

# GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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## **President's Message**

Not available at press time.

## **Minutes from August meeting:**

We opened with a prayer by Bill Gillum.

The minutes from July meeting were approved after discussion.

We discussed the shop; everything is done with the exception of one light. It will be ready by this weekend. The shop will be open Saturday 8/15 from 8:00 AM until it gets too hot, so that those interested can learn the machines, or work on projects. John Nicosia and Stephanie Robert will be there, along with anyone else who can come.

Concerning the Display case for the Arboretum, John Bennett will call the Arboretum and get the information we need to proceed with the project.

Bill and Betty Gillum still have rocks and fossils, and several saws, along with housewares for sale as well as the house at 2824 Colonial in Waco over near the old Hillcrest Hospital. They

have had several garage sales. Call them for further information.

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report. All of the club's bills are paid, along with the last of the bills for the show. The federation dues will be in by 9/15. The report was approved. We are getting shorter and shorter on yard signs for the show. Stephanie got a quote from signoutfitters.com for 100 pieces of 24" x 18" corrugated signs with 2 sided, 1 color imprint with a 30" H wire stake, \$303.00 + shipping and handling. With 100 pieces, we could put them at all the major intersections, and the entrances to the major shopping centers, Wal-Marts, HEBs, etc. and there would be enough to make them last a number of years, even with the gradual decrease in numbers retrieved due to theft. There is some debate about where would we keep them. With the decreased size of the shop, we have very limited storage space.

It had been proposed that we get reusable bags with the club logo on them to sell at the show. HEB has similar bags. From W Promotions here in Waco, here is a quote:

There is a one-time \$50.00 set-up fee and the prices are:

\$2.48 each for 100 pieces

\$1.95 each for 250 pieces = \$537.50 including the set-up fee.

\$1.77 each for 500 pieces

If we sell them for \$3.00 each, = \$750.00 we'd come out ahead \$212.50

With the bags also, there is the issue of where will we keep them if we get them, until show time, and where will we keep whatever doesn't sell.

On Club shirts, prices for a cotton short sleeved tee shirt with pocket including 2-color design on the front from W Promotions would be \$12.75 each for Small thru XL, add \$1.25 per X for sizes above XL. There is a minimum order of 24 pieces. The majority vote (unanimous) among members at the meeting was for Royal Blue.

John Bennett has come up with a really nice logo for the show fliers. He will post this design on the website so you can all have a look. Jackie also has embroidered badges that we can use the design from. We could have a printed design on the shirt fronts and the embroidered badge on the sleeve or pocket? We will discuss the design at the next meeting. It would be good if we could get a count on how many shirts we are looking at ordering. Please Contact Stephanie Robert if you think you will want one.

John Bennett has asked for suggestions for places where he can meet with the kid's group a couple of times a month to work on their projects. If someone has a place or suggestions, please contact him.

He is also working on putting together field trips that would be kid-friendly when the weather gets cooler. Everyone would be welcome. All you experienced rock hounds, please HELP! He needs information on possible field trip sites.

There will be no meeting in September, due to the Labor Day Holiday.

The meeting was adjourned.

Stephanie

## A Message from the Show Chair

I wanted to share with you a few Show updates and also an incentive for Active Dues Paid Club Members.

I am still working on spreading the word about our Show to various online outlets and via email. I have also reached out to the Mayborn Museum, in the hopes that they will be able to get us on their calendar early enough so they can attend.

Flyers have begun being printed and I will start bringing stacks of them with me to the meetings. Please feel free to pick up a stack and start placing them around. For those of you that do the Show circuit and set up shop, they would make great advertising on your tables. Remember, our goal is to get the word out to as many people as possible, and perhaps even surpass this past years' numbers.

I have also been busy working on generating or recreating paperwork – Grand Prize ticket slips, Silent Auction slips, Door Prize / Silent Auction donation slips, and a few other show related documents.

Now, I mentioned an incentive for our active dues paid club members. I am going to be running a contest of sorts, starting with our meeting in October and running through our meeting in April. In order to be entered into this contest, you must meet the following criteria:

1. You must be a current active dues paid member.
2. You must attend consecutive club meetings.

The contest works as follows: If you attend a Club Meeting in October and then you attend the November Club meeting, your name will be entered once into the contest. If you then attend the December Club meeting, your name will be entered again into the contest – giving you two entries. On the other hand, if you miss the December Club meeting, you do not earn an entry – so you would still only have one entry. If you attended the January Club meeting after missing December, you would have to attend the February Club meeting in order to get your name entered into the contest. If you attended December and then made the January meeting, you would be entered.

