

Rock Talk



April 2019



Rock Talk



April 10th Meeting Program

After the business meeting, we will have a "rock swap" where members can bring specimens to swap or to sell. Members will be available to identify rocks, minerals, and fossils. The grinding and polishing ma-

chines will be set up for use. This will also be an opportunity to socialize and meet new members. We will have the usual 50/50 drawing and several door prizes. Food and beverages will be available.

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The Cover Photo

is a of group of manganese dendrites on a light colored rock. The specimen is one from Linda Spaulding's collection that she brought to the March club meeting.

The March Meeting

by Mike Stone

As usual when we arrived at the meeting, the parked vehicles had overflowed onto the lawn along the side of the building. When we walked in, Jan Gathj was stationed at the entrance table greeting people and collecting a dollar from each member to pay for the use of the building, and also she was selling 50/50 raffle tickets. The room was buzzing with chatter.

Like last month, several tables were covered with rock, mineral, and fossil specimens. Ralph had his assortment of polished slabs to sell. A new club member, Theodore Robinson from Michigan, had copper nuggets from the copper smelting process and native copper specimens from his state, spread out on the towel at a table. Doug and Lori Rule had a large and impressive display of recently found



dugong fossil bones and shark teeth from the Peace River. I was surprised at size and density of the bones. Mike and Paula Palinic put their recent finds in plate; chert chips, early American Indian scraping tools, and a piece of a chert spear point. These were collected in the Crystal River area, from four to six feet below the surface of the ground. Lauren Bell was selling hand tools for jewelry making. Roberta Oldread was displaying her plethora of polished cabs and other shapes, as well as custom jewelry. Colon

Continued on next page

Next Meeting, Wednesday, April 10th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

March Meeting Photos

The March meeting from page 2

and Eric Kessel brought several fossil specimens they found at a construction site in the area. They also had a large, almost transparent chunk of smoky colored calcite. New member Mike Gridwood, hauled in a huge chunk of fossiliferous limestone for a door prize and he also had several interesting specimens for us to see and touch. Pat Gould had several pieces of limestone from the Vulcan Mine containing sea life fossils, including rare crab fossils. He also had micro specimens and a microscope set up for people to view specimens. I am sure that I missed much of what was on display, and I didn't even get a glimpse of the food, because I was busy taking photos.

Judith started the meeting by telling the group that she was not going to be as loud as she was a last month's meeting. She did a great job of toning down the mic and PA system. Judith changed the meeting format, so after the business portion of the meeting and the 50/50 drawing, the presentation took place. After the presentation the door prizes were raffled.

Linda Spaulding put on a wonderful presentation at the meeting. Once Judith settled the group, Linda, with the assistance of Patti Motzer, put on an interesting show, using a PowerPoint presentation and our new 50-inch television. Linda has an extensive collection on display in her home. Many of the rooms resemble a natural science museum with huge well-lit glass display cases. We were fortunate to have Linda put on such a unique and professional presentation. She brought several specimens for members see

and handle, including three specimens of youoperite, the subject of one of our recent articles in the *Rock Talk*.

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/a935d045c6e0b4e0f2da48945fd720d2?AccessKeyId=CD284D6E6296F742E7D2&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

She also had a small slab of beautiful dendrites; the cover photo on the *Rock Talk* for this month.

The room was bustling with enthusiastic members, moving from one group of specimens to another and from one table to another. We had a record number of people attending this meeting. There were fifty-three



Jan greeting people as they enter the building.



Using the Pixie machine



Eric and Roberta discussing Eric's recent finds.



Mark talking to the group about radioactive minerals



Linda's stunning photos of fluorescent minerals.

Next Meeting, Wednesday April 10th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center



Dave Letasi, center, identifying Eric's specimen



Deep in discussion



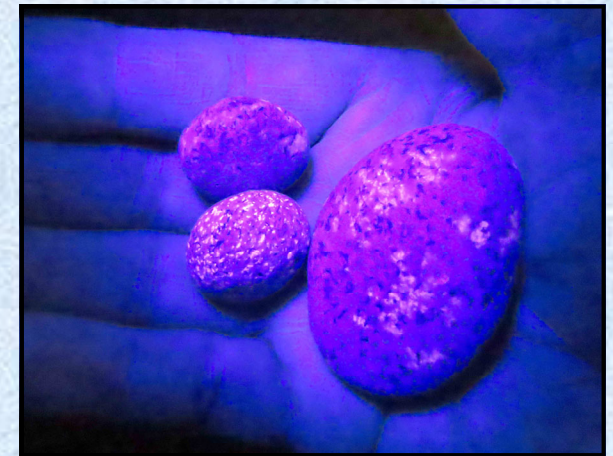
Doug and Laurie with their recent Pease River finds



Michael and Paula Palinic with their recently unearthed American Indian artifacts.



