

Rock Talk



February 2020



Rock Talk



January 12th Meeting Program

At publishing time the meeting program hadn't been determined.

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The Cover Photo

Moss agate is a semi-precious gemstone formed from silicon dioxide. It is a type of chalcedony, which includes minerals of a green color embedded in the stone, forming filaments and other patterns suggestive of **moss**.

A Nice Thank-You

January 1, 2020

Dear Withlacoochee Rockhounds Executive Board,

I would like to start by saying thank you!

My name is Eric Kastelic and I am one of the Withlacoochee Rock Hound Scholarship recipients for 2019!

As a student at the University of South Florida I've truly confirmed a great passion for geology through my classes, research opportunities, and working in the Stable Isotope Lab.

This scholarship will help me to continue to explore this path through many field trips, classes, conferences, and field camps in the near future.

Thank you again,
Eric C. Kastelic
USF Geology
(772)204-5198

January Jewelry Class

The January jewelry class was taught by club president, Judith Brix. There were fourteen students from the various clubs that also belong to the Weeki Wachee Senior Center. Judith first explained how to use the Ultraviolet (UV) resin. It is a clear, hard type of resin that is quickly cured by being placed under UV lamps. We used this resin to create pieces for the first part of our project. Then we used 24-hour resin called Easycast, a clear casting epoxy, for the second part of our project. Because this resin takes 24 hours to cure we picked up our finished pieces at the club's annual holiday dinner meeting the next day. *Roberta Oldread*

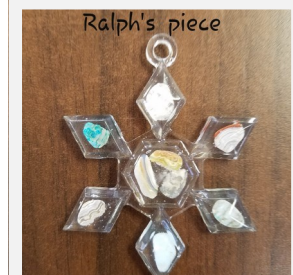
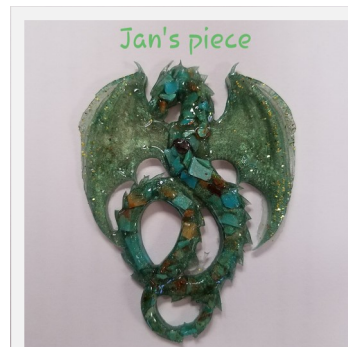


Michelle's piece

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

January Jewelry Class Photos

Photos by Roberta Oldread



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

January Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Roberta Oldread and
Lauren Bell



Secretary's Report



by
Melody Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 1-4-2020

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Mark Moore, Melody Steverson, Ralph Barber, Roberta Oldread, and Ginny Steverson. Also in attendance; members Leslie Moore and Michele Evans

- The Board meeting started at 6:38pm and was held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center.
- Club president Judith Birx began by stating what transpired when some of our club Directors attended the Senior Center Board of Directors meeting in January. The reason for our attendance was to find out how stable the Center's finances are and to see if help from our club was needed to stabilize the situation. The findings were that the Center is stable at this time. Budget cuts have allowed them to reduce monthly spending. Furthermore, they have a new Board member who is setting up frequent fund raising events to increase the Center's maintenance fund. They were thankful for our interest and concern, but their Board determined they did not specifically need help from our club at this time. However, if a need arises in the future, they were glad to know that we are willing to help.
- Club vice president Mark Moore is continuing to look into getting grants for our

club.

- Club president Birx stated that the 2020 gem show committee will be beginning preliminary planning soon.
- She also reminded the Board about the SFMS Rock Swap to be held in Live Oak, FL on the first weekend of March.
- Club president Birx announced that the Sr. Center Board has asked our Board members to search for a new maintenance man for the Center. This would require light duty and would be a volunteer position.
- President Birx turned the floor over to Michele Evans who was scheduled to speak before the Board.
- Ms. Evans spoke about the logistics of having only three grinding/polishing machines with many members who want to use them during a meeting. She suggested using a timer and setting the limit to 20 or 30 minutes of usage per person. She also suggested having a sign up sheet at the door for members who want to use a machine. (We implemented that several years ago, but few people actually signed it.) She also stated the need for a 10" saw for cutting large rocks. The purchase of the saw was discussed and decided to not be possible.
- Ms. Evans also stated that she felt families were leaving the club because of the \$5 fee for children.
- Upon hearing this, VP Moore donated \$100 to pay for any child under 18 years of age who wants to be a member of the club.
- As a measure for helping the Senior Center save money, the Board decided to buy toilet paper and paper towels for the use of all the Center's members, including our club. VP Moore made a motion that our club would buy large packages of paper towels and toilet paper for Center use, seconded by Sec-

retary Steverson, approved by all Board members.

