center.
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill FL 34606

For more information call Elaine at: 270-526-8080



Looking for Echinoids

by Dorwin Skinner



Mike Stone photo

Author looking for echinoids along the edge of the canal.

It's not everywhere that you can expect to find fossils in Florida but the area along the Cross Florida Barge Canal at Inglis is an exception. Mike and Peg invited me on a fossil hunting trip and they were supplying the food, drink, and transportation. How could I refuse? A free trip complete with a meal isn't offered everyday. So bright and early, around 10:00 AM, I met them and we were on our way. It is just a short trip and we arrived at the canal a little after 11:00 AM. We stopped at one of the fishing areas near the road and headed for the shoreline. In just a few minutes I had my first find, a nice size Eupatagus Floridanus Echinoid. I

have several in my collection but the thrill of the find is always there. I continued to look, hoping to find a smaller variety that is about the size of a nickel or smaller. We spent a couple of hours looking and then it was time for lunch. Peg fixed a Caprese salad, and sandwiches. A meal fit for a king. Did I mention she had pickled herring? Definitely food for royalty.

After lunch we were back out hoping to pick up others, before the tide came in and covered everything up. I managed to find a couple more echinoids before it was time to leave. Mike had several but Peg was the lucky one of the bunch. She had found one of the small elusive flat echinoids in perfect condition. It was either a Weisbordella Cubae or a small Wythella Eldrigei. Maybe next time it will be my turn. I only have one in my collection. For those of you who have not been there, it is a very nice place to spend the day, look for fossils, fish, or to just have a picnic.



Mike Stone photo

Heading to the water's edge after lunch to look for echinoids.



Mike Stone photo

The north shore of the canal in the distance.



Mike Stone photo

Sturdy footwear is needed along the edge of the canal.



Dorwin Skinner photo

An echinoid in the rough/



Mike Stone photo

Weisbordella Cubae or a small Wythella Eldrigei.

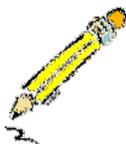


Dorwin Skinner photo

Working for echinoids.

Secretary Report

by
Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes January 11, 2017

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by club president Ralph Barber.
- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.
- There was one new member to recognize; Katy Schmidt.
- There were two guests in attendance; Gary Spurlock, Director of the 1885 Train Depot Museum, and Susan Schwartz.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our November meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Roger Wheeler and passed by all members.
- Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the treasurer's report.

New Business

- Dave Letasi stood and announced that there was a petition available for all members to sign, to combat the Federal Government passing a law that will restrict collection of any type of rocks or fossils on Federal land. Many rock clubs across the country are gathering signatures and sending them to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies to show our disdain of the impending law.
- Judith Bix asked members to sign up for the field trip to Graves Mountain, GA. She stated that she had videos of Graves Mountain on her computer for those who wanted to view them.
- Dave Letasi reminded members to sign up for the trip to the Museum of Natural Science in Gainesville, FL in May.

Old Business

- There was no old business to discuss.

- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Elaine Alford, Mike Moore, and Dorwin Skinner.
- Michele Evans made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dick Drum seconded the motion and it passed by all.
- The business portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

January 24, 2016

Board Meeting Minutes

7:10pm - 9:15pm

Board members present: Dorwin Skinner, Melodye Steverson, Mike Stone, Rovie Alford, Dave Letasi and Judith Bix. Ralph Barber and Janet Wheeler were absent.

- The Board meeting began with a discussion of advertising ideas for our annual gem show. Suggestions included; The Five and Dime Magazine, Scene Magazine, the Spring Hill Newsletter, The Flyer, WWJD radio station, an electric sign on US 19, putting up a large sign on US19 for at least a week prior to the event, putting stacks of flyers at various locations, informing other Florida rock clubs and advertising in their newsletters, and informing schools and colleges.
- It was decided to also pursue monetary grants from Hernando and Pasco counties to fund more advertising.
- It was determined that the club needs one person to be an advertising chairperson, to oversee this aspect of the show. We will ask for a volunteer from the membership.
- The idea of inviting more vendors was discussed, whether to have more and how to contact them. This is under consideration and will be developed more at the next board meeting.
- The board decided that our gem show needs more for attendees to do and see. We will pursue the idea of expanding into the other available rooms in the facility and setting up activities and displays for education and entertainment. Dave Letasi has vol-

unteered to give lectures in one room, and we are considering ideas for the other rooms, such as the gem mine and the fluorescent mineral display.

