

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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President	Andy McDonald 254-655-4172 <a href="mailto:babydocmac@aol.com">babydocmac@aol.com</a>	Treasurer	Jackie Dodson <a href="mailto:jackiedodson66@gmail.com">jackiedodson66@gmail.com</a>
Vice-President	John Bennett 254-733-1658 <a href="mailto:aessic@hotmail.com">aessic@hotmail.com</a>	Secretary	Stephanie Robert <a href="mailto:stephanie.robert1@aol.com">stephanie.robert1@aol.com</a>
Newsletter Staff	John Bennett 254-733-1658 <a href="mailto:news@wacogemandmineral.org">news@wacogemandmineral.org</a>	Website: Webmaster	<a href="http://www.wacogemandmineral.org">http://www.wacogemandmineral.org</a> John Bennett <a href="mailto:webmaster@wacogemandmineral.org">webmaster@wacogemandmineral.org</a>
		2018 Show Chair	John Bennett <a href="mailto:aessic@hotmail.com">aessic@hotmail.com</a>

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### Table of Contents

December Minutes .....	There was no December meeting
A Question for Rockhounds.....	2
Simplified Moh's Test Kit .....	2
Editorial: Older and Slower? By Mel Albright .....	3
Vendor Chair News.....	4
Article: Fluorite By John Bennett.....	5
Fluorite Fact Sheet .....	8
January Birthstone: Garnet.....	9
Cabochon Class Announcement .....	10
Upcoming Shows and Events.....	11
2018 Waco Gem and Mineral Show Contests .....	11
January Calendar of Events.....	12
Fluorite Word Search Puzzle .....	13
Notes .....	14

Our next meeting begins at 9:00 am on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Gritty Greetings: The Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club

## A Question for Rockhounds

Last month's question was; How do you decide the best way to cut a stone so that the colors and patterns are displayed for slabbing and eventual cabbing?

I had said that it was a very good question. I was wrong. It was a horrible question. Or, at least the answers were horrible. The answers ranged from; "Well, you never really know." to "Until you start cutting, it's all luck." I took some of my rocks and spent a while looking at them. I looked at the outside surface and determined that, unless the rock you are turning into slabs is single-colored, you really don't know what it looks like on the inside. A geode is probably going to make pretty donut shapes. Petrified wood is going to have a 'grain' that you can see to get an idea what it will look like cut in different directions. Hematite is... well, hematite. But agates and jasper and lapis and all of those other stones might have hidden colors. Or worse yet, hidden cavities. Even the petrified wood that looks good on the outside might have worm-holes and crystal formations hidden away inside the piece. I did find a way to stack the deck in your favor so to speak. Even if it is only a little bit. When you are getting ready to explore your 'virgin' rock, cut a thin slice off of one end of the stone. Unless your stone is an expensive specimen, or it is rare, your slice can be as thin as you want. I would recommend that you make the slice thick enough to get a cab from if you don't want to waste any part of your rock though. This will open up a little 'window' that lets you see some of the inside of your stone. If your stone is large enough and if you don't like what you see, cut a slice off of a different area. All of the slices create a smooth, flat surface that will make slabbing easier. This is not a perfect solution by any means. The lace in that purple agate may start further into the stone than your cut. You might have just sliced off the beige part of that picture jasper and missed the 'picture' itself. Most of the time though, you will get a good idea as to what your next slice will look like.

I hope this helps.

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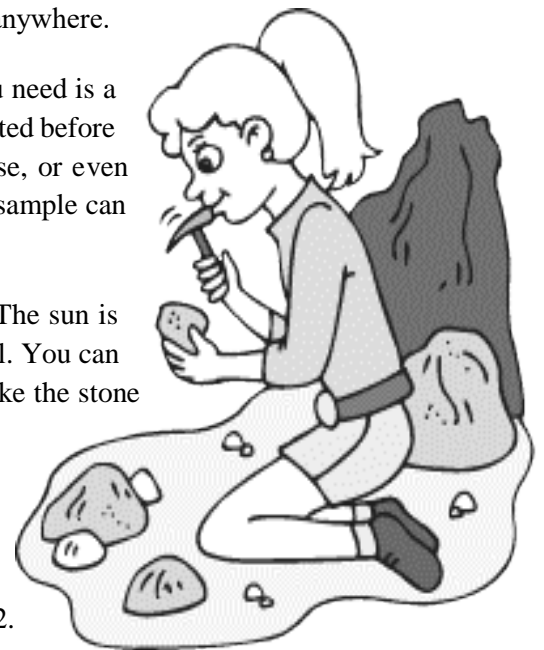
### Simplified Moh's Hardness Testing

Here is how to make a simple Moh's Hardness Test Kit that you can carry almost anywhere.