- The meeting ended at 7:35pm.
Respectfully submitted by club secretary Melody Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 1-8-2020

- The meeting was called to order by club president Judith Birx at 6:00pm.
- 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; Barbara Gugliotti
- Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our December meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Ralph Barber. Passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

- President Judith Birx began by saying the gem show went great, and thanked all members who worked on it to make it a success.
- She also announced that the William Holland School Scholarship applications are available for members to fill out. They must be turned in by the end of the March monthly meeting. Winners will be selected at the March board meeting on March 17.

New Business

- Club president Birx announced that the \$50 gift card raffle for club members who paid a vendor's fee at our gem show was to be drawn. The name was randomly selected and the winner was Kelly Johnson.

Continued on next page

Minutes from pervious page

- The 2020 Gem Show Committee members asked for more volunteers.
- The Jewelry class will be held on 2-4-2020 at 9:00 am. Subject to be announced.
- The February monthly club meeting will be on 2-12-2020 and the Board meeting will be on 2-18-2020.
- At this time, in preparation for the annual holiday party to follow, club president Birx explained the rules for "Rock Bingo".
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Judith Birx, Dave Davis, and Lauren Bell.
- Dave Davis made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Doug DuPont seconded, passed by all.
- Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by club secretary Melodye Steverson.

Examples of the February 4th Jewelry Class Projects



Dues are Overdue

The club year runs from January 1st to January 1st, so it's time to sign up for the next club year. Janet, our treasurer, will be accepting membership forms and payments at the club meetings, or you can send the form and your check to:

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

Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center on **February 18th** at 6:30 PM.

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

February 4th at 9:00 AM—12:00 PM

The fee for the jewelry class is \$5.00. This pays for special wire and cuff blanks. Participants will need to bring jewelry tools, shell, tumbles, and superglue.

The class fee can be paid to Mad-HouseMindWorks@gmail.com through PayPal. The fee will be accepted at the class as well.

Lauren Bell will be the instructor.

RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY
bottle wind chimes

Hernando County Farmers Market
US 19
Spring Hill Fl

352 200 6852

barbersbloomers@hotmail.com



Hey everyone. I hope you had a great new year. This colder weather is a great time to be out and about collecting rocks and fossils. My articles about Scott's and my "Out West" adventures continues in Wyoming.

We headed northeast to Thermopolis, famed for it's hot springs. Traveling from the Flaming Gorge we reached the continental divide. The outside temperature dropped below freezing even though it was May. We hit sleet and snow while driving past hundreds of giant wind turbines that produce electricity for central Wyoming.

We stopped at a Best Western Hotel in the late afternoon, and amazingly found a Thai restaurant nearby. We were skeptical about Asian cuisine in northern Wyoming, but we said let's give it a shot. We had the best Thai food ever. Our Best Western was a 100-year old hot mineral spring spa that had been completely renovated. The natural hot springs pool, smelling of sulfur, was next to our room. But once inside we could not smell any sulfur. The name of the town "Thermopolis" is a Greek and it means "The Hot Town", referring to the famous warm sulfurous mineral springs. It became a health spa for the early Wyoming pioneers.

The next morning we found Ava's Rock Shop and Silver Jewelry Store, where we saw beautiful Wyoming florescent agates that produce an iridescent, gorgeous green color under black lights. I also found the complete lower jaw teeth of the giant Terror Pig Archeotherium in their fossil section. I grabbed these immediately. Ava's was one of the best rock shops in Wyoming. She has many speci-



Ava's Rock Shop Thermopolis Wyoming



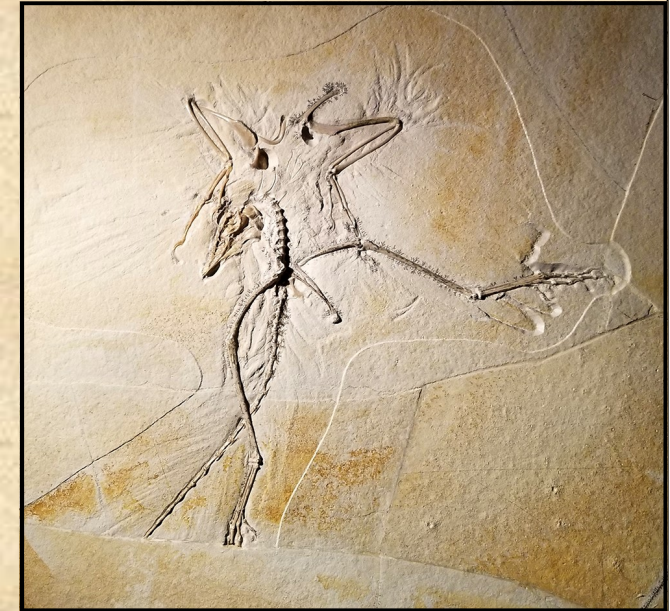
Wyoming Florescent Agate from the Wind River Canyon



Archeotherium lower tooth series from Wyoming

mens of cutting grade dinosaur bone and thousand of mineral specimens.

