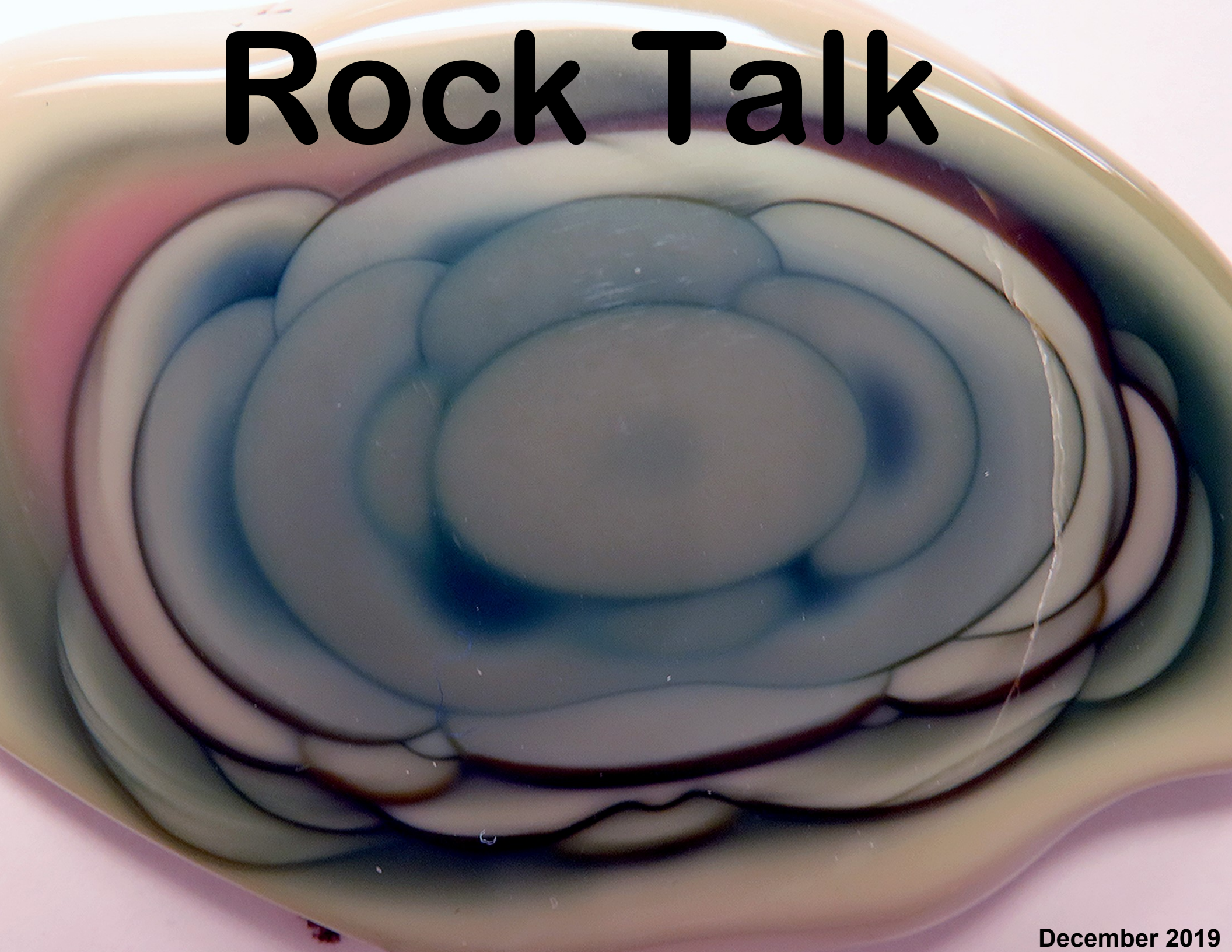


# Rock Talk



December 2019



# Don't miss our 45th annual gem show

## Withlacoochee Rockhounds

45th Annual

Jewelry Fossil Mineral and Gem Show

Dec. 6, 7, 8, 2019 9:00AM-5:00PM

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

### Featuring:

- Artisan Jewelry
- Gemstones
- Fossils
- Minerals
- Lapidary Equipment
- Educational Displays
- Fluorescent Mineral Display
- Lectures
- Hands-on activities for children
- Famous diamonds of the world



**Admission:** Adults \$3.00 ● Teens \$1.00  
12 and under Free ● Parking Free

Special programs for children.