The best part is that you can put everything in your pocket or purse easily. All you need is a pair of nail clippers with attached file or a plain metal nail file, a penny that was minted before 1982, and a piece of quartz. And any type of quartz will work; clear, smoky, rose, or even amethyst. The testing will help to narrow down the list of mineral types that your sample can be.

The first thing that you will need to do is to get into an area with good lighting. The sun is your friend, but bright incandescent light (not fluorescent) will work almost as well. You can perform the test in a cave or mine with a decent flashlight, but it is far better to take the stone outside.

While holding the stone in one hand, try to scratch a smooth area of it with your fingernail. If you bite your nails (or they have been ground down trying to pry your specimen from its matrix) let someone else try scratching it with their fingernail. If the fingernail makes a visible scratch on the stone, it has a Moh's Hardness of 1 or 2.



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That is a soft stone and you should try to protect it from damage. If there is no scratch that you can see, try scratching it with the edge of the copper penny. The reason you use a penny minted before 1982 is that those pennies are almost solid copper (95% actually). In 1982 the US Mint switched to minting pennies with only a little copper (2.5%) mixed with zinc that easily grinds off against typical stones. If the penny does scratch the sample, your stone has a Moh's Hardness between 2 and 4. This stone can easily get damaged if you just drop it into your pocket. If you still don't see any scratches, try scratching the stone with the tip of the steel nail file. If the file puts a scratch on the stone, it has a Moh's Hardness between 4 and 6. If you still see no scratches, use the point of the quartz piece to try and make a scratch. If the quartz scratches the rock, your sample has a Moh's Hardness between 6 and 8. This is the hardness for most agate and quartz varieties. You can dump it into a carry bag with other specimens and not worry about too much damage. If the quartz doesn't leave a scratch, your stone has a hardness of 8 or better. That would be a stone that you could probably carry in your pocket without fear of it getting damaged.

While this test won't necessarily tell you what your sample is, it will make it a lot easier to figure out. It is also helpful when purchasing specimens from shops and other collectors. If you know the hardness the stone you are buying is supposed to be, but it fails the Moh's Hardness Test, you might want to think again before you buy it.

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## **EDITORIAL: OLDER AND SLOWER?**

by *Mel Albright*

(Article originally published in June 1997 AFMS Newsletter)

Are you all getting older and slower? No, not you individuals. Your club! Are you getting "sot" in your ways? Do you ever venture new things? Are you running out of members? Are all your members retired or nearly so? Do you sit around and wonder where the new members are and why they drop out? If you answered yes to many of the above, it's time to stir the pot.

Through e-mail comments and swap bulletins, I realize that many of our clubs are "fading into the sunset". They are static and rarely get new members and seldom keep those they get. What kind of way is that to run an organization?

The big question is "Why" Why are we not getting new, young members? Why can't we keep those we get? Why are we happy with a fading club?

First - let's consider today's young family. First, we must recognize that they are busy, busy, busy and are scheduled day and night for family, child, church, and civic activities. So, if we want their attention, we must offer something unique. Many clubs do this - they have lots of field trips, they have lessons, they have special youth programs, they talk at schools and to the scouts and whoever else they can. They recognize that kids love rocks and fossils and are the key to their parent's attention. Second - and this is VERY important - we must plan our activities WAY ahead of time, so that we can get on the young family's schedule. If there's an exciting field trip announced for 3 weeks from now, that's too late. They are already scheduled for that Saturday. Try 6 or 8 weeks or more. Then, we must stick to our schedule. They'll soon drop out if they plan a club activity and then we change it at the last minute. Your old members may be worn out on a collecting site, but the new ones surely are not!

Now, what do most new folks find interesting? HOLD ON! It is NOT shows, swaps, contests, show cases, rock shops and the like. It is field trips. It is show and tell - touch and feel. It is teach me how. It is hands-on workshops. It is "gee whiz" like dinosaurs, and sea fossils and beautiful minerals and interesting crystals and glowing fluorescents and plate tectonics and "why" things are as they are. And - how rockhounds fight pollution!! Your club better be an active environmental protector. (*Read the AFMS field trip rules*) Just watch the places where non-members stop and spend time at a show and the places they leave soon. AND it is variety. If every meeting is just like the last meeting, they'll soon disappear.