- We would also like to set up a mineral identification station in the center of the show room with displays and members using microscopes and their knowledge to help attendees identify any rocks and/or fossils they bring with them. The Board of Directors (BOD) has several other ideas and will develop them over the next months.
- The dwindling treasury of the club was discussed and the BOD decided to bring it to the membership at our next monthly meeting. The fact that our annual dues do not cover the cost of the building use for meetings for a year is a problem that is escalating and must be addressed.
- Solutions were suggested and will be investigated. Mike Stone brought up Amazon Smile, where members could sign up and purchases they make on Amazon would generate income for the club. Dave Letasi made a motion to look into signing up for Amazon Smile, Dorwin Skinner seconded, and it was approved by the BOD. Also, signs will be created and placed around the room during meetings to remind members to donate for snacks and pay for using the machines. Raffles and fifty-fifty drawings will be held regularly and Chinese auctions will be held quarterly. This will be discussed at our next membership meeting.

Next BOD meeting on February 22, 2107.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.



Arma says, "Don't tread on me."



February Rock Talk News

At our January club meeting one of our new members Mr. John C. Motzer Sr. brought in several wonderful vertebrate fossils for identification. John was collecting fossils in east central Kansas and came across the remains of the Ice Age peccary called *Platygonus*. He recovered a beautiful hoof core and anklebone as well as a fragmented upper arm bone. This flat headed peccary is well represented as fossil remains in North America but was recently discovered living in a remote area in South America. The remains of *Platygonus* are found in caves and sinkholes in Florida. They were a common prey of saber cats, having been found as skeletons together here and in Texas. Thanks John for bringing these to our attention.

Last week Rovie Alford helped Gary Spurlock load our club's fossil panel exhibit into the 1885 Rail Road Depot Museum in Brooksville for display. I hope you all have a chance to visit the museum and see our exhibit, especially during Heritage Day Festival on Feb 28. Great work Rovie and thank you for coordinating this exhibit for our group. I'm sure it will generate interest in the educational work the Withlacoochee Rockhounds provides to our community.

Last week I happened to catch the latest episode of *Mysteries at the Museum* Dinosaurs on the History Channel. I was amused by one clip where the host Don Wildman was walking on the Dinosaur Bone Wall at Dinosaur National Monument in Utah with Dr. Daniel Chure, their senior paleontologist at the site. I happened to meet Dr. Chure at a dinosaur symposium in 2000. We were studying the first feathered dinosaur fossils from China on display for the first time for the scientific community in America. Daniel worked on the new *Abydosaurus* sauropod skull found near the monument. It was prepared for research in their fossil lab. During a fossil trip I made to Utah I visited the museum and their staff allowed me to see it while it was being worked on as well as a new type of *Allosaurus* skull.

Keep Collecting!



Abydosaurus, a new Bracisaur



Panthera onca augusta



Dinosaur wall



Allosaurus madseni



1885 Rail Road Depot Museum in Brooksville

Photo by Mark Moore

Heritage Day Festival

The Heritage Day Festival and Historic Home Tour will be held Saturday, February 25th from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM on the grounds of the Train Depot Museum located at 70 Russell Street Brooksville, FL 34601. The Hernando Historical Museum Association and the Historic Hernando Preservation Society sponsor this Event.

Vendors will be set up to sell items or services at this event. There is a \$30.00 charge for vendors. Demonstrators are individuals or groups that intend to display, act out, enrich, or teach attendees. There is no charge for demonstrators.

Last year the **Withlacoochee Rockhounds** set up a booth to promote our organization and we were considered demonstrators. We distributed fliers, had specimens and other rock-related items on display, offered door prizes, set up two educational displays, and had members available to talk with interested visitors.

The event is an excellent way for us to make ourselves known within the area and possibly interest community members in attending a club meeting and/or joining our club. We need club member volunteers to set up the booth, occupy the booth for the day, and take down and return the booth and material. Please consider helping at the event. Let us know at the February meeting.