**So, what is the prize?** I will be creating “**FREE SHOW PASSES**” that each active dues paid club member can earn by attending consecutive meetings. So, if you attend each meeting consecutively between October and April and do not miss a meeting, you can potentially earn **6 free passes** to the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Waco Gem & Mineral Show, that you will be able to give out to Friends and Family. Each pass will only be good for One Show Admission – for either an adult or a child. The passes will be issued out by myself to the club member and will be numbered to correspond to each member.

Business cards and flyers will NOT be considered acceptable “FREE” entries into the Show. Free Show Admission will **only** be given to: Vendors there to work (they will have name badges), Club members there to work the Show, the Fossil Grabbers, other Volunteers there to assist, and Scouts in Uniform.

Tickets prices are: **\$5.00 for Adults \$1.00, Children ages 6-12, FREE for Scouts in Uniform. There are no student discounts with ID's!** (As we had this issue at this past show, this is important to mention.)

Another change will be taking place at the Show: The Membership Applications and Grand Prize Ticket slips will be located at a table by the Stage near the Fossil Grabbers. At this past years show, due to the applications and grand prize slips being up front, thus distracting the ticket sellers, several people were witnessed just walking past the ticket table and into the Show. To avoid that, I am moving both to the back area – this provides open space to allow people time and space to complete the applications / grand prize slips without interfering in the flow of traffic into the Show or at the Ticket table. The Grand Prize will still be up at the front table on display.

Name Badges: I would like to see ALL club members at the Show wearing your Club Name Badges. If you do not have your name badge yet, please obtain them from: **Print Mart**. They are located at 202 Deb (behind Allen Samuels Chevrolet). Cost with a pin back is \$8.00 (with tax \$8.66), and with a magnet back is \$11.00 (\$11.91). If you arrive at the show and do not have your name badge, please find me so that I can make you a temporary one for the show.

Jennifer

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## Future Rockhounds of America

We have a temporary meeting place set up. Since the Waco Gem and Mineral Club has the Carleen Bright Arboretum reserved from 6:00 until 9:00 the first Monday of each month, and since the Business Meeting starts at 7:00, the **Fossil Grabbers** will hold their meetings from 6:00 until 7:00. Our first official meeting will be on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Also, on Sunday October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Carleen Bright Arboretum will be holding the annual Fall Children's Fair. The fair lasts from 2:00 until 5:00 and will include tons of displays, demos, and activities to better acquaint children (and maybe a few adults) in the joys of nature. I will be setting up a table to give the kids sample rocks and answer questions. Any help would be appreciated including donations of tumbled stones, non-precious but interesting common stones, and members willing to donate a few hours of their time.

John Bennett

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### Upcoming Shows and Events

**Oct 10–11**            **Temple, TX**  
Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Center

**Sept 26-27**            **Waco, TX**  
Waco Cultural Arts Fest, Indian Springs Park

**OCT 23-24**            **Austin, TX**  
AFMS/SCFMS/AGMS, Palmer Center

**Sept 26-27**            **Humble, TX**  
Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center

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## August 29<sup>th</sup> Field Trip to Post Oak Creek, Sherman, TX

**Purpose:** To collect shark teeth, Ptycodus teeth, small marine fossils, marbles, old glass, and pottery pieces. This trip is open to anyone interested in joining – you do not have to be a club member.

**Date & Time:** August 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am

**Cost:** No cost to hunt.

**Location:** 9 am at the Jack in the Box/Shell at exit 56 (FM 1417) on Hwy 75 in Sherman, TX. We will meet on the east side of the parking lot.

**Prepare:** It is best to wear old shoes and wade into water up to waist deep but some people did fine with rubber boots. Don't go barefoot or wear sandals because there is broken glass. Kids are welcome and will enjoy it. Access to the creek is very steep and can be slick if it has rained recently. You should bring a screen, scoop or shovel, water, lunch, sunscreen, and bug spray. You should also bring zip lock bags for your cellphone, wallet and keys. Parking is limited so carpool if possible.

**Contact:** [CERA.fieldtrips@gmail.com](mailto:CERA.fieldtrips@gmail.com) with any questions or call Felice at 817-800-1367

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The 2015-2016 West Texas rock hunting season will begin on Wed., Oct. 7. The schedule includes the Big Bend Agate Roundup rock hunts scheduled for 10/19 - 11/2.

Areas for hunts include: South Larremore Ranch, Singleton Ranch, Ritchie Ranch, Walker Ranch, East Needle Peak. For details of the schedule, contact the Gritty Greetings Editor, Secretary Stephanie Robert, or hunt leader Teri Smith, [agatehunter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agatehunter@sbcglobal.net).