See and touch fossils.

### Veterans Memorial Park

14333 Hicks Rd., Hudson, FL 34669

Show Chair: Ralph Barber  
352-200-6852

Show Info.: Judith Brix  
352-587-1702







# Rock Talk



## November 12th Meeting Program

During the December meeting we will have our annual election of officers and board of directors. Also, we encourage members to bring in treasures to sell for last-minute holiday gifts. Plus, if you have a project that needs a little help to complete, bring it in. We'll have several very talented members on hand to help you with completing that spe-

cial gift just in time. Come and join us for a great evening.

Refreshments will be available and we will have the usual 50/50 drawing and door prizes.

### In This Issue

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- Secretary's Report
- Rock Art
- Club Receives Collection
- Bench Tips
- What is it?

### The Cover Photo

Royal Imperial Jasper  
Cut and polished by Jeff Atkinson

## November Trip to the Vulcan Mine

by Roberta Oldread

Saturday November 9th was a perfect day for digging at the Vulcan Mine. The morning started out with overcast skies with a much cooler than usual temperature. By 11:00 AM the sun peaked out and the air warmed to the mid 70s. We had eleven club members show up, along with several members from Tampa Bay Fossil Club. Lauren Bell searched for more gator bones like the ones she found last month. Unfortunately the rains had washed out that area. Jim Guglittio and I searched for sea urchin spines in another pit. Between the two of us, by noon we had found a few dozen sea urchin spines. Jim also found a partial shark's tooth, which is a rare find at the Vulcan Mine. Robert was digging out a very huge piece of chert to take home and Jim helped him move a larger chunk that was on top of the piece that Robert wanted.

After our lunch break we drove to a section of the mine where few people go to dig.



Vulcan Cemex Plant

Thanks to John Fusco for showing us this druzey calcite spot. We found a few specimens there, and we will be going back to that area in the future. The lower pit, where we all park had been scrapped and turned over by Saul that morning. Jim found a nice sand dollar, so this area will have good pickings next month after the rain.

The Vulcan Mine is a beautiful area, so as I was digging, I also took landscape photos of the area. If you haven't been to the mine, you should try to make our December dig.



# Vulcan Mine Photos



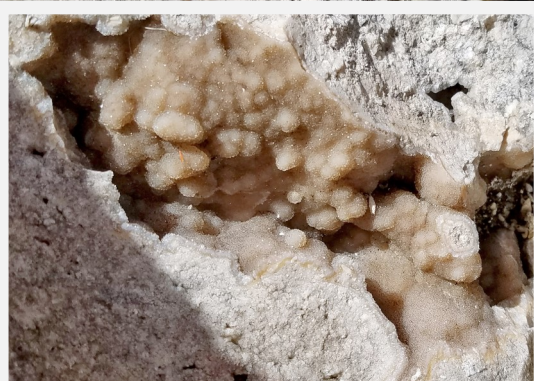
Saul giving the initial talk about safety and where to look for specimens.



One of several stunning views in the Vulcan Mine



Echinoids to be cleaned.



One of several examples of druze calcite.



Jim prying out a big chunk of chert.



Jon Fusco (top) and Jim Gugliotti looking for druze calcite.



# November Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Mike Stone



A busy place



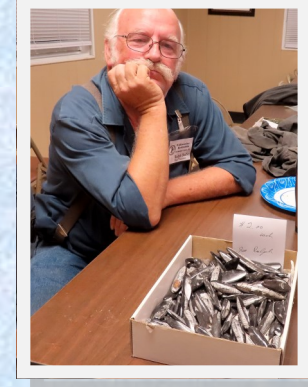
Getting ready for the business meeting



Tyler Young with Jeff Atkinson's beautiful royal imperial jasper



Sharon Raffone and Edward Norman with their impressive collection



Ralph and his orthoceras fossils



Lauren greeting Doug and Gloria DuPont



Lori and Angela checking beads



The food bar.



# November Club Meeting Photos

Photos by Mike Stone



Janet Wheeler talking to the group about her silversmithing class at the William Holland Lapidary School of Arts.



Melodye Steverson explaining her lost wax casting class at the William Holland Lapidary School of Arts.



