



Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

President's Message



Musings, Updates, and More from Club President - Judith Birx

We are about to meet for the second time since this pandemic has started indoors at the Senior Center on the regular meeting date and time (April 14th 7:00pm)! Our First meeting was a success! Let's keep things rolling out!

This is both exciting and concerning at the same time! Even though we are moving towards a new normal or at least something we can call normal for now, its important to note we are still in a Pandemic situation!

So, this is what it means to the club.

- We are still following the CDC guidelines,
- Masks indoors and outdoors,
- 6' feet away from each other,
- Hand sanitizer will be available.
- If you are sick or not feeling well Stay at Home
- If you have been in contact with someone who had the COVID Virus please stay home
- If you are in the high risk Category please stay home
- **YOU ARE ATTENDING AT YOUR OWN RISK**

This months meeting will be presented by Mark Moore. His presentation will be on Enhydros! I for one can not wait! Endydros are simply spectacular! Water in crystals for a million years! WOW! Marks program was awesome last month! I can't to see what he has in store for us!

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- President's Message
- Secretary's Report
- Dinosaur Fossil
- Incredible Meteorite
- Mark Moore and crew
- Mike Stone rock trip

We are allowing our members to come with their items, rocks, and fossils for sale, however, there will be no selling during the presentation, indoors or outdoors. We need to respect our presenters and our educational programs while they are being presented to our members.

If you have items for sale or are interested in buying items, come early we are usually the around 5:30pm. The same goes with the machines we have available to use. If you use a machine you will be expected to help clean that area up.

No sharing of food until further notice. NO LICKING ROCKS! Lol !

Secretary's Report



Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting

Date 3/10/2021

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Judith Birx at 7:10 pm.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silent prayer.

There were two new members to recognize: Paula Jackson and Patty Atkinson.

There were four new guests in attendance: Ray O'Connell, John Pennington and daughter Jennifer, and Kris Gordon.

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. Treasurer Janet Wheeler gave the Treasurer's report. Dave Letasi made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Seconded by Mark Moore. Approved by all.

Old Business

President Birx announced that our April 14th meeting will be at our normal date and time at 7pm. It will be held inside unless things change due to the current pandemic situation.

We will again be following CDC guidelines: Masks or double masks; hand sanitizer; social distancing of six feet; doors will be open if possible; room will be sanitized; gloves recommended when handling money.

If you are sick or were in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID, please do not attend. If you are in the high risk category, please do not attend. You are attending meetings and all activities associated with the Withlacoochee Rockhounds at your own risk.

You will be required to sign a waiver before entering the building.

Mark Moore will present a program on Enhydros for the April program. The club jewelry class is canceled due to the inability to practice six foot social distancing while teaching.

Lauren Bell reported that her trip to Jackson Crossroads Mine was productive and that she is scouting for other Field Trips for the club members. Lynn Walters is still working on setting up a member field trip to Peace River.

President Birx reminded members that the SFMS Rock Swap is coming up this weekend in Live Oak and encouraged members to attend.

New Business

President Birx also reminded members about the Sportsman's Expo at Tom Varn Park on March 20th and 21st and asked for volunteers to man the free booth for the Senior Center. Lynn Walters volunteered.

She also reminded us the Tampa Bay Gem Club Show would be this weekend.

Mark Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Lynn Walters seconded, passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.

Continued on page 9



Jaw-Dropping Fossil Find Contains a Dinosaur Sitting on an Entire Clutch of Eggs

That's a mother's love!

An international team of scientists has announced the discovery of an extraordinary fossilized nest in China, preserving at least eight separate dinosaurs from 70 million years ago.

The clutch of ancient eggs belongs to a medium-sized adult oviraptor, and we know that because the parent is actually part of the fossil. The skeleton of this ostrich-like theropod is positioned in a crouch over two dozen eggs, at least seven of which were on the brink of hatching and still contain embryos inside.