Upcoming Shows

Tomoka Gem & Mineral Society
 Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland, FL
www.tomokagms.org
March 3, 4, and 5 2017
 Suncoast Gem and Mineral Society 47th Annual Show
 Minnreg Building, Largo, FL



Acetylene tanks, sizes NC and B, \$50 each



Oxyacetylene welding outfit, including tanks, regulators and micro torch, \$175

For Sale

Contact

Rovie Alford
 270-999-9144
roviea712@yahoo.com

- Raytech cabbing machine with tilting adjustable table from flat to 90 degrees, \$125
- Six inch Raytach slab saw, like new, \$375
- Grit and polish available for all tumblers.
- Lortone 6 inch Expando drums for cabbing \$20 each.
- Lortone 8 inch Expando drums for cabbing \$25 each



Rotary tumblers, both single and dual barrels, \$45 to \$95 each

2) Mini Sonic vibrator tumblers, four-pound barrels, \$150 each



Two ten inch slab saws, \$300 each.

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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

Adjustable Chuck for Dremels

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of an inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

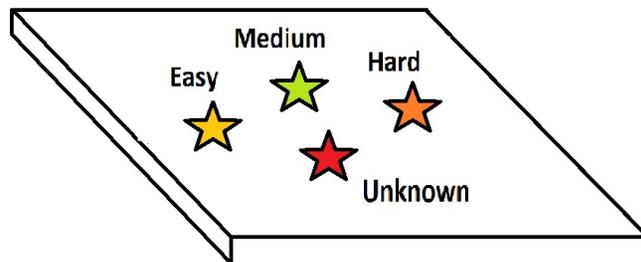
A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or model-making outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.



Adjustable chuck for Dremel tool

Identifying Unmarked Solders

There are several ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forget and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknown with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I have a sample of easy, medium, and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



Metal solder test sheet.

See all of Brad's jewelry books at Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Withlacoochee Rockhounds is now on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/withlacooccheerockhounds1/?ref=page_internal

Our website continues to change, check it out. If you find errors, omissions, or have any suggestions, let us know.

Mike Stone
n1ve@amsat.org

Rocking Funny

Q: Did you hear the one about the geologist?
A: He took his wife for granite so she left him

Q: What did the boy volcano say to the girl volcano?
A: I Lava You!

Q: How did the geology student drown?
A: His grades were below C-level

Q: Holmes, "What kind of rock is this?": Sedimentary, my dear Watson.

Q: If H₂O is the formula for water, what is the formula for ice?
A: H₂O cubed.

<http://www.jokes4us.com/miscellaneousjokes/schooljokes/geologyjokes.html>

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?

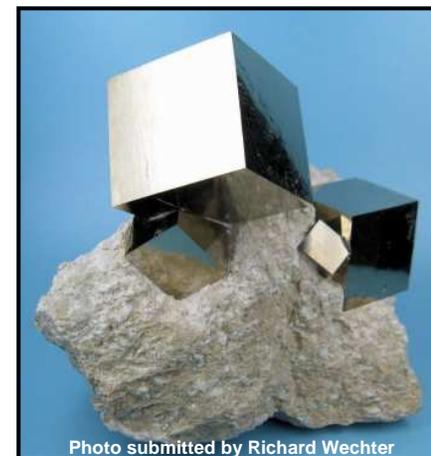


Photo submitted by Richard Wechter

Answer in next month's *Rock Talk*.

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



Next Meeting, Wednesday February 8th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

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 _____

Street Address: _____

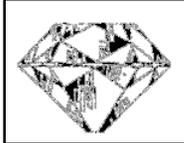
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

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

Rock Talk



His Nibs

Diamonds and Jewelry
Insurance Appraisals
Gemstone Identification
Professional Repairs

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

12470 Spring Hill Drive
Spring Hill, FL 34609

Hours: By Appointment Only

5-15

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost to advertise your businesses in *Rock Talk* is \$25.00 for twelve issues—one year . Contact Mike Stone or Peggy Burns to set up an ad in both the club newsletter and our website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY
bottle wind chimes

Hernando County Farmers Market
US 19
Spring Hill Fl
352.200.6852
barbersbloomers@hotmail.com

4-15

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

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

Dues

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

Club Meeting Location and Time

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

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

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