Judith Birx explaining her opal I class activities at the William Holland Lapidary School of Arts.



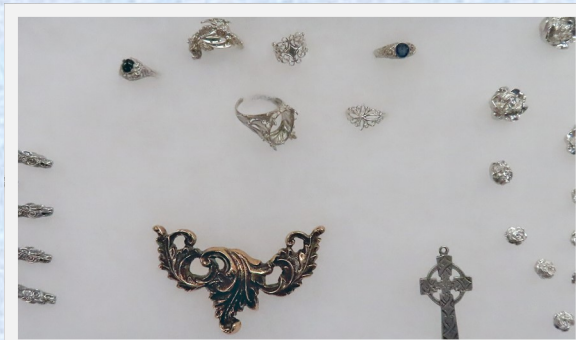
Silver locket by Janet.



Titanium necklace by Janet.



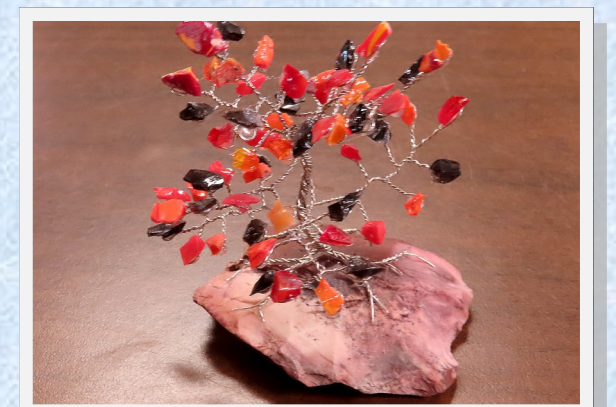
Silver rings by Janet.



Lost wax castings by Melodye.



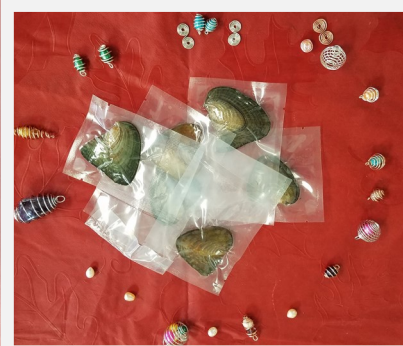
Bronze casting by Melodye



Gem tree by Roberta Oldread



# November Jewelry Class Photos



Photos by Roberta Oldread



## Withlacoochee Rockhounds at the Brooksville Farmers Market

by Roberta Oldread

It was a perfect day for our club's Educational 101 event at the November 24<sup>th</sup> Brooksville Farmers Market. A huge thank-you goes to Lauren Bell, Jim Gugliotti, Lynn Walters, Anthony Maffatone, Bear, and Dave and Sue Letasi for coming out and volunteering their time on a Sunday afternoon. Without you guys we couldn't have pulled this off.

Lauren Bell and I got there early to set up the sluice and the table with the gem trees that were donated by Lee Pinto at our last meeting. Thanks to Mike DE Felice for loaning us his octagonal tent for this event. Jim mixed up buckets of sand that Lauren brought with gemstones in one of the buckets, smaller fossils in another bucket, and a third bucket with larger fossils and pottery.

There was a huge yard sale (Junk in the Trunk) going on, so this event brought in many people. We had several children, ranging from three to thirteen years of age, visit our booth to use the sluice and small screens to separate gemstones, fossils, and minerals from the sand. Each kid got to take two scoops from the buckets or their choice. Dave Letasi was there to identify their findings and the children were able to take their discovered goodies home with them.

We had five people join our club during the event, and we sold one of Lee's gem trees. We ran out of the 50 copies of the gem show flyers that Judith printed for us to hand out, so we used \$10.00 from the sale of the gem tree to have 40 more copies made. Thanks to Anthony and our newest member, Ashley Valdas, for going to Walmart to print the fliers.



Withlacoochee Rockhound members, back row L to R: Lauren Bell, Roberta Oldread, Lynn Walters, Bear. Front row L to R": Jim Gugliotti, Anthony Muffatone, Dave Letasi.

Ashley Valdes photo



Family fun looking for treasures in the sand.

Roberta Oldread photo



Even the little ones search for rocks, minerals, and fossils.

Roberta Oldread photo



Dave identifying fossils.