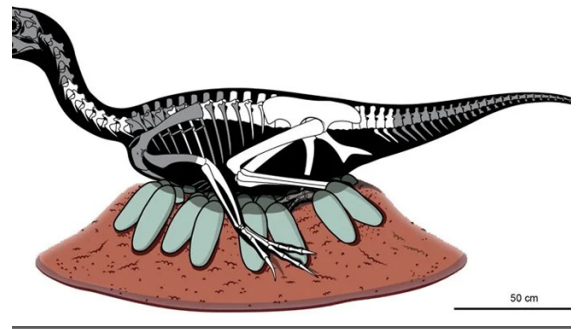
The ancient scene is unprecedented, and provides the first hard evidence that dinosaurs were brooding parents, laying their eggs and incubating them for quite a long time.

"This kind of discovery - in essence, fossilized behavior - is the rarest of the rare in dinosaurs," says paleontologist Matt Lamanna from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH).

"Though a few adult oviraptorids have been found on nests of their eggs before, no embryos have ever been found inside those eggs."

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

Read the entire article here at [ScienceAlert.com](https://www.sciencealert.com)



"It's extraordinary to think how much biological information is captured in just this single fossil," says paleontologist Xing Xu from the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology in Beijing.

A 'Relic of The Early Solar System' Was Just Found on a Driveway in England

The sky is falling, the sky is falling!

A meteorite found in the UK contains an extremely rare combination of minerals that could give scientists a glimpse into how the Solar System formed and even how life emerged on Earth.



The meteorite tumbled to Earth on February 28, when a dazzling fireball zoomed over southwest England, Live Science previously reported. At the time, scientists suspected that quite a few fragments of the space rock likely reached the ground.

One such fragment landed on a driveway in Winchcombe, a town in Gloucestershire, according to a statement from the Natural History Museum in London.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

Read the entire article here at [ScienceAlert.com](https://www.sciencealert.com)



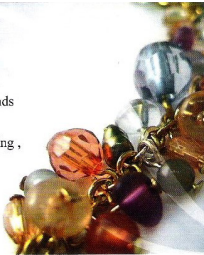
Upon examining the rocky fragments, the researchers identified the meteorite as a carbonaceous chondrite, a rare type of meteorite that originates from an ancient asteroid forged in the early days of the Solar System when the first planets formed.

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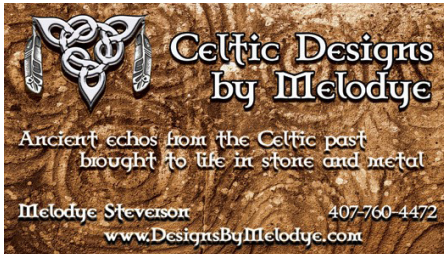
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KELLY JOHNSON

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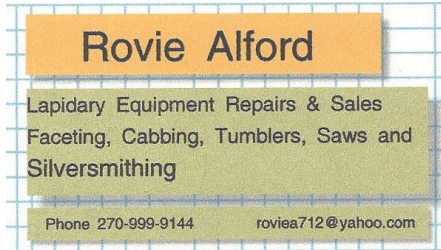
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Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in
Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month.

Contact Michael Stevenson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and
the club website. It will benefit both
your business and our club.

If you ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.

The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.

Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.

Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or
send to:

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

Six members of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds trek to Yankeetown School to update and replace the science displays in the school library

Doing their part to keep the kids edumicated!

Six members of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds; Mark and Leslie, Dave and Susie, and Pat and Sandi made the annual trek to Yankeetown School in Levy County to update and replace the science displays in the school library.

This past year because of the Covid virus we were unable to do the fossil and rock programs we normally do for the 5th grade science classes. However this year we were able to at least come in on a "teacher's day" and update the display. The display features the fossils, artifacts, and items the kids are learning about in their science classes. Two years ago in addition to dinosaur and Florida fossils and a few mineral specimens (Limestone and Phosphate of course) we had a NASA space coast display in one of the two cases that are dedicated to us.

Thanks goes out to Pat and Sandi who took the time to label each fossil with a marking pen to be sure their ID was not lost if they get moved around.

Leslie, Susie, and Sandi got down on the floor behind the cases to set up the display insuring each fossil was where it was supposed to be to match the description list. And they adjusted the fossil books the kids can checkout to learn more about the fossils and added that artistic touch that makes a display pleasant to look at.