Next we visited the Wyoming Dinosaur Center across town. The museum is famous for its actual fossil of the prehistoric bird Archaeopteryx from the lithographic limestone in Germany. It is the only specimen on display in North America and was number one on my to-do list for the trip. They also have the full mounted



Archaeopteryx at the Wyoming Dinosaur Museum in Thermopolis.

skeleton of the Sauropod dinosaur Supersaurus that is ninety feet long. They have one of the most impressive dinosaur collections in the United States. We spent hours enjoying the many fossils and their extensive gift shop. Scott surprised me with a beautiful Moroccan trilobite he purchased for me. If you are ever in Wyoming you have to see Wyoming Dinosaur Center, it is one

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Dave Letasi Report from previous page
of the best museums in the country.

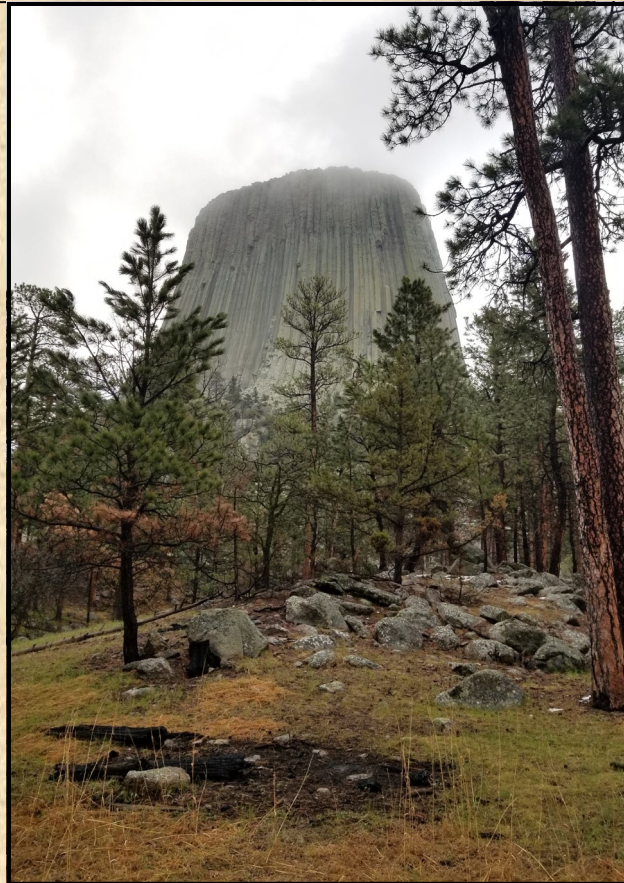


Skeleton of Supersaurus so big you can not get it all in one photo.



Devil's tower trading post

Next we traveled eastward to the Devils Tower National Monument. We spent the night in Hulett, at another Best Western that was built as an amazing log cabin chalet. The next morning we drove the twelve miles to Devils Tower and visited their gift shop for



Devil's Tower in the mist and rain

souvenirs. After we reached the hiking trails early but were faced with light fog and a light rain. I told Scott, "Have fun hiking, I'll stay at the rest area". I hiked the trail about twenty years earlier and once was enough for me. Two hours later Scott came back soaking wet and muddy up to his waist. I was glad it wasn't me. Devils Tower is Americas first National Park, founded in 1906 by Teddy Roosevelt. According to Native American tradition, it was believed to be formed by a giant bear scratching



The giant pig Archeotherium from the Badlands.

the side of the mountain and they consider it a sacred site. Actually Devil's Tower is an ancient, weathered volcano core that formed huge basalt columns that reach to its 867-foot high top. This is a 200 million year old "Close Encounters of the Third Kind". The Devils' Tower staff said they were used to being asked if they have ever seen ET around the monument. It's a great tourist attraction, and while we were there hundreds of Japanese tourist were transported by bus to the main walking trail. FYI, during our stay, Scott set up a twenty-day discount corporate rate for rooms with Best Western. Once again we had another fantastic adventure. I hope everyone will have a great new year of collecting. See you all at our February meeting..