Lauren Bell photo



Jim helping children load the screen.

Roberta Oldread photo



## Rock Swap and Sale

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
March 6-8, 2020

Suwannee River Music Park, Live Oak, FL

Welcome all SFMS Clubs to the 2020 Rockhound Roundup!

The next SFMS Rockhound Roundup will be held in the same location, the Suwannee River Music Park in Live Oak, Florida. The dates are March 6-8, 2020. We are fortunate that the venue allows us to use their overflow field for free! Based on our observations and recommendations from participants at the 2019 event, we've made some changes.

1. To counter the extreme heat, we've moved the date to March 6-8th. Our date options were limited because of the venue's schedule, and we did our best to avoid conflicts with any SFMS club level events. We are, unfortunately, conflicting with the Suncoast Club Show, for which we apologize. With 72 clubs in the Federation, it was inevitable that we would have some issue.

2. Because we are holding the SFMS Executive Meeting during the event, we will be holding it Saturday Evening so that participants won't have to choose between the Roundup or the Meeting.

3. We will be holding a SFMS Social Friday evening to foster the Interclub connections for which this event was originally organized.

Last year we had participants from at least five of our states. We want this to be an annual event that grows each year. We found that with the minimal fee of \$25 per booth, we were able to cover all costs for the necessary amenities at the venue. Those who came last year expressed very positive comments about the Roundup. Please join us for the 2020 Roundup.

**Jerri Heer**  
SFMS Secretary  
419-344-9999

*This sale and swap is for SFMS members. The general public cannot sell, but they can attend and purchase from SFMS members. editor*

For more information and the 2020 application form:

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/03c462045c08db26e69d7275cea65215?AccessKeyId=CD284D6E6296F742E7D2&disposition=0&alloworigi n=1>

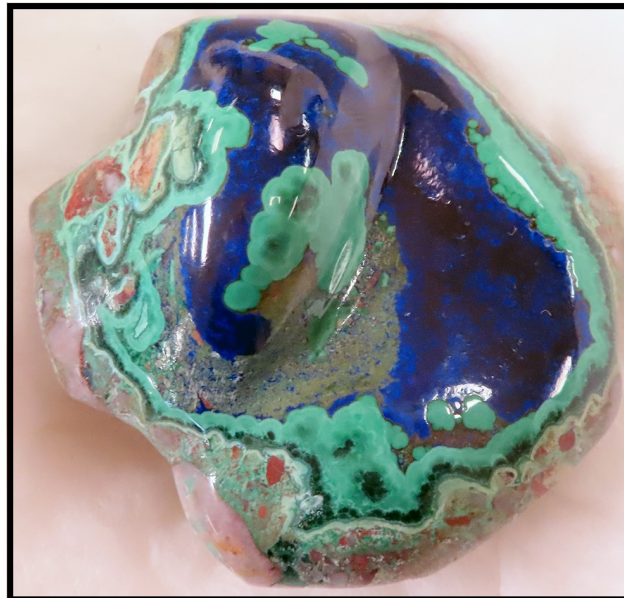
### Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center on **December 17th** at 6:30 PM.

### Welcome New Members

Welcome new Withlacoochee Rockhounds club members: **Grant Mulaert, Colleen Mulaert, Corey Mulaert, and Morgan Mulaert; Brooksville, and Ashley Valdes; Spring Hill.**

## An interesting specimen being sold at our November meeting.



## 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**

**December 3rd at 9:00 AM—12:00 PM**

**Gary Spurlock will be teaching the December jewelry class. The group will be making shell Christmas ornaments. The cost for materials is \$5.00 per person. Also \$1.00 per person for the use of the club house.**

**Lauren M Bell**  
Artist/Owner

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

**Next Meeting, Wednesday Dec. 12th, 7:00PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center**





Hey everyone. I hope you had a great time collecting at the Vulcan Mine. I was pleased to see Lauren Bell's crocodilian humerus that she found in October; what a great find.

From my last newsletter you know that Scott and I continued traveling on our 12 western states adventure. After leaving the fantastic Pueblo archeological sites in New Mexico, Scott and I settled in for some rest in Durango, as the next day we were to embark on another great adventure. Scott planned a trip for us on the 1881 period Durango to Silverton Railroad. This was one of the first railroads built in Colorado by the Denver and Rio Grand Railroad for the Old Hundred Gold Mine in Silverton. The mine was famous for both gold and silver. The silver found there was in abundance and contained in natural quartz mineral deposits. This ore also has lead as another principle element associated with it.



