

Rock Talk

August 2018



Rock Talk

August 8th Meeting Program

Our Program for August is a video about the Giant Crystal Cave in Niaca, Mexico. National Geographic says, "The cave contains some of the largest natural crystals ever found: translucent gypsum beams measuring up to 36 feet (11 meters)

long and weighing up to 55 tons." This video is fascinating. We also will have the machines out for use before the meeting starts.

Also we will have the usual 50/50 drawing, door prizes, and refreshments.

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Cover Photo

The cover photo is a graphic illustration of water and water-worn rocks. Too beautiful to be real.

The July Meeting

by Michele Evans

Everyone seemed to be having a great time at the meeting. I've noticed that people have been arriving for the meetings earlier and earlier each month. Roberta and Betty (welcome back Betty) got right to polishing their gems on the Pixie machines. Several people brought snacks and everyone commented on how good they were. But many asked, "Where is Dorwin's cake"? Dorwin was on vacation and had better come back soon. Bear loved the chocolate chip cookies. Dave and Katie got a conversation going while they started brewing the coffee. Kira brought a rainbow cake and had a delightfully colored hairdo to match. She is fairly new our group and she and her mom are a welcome addition. Layney was so



Judith calling out the 50/50 winner and door prizes with her young helpers.

proud of the picture jasper she got at the wire wrapping class. John Fusco showed us the beautiful cab he made from fireworks obsidian. Judy was successfully selling 50/50 tickets to Bill and everyone else, and the group raised a handsome sum for our club treasury. Our younger members helped by picking the winning tickets, with John Fusco winning the 50/50 drawing. Janet gave her treasure's report and Melodye was carefully taking the minutes of the meeting. Mike Steverson came

in after a hard day at work to set up the DVD player for our entertainment and education. Thank you, Mike. We watched a very interesting video about mining for gemstones.

Our Website

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Next Meeting, Wednesday, August 8th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

July Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Michele Evans



July Wire Wrapping Class Photos

Photos by Dorwin Skinner

Wire Wrapping and Cabbing

by Dorwin, Skinner

When I arrived to take pictures at the jewelry class, I was surprised to see that Melodye had a cab class going in the back of the room. I could see that I would be taking more pictures than normal. I guess they were tired of seeing me with too much time on my hands. Judith's class was going to be wire wrapping and she had plenty of cabochons for them to pick from. Wire wrapping seems to be popular with the group. Today the wire wrapping class was honored to have one of our youngest members, Layney. She was eager to get started. I was glad it would be wire wrapping, at least I wouldn't have to listen to hammering all morning. Of course Melodye and her group replaced hammering with the screech of the trim saw going thru hard rock. Luckily that only lasted for a few minutes. I split my time by going back and forth between groups to get pictures of them hard at work. Hopefully some of them will make it past Mike's editing. By noon everyone had a finished product in their hands and smiles on their faces. I am not sure what they will be doing next month and unfortunately I will not be able to attend that day. **I hope someone will take pictures so that I can see what was made.**



Joyce working on wire wrapping project.



Judith helping Angela



Roberta intently wire wrapping



It has to be done just right.



Judith shows Angela how to do it.