If they ever open up the school to visitors again I would recommend a visit or even better, volunteer when we are working on another display. Mark

This is an excerpted portion of the article. I have posted Mark's entire article on our website.

[Read the entire article here at Withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://Withlacoocheerockhounds.com)

All of the fossils are from Florida and most of them are from the Withlacoochee River which flows about 300 yards south of the school.

Keep Those Eyes Peeled

You never know what you'll find.

This is an article from Mike Stone. Even though he's not in the area, he is still with us.

It was the first day after several months when the temperature reached seventy degrees, so Peg and I drove about thirty-five miles north to our favorite fish restaurant in southwest Louisville. Since Covid-19 was still running rampant in Kentucky, we called in a pick-up order from the parking lot and ate it in the safety of our motor home.

Then to burn off our big meal we walked along the River Walk, which is a paved walking and biking path that runs for several miles, both north and south behind Mike Linnig's Restaurant, along the top of a tall levee. The levee holds back the Ohio River during flood stage, protecting businesses, homes, streets and roads in this section of Louisville.

As we walked north we saw an area where people had been illegally dumping trash on the river side of the levee. It had been years since we'd poked around dumps back in the early 2000s when living in New Hampshire, so the lure of discarded furniture, broken electronic equipment, clothing, building materials, and much more was hard to resist. Once we started looking over the trash, we saw an interesting building down by the edge of a steep drop off to the river.

As we approached the abandoned building, we could see that it was surrounded with trash and hundreds plastic bags of household garbage, furniture, building materials, clothing, and unidentifiable plastic.

But what really caught our eyes was the expanse of river rocks that made up much of the ground near the building. The rocks had been tumbled until most were smooth. There was a wide assortment colors, shapes and textures in the several hundred square feet of river rock. We found igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks, and also coral and bi-valve fossils; many worn and smoothed over time by the river.

This is an excerpted portion of the article. I have posted Mark's entire article on our website.

Read the entire article here at
Withlacoocheerockhounds.com



It is important to understand that collecting rocks doesn't always require pre planning and it doesn't require travelling to exotic places, mines, or mountains.

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form 2021

Annual Dues: New individual member, \$25.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00. No charge for paid 2020 members who are renewing for 2021. Returning members from 2019, \$20.00 (\$5.00 discount) for 2021 membership

☐

Check if returning member

☐

Check if current member
with change of information

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☐

Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name

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You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet.
Each field may be clicked on and then you may type in your information.
You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the

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**

Renewing 2020 members : No charge for 2021 membership. Please fill out form and give it to club secretary Janet Wheeler or send it to the above address.

2021

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Date 3/16/2021

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Mark Moore, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Roberta Oldread, Ginny Steverson, Lynn Walters and Michael Steverson.
Board meeting started at 6:54pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.
President Judith Birx had distributed the meeting agenda via Email.
Roberta Oldread made a motion to accept the minutes of our meeting as printed in the newsletter, Ralph Barber seconded. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

President Birx started by reminding the Board that our club is growing. We had 4 new members at our last meeting! John and Jennifer Pennington, Kris Gordon, and Paula Jackson. We had 32 people in attendance.
She stated that the Senior Center Awareness Expo is this Saturday and Sunday, with set up on Friday morning. She said she would be there Friday and Part of Saturday and for break down on Sunday. Lynn Walters mentioned she could be there for some time on Saturday or Sunday and Lauren Bell said she might make it there on Sunday to represent our club.
President Birx continued; "Ralph, Roberta and I were at the 3rd annual Rockhound Roundup put on by the Southeast Federation. We all did well! We met with people from Mississippi, Texas, Alabama, Georgia, Boca Raton FL, St. Augustine FL. And of course Live Oak! I handed out lots of membership forms and flyers for the club!"

- Continued on page 10

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

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Talk* and our website have more exposure
than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com
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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 no cost for children under 18 years of age.