Pat studying a specimen under a microscope



Yoouperlite under fluorescent light

CUSTOM LEATHER CREATIONS
 &
 Handmade & polished wire wrapped
 Jewelry, Cabochons, Stones & more

ROBERTA
 352-302-2487
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Scott Metal Art and Lapidary
 Unique Artisan Jewelry
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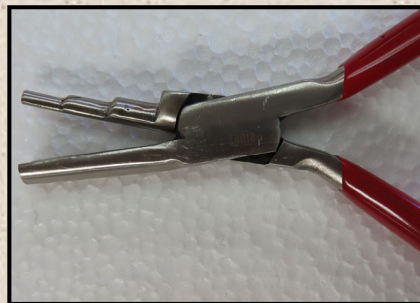
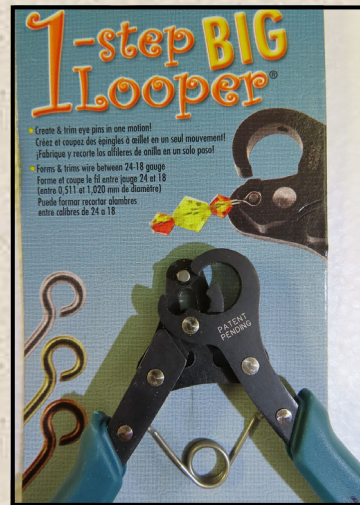
Bennett Scott
 678-642-7953
 bscott@scottmetalart.com



Custom jewelry. Roberta's left, Peggy's right

Jewelry Class Photos

Photos by Barb Clark and Mike Stone





Yankeetown Dinosaur Project

On March 11, Mark, Sue, and I provided an interactive dinosaur program for the fourth grade class in the Yankeetown School. We checked in at the office and proceeded to the classroom. Ms. Raven Dorminey's class came in from lunch and then we began. I discussed with the students the first dinosaur discoveries by William Buckland in the 1820's. And explained how Dr. Gideon Mantell and his wife, Mary, found the first Iguanodon dinosaur fossil tooth while she waited for her husband during his medical house visit. I gathered numer-



Mary Mantell and her Iguanodon dinosaur fossil tooth.

ous photographs for the program and covered many of the dinosaur paleontologists of yesterday and today. I also covered many of the new theories regarding the behavior of dinosaurs and their relationship to birds and other classes of animals. The students were extremely interested in the controversy regarding Tyrannosaurus rex as a predator or a scav-

enger. They were surprised when I showed the photos of a duck-billed dinosaur tail injured and bitten by a T-rex; still containing the tip of its tooth and healed over with new bone growth.



Sue showing student utahraptor finger bones

Mark and Suzanne helped pass around actual dinosaur fossils that included a real dinosaur egg and juvenile bone from a meat-eating dinosaur called Ceratosaurus. This specimen was sliced to view its cellular bone growth. We covered the latest discoveries of dinosaurs dis-



Fighting dinosaurs found in the Gobi Desert

playing feathers and illustrations of how they are now viewed with colorful plumage. Several photos of fighting dinosaur skeletons locked in combat were studied, as well as dinosaur nesting discoveries. We discussed how the plant eating prey dinosaurs developed spikes, plates, and armor to protect themselves from the meat eaters. I told the story about the Stegosaurus skeleton I climbed on, to view its plate arrangements at the Vernal Field Museum in May of 2000. Finally I explained how dinosaur skeletons are reconstructed from their bones and how they are designed and mounted.



Students and Dino Dave studying raptor and T-Rex fossils

Mark created a chalk grid on their schools back parking lot. He made five-foot squares, fifty feet long by thirty feet wide that allowed the students to draw an actual full sized T-rex skeleton on the parking lot. The students were given a smaller scale drawing as a guide that helped them understand basic scale measuring. This process is just like what scientists use to design dinosaur exhibits. The students quickly tackled the project and worked in small teams within each square. Even Ms. Dorminey

Continued on Next page

April Rock Talk

Dave Letasi from previous page



Future scientist hard a work with their teacher, Ms. Raven Dorminey

showed us her artistic skill while helping guide the students. The students' rendering was so unique that they wanted to name it a

new dinosaur. Because we used colored chalk the name "Rainbowasaurus" was suggested.

The Yankeetown fourth grade students once again demonstrated their excellence in science and exploration skills. And once again I must thank Mark and Sue for their teaching skills and their enormous help in making this class project a success.