Maybe you don't agree with everything I've said. Fair enough. BUT, please take a close, critical look at what your club is doing and how they are doing it. If need be, I hope you find ways to liven things up and keep the hobby glowing and growing in your part of the world. This is a great hobby and a wonderful, unending, fascinating education! AND IT IS FUN!!!!

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## VENDOR CHAIR NEWS

Here's a short update as far as our Vendors:

1. We have 15 fully paid, and 4 half paid (deposit = ½ of booth space) Vendors as of this writing.
2. We have 2 contracts in hand, with payment expected in the next few weeks.
3. All of our Vendors, thus far, represent **21** different cities in the State of TEXAS!
4. We have 80 pairs of tables currently spoken for in some way (paid, partial pay, contract in hand or written communication of contracts & payments en-route – keeping in mind, that is IF they all remit their contracts & payments as indicated).
5. We have 17 pairs of tables remaining in available Vendor / Exhibitor / Demonstrator space – like for the Mammoth Site, Dallas Paleo, RRGPA, etc. (This number does not include Club tables such as Membership, Silent Auction, Spin The Wheel, etc. – though I will need a total count of Club Tables needed no later than April 9th).

PLEASE NOTE: Word of our Show has spread Far and Wide, and with that, the desire to be a Vendor at our Show has increased as well. As of this writing, we have several NEW Vendors already on the Waiting List. Contracts will begin going out to that list on January 16<sup>th</sup> (per the contract, previous years' contacts have until January 15<sup>th</sup>) – remaining booth space will be filled as contracts are received, regardless of if they are NEW or Prior.

**Vendor Pot Luck** – To take place at the Venue Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at approximately 6:30 p.m.

This year, the **THEME** will be **Texas BBQ**. The dishes that we would want to have would be things you'd see at a BBQ, such as:

- Beef – Sliced - \_\_\_\_\_
- Chicken, Rotisserie – **Jim and Alison Redding**
- Chicken, Boneless / Skinless - \_\_\_\_\_
- Sausage - \_\_\_\_\_
- Baked beans – **Jennifer Bennett**
- Pasta / Potato salad - \_\_\_\_\_
- Green salad & assorted dressings - \_\_\_\_\_
- Deviled eggs - \_\_\_\_\_
- Pickles & olives - \_\_\_\_\_
- Assorted breads & butter - \_\_\_\_\_
- Assorted BBQ sauces - \_\_\_\_\_
- Assorted chips & dips - \_\_\_\_\_
- Assorted beverages – to include tea, sodas (both diet and regular), bottled water, coffee - \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to Sign Up to bring one of the above dishes, or have other ideas / suggestions for a dish you'd like to bring, please relay them to Jennifer Bennett, Vendor Chair at [bennettje70@gmail.com](mailto:bennettje70@gmail.com) so that they can be added to the Menu List. **Final Sign-Ups** need to be made no later than **Monday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**. This includes signing up to bring beverages. **Dishes need to be in the Venue's kitchen no later than 6:15 p.m., so that they may be placed out.**

PLEASE NOTE: Our Vendors, Exhibitors and Demonstrators will line up to get their food first. At least 1 Club Member will need to be inside the Kitchen area while our Guests receive their food, to assist in any fashion. It would be nice to have possibly 1 other person on hand, in the event a Guest needs assistance carrying items to the dining area. Club Members will then line up to follow our Guests through line.

Gritty Greetings: The Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club

# FLUORITE

*By John Bennett*

Fluorite, also known as fluorspar, is one of the most popular and collected crystals in the world. Fluorite naturally occurs in so many different colors that it is sometimes called "the most colorful mineral in the world". Although pure fluorite is colorless, most fluorite you will see is purple, blue, green, or yellow. Occasionally you will find pink, red, white, brown, or black specimens. Fluorite with bands of different colors can also be found. The different colors of fluorite are dependent on several things. Various impurities in the stone and exposure to radiation are



responsible for any color found in fluorite. The coloring is sometimes caused by hydrocarbon impurities which can be removed by heating the stone.

Fluorite is usually formed into near perfect cubes. Occasionally octahedrons or dodecahedrons are found. Seldom will hexoctahedrons and tetrahexahedrons be found. Crystals may also be a combination of octahedrons and cubes. Dodecahedral growths might be present, forming intricate crystals. Most crystals will have cleavage marks and fragments from large crystals are common. Octahedral crystal fragments are flat, triangular shaped pieces. Cubic fragments are flat, three-dimensional rectangles. Crystals can form penetration twins where one cube grows into another cube. Fluorite specimens are also found as grainy deposits, botryoidal growths, spherical balls, and massive chunks.