Quartz with gold



Silver-Gold ore, Tonopah

We arrived at the train depot early the next morning. I had no idea of what Scott had planned, but to my surprise he had us booked on the 1881 Pullman car with the 1881 sheriff, Robert Dwyer (a historical interactor). The sheriff narrated the history of the railroad, as the coal powered steam engine slowly pulled over 20 cars up the winding and torturous rail-



Dave and Scott in front of the train



A shot of the train through an open window.

way, carved from precariously perched rock and cliffs. As we chugged upward, the sheriff allowed us to open the side windows on the cars for a better view and the open windows also allowed us to take our own photographic treasures, but it didn't help Scott's apprehension of heights. He and I took many pictures of gorges, rock-slides, and avalanches (rocky and snowy debris).

We left Durango in a balmy 78 degrees, however as we climbed the 1806-foot incline it became increasing colder. Durango sits 6512 feet above sea level but Silverton sits at 9318 feet above sea level. We made several stops for hiking and camping enthusiast over half way up the forty-five mile stretch. All the mountaintops were cover in dense snow. In the forest-covered Animas Valley that we traversed, it was abundant with several herds of elk. They formed in groups of at least a half a dozen critters. Finally after two and a half hours we pulled into Silverton. Once we got off the train, we hiked a short distance to their local eatery to warm up. The temperature was a breezy and brisk 32 degrees, typical of their sub-arctic weather. I started breathing hard

Continued on next page



Dave Letasi Report from previous page

and realized I was suffering from oxygen deprivation. Fortunately the dinners hot coffee and delicious food revived me while Scott explored the many shops in the historic downtown district. As we walked around we noticed enterprising youngsters that were selling mineral specimens from the Silverton Mine. They were very reasonably priced, so I purchased a small Quartz specimen loaded with silver and lead ore. It made a nice keepsake from our trip. The silver that is mined here, is also associated with gold, and brought in thousands of miners in the 1870s and 1880s. Much of the silver producing mines in Colorado and Nevada helped to finance the United States into an industrial nation. If you ever get a chance to visit Colorado, its mineral collecting is internationally renowned. We boarded the train for the return trip back to Durango. Sheriff Dwyer decided to sit with us after noticing my well-worn old western fossil collecting hat. He said there must have to be a story behind it. We had a great conversation, and I told him about stores of the early dinosaur fossils found in Colorado. He said that my tales were more outrageous than his. We had a great time.

Once again we had another fantastic adventure. I hope everyone will have a fantastic Thanksgiving, and get out to collect.

See you all at our annual December gem show. Mark Moore and I will be next to the ticket sales table identifying minerals, fossils, and artifacts.

## Interesting YouTube Videos



Fantastic minerals being found.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYnaNvXZhoY>

Making a 4,566,300,000 Year Old Ring -  
 crafted from a Swedish found Meteorite  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vff68\\_q-beg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vff68_q-beg)

2018 Tucson, AZ Gem Show  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y87bqxbEoFU>

## Did You Know?

There are caves in Brooksville, FL.

Click on this link to learn about them.  
[http://www.floridacaving.com/pages/trips/brc\\_7-5-03.htm](http://www.floridacaving.com/pages/trips/brc_7-5-03.htm)



Hernando County, FL

## Surreal Jagged Crystal Cave

from [sciencealert.com](http://sciencealert.com) by Peter Dockrill

There is an abandoned silver mine in Pulpí, Spain, where twenty years ago one of the largest known geodes was discovered. The volume inside of the geode measures 36 cubic feet (four feet in diameter), so once someone is inside, the sharply pointed crystals are precariously close.

According to the researchers, the geode's gypsum (selenite) crystals grew through a "self-feeding mechanism", due to a continuous supply of salt, provided by the dissolution of anhydrite (the anhydrous form of calcium sulphate).

This process, occurring at a temperature of about 20°C (68°F), was amplified by a thermodynamic phenomenon called Ostwald maturation (or Ostwald ripening), along with temperature oscillations that the geode was exposed to at its relatively shallow depth in the mine.