Finished class projects



Layney shows off her finished pendant

July Cabbing Class Photos

Photos by Dorwing Skinner

Cabochon

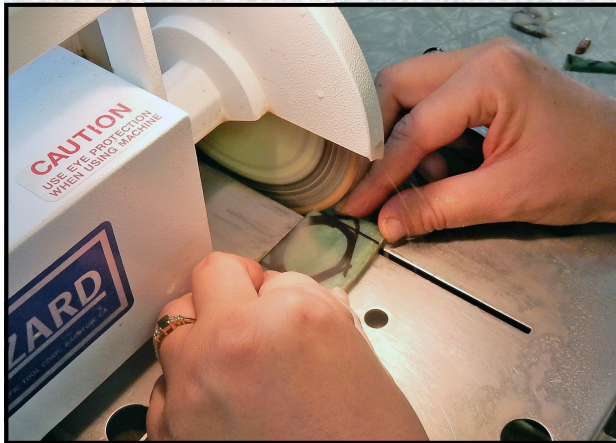
A **cabochon** from the Middle French word *caboché* (meaning "head"), is a gemstone which has been shaped and polished as opposed to faceted. The resulting form is usually a convex (rounded) obverse with a flat reverse. Cutting *en cabochon* (French: "in the manner of a cabochon") is usually applied to opaque gems, while faceting is usually applied to transparent stones. Hardness is also taken into account as softer gemstones with a hardness lower than 7 on the Mohs hardness scale are easily scratched, mainly by silicon dioxide [quartz] in dust and grit. This would quickly make translucent gems unattractive—instead they are polished as cabochons, making the scratches less evident. *Wikipedia.com*



Lauren marks her cab while Jan trims hers.



Melodye instructing Jan



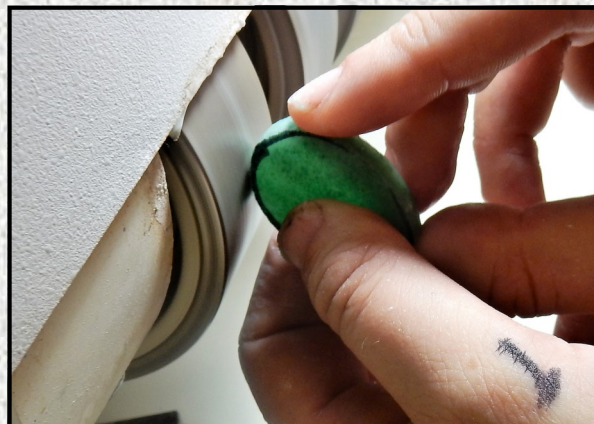
Trimming the cabochon.



Melodye demonstrating to Jan



Working on a bevel angle.



The cab is taking shape



It's getting there.



Lauren's finished cab



On Tuesday July 10th Susie and I visited the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville. We saw the new exhibit featuring the rare fossils discovered at the Montbrook fossil site near Williston Florida. The University of Florida Paleontology Department has been excavating at this site for several years with their staff, graduate students, and volunteers. The new exhibit is in the Florida Fossil Exhibit Gallery and is set up explaining the process of working on the removal of fossils from the field to the lab.

The site is very late Miocene Period and dates to around five million years ago. Fossils from this time period are rare around the world, but what is significant about this site is the amazing and excellent preservation of each bone.

The most exciting new discovery is that of a skull of saber tooth cat that is believed to be from a fairly recently named new cat found in Polk County Florida by Tampa Bay Fossil Club officer Barbara Fite. Further research will probably be needed to verify it as so. Several jaws of the primitive elephant like creatures called Gomphotherium have also been discovered as well as a rare jaw of a bone-eating dog Borophgus.

You may learn more about the FMNH in Gainesville at FLMNH web site at www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/paleontology. You also may wish to register as a volunteer for their dig on their web site as well. Several of our members have expressed an interest in participating in a date for this fall. I will bring this up at a future meeting. Also new at the museum is an interactive video wall mural in the main entrance gallery that records everyone in the space. Cameras superimpose the images of mammoths and saber tooth cats walking and stalking guests in the hall. If you are watchful you might be able to pet a saber tooth cat or even a baby mammoth. This is something everyone will want to experience!

May you all have fantastic summer rock-discoveries while collecting.

Dave



Diplodocus and Allosaurus



Leslie about to be devoured by Giganotosaurus



Mark and Dave entranced by the museum



Dave with Tyrannosaurus batar



Pterodactylus with dendrite minerals

Secretary's Report



by
Melodye Steverson



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes July 11, 2018

- 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 silent prayer.
- There were no new members to recognize.
- There were five guests in attendance; Dean Grubb, Kira Harris, Marianne Bryan, Elijah Walters, and Diane Izzy.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our June meeting as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded by Dave Davis, and passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

- Club president Birx addressed the members, and stated;
- The Board of Directors meeting has been canceled and the time slot will be taken by the gem show committee. They will meet at the Senior Center on July 17, 2018 at 6:30 pm. All interested members are encouraged to attend.
- The club has sent \$1000 to the endowment fund for the geology department at USF.