Intensely colored fluorite is sometimes cut and faceted for collectors or for including in displays. Ovals, rounds and cushions are the most common shapes, but fancier cuts can be found. Banded fluorite is often cut into cabochons. Fluorite is a softer mineral and will chip when worked so you must be very careful when cutting it. A lot of fluorite is sold in its natural, crystal form.

Fluorite is usually sold untreated however some specimens may have been enhanced through

irradiation gamma rays to create neon colors. Synthesized fluorite is also available in a variety of colors. Some dealers may apply an oil treatment to enhance its luster.

Fluorite is found all over the world with large deposits being recorded in over 9,000 different areas. It is estimated that there are over 230 million tons of fluorite waiting to be mined. China is the leading producer of fluorite with over three million tons mined each year. One of the largest deposits in North America, with over 60 square miles of workable veins, is in Newfoundland, Canada in the area of the St. Lawrence harbor. Other areas with significant fluorite production are located in Argentina, Austria, England, France, Germany, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Namibia, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United States. Almost all of the fluorite that is used in the United States is imported because production costs here are so high. A unique variety, known as chlorophane fluorite, is found in very limited quantities at Amelia Court House, Virginia; Franklin, New Jersey; the Bluebird Mine in Arizona; Gilgit, Pakistan; Mont Saint-Hilaire, Quebec, Canada and at Nerchinsk in the Ural Mountains of Russia.

Synthetic fluorite is a byproduct of phosphoric acid production, petroleum processing, and uranium processing and several companies have been producing and selling it. There is a limestone producer in Illinois that is recovering and selling fluorite from their quarry with hopes of increasing their fluorite production in the very near future.

There are many uses for fluorite. Probably the most well-known is in extracting fluoride from the fluorite and adding it to toothpaste, mouthwash, and drinking water in order to prevent tooth decay. Fluorite is added to steel and aluminum during production to lower the melting point of the raw materials. The purest grades of fluorite are used in the manufacture of hydrogen fluoride and hydrofluoric acid. Fluorite is also used in the manufacture of opalescent glass, enamels, and cooking utensils.



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Fluorite also has ornamental and lapidary uses. It is used for ornamental carvings, with expert carvings taking advantage of the stone's zonation. Specimens of fluorite with exceptional color and clarity are often used by lapidaries to cut gemstones and make ornamental objects. High-quality specimens of fluorite make beautiful faceted stones; however, the mineral is so soft and cleaves so easily that these stones are either



sold as collector's specimens or used in jewelry that will not be subjected to impact or abrasion. Fluorite is also cut and carved into ornamental objects such as small figurines and vases. These are often treated with a coating or impregnation to enhance their stability and protect them from scratches.

Exceptionally clear fluorite has been used as lenses for microscopes, telescopes, and cameras. Instead of using natural fluorite crystals as lenses, pure fluorite added to other materials to produce synthetic "fluorite" lenses of higher quality.

Castleton in Derbyshire, England, is one of the oldest known localities for fluorite. Under the name of Derbyshire Blue John, a banded purple and white variety of fluorite was extracted from several mines. Blue John is now scarce and very little of it is mined each year, predominately for ornamental and lapidary use.

Antozonite is a radioactive form of fluorite that contains uncombined fluorine ions. When antozonite, or 'stinkspar', is cut or broken, it gives off ozone and hydrogen fluoride.

Chlorophane is a thermoluminescent variety of fluorite which glows with a bright green to blue-green light when heated or exposed to UV light. It can exhibit thermoluminescence when warmed in your hand.

Despite being a soft stone, fluorite works well in protected jewelry like pendants, brooches or earrings. Multicolored beads of fluorite are occasionally used in bracelets, but care should always be taken when wearing fluorite. Fluorite is fragile compared to most gemstones and, since they are softer than quartz, simply wiping off dust can cause them to lose their polish and develop surface scratches. Caring for fluorite is about the same as caring for opal. Avoid wearing fluorite jewelry when engaging in vigorous physical activity, such as exercise, sports, or household chores. When cleaning fluorite, use soapy water and a soft cloth. Be sure to rinse well to remove soapy residue.

## Fluorite in History

Fluorite is considered to be one of most popular minerals in the world among gem and mineral collectors, second only to quartz. It is often referred to as 'the most colorful mineral in the world' owing to its variety of brilliant colors. Fluorite was originally called fluorospar. The first written discussion was in a 1530 work "*Bermannvs sive de re metallica dialogus*," by Georgius Agricola, as a mineral noted for its usefulness as a flux. Agricola, a German scientist with expertise in philology, mining, and metallurgy, named fluorospar as a neo-Latinization of the German Flussspat from Fluß (stream, river) and "Spat" (meaning a nonmetallic mineral akin to gypsum, spærstån, spear stone, referring to its crystalline projections). Its name was changed to fluorite in 1797 by Italian mineralogist and military officer, Carlo Antonio Galeani Napione.

