

# GRITTY GREETINGS

## Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 55, Issue 6, June, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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### **President's Message**

Not available at press time.

### **Minutes from May meeting:**

Bill Gillum opened with a prayer.

It's very good to have him better and back with us!

We had a family of new members at the meeting - Malia White and her 3 sons, Trystan, Ty and Dominik. Welcome!

The Minutes from April were approved as printed in the May Gritty Greetings.

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report.

We took in \$3575.00 on the show with ticket sales, grand prize, the wheel game, etc. All the bills are not in yet so we won't know until next month what our final numbers are on that.

There was one vendor who had to cancel at the last minute due to a family emergency. We agreed to refund her money due to the circumstances.

Jackie is still rounding up information on a credit card for the club.

The treasurer's report was approved.

We talked about getting club shirts. It was suggested that we talk to Bryan at W Promotions.

Stephanie Robert will look into that and bring results to the next meeting.

### In Show discussions:

From ticket sales, and vendor feedback, the show this year was the best in years. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make it so!  
Almost all the vendors have said they are already planning to be back next year.  
(I saw many smiling faces as they packed up Sunday evening.)

It was suggested that we have buttons for the club at the next show. A number of visitors to the show asked for them. Andy McDonald said he has a button maker and can use that to make the buttons.

We gave out almost all of the box of 500 business cards we got in April at the show. There was a lot of interest, and we have gained a number of new members.

Jennifer Bennett has volunteered to take on the role of Show Chair for next year. (YES!!! – editor's note) She and Andy have already got the date and venue set for next year.

### Next year's show will be April 30 and May 1 at the Extraco Events Center.

Jennifer has already posted the dates and location on our Facebook Page, Website, and Calendar

We discussed the possibility of staying open until 8 or 9:00 PM on Saturday since the last several years there have been events at the Coliseum that brought in a LOT of people after 6:00 PM. Staying later could capture some of that crowd. Jennifer will e-mail the vendors and see if they would approve of staying later on Saturday. Several vendors had remarked that they would like to open earlier than 11:00 AM on Sunday. We agreed to move the opening time up to 10:00 AM on Sunday next year.

Next year, we need to ensure that all the lights in the hall work. We need more yard signs, many have been stolen in the last year. Stephanie Robert will check on prices on getting more.

Someone had suggested that we consider having a joint show with the Waco Coin collectors club. We will look into that.

Someone else had asked if we had considered doing two shows a year. We agreed that though it was flattering that someone would want that, it just is not possible.

### On other topics:

Jon Powell is now able to attend meetings and will continue to act as Vice President. He is resuming work to get the Lexan display box for the Arboretum. He will bring a new quote to the next meeting.

If anyone knows how to contact the gentleman who leads the rock hunt for turritella (Ed. Note: Turritella is a misnomer, see article on page 5) out near McGregor & Mother Neff, please let one of the club officers know. We'd like to get a club field trip together.

Upcoming shows:

May 16-17 - De Ridder, La

May 23-24 (Memorial Day weekend) Fort Worth

October 23 - 25 The American Federation, Austin G&MS, and the Southwest Federation are all having their shows in the same place at the same time in Austin.

John Bennett has our website up and running! Check it out! There is all kinds of information on there. He has many of the upcoming shows, links to maps, and other clubs... It's looking really good!  
(Thank you, John!!!)

Jackie Dodson has some Waco Gem and Mineral Club patches available for \$3.00

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**Notes:**

For future planning, the AFMS national show is October 23-24, 2015 in Austin.

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.**

**Next meeting, Monday June 1, 7:00 PM \*\*\*\*Cabochon auction\*\*\*\***

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**Upcoming Shows and Events**

June 13-14 Grapevine, TX  
Arlington G&MC  
Grapevine Convention Center  
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**BIRTHDAYS**

**ANNIVERSARIES**

June

(Pearl, Alexandrite, moonstone and Rose)

Jason Smith 10  
Trytan White 13  
Paula Smith 14  
Doug Stockton 20  
Don Pelikan 24  
Linda Lowrance 27  
Anthony Melvin 30

Doug, Jackie Dodson 19  
Van, Mary Massirer 21  
Ken, Sumer Alexander 21  
Don, Donna Pelikan 24  
Carol, Ernest West 30

**Pearl** Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as the pearl age. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty. In the early 1900s, the first successful commercial culturing of round saltwater pearls began. Since the 1920s, cultured pearls have almost completely replaced natural pearls in the market.

**Alexandrite**

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light. Due to its rarity, some jewelers stock synthetic versions of this enchanting gemstone. (Synthetic gemstones are man-made alternatives to the natural material, possessing the same physical, optical, and chemical properties as the natural gemstone.)



**Pearl**



**Alexandrite**



**Moonstone**

## **Moonstone**

The third birthstone for June is the Moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon – a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multi-rayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne. The most prized moonstones are from Sri Lanka; India, Australia, the United States, Myanmar, and Madagascar are also sources.

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

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**The Texas Faceters Guild** would like to announce a faceting contest. You do not need to be a member of the Guild to participate as it is open to anyone who facets. We are holding this impromptu contest in order to obtain more interest in the Guild. Please forward this email to anyone you know who facets and might be interested in participating, no matter where they are located.

Class divisions for the contest will be:

1. Cutter has faceted under 10 (ten) stones
2. Cutter has faceted over 10 (ten) stones
3. Fantasy cuts



The design will be cutters choice (go ahead and pick your favorite cut if you wish) stones will need to be received by Sept. 25 to:

**Texas Faceters Guild**  
**C/O P.O. Box 44**  
**Lexington, Texas 78947**

The judging of said stones will be at the October meeting of the Guild which will be held in Ingram., Texas. Stones will be labeled by a number as they are received, so no one will know who has cut what stone when they viewed.





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 225 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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