I will be exploring in Texas, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska for three weeks in May. During that time I will be visiting and researching in over a dozen museums and research collections. I will develop an article for the July newsletter, covering this trip and some of my projects. I hope you all are enjoying this spring weather and getting out to search for rocky treasures. See you at the April meeting.



Ms. Dorminey's fourth grade class with Rainbowasaurus

Show Us Your Stuff

We're always looking for information for the *Rock Talk*. Club members would enjoy seeing other members' rock cutting and polishing equipment, display cabinets, projects, and favorite specimens. Take a photo and send it to your editors along with a description and we will be glad to include it in our newsletter.

Mike Stone
n1ve@amsat.org

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?

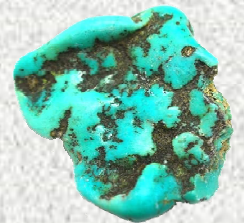
After all, it is April



Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

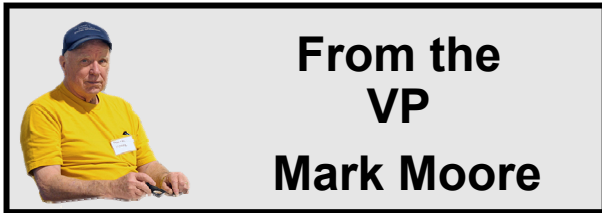
Last month's "What is It?"

Turquoise



Flooring from the Week! Wachege Citizen's Club building





**From the
VP
Mark Moore**



**Amber, the Ancient
Gemstone**

Archeologists have found amber pendants that date back to 12,000 BC, making it one of, if not the earliest, human adornments. Being relatively soft, only two on



Late 19th century necklace

the Mohs Hardness Scale, it is easily worked and formed into various objects. Amber is a form of converted plant resin, mainly from conifers (cone bearing trees). It is not truly fossilized but has hardened through chemical and mechanical action. Amber has been found in many graves dating back to antiquity all over Europe and south into Babylonia and Egypt, as well as in the Americas and Asia. Trade routes track amber from the Baltic area to the Mediterranean, over many different paths. It was highly prized in Egypt, as shown by the jewelry found in the tomb of an Egyptian pharaoh of the 18th dynasty, Tutankhamun. Amber has been used as money, jewelry, medicine, and even as incense. It can be cut, polished, ground, melted, dissolved, and burned. With the advent of clothing, amber

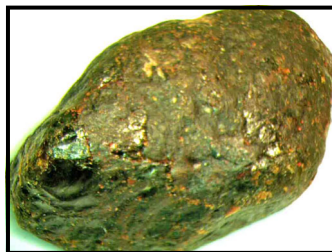
has been found to have been used as “buttons”, which were more for decoration than function, and also for several types of clothing fasteners (Roman fibulas), for both cloth and animal skins.

Amber is found in several areas all over the globe. When one thinks of amber, the first place thought of is the Baltic Sea Region of northeastern Europe, because of the massive amount that wash up on the shores of the Baltic Sea. There are, however, other areas where high-quality amber can be found and mined. These areas include Central and South America, several states in the US, including Arkansas and New Jersey, and also in Mexico, Asia, and the Caribbean islands.

Amber begins as resin, generally from conifers. Although differing in some physical properties, amber is basically a heterogeneous plant resin that was subjected to heat and/or pressure that causes the resin to release its terpenes (a class of organic compounds produced by plants, mainly conifers) and becomes the finished amber we know today. The tree resin is expelled from the tree where it can fall to the ground or stay affixed to the tree or plant. As the land subsides, the



Tree resin



Copal

resin is covered by sediment and or water, where pressure (and heat from that pressure) causes the formation of “copal”, a sort of raw amber. Then if the heat and

pressure continue, more of the terpenes in the resin are released, and over time amber is formed. Pressure causes the generation of heat in the material being compressed just like where sedimentary rock is being converted into metamorphic rock. This pressure heating has been seen by some older folks who used hand pumps to inflate tires or various forms of game balls (footballs, basketballs, etc.). As the pump builds up pressure, pushing air into the tire or ball, it also builds up heat. As the copal is pressed (compressed) it takes thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of years for the change to occur since the pressure heating takes place at or near the Earth’s surface, where pressures are smaller than deep within the Earth. Amber dates from 300ish million to about 1 million years of age. Anything younger is usually copal. Since the plants were growing at different times over the eons, the amber we get today is found in many different stages of production. The heat contributes to the curing of resin, as it becomes amber, by helping the molecular crosslinking and isomerization of organic polymers that takes place in the transformation of resin. Isomerization is the action of a material transforming itself from one molecule to another, but keeping and using the same atoms, but just in a different arrangement. Amber, like pearl, is organic in origin and can transform in strange ways, producing something not always expected. In the world of metamorphic transformation, strange things can and do happen, which is not always understood.