In 1852, George Gabriel Stokes discovered that specimens of fluorite had the ability to produce a blue glow when illuminated with light which, in his words, was "beyond the violet end of the spectrum." He called this phenomenon "fluorescence" after the mineral's name. The term became widely accepted. Many samples of fluorite exhibit fluorescence under ultraviolet light, but there are also many specimens that do not fluoresce. Fluorite typically glows a blue-violet color under both short-wave and long-wave ultraviolet light. Some specimens are known to glow a cream or white color but red, purple, yellow, and green also occur. The fluorescence of fluorite may be due to mineral impurities. The color of visible light emitted when a sample of fluorite is fluorescing appears to be highly dependent on where the specimen was collected.



For over 300 years, Chinese have used this wonderful crystal for carvings and in figurines. During the eighteenth century, fluorite was ground into powder and mixed with water to treat kidney disease. The ancient Romans believed that drinking alcoholic beverages out of vessels carved from fluorite would help to prevent drunkenness, which is similar to the beliefs attached to purple amethyst.

Today, the term 'fluorspar' is primarily used for the industrial and chemical form of fluorite, while 'fluorite' is the term used in reference to the gem and mineral.

# Mystical Properties of Fluorite

Fluorite is a wonderful crystal to have because it will help to reduce your fears of the future. It will guide you in making sense of things when you're feeling confused, and it will remove any trace of mental fog that's keeping you from creating order or achieving harmony in your life.

Fluorite enhances and boosts your immune system and will help in the regeneration and restructuring of your deteriorated and waning cells. It keys on your respiratory tract and skin. Fluorite is also believed to heal ulcers and injuries fast. It will also strengthen your bones and tissues. It alleviates and relieves you from arthritis, rheumatism, and spinal injuries, and improves the discomfort caused by nerve pain, shingles, and cramps.

Fluorite intensifies your ability to think and judge. It assists in processing and comforting your mental condition when in situations of chaos. Fluorite helps you to keep an unbiased opinion to everything, increases your life force, and balances both the right and left hemispheres of your brain.

Fluorite cleanses and stabilizes your aura. An exceptional learning aid, fluorite will amplify your concentration and memory. It gives you a sense of self-confidence and helps to allow wise decision-making. It keeps you in balance mentally and physically. Fluorite increases your instinctive abilities, which connect the human mind with the heavenly spirits and universal truths.

Fluorite is a particularly useful crystal to have at work when you are surrounded by hostile or opposing forces. It's also a powerful crystal to ward off negative energies that threaten your personal relationships. The energies of this crystal can help you to become a more organized person.

On a psychic level, fluorite is a very protective crystal. It will help you know when there are external forces trying to control or manipulate you, and it can effectively shut down any kind of mental or psychic manipulation. If you're feeling lost, confused, or empty, the uplifting energies of this crystal will reassure you that everything's going to be alright.



Black fluorite is used to clear negativity and negative energy from your aura and astral areas. Black Fluorite is also used to decrease or eliminate nightmares.

Blue fluorite has the quality of protecting your emotions and restoring emotional balance. It is a stone of justice. It is used to give up fixed ideas that impede your life and spiritual progress. Blue fluorite is useful for coughs and hoarseness as well as other ear, nose, and throat problems.

Clear fluorite is a stone of purification and order. It can be used for emotional stability and eliminating baseless guilt. Clear fluorite removes confusion and brings in a harmonious order in its place. It guards you against psychic attack and strengthens your consciousness. It has been used for skin problems, the respiratory system, nerve disorders, colds, and allergies.

Green fluorite is an excellent all-purpose healing stone that promotes healing on all levels. Green fluorite is used for detoxification, heart issues, the digestive system, arthritis, gout, and fungal infections.

Magenta fluorite is a stone of the heart and inner truth. It can bring about emotional understanding and forgiveness so you have a more positive outlook on life and your spirituality.

Rainbow fluorite brings a combination of energies to enhance flexibility, free thinking, and emotional brightness. It can bring enhanced protection in the areas enhanced by all of its combined types and is used to repair muddy or torn areas of the aura. If the multicolored fluorite has a lot of one particular color, it will be strong in that color's area of influence.