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

2020 Club Officers and Appointees

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

Board of Directors

Ralph Barber (past president)
Judith Birx (president)
Mark Moore (vice president)
Roberta Oldread (2020)
Melodye Steverson (secretary)

Ginny Steverson (2021)
Michael Steverson (2021 appointed)
Lynn Walters (2021)
Janet Wheeler (treasurer)

The William Holland Scholarship awards were up for discussion next. Judith Birx and Roberta Oldread were recipients of the 2020 scholarships, but have been unable to attend due to the pandemic. They are scheduled to attend in October if classes are back up and running. After much discussion, the Board decided to not present scholarships in 2021 and resume awarding the scholarship(s) in 2022.

Melodye Steverson made a motion to forgo presenting the William Holland Scholarship award(s) in 2021 and resume presenting the scholarship(s) in 2022. Mark Moore seconded. Passed unanimously.

The length of the office of President was brought up for discussion. Should we shorten an officer's service to 1 year? This was discussed and tabled for the present time.

We need to encourage members to offer new Logos for our club. We need to have the new logo in place soon. VP Moore made a motion that we judge the logos and select a winner from those presented to the club at the April meeting. Roberta Oldread seconded. Passed.

Scheduling meeting programs was discussed and suggestions were presented for finding program presenters. VP Moore will present several programs over the next few months and he is searching for people to present varied programs through 2021.

The Board needs to create our 2021 Gem Show Committee. President Birx will be approaching several members for that task. The Board also talked about doing our show differently this year. This discussion will continue.

President Birx stated she had looked through some historical paperwork for the club and found many photos and newspaper articles regarding club activities. She wants to preserve these documents by putting them in scrapbooks and will seek member help in this endeavor.

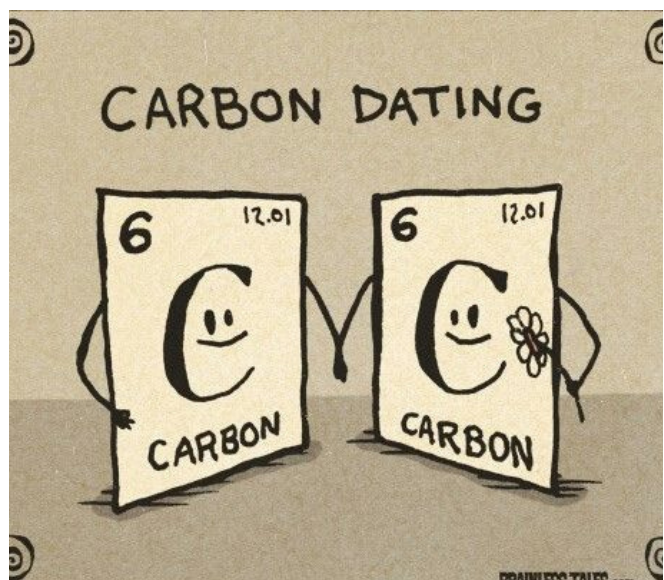
Michael Steverson reported that our Zoom application is paid for through February 2022, so our Board meetings will go more smoothly.

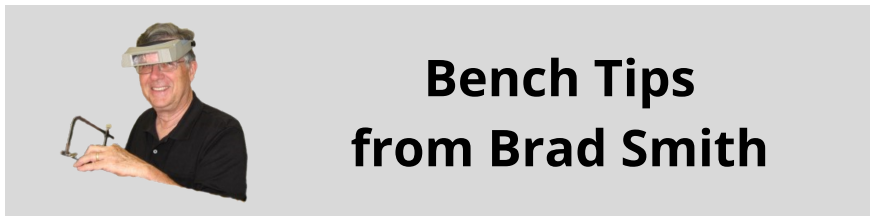
And the other Google apps we are now taking advantage of were all free.

Our next Board meeting will be on 4/20/2021 at 6:30pm, on ZOOM.

The meeting ended at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson





Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners.

With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.