Another factor in the production of different types of amber is the different material trapped with the raw amber. For example, one theory says that “blue amber” is formed by the presence of iron, usually in the form of pyrites

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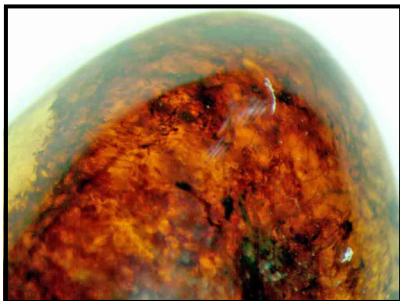
Amber from previous page

in the raw matrix. Another says the color is from organic matter shifting the sun's UV light down to the visible blue. Some say the blue is only found in Dominican amber, others say they have the color in Baltic amber. Your guess is as good as mine. Tiny air bubbles or decomposition gasses trapped in the resin form bony or whitish amber.



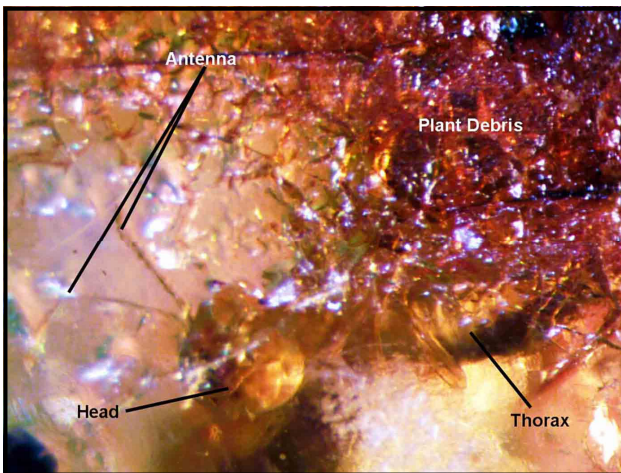
A piece of Jet, containing the remains of a beetle. This is not resin, it is coal in the making.

“Black” amber isn't really amber but a form of “jet” on its way to becoming coal. Green amber can be formed by different actions. A common thought the green color is created by many very small bits of green plant matter trapped and unable to decay because of the lack of oxygen in the amber. Red-blue amber from the Dominican Republic (below) is much more scarce than Baltic amber, therefore much more expensive. True red amber is very rare. The Mayan Red is found only in Mexico, but also very rare red-green or red-blue amber is found



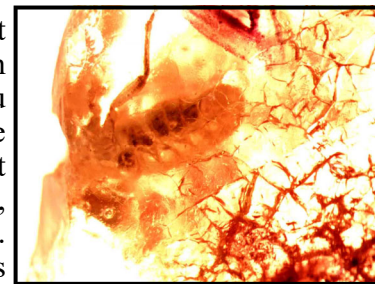
Rare blue-red amber from the Dominican Republic. The blue color is from iron found in the organic amber matrix, which is fluorescent by the UV radiation in sunlight, but only on the surface of the amber. The light and dark coloring is from the angle of the camera and light passing through the amber.

in the Dominican Republic. Beware... amber can be made into a red color by treatments such as heating. The word is, “Know Your Source”.



Amber is found with “inclusions” imbedded in the matrix. Inclusions are small animals, ants, spiders, various insects, leaves, twigs, and other plant debris. Amber has been found with embedded bits of hair and feathers, and from the size of some the fibers they were from a large animal or bird. Recently a piece of amber was found that is believed to contain a partial tail section of a small dinosaur, called a coelurosaurian that was about the size of a sparrow. This is great news because this dinosaur “fossil” is in three dimensions rather than being pressed into a more common stone form, losing some of its detail. The connection between parts of the critter such as skin and hair or feathers could be seen without being changed by the compression and fossilization action. Because pieces of animal and or plant materials became trapped when the resin was fresh and had not begun to harden under pressure, more detail can be seen. There can be parts or even whole animals completely incased in the amber. In the photo, the posterior

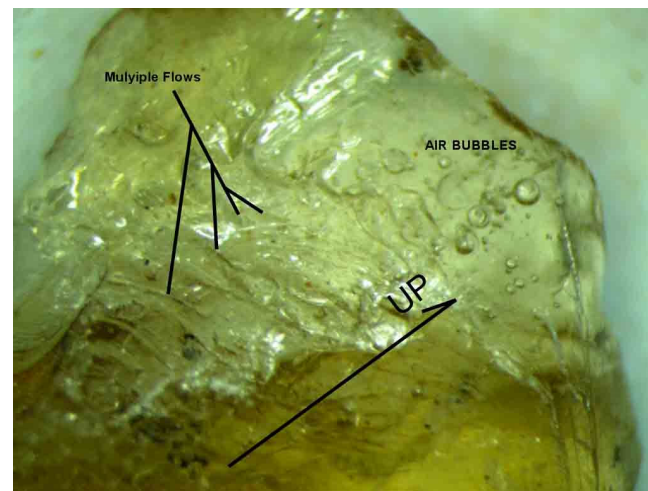
end of an insect that looks like a bee can be seen. Can you find it? This piece of amber held at least three insects, including an ant. None of the insects were visible until the surface of the rough amber nugget was polished.