Pink fluorite is a stone of good will, a positive nature, and cheer. It can clear the energy field. Pink fluorite is used to promote better heart function, hormone balance, and relieve osteoporosis.

Purple fluorite strengthens your mystical insight and psychic awareness. It is used to aid concentration and memory. Purple fluorite is used for colds, tumors, and septic wounds.

Yellow fluorite is a powerful stone of the mind. It can greatly enhance learning. Yellow fluorite is also a sunny stone that brings a positive attitude and can help bring your actions in line with your intentions. Yellow fluorite is used for eating disorders including anorexia, stomach problems, joints, liver problems and detoxification.

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# Fluorite Fact Sheet

**Color:** While pure fluorite is colorless, fluorite can occur in all colors, including colorless, white, purple, blue, red, pink, orange, yellow, brown, green, gray, and black. Fluorite may also be multicolored and banded.

**Luster:** Vitreous

**Diaphaneity:** Transparent to translucent

**Hardness:** 4. Fluorite is the Moh's standard for hardness of 4.

**Streak:** white

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Cleavage:** Perfect, octahedral

**Habit:** Well-formed coarse sized crystals; also nodular, botryoidal, rarely columnar or fibrous; granular, massive

**Crystal System:** Isometric

**Crystal Forms and Aggregates: Euhedral crystals.** Most commonly octahedrals and cubic; seldom in dodecahedral crystals. Combinations of octahedra and cubes are also possible. Crystals frequently form penetration twins, where one cube is intergrown in another ("fluorite twins"). Also occurs as clusters of intergrown cubes, grainy, botryoidal, as spherical balls, and massive.

**Luminescence:** The color of visible light emitted when a sample of fluorite is fluorescing depends on where the original specimen was collected. Neither does all fluorite fluoresce equally brightly, even from the same locality. Fluorite may also be thermoluminescent or triboluminescent.

**Magnetism:** Nonmagnetic

**Density/Specific Gravity:** 3.00 – 3.25. 3.181

**Rock Type:** Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic

**Radioactivity:** Radioactive fluorite (aka stinkspar, fetid fluorite or antozonite) exists but is unhealthy to use due to its radioactive nature. Its name comes from the smell when it is cracked, and it releases ozone and hydrogen fluoride.

**Formula:** CaF<sub>2</sub>



## JANUARY BIRTHSTONE: GARNET

For babies born in January, the garnet is the perfect gem to represent their birthstone. This beautiful stone, which is most commonly red but can be found in a range of other colors, symbolizes peace, prosperity and good health. Some say it even has the power to give the wearer eternal happiness, health and wealth.

The word “*garnet*” comes from the 14th Century Middle English word “*germet*” meaning dark red. The word is derived from Latin “*granatum*” which means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone’s resemblance to the beautifully red seeds of the pomegranate.

Garnet is actually the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the Pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of Tsavorites. Some rare garnets are even blue, colorless, or—most rare of all—change colors in different lights. But the most common color is a beautiful range of reds, from rust colored to deep violet-red.

The garnet is a very durable gemstone (6.5-7.5 on the Mohs scale) found all over the world, including Wyoming, Czech Republic, Greece, Russian, Tanzania, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and India.

The folklore on garnet is extensive. Legend has it that the garnet can bring peace, prosperity and good health to the home. Some even called it the “Gem of Faith,” and it’s believed that to those who wear it and do good, more good will come. (Conversely, it was also said to bring very bad fortune to those who commit bad acts while wearing it.)

The garnet also symbolized deep and lasting friendship. With that legend in mind, give a garnet to someone whose friendship you deeply value.

No matter why or how you wear garnet, this beautiful gemstone is perfect for those who share January birthdays and get to start each New Year with a sense of goodwill, happiness, and purpose.

The garnet is so durable, remnants of garnet jewelry can be found as far back as the Bronze Age. Other references go back to 3100 BC when the Egyptians used garnet as inlays in their jewelry and carvings. The Egyptians even said it was the symbol of life. The garnet was very popular with the Romans in the 3rd and 4th Century. This gemstone was also used as a talisman for protection both by warriors going into battle and to those who wanted to ward off pestilence and plague. Some ancient healers and wise men even placed garnets in wounds and praised its healing powers.

Garnet jewelry has been a fixture throughout the ages. Garnets were often used as signet rings in ancient Rome, and the nobility favored garnets in the Middle Ages.

The Victorians made garnets very popular during that time period. Some of the loveliest garnet jewelry from that era mimics its pomegranate namesake, with clusters of tiny red gems forming a larger statement piece.