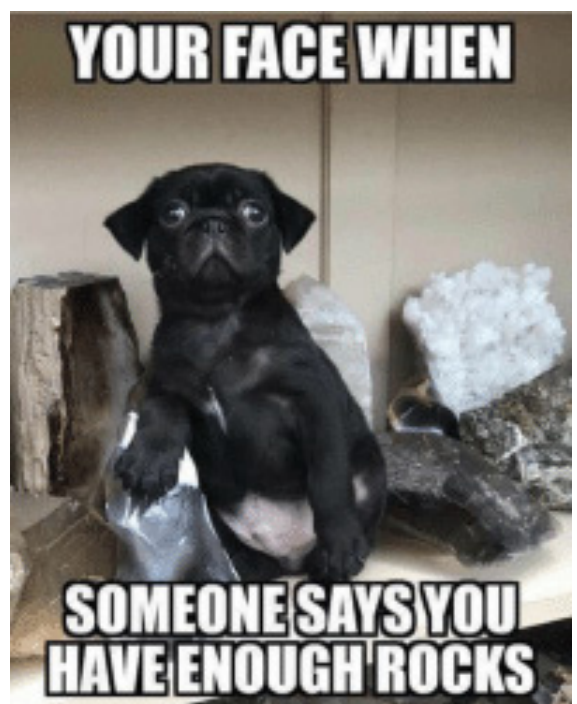
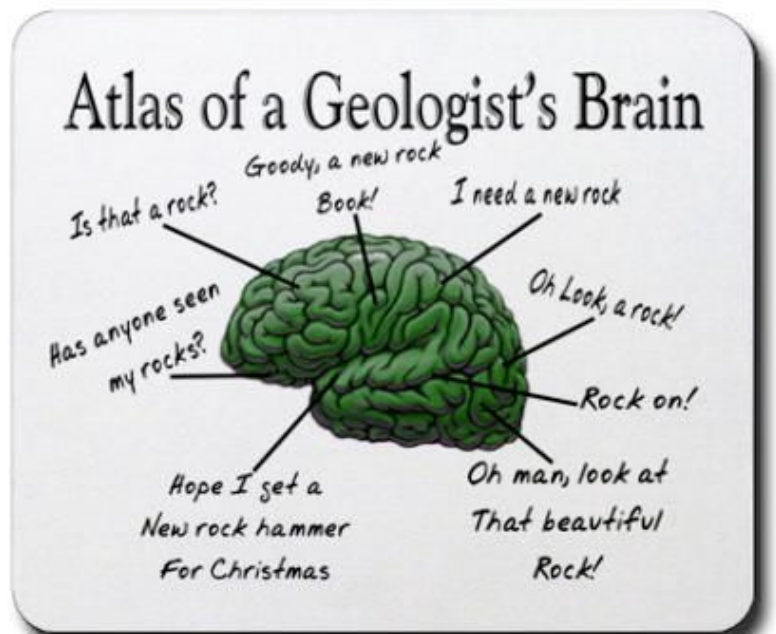
CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased online (<http://amzn.to/2HkNTro>) or from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate. An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.

Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Rock Talk Funny Papers





From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact me and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address.

As noted in last month's Rock Talk, I have created for the club a Google My Business account. Doing this, when someone searches for "lapidary clubs near me", or "rockhounds near me", we will come up in their search. Now that this is live, if you would, please search for "Withlacoochee Rockhounds", and when you see our listing to the right side of the page in Google, please use the "Write a Review" link and give the club a good review. It helps with search engine results. Which means more people find us, and we hopefully acquire new members. It's a win-win!

Please note, the William Holland School, and Wildacres School both have posted schedules of their classes for the summer. These class schedules can be viewed at the follow link, but be aware that classes are filling up fast....even with COVID.

[SFMS William Holland Workshops & SFMS Wildacres Wordshops](#)

Our club is being updated and getting better every day, so it's about time we updated our logo / mascot. If you have any ideas for a new one, please let it be known. Draw it out, or get with someone who can draw it for you, and bring it to our meeting. If you can't make a meeting, let a Board member know and we'll pick it up from you to add to the entries. There isn't a deadline right now, but we need a new illustration representing our club as soon as possible. The "artist" selected will be presented with a very special collectible rock!

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for Programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand it's educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.

Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

Rock On!!!

Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.

These are SCAMS.

Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monetary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.