- More volunteers are needed for the nominating committee.
- The cabochon class is going well. There will be more cab classes starting soon. The silversmithing class will be held in the fall.
- Please bring your donations for the Senior Center yard sale to help pay off the new roof. There have also been three break-ins in the last month that require repairing the windows, which costs additional money. You can leave donations in the Senior Center main room.
- Please remember to give what monetary donations you can to Carol Hechler, the director of the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizen's Club, for the roof fund.

New Business

- Dave Letasi announced that the Museum of Natural History in Gainesville is working with the University of Florida on a new archaeological dig, the Montbrook Site. This site is open for people to sign to dig. All fossils found at the site will be the property of UF. Club members were encouraged to go and experience a dig. Dave continued by saying that Lauren Bell had found a fossil tooth when she was in Ireland recently, and how thrilled she was.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Karen Fernandez, John Fusco, and Dave Davis.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Brown seconded the motion and it was passed by all.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by club secretary Melodye Steverson.

What is It?

Can you identify the specimen below?



Answer in this *Rock Talk*.

Last month's "What is It?" was **Kutnohorite** is a rare mineral that is named after its location of origin, Kutna Hora. This mineral's main components are calcium and manganese.



Hernando County, FL

Next Meeting, Wednesday August 8th at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center

Lots of Diamonds

I read an article recently about scientists discovering that a possible quadrillion tons of diamonds could be buried about 200-miles below the Earth's surface. (One quadrillion:1,000,000,000,000,000)

Researchers used seismic devices to measure the speed of sound waves traveling through the Earth's crust. The speed that sound passes through rock depends on the temperature, density, and composition of the rock through which it travels. Scientists use this relationship to estimate the type and amount of rock that makes up the Earth's upper mantle, which is also known as the lithosphere.

The sudden increase in seismic speeds at about 200-miles beneath the center of most continental tectonic plates can be caused by a one to two percent diamond content. Therefore it is estimated that there are one quadrillion tons of diamonds inside these ancient rocks. Because they are trapped in an area of rock that is less dense than other rock below the surface, they will not become subducted into the surface of the Earth, but will stay afloat relatively close to its surface, well below where they can be accessed.

editor



President's Message

Judith Birx



We got word from Judith, who was in Idaho in the middle of July. She said that she will be heading east to New York until the 14th of August, and returning to Florida on the 24th. Rock Hounding is planned during her travels, so I'm sure she will have plenty of specimens to show the group at the September club meeting. She also promises great photos.

Lauren Ball will be instructing the jewelry workshop on August 7th and Ralph Barber will be running the club meeting on August 8th. Lauren Ball will be running the 50/50 auction at the club meeting.

editor

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.

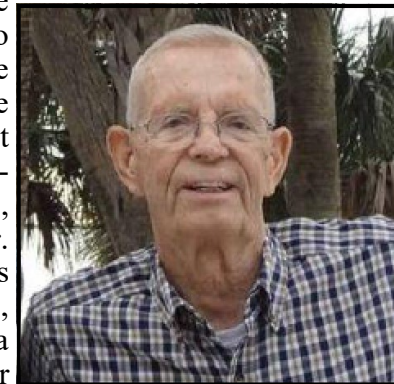
Also, previous *Rock Talk* newsletters can be downloaded from our website. They have been posted from June 2016.

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Editor/webmaster

John Decker

We are saddened to learn of the passing of one of our most faithful long-time members, John Decker. John and his wife Blanche, were always a fixture at our meetings, and



they have been missed over the last two years. John had an extensive rock and mineral collection and was ready to share his knowledge with anyone at any time. He loved it when members would ask him questions about his specimens, and always went into depth when explaining his minerals. John loved to talk to the young members about rocks, minerals and fossils, to help foster a love of rock hounding. John was a real asset to our club and will be remembered fondly by many of us.