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### **2015 SINGLE CABOCHON CONTEST**

Hosted by the Austin Gem & Mineral Society

The Austin Gem & Minerals Society is proud to announce the hosting of a single cabochon competition. The competition will commence during the AFMS Show held in Austin, Texas; October 23-25, 2015. The required material must come from one of the South Central Federation states: Arkansas, Louisiana or Texas. Entry deadline is by NOON, October 23, 2015. Entry forms will be available at the show. Contact person is Laird Fowler: [lairdf@earthlink.net](mailto:lairdf@earthlink.net) (512-971-8224). An entry form can be emailed to you prior to the show.

Overall guidelines for fabrication and judging will be defined in the updated American Federation of Mineralogical Federation's Rules: Section 9.0; DIVISION C – LAPIDARY; Rule 9.1.

**Cabochons:** A cabochon shall be lapidary material of a size that could be worn for jewelry, cut free-hand without having been tumbled. Cabochons fall in two categories:

(1) **Traditional:** Traditional cabochons must have domed tops and must have at least one plane of symmetry. A plane of symmetry exists when a straight line passed through the middle of a cabochon gives two equal halves in size and shape. Some examples of traditional cabochons are: heart, cross, star, square, rectangle, diamond, teardrop, pear, circle, oval, and kite.

(2) **Modern and Creative:** Modern and Creative cabochons may have either domed or flat tops and have any shape that exhibits both the skill and creativity of the lapidary. They are not restricted to having a

plane of symmetry. (Category sometimes known as Free-Form). The reverse side of any cabochon modern, traditional, or creative, may have a bevel or chamfer. A bevel or chamfer is not mandatory.

**OUT-OF-CLASS materials for THE 2015 Cab Contest are:**

- (a) Mineral specimens
- (b) Materials embedded in plastics
- (c) Tumbled material
- (d) Material **not** from one of the South Central Federation States: AR, LA and/or TX

While Rule 9.2 considers the following OUT-OF-CLASS, the 2015 Cab Contest will allow the following: Any lapidary entry that has more than fifty percent of the specimens composed of petrified wood.

We look forward to your entry in this competition.

**Notes:**

We need information from newer members about your birthdates. We list the birthdays and anniversaries in each issue, but have missed a few members. If your name isn't listed, please contact the editor.

**Waco Gem & Mineral Club** nametags are available at Print Mart, 202 Deb (behind Allen Samuels Chevrolet). Cost with a pin back is \$8.00 (with tax \$8.66), and with a magnet back is \$11.00 (\$11.91).

Jackie Dodson (address on page 1) is now accepting dues for 2015 at the meeting or by mail. **Dues are \$12.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple.**

Our condolences go to John and Jennifer Bennett, on the passing of John's father, Bobby Martin "Marty" Bennett of Axtell.

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**Next meeting, Monday October 5th, 7:00 PM**

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**BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**September (Sapphire and Aster)**

Cynthia Rodgers      24  
Wendell Gustafson    26



**Sapphire**, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue. Sapphire is a variety of the gem species corundum and occurs in all colors of the rainbow. Pink, purple, green, orange, or yellow corundum are known by their color (pink sapphire, green sapphire). Ruby is the red variety of corundum.

See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org>

## Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>)

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### SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time I make my own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy, and none are as fast as I'd like.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip. I find it's worth practicing the maneuver a couple times on some scrap wire before trying it on completed earrings.



### BALL BURS

I use ball burs quite a bit for carving and for cleaning up bits of solder that need to be removed. The ball shape seems to be more controllable than other cutting burs. They're less apt to grab and walk over your piece. As to sizes I've found that 8 mm is a very useful size for carving while a half mm or smaller at high speed works great for signing your name on the back of your work.

How about a hotel made from salt blocks? The Palacio de Sal is located in the world's largest salt flat, the Salar de Uyuni, in Bolivia. The Salar is devoid of wildlife or vegetation, but home to an estimated 10 billion tons of salt!



The Waco Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies; American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (except July and September) at 7:00 p.m. at the Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001 Bosque Blvd. in Woodway. The workshop is located at 2521 N. Robinson Highway in Waco. Our website is [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org). FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

**Purpose of the Club—**

- To bring about a close association of those persons interested in earth science and lapidary arts
- To increase and disseminate knowledge about rocks, minerals, fossils, Indian artifacts and other geological materials
- To encourage lapidary art and the collection and exhibition of rocks, minerals, fossils and artifacts
- To conduct field trips, meetings, lectures, displays and an annual show for the edification of the public
- To cooperate with educational and scientific institutions and other groups in increasing knowledge and popular interest.



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