Arrive Early for Our Meetings

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



Hernando County, FL

For Sale Items

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

Mike Stone n1ve@amsat.org

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

Bennett Scott

678-642-7953
bscott@scottmetalart.com



Use Our Website

I try to send an email to all members, with a link to the *Rock Talk* before the jewelry workshop, which normally is a week and a day before the club meeting.

If you don't receive an email with a link to the *Rock Talk*, you can access our website for the newsletter, club meeting program, and the project for the next Tuesday morning jewelry workshop.

Also, previous *Rock Talk* newsletters can be downloaded from our website. They have been posted from June 2016.

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Mike Stone, editor/webmaster

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

MAD HOUSE MIND WORKS

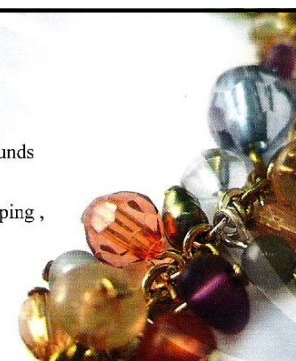
Handmade Steampunk Style Accessories
 Award Winning Designs (2013 RAW Honolulu)

MadHouseMindWorks@gmail.com
 Other designs offered include:
 Wire Wraps, Crystals and
 Cast Aluminum Ant Hill Sculptures

Jewels by Jude

Judith Birx
 Member of Withlacoochee Rockhounds
Judithbirx@hotmail.com
 Natural Stone Jewelry , Wire Wrapping ,
 Crystals , Beading

352-587-1702



Rovie Alford

Lapidary Equipment Repairs & Sales
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Phone 270-999-9144 roviea712@yahoo.com

KELLY JOHNSON

MINERALS*FOSSILS*CABOCHONS
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buy / sell / trade retail / wholesale


...Yes I buy collections, lapidary equipment, etc...

email: KellyMineralsFossils@aol.com

facebook: Kelly minerals fossils
 239-940-9773 SPRING HILL, FL



Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

Cutting Molds

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it is best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawkbill shaped. I find that the hawkbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.



The hawkbill blade for cutting molds.

Using Your Thumb

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the

larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes, and of course the many different sizes of twist drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the hand piece chuck.

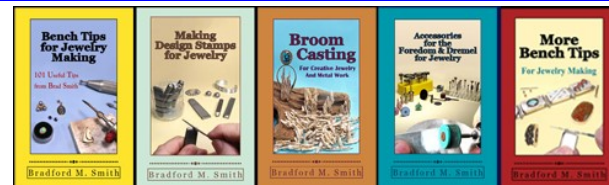
So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer-toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.



Holding the outer collar with your thumb.

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



Vulcan Mine Field Trips

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

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

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

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

Vulcan Mine Address

16313 Ponce DeLeon Blvd.

Brooksville, FL 34641

Lat./long. 28.656481, -82.457544

Next Meeting, February 12th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

February Rock Talk

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

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Ancient echos from the Celtic past
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Melodge Steverson 407-760-4472
www.DesignsByMelodge.com

Your Favorite Specimen

We are always looking for something of interest for our club members. We're sure 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

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

CUSTOM LEATHER CREATIONS
&
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ROBERTA
352-302-2487 
bertahdhugger98@yahoo.com

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.

Club Members' Business Cards

Club members who have businesses related to any of our club activities can have the images of their business cards posted in each issue of the *Rock Talk*. This is an additional benefit of being a **Withlacoochee Rockhounds** member. You can send electronic images or an actual business card to:

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

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stones, and more (847) 420-8705
Facebook: Dr.GotRox Email: dr.gotrox@gmail.com

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


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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

Annual Dues: Individual member, \$20. 00. Under 18 years of age, no charge.
Check if new member

Please Print Clearly

Last name _____ First Name _____ Check if under 18

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number (s) _____

Email address: _____

**Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to
“Withlacoochee Rockhounds” to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a
club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:**

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

Rock Talk

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

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



www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

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

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the *Rock Talk* and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the *Rock Talk* and our website have more exposure than only club members

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

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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

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

Dues

Dues are \$20.00 annually for adults and no cost for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and Time

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

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	markles@bellsouth.net
Secretary.....	Melody Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	n1ve@amsat.org
Club Web Master.....	Mike Stone.....	603-524-0468.....	n1ve@amsat.org
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

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

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