Playing with the light and focus of the microscope produces an almost transparent image of a bee.

By using a microscope that has both transmission and incident light functions, excellent observations and also excellent photos can be made of the animal and plant inclusions. The photographs accompanying this article were made using a microscope with both functions.

Inclusions occur when pieces of, or even whole critters or plants get stuck on a fresh resin surface, then a second “flow” occurs, trapping it between the flows. It can also occur when a massive flow happens and the object is overwhelmed. The warmer the ambient temperature at the time of the flow, the less viscous the resin,



Continued on next page

Amber from previous page

and better the coverage of the trapped inclusions. Think of a spoonful of honey dripping onto a bowl of dry oatmeal, flowing over and coating the oat flakes on its way to the bottom of the bowl, then hardening into a solid mass. A much better flow occurs if the honey is heated and poured when warm.

Amber is also antibacterial, that is one reason why once living insects and plant pieces are so well preserved. The antibiotic action kills the bacteria and fungus that causes or helps decomposition.

Pieces of amber can contain air from millions of years ago. One of Pat Gould's amber specimens has several bubbles of trapped air. That air is 35+ million years old. By varying the focal depth of the microscope, we can scan through the thickness of the amber and see the progression of the air bubbles. This also gives the orientation of the amber on the tree, in other words which end is up. The bubbles indicate the direction of the flow; we can see which direction the insects were traveling on the tree when they



Air bubbles trapped in a piece of amber having undergone multiple flows.

became trapped.

Occasionally decomposition occurs in amber and small spheres, usually white, are formed. If the decomposition occurred before the resin or copal has hardened, the hole is enlarged by pressure from the gasses formed as a result of decomposition.

Amber itself will decompose at 390 degrees F+/-, depending on the origin, but it can be heated below this temperature where becomes soft and pliable and flows, or can be forced to flow. Amber is soft and pliable when warm and yet brittle when cool. It must be handled carefully while making jewelry or other items. Amber can be dissolved in turpentine and made into amber varnish, which can be used to make a beautiful wood finish. However, it cannot be dissolved in acetone type solvents. Amber also floats in salt water. This is one way to tell distinguish amber from fake plastic. When washed out of the sediments on the ocean floor, amber tends to float and is then washed ashore. When true amber is punctured with a hot needle there will be tiny cracks along the needle track, but fake plastic will be smooth and there will be no "pine" smell, which is indicative of true amber.

When working with amber it pays to take your time and avoid mistakes in cutting and polishing, because too much pressure can cause cracking and breakage. While trying to cut a piece of amber to highlight an



A fossilized "plant hopper" with part of the wings and rear section exposed from shaping the piece of amber.

insect, cutting too deep can remove part of the insect. Shown here is a plant hopper where rear portions were exposed when trying to cut and shape the amber piece to increase its value.

There are several ways to make fake amber. It can be done using Copal (young amber usually less than one million years old and much cheaper than real amber.). A very common and cheap method of making fake amber is to melt plastic, color it, then shape to whatever form you wish. Also, glass, celluloid, casein, and in some cases, modern tree sap can be treated to create fake amber. Years ago as an experiment, we took several cheap cloudy pieces of amber, melted them, then cleaned (filtered) then, and added a couple of ants. Voila we had a piece of amber far more attractive and valuable than the original amber. When buying amber, find a trusted source, since there are many really good fakes out there.

As always, if you have any questions or would like references I have, I'm usually at the club meeting by 5:00 or 5:30. Stop by and we'll chat, or give me a call at 352-586-9607

As always, stay safe out there....



Hernando County, FL

Spring Fun Science Programs at the Crystal River Mall

April 13, May 11, and June 8, 2019
by Mark Moore

These programs are for kids from ages 8 to 80. Parents are welcome to help younger participants (or older ones for that matter). We will try to have knowledgeable volunteers available to assist participants in all programs.



April 13 Learn about dinosaurs and those who discovered and worked on describing the various types.