Melodye

For Sale Items

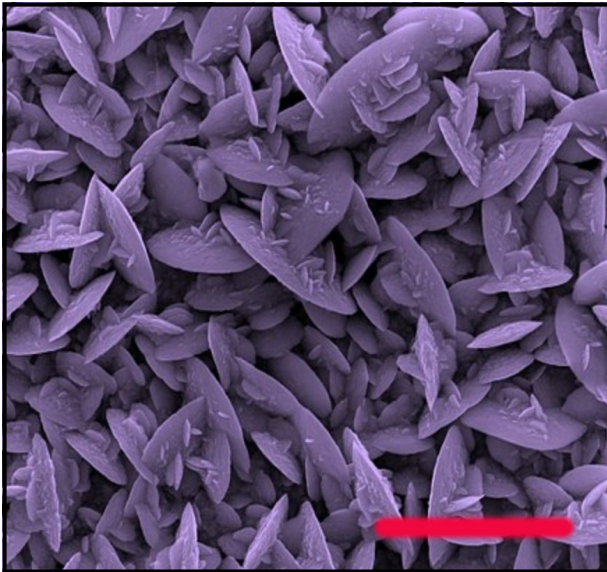
Club members can post appropriate club-related type **for sale** items in the *Rock Talk* free of charge. Contact your editors by the 25th of the month to have your items posted in the next issue.

Mike Stone

n1ve@amsat.org

Really Tiny Crystals

Bismuth telluride crystals are the most commonly used for making thermoelectric cooling devices for electric coolers. The red line in the photo represents a distance of one micron. For comparison, the average human hair is 50-microns in diameter, ten times the length of the red line in the photo.



Bismuth-antimony telluride crystals, grown on a silicon substrate using electrodeposition.

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

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society Inc. Fall Show

We are a non-profit 501(C)3 educational organization and are hosting a Rock, Mineral, Gem, Jewelry and Fossil Show on October 5th, 6th & 7th, 2018 at the Florida National Guard Armory, 2809 S. Fern Creek Ave., Orlando, FL 32806. Show time: Fri. 1pm to 6pm, Sat. 10am to 6pm and Sun. 10am to 5pm. Vendors offering beads, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, artifacts, rocks, cabochons, etc. Silent Auction, Door Prizes, Demonstrations, Family Activities, Scavenger Hunt. Admission: Adults \$5, Kids \$2, Scouts in uniforms free. Website: www.cfmgs.org. Contact: President Salvatore Sansone 321-278-9294 or ssfos-silhunter@aol.com. Thank you. If you have any questions, please e-mail or call me at 407-816-1229. Betty Sumner Secretary Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society, Inc.

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

Having Problems Downloading Rock Talk?

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

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

Tuesday Workshop

at the

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center

Withlacoochee Rockhounds is giving workshops on wire wrapping (stones), chain making (jump rings) and possibly other related skills at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center in Spring Hill. The workshops are normally on the **first Tuesday of the month from 9:00 AM until 12:00 noon**. The cost per workshop is \$1.00. To participate in the workshops, one must be a member of the *Withlacoochee Rockhounds*, which covers dues to the *Weeki Wachee Citizens Club*.

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens' Center.

3357 Susan Dr.

Spring Hill FL 34606

For more information call Judith at: 352-587-1702

Next Workshop
August 7th at 9:00 AM

The jewelry class for August will be run by Lauren Bell. Lauren will be teaching how to use "The Widget" to make shapes to use in pendants, bracelets, and earrings. Bring your wire, beads, tools, and a widget, if you have one. If not, the class will provide widgets to use. There will be no class fee, unless you need to buy supplies.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds



Bench Tips
by
Brad Smith

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

Sawing Small Tubing

When making a hinged bracelet, I needed to cut 16 pieces of small diameter silver tubing. These were to be just approximate lengths and trimmed to final size after soldering. Not having a tube cutter, I had trouble holding the tubing on the bench while trying to saw through it.