Today, the garnet can be found in a range of jewelry pieces and styles, from beautiful rings to stunning tiaras. Since the garnet can come in a range of colors, rare garnets in green or blue make breathtaking pieces, especially in pendants or drop earrings.

If you’re looking to purchase a garnet for yourself or a loved one, it is a great way to celebrate friendship, toast a 2nd wedding anniversary or recognize the wearer’s January birthday.

When buying, first visit an AGS jeweler, who can assist you in purchasing exactly the right stone and piece. Look at how the garnet reacts under light, both natural and synthetic and check for an intense, saturated color.

Remember, garnets commonly come in a wide spectrum of reds, but can also be green, pink, colorless or blue. The price of the piece will likely increase for more rare colors like green or blue.

Garnets can also be judged along some of the same parameters as diamonds, with clarity and cut affecting the beauty and value of the stone.

It should be noted that some garnets have inclusions that are part of the beauty of the overall stone (like “*horsetails*” in Demantoid garnets, or Hessonite garnets which sometimes have a “*turbulent*” look). So you may discover that you like the unique look these inclusions bring to the piece.

Try to find a cut that spreads light evenly over the surface of the gemstone. This will help to bring out the overall beauty and color of the garnet.

No matter which stone or piece you choose, remember that the garnet is known for its durability and richness of color, so your investment will not only have great emotional value but could be a piece that stands the test of time.

Courtesy of: <http://www.americangemsociety.org>

# Cabochon Classes

There will be two 4-hour Cabochon Cutting Classes taught during the month of January. The first will be on Saturday January 13<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. The second will be on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Both classes will be held in the **Waco Gem and Mineral Clubhouse Workshop** in Elm Mott.

These classes will cover the use of and safety procedures for the Highland Park 18-inch Slab Saw, the use of and safety procedures for the Lortone Grinders, as well as Basic Cabochon Design and Shaping.

You need not be a member to attend. These classes will be open to the public. Waivers will be available for non-members.

**Requirements:** A desire to learn how to cut cabochons for fun, profit, and relaxation.

**Registration:** There is no pre-registration necessary. Make sure to allow yourself at least 2 hours to attend an individual class session. Members and their guests will be able to attend one or both sessions.

There will be 2 Class Cost Options for these Classes:

- Option **A:** Class Instructors supply all materials. You get to select one or two cabochons that you have cut during that session to keep. All other cabochons that you have cut during that session will become donations to the Waco Gem and Mineral Club.
- Option **B:** You supply your own materials. One half of the cabochons that you have cut during that session will become donations to the Waco Gem and Mineral Club. You get to keep the rest of the cabochons that you cut during that session.

All donated product will be used to replenish the Club's dwindling supply of cabochons. The Waco Gem and Mineral Club will sell these cabochons during club auctions that occur at various times during the year. Club cabochons are also donated to be used as prizes and sale items during the Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show.

Any cabochons that you elect to keep from these classes will be eligible for entry into the Waco Gem and Mineral Show 2018 Cabochon Competition.

## Upcoming Shows and Events

January 1-	<b>Quartzite</b> Everywhere around Quartzite, AZ. All year.	Quartzite, AZ
January 20-21	<b>Hill Country Gem &amp; Mineral Show</b> Lady Bird Johnson Park: Pioneer Pavilion 1606 S State Hwy. 16 (830) 456-5419 <a href="mailto:gedeonjim!@gmail.com">gedeonjim!@gmail.com</a>	Fredricksburg Rockhounds  Fredricksburg, TX 78624
January 25-	<b>Tucson Gem and Mineral Show</b> Basically, the entire city of Tucson and surrounding areas	Tucson, AZ
January 26-28	<b>East Texas Gem and Mineral Society Show</b> Tyler Rose Center 400 Rose Park Dr. (903) 795-3860 <a href="mailto:keithharmon19@yahoo.com">keithharmon19@yahoo.com</a>	East Texas Gem and Mineral Society  Tyler, TX

For more information about specific times, and contact information, please investigate before you go to any of these events.

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### 2018 WACO GEM AND MINERAL SHOW CONTESTS

The **COOKIE** Contest will once again be making its appearance at the 2018 Show. **The Theme of the COOKIE Contest is – TEXAS.** All cookie entries must relate to Texas in some way...be that using TEXAS Honey, TEXAS Pecans, etc.