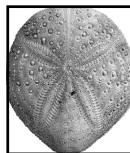


Two retired scientists, David Letasi, a retired paleontologist from the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, and Mark Moore, a retired physical scientist from the Department of Defense in Bethesda, MD., will offer a program using both rare dinosaur fossils and a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation. The participants will get a feel for the actual size of a dinosaur as we use models and photos to draw a full-size dinosaur skeleton.

May 11 Join Pat Gould, a mineral and micro-mineral expert, and Mark Moore, a retired physical scientist, as we look into the world of micro-minerals. Using low-power microscopes, participants will be able to see what appear to be crystal-lined caves and flat fields of crystals of various shapes and colors. Each participant will be able to create his or her own micro-mounted crystal specimen in a small storage box that can be opened for viewing with a microscope or magnifying lens. To reserve a space (we must have enough specimens for everyone) contact the mall management or Mark Moore.



June 8 Our area (west central Florida) has an abundance of marine fossils, 25 to 30 million years of age. As the Cross Florida Barge Canal was being dug, many fossil echinoids were uncovered and now lie on the river and canal banks and spoil bank islands. Also, fossils of marine invertebrates can be found in many local mining pits that have been dug over the years. After viewing several specimens that have been collected and labeled, participants will look through several buckets of raw fossils and select one that appeals to them. They will then clean and prepare the fossil for mounting. Once mounted, participants will use reference materials to identify their fossils and properly label them. Mark Moore, Dave Letasi, and other local marine invertebrate fossil experts will present this program.



Withlacoochee Rockhounds are welcome to attend these classes to observe and/or help out.

Contact Mark Moore at: 352-586-9607

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 5:00 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, or specimens to be identified; the best time to do so is between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM. No equipment can be used during the business meeting or during presentations.

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

April 2nd at 9:00 AM—12:00 PM



Atlantic Weave Bracelet

April Jewelry Class Project will be taught by Gary Spurlock.

Material for the bracelet will be provided. Participants will need to bring baling pliers, round nose pliers, and a soft blow hammer. If you have a bracelet mandrel bring it. If not, a baseball bat is a good substitute. Fee for the material; \$5:00. Gary has enough material for 16 people and would like an estimate of how many people will be participating in the class.

Contact Gary at:

garyspurlock2000@yahoo.com

310-508-4269

Peony Stones

This is the last of four articles by Bob Janowsky, who operates "Juying's Chinese Stones". The following is information he gave me about phony stones. Bob was a vendor at our gem show... editor

At first glance these stones appear to be like the more familiar "chrysanthemum stones". While the process by which they were formed, mineral integration and crystallization is similar; they each have a different content both in the matrix and in their crystals. These stones are found in the mountains in Henan Province.



Peony Stone

Their matrix is composed of several minerals: magnesium, iron, silica, sodium, and aluminum, while the flower patterns are formed of andesine, a mineral in the feldspar class.

The "flowers" in the peony stones are generally smaller than those seen in the chrysanthemum stones and their pedals are rounded. The crystal formations in the chrysanthemum stones have a long, thin, tendril like shape. Quite often, at least with the peony stones that we've seen, the crystals have a greenish color. Like the chrysanthemum stones, the peony stones are often highly polished to bring out the contrast in colors between the matrix and the crystal formation.

An excellent book, which covers these stones as well as many other collectable stones from all parts of China is *Modern Chinese Scholar's Rocks* and is written by Kemin Hu. We have a few new copies that we can offer at \$39.95 through Amazon. We find this book to be invaluable for the information that it contains.



Chrysanthemum Stone



Join us for the
2019 SFMS Workshop
at William Holland

June 9th - 14th, 2019



Please find all the information regarding classes, registration form and payment at our new website...

www.sfmsworkshops.org
(click here)

For questions please contact

Kristine Robertson
kristine@kmarella.com
863-640-2887

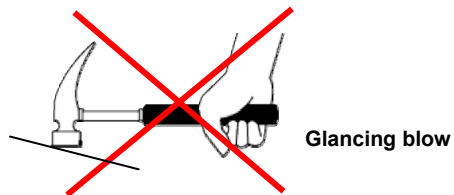
Hammers low-tech tools

by Mike Stone

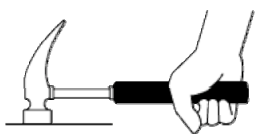
Other than a rock and a stick, I don't know of another tool that is lower-tech than a hammer. Here are things that rock hounds should keep in mind about rock hammers or mason's hammers and their safe use.