Due to the extreme purity of the crystals inside the geode – which are so perfectly clear you can see straight through them – it is difficult to date when they were formed.

They are probably younger than two million years, but older than 60,000 years, the age of the carbonate crust coating on one of the large gypsum crystals.



## Our Website

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



## Secretary's Report



by  
Melodye Steverson



### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting Minutes 11-13-19

The meeting was called to order by Club president Judith Birx at 6:58 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 six guests in attendance; Jeff Atkinson, Tyler Young, John Coiro, Catalina Valdes, Sharron Raffone, and Edward Norman.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the minutes of our October meeting as printed in the newsletter; the motion was seconded by Lynn Walters, and passed by all members.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Roberta Oldread and approved by all.

#### Old Business

- Club president Judith Birx asked the members for advertising ideas for the Gem Show. Lauren Bell brought up the Tee Time and the Peddler. Other ideas included contacting the previous attendees, "What to do when" in the Tampa Bay Times and the Hernando Times, Also the social media sites "Next Door and Craigslist were mentioned. More flyers will be printed and

handed out to members that requested them.

#### New Business

- Club president Birx explained what had happened regarding the proposed raise in dues to the Weeki Wachee Senior Center. The Senior Center Board of Directors wanted to raise the Senior Center membership dues from \$10 per year to \$20 per year per person, to build up the building maintenance fund. They held a board meeting to discuss this change. Judith, Club secretary Steverson and Club treasurer Wheeler attended the meeting to offer an alternative. Our president and our treasurer had worked out a proposal whereby our club would give the building fund \$500. This would cover half of the proposed \$10 raise for the year 2020 for 100 Rockhound club members. Any members over 100 would also be covered at \$5 per member for 2020. Therefore, the Senior Center would receive half of the raise in dues they sought for 2019. At the end of 2020, our board will vote on the proposal for the years 2021 and 2022. After much discussion, the Senior Center Board of Directors accepted our proposal, which means there will be no rise in our individual member's dues for 2020, thanks to the foresight of our club president and treasurer.
- Judith reminded the members that our annual election will be held at our December meeting. Anyone who wishes to run for an office, or for the Board, please contact a board member so they can be added to the ballot.
- Ralph Barber asked any member that required anything from the club's storage unit to contact him by December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Mike Stone asked all members to consider

writing an autobiographical article for the newsletter's, "Getting to know you" section, with a photo if possible.

- Roberta Oldread reported on the first trip to the Vulcan Mine of this season. She said eleven members were there and they found all sorts of fossils including sea urchin spines, shark's teeth and druzy calcite. There will be another trip to Vulcan Mine next month. Lauren Bell said there were new portions of the mine open now. She said they had gotten crocodile and bird bones, turtle shell pieces and jelly opal. She reported there was a new druzy pit available.
- Roberta also reminded members of the Brooksville Farmer's Market and Yard Sale on the 24<sup>th</sup>. She and Lauren Bell will be there to promote our club.
- Roberta reported that she knew a man who may be able to work on the A/C unit of the Senior Center.
- President Birx announced:
- There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday the 19 at 6:30 PM. All club members are invited.
- The jewelry class will be on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 AM. Gary Spurlock will be teaching a class on creating a seashell Santa ornament.
- Next month's refreshments will be provided by Judith, Melodye, Bear, Laurie, and Angela.
- Eric Kessel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michele Evans seconded the motion and all passed it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Club secretary Melodye Steverson.*

Continued on next page



Secretary's Report from previous page

### Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Date 11-19-2019

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Melody Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ginny Steverson, and Roberta Oldread. Also in attendance, members Rovie Alford and Bear.

- The Board meeting started at 7:10 PM and was held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Center.
- Before the meeting, Board member Mike Stone was outside with a trailer containing a rock, mineral, and fossil collection donated to our club by the Science Center of Pinellas County, but he could not stay for the meeting.

#### Gem Show business

- Advertising has been scheduled and paid for in the Bargain Finder and the Suncoast News. Also free advertisement in the Village Lantern. Information has been given to Bay News 9. How about radio? Roberta has been doing "boosts" on the Facebook page. A suggestion was brought up that all club members who are on social media should share the gem show information with their contacts and ask them to share the information as well.
- Club president Judith Birx asked for agreement from the Board members to use the bulk of the collection for sales from the club table, and door prizes at the Gem Show. Members and gem show vendors will be allowed first choice to purchase pieces of the collection.
- Club treasurer Janet Wheeler will purchase a gift card for an "outside vendor only" raffle.