Sign-Ups for the Cookie Contest will be open until the end of the April Club Meeting, at which time, only those individuals already signed up will be allowed to enter. Only 1 Cookie Entry per person. Cookies **MUST** be provided to Vendor Chair no later than 6:00 p.m. on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>, as the judging will take place during the Vendor Pot-Luck. When presenting Cookie to Vendor Chair, it must include: The Name of the Cookie and What makes it TEXAS – nothing to indicate who the cookie maker was.

The **CABOCHON** Contest will also be making its appearance at the 2018 Show. All Cabochon Entries must have been made by YOU – meaning you may not go out and purchase a pre-made Cabochon and simply reshape it and claim you did it – you must have cut that Cabochon yourself from some form of material.

Sign-ups (to include giving CABS to Vendor Chair) for the Cabochon Contest will be open until the end of the April Club Meeting, at which time, only those individuals already signed up will be allowed to enter. No more than 3 Cabochons may be entered, per person. When presenting Cabochons to Vendor Chair, each must include: The Name of the Material the Cabochon is made from. Cabochons may not be: Wire-Wrapped, placed into any type of setting, or have any identifying marks upon them.

You may sign up for either or both of the above contests one of two ways:

1. Email the Vendor Chair at: [bennettje70@gmail.com](mailto:bennettje70@gmail.com) OR
2. Sign up on the Sign Up Sheets located at the Waco Gem and Mineral Clubhouse, on top of the display case, to the right of the front door
3. No attempting to “Stack the Vote” in either contest please.

WINNERS of both Contests will be announced at the end of the May Waco Gem and Mineral Club Meeting. Winners of either contest must be in attendance at the meeting when the Winners are announced in order to claim their Prize. In the event the winner is not present, the 2<sup>nd</sup> place individual for that Contest will be announced, and if present, will claim the Prize. If the 2<sup>nd</sup> place individual is not present, the 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be announced, and so on.

Gritty Greetings: The Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club

# January 2018 Calendar of Events

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
Andy & Kelly McDonald Anniversary	Quartzite Begins					January Meeting 9 am – 11 am
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
				Wendell & Yolande Gustafson Anniversary		Cabochoon Class 10 am – 2 pm  Yolande Gustafson Birthday
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
	John & Kay Langston Anniversary					Cabochoon Class 10 am – 2 pm  Fredricksburg Rockhounds Show
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
Fredrickburg Rockhounds Show				Tucson Begins	East Texas G&M Show	East Texas G&M Show
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	1	2	3
East Texas G&M Show						

# FLUORITE

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 CHINA  
 CHLOROPHANE  
 CLEAR  
 CLEAVAGE  
 COLLECTION  
 COLORLESS  
 CRYSTAL  
 CUBE  
 EARRING  
 ENAMEL  
 ENGLAND  
 FLUORESCENT

FLUORIDE  
 FLUORITE  
 FLUORSPAR  
 FLUX  
 FRAGMENTS  
 GAMMA  
 GEM  
 GLASS  
 GLOW  
 GREEN  
 HEALING  
 INSOMNIA  
 JEWELRY  
 KIDNEY  
 LAPIDARY  
 LENS  
 LIGHT  
 LUMINOUS  
 MASSIVE  
 MINERAL  
 OIL  
 OPTICAL

ORANGE  
 ORNAMENTAL  
 OZONE  
 PINK  
 POPULAR  
 POWER  
 PURPLE  
 RADIOACTIVE  
 RAINBOW  
 RED  
 ROMANS  
 STEEL  
 STINKSPAR  
 SYNTHETIC  
 TELESCOPE  
 THERMOLUMINESCENT  
 TOOTHPASTE  
 ULTRAVIOLET  
 WHITE  
 YELLOW

Gritty Greetings: The Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club

## Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 am in the Clubhouse

Our clubhouse is located at 187 S. McLennan Drive in Elm Mott. It is between the Villegas Tire Shop and the Dairy Queen/Tiger Mart on the northbound service road of IH35. Exit 343 is the Elm Mott exit off IH35.

**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 AutoNation Chevrolet). Cost with a pin back is \$8.00 (with tax \$8.66), and with a magnet back is \$11.00 (\$11.91).

Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Club dues are \$12.00 for an individual membership or \$20.00 for a family membership.

Lapidary Workshop fee is \$2.00 per hour. Slab Saw fee is now \$2.00 per hour. Class fees are always dependent upon class and instructor.

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The Waco Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies; and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Meetings are held on the first Saturday of each month (except July and September) at 10:00 a.m. at the Waco Gem and Mineral Club Clubhouse, 187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas. The lapidary workshop is located in the clubhouse.

Our website is [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

### Club Purpose

- 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.



Gritty Greetings: The Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club