- Select a hammer that is comfortable for you and that is the proper size and weight for the job.
- When possible choose a hammer with a cushioned handle to protect you from vibration, impact, and squeezing pressure.
- Ensure that the head of the hammer is firmly attached to the handle.
- Replace loose, cracked or splintered handles.
- Wear safety glasses (with safety lenses) or goggles, or a face shield.
- Strike a hammer blow squarely with the striking face parallel to the surface being struck. Always avoid glancing blows as well as over and under strikes.



Glancing blow

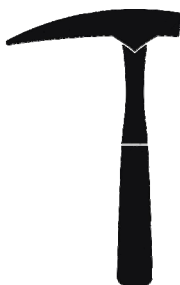


Straight blow

- Hammers have a hardened impact surface. **Do not** strike one hammer against another. The hardened surfaces of hammers can chip off and pierce the skin and puncture eyes.
- Don't use a claw hammer to strike rocks or chisels because the head isn't tempered for striking hard metal and can chip.



Claw hammer

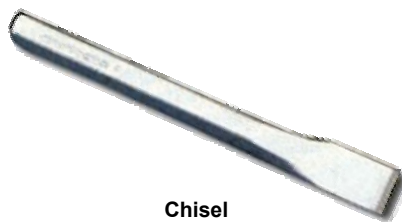


Rock hammer



Mason's hammer

- When using a chisel, grind off the mushroomed striking surface because it can splinter and cut or puncture skin.



Chisel

- Look at the end of the chisel, not the point of the chisel when hitting it with a hammer, otherwise you are likely to miss the chisel and pound the hand holding it.

I have purchased hammers at flea markets that we cheaply made. Their heads were so soft that they mushroomed after very little use. It's best to purchase quality hammers of a well-know brand, such as Estwing, Stanley, Craftsman, and Wilton.

Getting to Know You

It might be interesting to fellow club members to learn about other members' hobbies. If you would jot down a few words telling us about your other interests, whether or not they are related to rock hounding, we will print them in future issues of Rock Talk

Rock Art



Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith



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

Burnishing Bezels

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting 10 mm cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to exert enough pressure with a pusher or a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough so its curvature hits the top of the bezel at the best angle to burnish it down onto the stone.



Burnishing with a dapping ball

Super Pickle

We have all made the mistake of putting steel in the pickle pot. This can cause

all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to half fill a coffee cup with new hot pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store. Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.



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

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Board of Directors Meeting
The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center on April 17th at 6:30 PM.

Lauren M Bell
Artist/Owner
Facebook.com/MadHouseMindWorks
www.MadHouseMindWorks.etsy.com

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barbersbloomers@hotmail.com

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

Next Meeting, Wednesday April 10th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 3-13-2019

- The meeting was called to order by club president Judith Birx at 7:00 pm.
- We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.
- There were the new members to recognize: Ted Robinson, Sheryl and Steve Longnecker.
- There were two guests in attendance: Susan Calabrese and Barb Gugliotti.
- Mark Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our February meeting as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Dave Letasi. Passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Suzie Letasi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Mark Moore seconded, all approved.

Old Business

- President Judith Birx reminded members that we need a new gem show chairperson as soon as possible.
- She also reminded members that their club dues are past due and should be paid.
- She announced that the proposal for the William Holland School of the Lapidary Arts scholarship is nearly ready for presentation to the Board.
- She stated that the motorcycle that was donated to the Senior Center was sold, and the money was used to pay off the roof replacement. The remaining funds were put in the Clubhouse maintenance fund.
- She reminded members that the beginning silversmithing class would start on Thursday, but as yet, had no one interested. A more advanced silver class may be offered later in the year.
- She also announced that the Board had voted to have the club treasury cover the \$1.00 Senior Center cost for our annual

holiday party held each January.

New Business

- President Birx informed all regarding her trip to the SFMS executive meeting in St. Pete last month. She said they are hosting their first "Gathering" in April at the Suwanee Music Park in Live Oak, FL. All members are invited to attend.
- The monthly jewelry class for April will be taught by Gary Spurlock. The project is a heavy wire copper bracelet and the cost will be \$5.00 for materials.
- Gerry Hare, who is the Tampa Bay club President and an instructor at the William Holland School, will be teaching the Tuesday morning Jewelry class in June. The project is an advanced form of gem tree.
- Lauren Bell announced there will be trips to Graves Mountain in April and October.
- Lynn Walters reminded members about the monthly trips to the Vulcan Mine on the second Saturday of each month. She said the weather is getting hotter and will soon be too hot to go.
- Roberta Oldread announced that Jackson Crossroads will be holding VIP digs soon.
- VP Mark Moore stated he had been asked about radioactive rocks and how to deal with them safely. He said they cannot be neutralized by any means. A spray coating will not stop Radon. Plus if you store these minerals in a closed room, radon will build up in the room and will be detrimental to your health.
- He stressed for members to come and see him with any questions they might have regarding these radioactive minerals.
- President Birx announced that the board of directors meeting will be March 16th at 6:30 pm.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Leslie Moore, Judith Birx, and anyone else who wishes to bring something.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to adjourn the

meeting, Mark Moore seconded, passed by all.

