

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter
Volume 55, Issue 1, January, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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President's report not available at press time,

A short editorial on volunteerism, reprinted from November 2014 Gritty Greetings. (See also report on Victoria Gem and Mineral Show later in this newsletter).

Social (educational, hobby, special-interest) clubs require a core of dedicated volunteers to maintain and help the club prosper. While our common interest brings us together, more than that interest is necessary for smooth operation and club growth. Our annual show almost always has enough volunteers to fill every need and we thank each and every one of you for your participation. Longer-term volunteers are fewer and harder to come by, presumably because a little more time is required of the volunteer over the longer spans of time. Club officers fall under this category. For several years in the WGMC we've been short of all the club officers required by our constitution/bylaws. Many of our older members have been workhorses for years in the volunteer corps, and have been abused and overworked by the club. It's so easy to draft the older volunteers who rarely say no, but the abuse leads to burnout. We really do need others, who have a small amount of time available to step up and help us remake this club into its former glory. Volunteering can also give a great deal of satisfaction to an individual, knowing that he or she has contributed and is an integral part of the organization, rather than just an interested bystander. Please talk to any officer and tell of your interests in helping our club to grow and prosper!--Ed.

We also need input from members and interested prospects about the way we run the organization. Do we need to change meeting nights? What would YOU like to see in our club? We are interested.--Ed.

Next meeting, Monday January 5, 7:00 PM

Minutes from December meeting:

Minutes from December dinner party not available at press time.

Notes:

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

If anyone would be willing to step into an open position, please let us know. We also need someone to arrange programs for the meetings.

We need information from newer members about your birthdates. We list the birthdays and anniversaries in each issue, but have missed a few members.

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.**

It is with a sad heart we report the passing of one of our oldest members. Ben Taggart, husband of Joyce, one of our officers, passed away November 23rd. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joyce and the family. A \$100 donation to the Scholarship fund was made in his honor.

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

January (Garnet and Carnation)

Yolande Gustafson 13

Wendell and Yolande Gustafson 11

John and Kay Langston 15

Garnet

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. *Garnet*, derived from the word *granatum*, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays for jewelry. *Garnet* is 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 tsavorite. Today, the most important sources for garnet are Africa, Sri Lanka, and India.



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

This is a very troubling report as the Victoria club has been around about the same length of time as our Waco club, and our membership for the last couple of years has been between 25 and 30. We need desperately to recruit new and young members to propagate our hobby, and recruit those new members we've acquired in the last couple of years to fill volunteer positions and offices. Ed.

Victoria Gem and Mineral Society—No More Shows in the Future!

by John Anderson, The Miner

Member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society

The local newspaper for the town of Victoria, Texas printed a statement that the Victoria Gem and Mineral Society's October 17-18-19, 2014 Gem show would be their final Gem Show. I wondered why a Lapidary Club Society that regularly has put on good Gem and Mineral shows would not be able to continue doing so in the future. It appears that the people who work so tirelessly in putting on their shows are exhausted—and no new members are coming in to take their place. My dealer partner D.R. "Matt" Dillon and I have had the privilege to be one of the dealers selling at this Gem and Mineral Show for about four years. The question I need to ask is why would a club that seems on the surface to have all its "ducks in a row" announce that this would be their final show? Having said that, I tried to find out how a great show like this could find itself in this position. The show had a good balance in what their dealers were selling, and there seemed to be nothing that would cause dealers problems. This was a three-day show. You would arrive around noon on setup day, and their club members did their best to help dealers unload their items. The Hospitality Section offered both club members and dealers the fixings for a great sandwich—which many clubs no longer do.

I was told that these same people who—year after year—have been working, planning, and putting on the show are tired. I can see why. People new to the idea of putting on a show are not stepping up and taking over the responsibility for putting on this show. The club has been in existence for 55 years—and that is a tribute to this club—but it appears there now are only 28 active club members. With this number, it would be almost impossible to put on a show of this type without the 28 existing members making great personal sacrifices. I do not know what the final outcome will be, but I would personally like to thank the existing club members and also its

Club Officers:	President:	Les Pagel
	First Vice President:	Lisa Styk
	Second Vice President:	Beverly Wolf
	Treasurer:	Ken Limke
	Show Chairman:	Bob Clark

Please excuse any names that I may have omitted.

Drop of Water Test for Topaz

Quartz and topaz are not easy to separate by eye, and sometimes it is impossible when the quartz is a true topaz color. There is a big difference in price between the two, and anyone describing quartz as "topaz," however innocently, may well be in trouble. Topaz is quite a different mineral and is harder than quartz. Because of this, a drop of water will not spread on topaz but will spread on quartz. Clean the stone as effectively as possible with a cloth or handkerchief to remove all traces of grease. It must be dry before the test. Then place a spot of clean water on it with a thin glass or metal rod. On stones with a hardness of less than 7 on the Mohs scale, the water is dispersed. On harder stones it will remain a globule. The harder the stone, the more rounded will be the globule.

(from Rock Chipper, via many Newsletters to us via SCFMS newsletter Jan-Feb 2014)

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/>)

DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling or burring to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. A quick solution is to hold the workpiece with a pair of pliers or your ring clamp. Another alternative is to clamp your piece to the bench pin or a thin board. If using pliers, you can avoid scratches by putting a little tape over the jaws.



DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've found these often break or burn up. The reason I think is that the drill pivots on the piece of diamond on the drill tip. By pivoting the diamond does not cut. When it doesn't cut, you tend to add more force, and the drill is damaged by excess heat. A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup. Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are reasonable in price, for instance \$6 for 2mm diameter. Chuck up the core drill in a drill press or a Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to break through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

Upcoming Shows and Events

January 17-18 Fredricksburg, TX
Ladybird Johnson Park
Fredricksburg Rockhounds G&M Show

January 23-25 Tyler, TX
Tyler Rose Garden Center
East Texas G&M Show

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. 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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