So here's what I did. I drilled a hole in the side of the bench pin just large enough for the tubing to slide into and almost as deep as the length of cut tubing I wanted. Sawing became quick and easy. With my free hand, I inserted the tubing and held it from rotating while sawing off each length.



Cutting a small tube to length with a saw.

Secret Ingredient

Those of us who use paste solders sometimes find that an old tube has dried out. There should be some way to recondition it, but what to use? Calling tech support at the suppliers didn't work for me. Either they don't know what the ingredient is or won't tell you the secret.

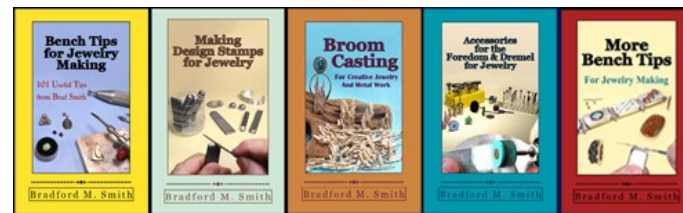
No one likes to waste an expensive material, especially at \$16 - \$20 a tube, so I've often experimented with ways to rejuvenate it. Mixing in a liquid flux doesn't work. When the liquid starts to boil off, it spatters the solder in all directions. But after several failed experiments I finally found a way that does work. My secret ingredient is petroleum jelly, such as Vaseline. Mix in just enough to restore the consistency to something that's usable. If you use too much, the lump of solder will flow over a wide area as soon as the torch starts heating it.



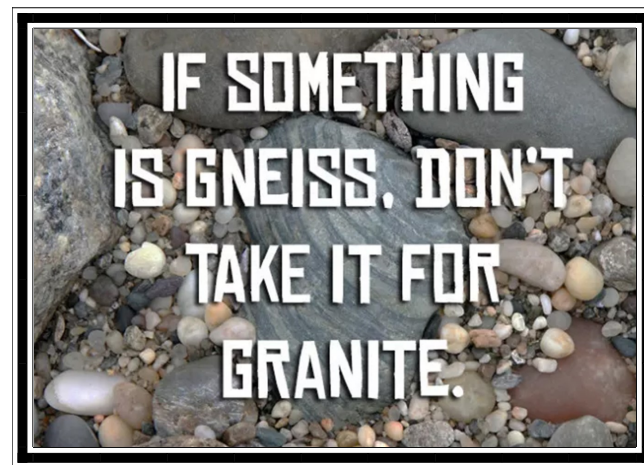
Mixing paste solder with Vaseline.

If your solder is in a syringe, it can be a little difficult to get the plunger out. I find the easiest way is to poke a hole through the solder from the

tip to the rubber plunger (a burr shaft was the right size for my tube). The hole allows air to enter between the solder and the plunger, allowing the plunger to be slowly withdrawn. Once the solder is out of tube, you can easily add the Vaseline, mix it up, and spoon it back into the syringe.



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



Native platinum

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

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

2018

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

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

Please Print Clearly

Primary Member

Last name _____ First Name _____

Renewing members check here if no change in information below.

Additional family members:

Last name _____ First Name _____ Check if under 18

Last name _____ First Name _____ Check if under 18

Last name _____ First Name _____ Check if under 18

Last name _____ First Name _____ Check if under 18

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at the club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 5634, Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Rock Talk

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

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



of
Hernando County

www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

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

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the *Rock Talk* and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the *Rock Talk* and our website have more exposure than only club members. Any club member who takes out a yearly ad, gets a **free club membership**.

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

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Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

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

Dues

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

Club Meeting Location and Time

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

2018 Club Officers

President.....	Judith Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President.....	Kelly Johnson.....	352-688-9399.....	KellyMineralsFossils@aol.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
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com

Board of Directors

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

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