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes 3-19-2019

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Melodye Steverson, Ralph Barber, Mike Stone, and Lynn Walters. Also in attendance was member Rovie Alford.

- Board meeting started at 6:45 pm and was held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center.
- President Judith Birx distributed the meeting agenda.
- First for discussion: the proposed scholarship for the William Holland School of the Lapidary Arts- hereafter referred to as WHS.
- Secretary Steverson distributed the proposed criteria for candidate selection.

Proposal from September 2018 board meeting were:

1. Must have been a club member in good standing for the previous two years.
 2. Agree to teach four classes on their chosen subject in the 12 months following the course.
 3. The club will pay the tuition/housing only. Transportation, lab fees and materials will be the responsibility of the member.
 4. This scholarship will be chosen by lottery.
 5. Applicants must come before the Board to be approved for entry to lottery.
- Numbers 1, 3 and 5 were agreed upon by Board members. #2, the number and hours of classes the winner must teach is still being discussed. Directors decided against the lottery except in case of a tie.
 - Number of club volunteer hours are being

Minutes continued on next page

considered, either teaching or volunteering in other ways. Also, a list of acceptable classes at WHS is being compiled and will be presented at the next Board meeting.

- Added to list; #6) Member's volunteer hours will be taken into consideration in decision.
- #7) Based on the Treasury each year, a second scholarship might be awarded.
- VP Moore previously stated that he would try to get additional funds to support the scholarship.
- The matter will be finalized at the March Board meeting.”
- Much discussion ensued regarding the number of hours a scholarship award winner must agree to teach. It was mentioned, for reference, that the Tampa Club requires 30 hours of teaching from their scholarship winners. It was agreed that each case will be decided by the Board.
- The award will be decided by jury of the Board of Directors. Here is the agreed upon criteria for consideration;
 1. Must have been a club member in good standing for the previous two years.
 2. Agree to teach at least four classes on their chosen subject in the 12 months following the course.
 3. The club will pay the tuition/housing only. Transportation, lab fees and materials will be the responsibility of the member.
 4. Member's volunteer hours will be taken into consideration in decision.
 5. The Board will consider and jury all applicants.
 6. Applicants must choose their class from a list that has been approved by the Board.
 7. Based on the Treasury each year, a second scholarship might be awarded.
 8. A lottery will be used only in case of a tie.
- Judith Birx made a motion to create the William Holland School of the Lapidary

Arts Scholarship through The Withlacoochee Rockhounds club with requirements as described in the designated rules. Melodye Steverson seconded, approved by all Board members present.

- Our multiple Facebook pages were next on the agenda. It was decided to table this discussion until a later date. Mike Stone wants all the information being put on Facebook to be sent to him, for the Newsletter. Pres Birx explained Facebook “Boosts” to expand our advertisements coming up to the gem show.
- We need to find a gem show chairperson. Board members will go through the latest roster to look for candidates.
- Endowment Fund – The board decided on ten percent of our net profit from the Gem Show would be a reasonable donation.
- A member asked about renting our polishing/grinding machines. This received a NO from all board members.
- President Birx made a motion to pay Gerry Herr up to \$50 for her travel expenses incurred by coming from Tampa to teach her gem trees class to our members. Melodye Steverson seconded. All approved.
- Former active member Robert Jensen, aka The Viking, handmade a clever portable work bench, which he donated to our club to be used as a prize for whoever brought in the most new members. The Board decided to award this prize to Lynn Walters who has signed up many new members through the field trips to the Vulcan Mine. Congratulations Lynn!
- Lynn Walters suggested a “Swap Meet” for a monthly meeting program. The Board decided it would be a good idea.
- Mike Stone wants anyone not getting the newsletter to let him know. They also can go to any computer to view it.
- Not all of our members are paying \$1 when they enter at our monthly meeting. We will

remind them.

- Linda Spaulding has resigned from the Board. We need to find a member willing to serve.
- Ralph Barber made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting, seconded by Lynn Walters. Approved.
- The meeting ended at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

Annual Dues: Individual member, \$20. 00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00.
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



of
Hernando County

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

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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 \$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 Bix.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbix@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.....	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 Bix (president)
Melodye Steverson (secretary)

Ginny Steverson (2021)
Mike Stone (2019)
Lynn Walters (2021)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)