- Where are the wristbands? Ralph will look for them in storage as well as the tickets for the raffle and the information sheets.
  - Volunteer list was read and double-checked. Do we need name tags/lanyards for volunteers and vendors? Judith will look into tags and embroidered patches for members.
  - Club president Birx will contact Ralph Barber to make sure the certificate of insurance are applied to the venue.
  - Roberta Oldread, in charge of Special Interest Projects, reported that Dave Davis cannot make it this year. Bear volunteered to put out the signs and Roberta will call Kelly Johnson about doing a flint knapping demo.
  - Lauren Bell will do a rock and fossil "Dig" for kids. Bear will provide a kiddie pool and tarps to hold and contain the sand. Kids will dig for a rock or fossil and take their find to Dave Letasi and Mark Moore to identify.
  - There will be capping demonstrations for adults and possible faceting demonstration by Tom Mitchell.
  - Set up time on Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> will be 11am.
  - Roberta Oldread said she learned of another mine associated with the Vulcan Mine where the Tampa club comes to dig. She will contact Shamlin to see if we can get in. Hard hats are required at that mine.
- The meeting ended at 8pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Club secretary Melody Steverson*

## Dues are Coming Due

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**

## 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.

## 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.



## Iron Meteorite



This meteorite was purchased at one of our club's gem shows from club member Kelly Johnson.

From the information that came with the meteorite:

### Meteorite Campo Del Cielo

“The Spanish learned about the meteorites from the Indians living in Santiago Estero, Argentina in 1576. The meteorite is classified as Iron, coarse octahedrite, (Og). Thought to have fallen four to six thousand years ago”.

## For Sale Items

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

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

## Use Our Website

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

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

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

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

Mike Stone, editor/webmaster

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 bscott@scottmetalart.com

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



## Club Receives Collection

by Mike Stone

The Science Center of Pinellas County contacted us through our website, offering their entire rock, mineral, and fossil collection, with the stipulation that it be removed within two days, because the building was being sold. Peg and I took the van to Clearwater and removed 1041 pounds (I weighed them box by box) the first day. The next day I went back to the Science Center with a friend to remove the rest of the collection (698 pounds). Once all of the specimens were home, the boxes were spread out on the floor of our garage and the regular rocks of no interest or value were culled. The rest of the collection, varying in size from twenty pounds to pea size were put in boxes small enough to easily carry and store. I suspect the best of the specimens were gone before we arrived, but we still managed to bring back many very nice rocks, minerals, and fossils.

As I moved many of the rocks from huge tubs and overflowing boxes into smaller containers I was able to identify some, and some had been labeled and placed in plastic storage bags. Many I couldn't identify.



The first load from the Science Center of Pinellas County in Clearwater.

Here's a list of the rocks that I was able to identify or those that had been labeled:

Petrified wood (10 pound chunks), Many sea life fossils (dugong, whale, turtle, corals, etc.), Volcanic rocks, Obsidian, Salt (10 pound piece), Agates (some natural and some polished), Slabs of various types, Iron ores Native copper, Anthracite coal, Galena, Pyrite, Quartz geodes, Quartz crystals, calcite crystals, feldspar crystals, garnet crystals, kainite crystals, Schist, Gneiss, Coral, Agatized coral (one 20 pound chunk) and others, Tumbled rocks, Sandstone, Desert rose, Serpentine (large specimen), Chrysotile (asbestos), Sphalerite, Staurolite, Stibnite, Mammoth teeth. Fossil fern, Spear point end and arrowheads, American Indian pottery shards, Shark's tooth, Beryl crystals, Tourmaline crystals, Petoskey stone, Chalcopyrite, Copper slag, Kaolinite, Pectolite with calcite, Prehuite, Rhyolite, Smoky quartz, Blue quartz, Pyrite concretions, Tonolite, Pyrophyllite, Serpentine, Sodalite, Carrelian, Antigorite, Amazonite, Double flow obsidian, Dendrite, Opals (in matrix), Bismuthenite, Bismuth, Cuprite, Crinoids, Dumite, Zoisite, Talc, Gypsum, Columbite, Blue lace agate, Cerussite, Barite, Variscite, Fluorite, Marganite, Flint, Jade, Rhodonite, Actinolite, Vivianite in Talc, Ulexite, Muscovite, Biotite, Lepidolite, Coquina, Wavelite, Variscite, Sulfur, Agate geode, Fossil deer antlers, Pumice, Amethyst, Satin spar, Molybednite, Rose quartz, Citrine quartz, Pink marble.

After discussion, our club's board of directors decided to set up a table at our gem show and sell the rocks, minerals, and fossils from the collection. We will have the trailer on site and the specimens will be available starting on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, for members and vendors to purchase. Specimens that do not sell will be used at club meetings for door prizes, Chinese auctions, and give-aways.

RALPH BARBER

STONE JEWELRY  
bottle wind chimes

Hernando County Farmers Market  
US 19  
Spring Hill Fl  
352 200 6852  
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# Withlacoochee Rockhounds



## Bench Tips by Brad Smith



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

As a rock hound, I am pleased to be able to share material like this with clubs. Hopefully the tips are of interest to your members and provide a bit of fresh content for your bulletin. I've been involved with lapidary and jewelry making in my own rock club for about twenty-three years. It has added so much to my own life, and I have been glad to do a few things to help build membership and promote sister clubs in my area.

Wishing you and yours a happy holiday season.  
Happy hammering,  
Brad

## Dividers



A set of dividers is a tool that I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the distance

between them.

Dividers can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance, assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box, and the center of the box is at the center of the disk.

With the holidays coming up soon, one of Brad's "How To" jewelry books is a great way to help a friend learn a few new skills. See all the books at [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, Dec. 12th, 7:00 PM at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center



# November Rock Talk

**MR BEAR**  
Native American Style Jewelry  
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360-528-0757      mrbearone@gmail.com

**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

**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](mailto:n1ve@amsat.org)  
or  
**Mike Stone**  
4504 Kingston Dr.  
Hernando Beach, FL 34607

**The Annual  
Withlacoochee Rockhounds  
Gem Show is Coming**  
Veterans Memorial Park  
14333 Hicks Road  
Hudson, FL 34669  
December 6, 7, and 8, 2019




Club member volunteers are needed for the 2019 gem show committee. Sign up at the June club meeting..

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
facebook.com/gailsgifhut  
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Spring Hill, FL 34608  
Text for Appointment  
(847) 420-8705  
Facebook: Dr.GotRox      Email: dr.gotrox@gmail.com

**What is It?**  
Can you identify the specimen below?  
  
**Answer in this Rock Talk.**

Last month's "What is It?"  
**Salt** from Poland. The photo was taken in the museum section of the salt mines in Krakow, Poland by Michele Evens while she was touring eastern Europe in May.  


Goethite

**Withlacoochee Rockhounds  
is now on Facebook**  
[https://www.facebook.com/withlacoocheerockhounds1/?ref=page\\_internal](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, \$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](http://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](mailto: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 \$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 Birx.....	352-587-1702.....	<a href="mailto:judithbirx@hotmail.com">judithbirx@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President.....	Mark Moore.....	352-586-9607.....	<a href="mailto:markles@bellsouth.net">markles@bellsouth.net</a>
Secretary.....	Melody Steverson.....	352-683-9496.....	<a href="mailto:melodye@designsbymelodye.com">melodye@designsbymelodye.com</a>
Treasurer.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Rock Talk Editors.....	Mike Stone / Peggy Burns.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Club Web Master.....	Mike Stone.....	603-524-0468.....	<a href="mailto:n1ve@amsat.org">n1ve@amsat.org</a>
Mailing Reporter.....	Janet Wheeler.....	727-938-3644.....	<a href="mailto:ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com">ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Gem Bag Coordinator.....	Gloria DuPont.....	352-848-5199.....	<a href="mailto:ddupont@tampabay.rr.com">ddupont@tampabay.rr.com</a>
Audio/Visual Coordinator.....	Michael Steverson.....	407-376-5570.....	<a href="mailto:highlander56@gmail.com">highlander56@gmail.com</a>

### Board of Directors

Ralph Barber (past president)  
Judith Birx (president)  
Roberta Oldread (2019)  
Melody Steverson (secretary)

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