

President's Message

Due to time constraints, Andy will be giving his President's message at the September meeting, 10:00 Saturday, September 9th.

Vice President's Message

Our September Meeting will be held on Saturday September 9th, at 10:00 a.m. Snacks will be provided by Shirley Kyte; coffee will also be available. The Clubhouse will be open beginning around 9:00 a.m.; the Workshop will be open from 9:00 until 10:00 and then again after the meeting and auction.

We will also be having our September Auction after the business portion of the meeting. If you have any items that you would like to donate towards the auction, please see either me or Andy prior to the start of the meeting. After our Auction and Snacks, we will have Rock Bingo going on. For those that wish to play, the Rules are simple: There will be 10 rounds, consisting of 7 games (6 regular and the Grand Prize) & 3 specialty games. You pay \$5.00 to play the 7 regular, and \$1.00 each for the specialty games. (You can play 7 games or up to 10, the choice is yours depending on how much you want to pay to play.) Each game will have its own winning pattern that will be shown / announced prior to the start of the game. The first person (or persons) to BINGO on that round, wins that game, the card will be verified, and the winner(s) will then select their prize. Once the balls and cards are reset, the next game commences. Grand Prize Game is Game 10. If you have rocks or slabs that you might like to contribute towards the Bingo Prizes, please see me prior to the start of the meeting with these items. If you picked up a Cookbook sales form at the August meeting and have been selling them, please bring your order form & payment with you to the meeting. We will determine if the minimum order requirement has been met, and, if so, we may go ahead and get an initial order placed. For those that were not at the August meeting and who want more information, please get with me by email or prior to the meeting.

Also, please be thinking about your own favorite recipe or recipes. The Fundraising Committee will begin accepting your recipes, beginning in October, towards the Cookbook we will be working towards.

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August Meeting Minutes

We had our first official meeting at the new clubhouse. There were no guests.

The minutes from June, and the notes from July were approved as published in the Gritty Greetings.

Jackie Dodson was unavailable so we had no Treasurers Report.

All the clubhouse bills are paid, and we get credit from the electric company for not using any during peak hours.

Our reservation is confirmed and the deposit paid for the Extraco Exhibit Building for the 2018 show.

There is a Concession stand and we can sell prepackaged snacks and sodas to guests at the show.

Field trip committee:

- Nothing planned for August due to the heat.
- September - Innerspace Caverns was suggested, cool and a good walking path. A debate was had over the merits of rough caving versus a developed cave with paved paths and lighting.
- October- the Tricities Show is 10/14 & 15 admission is \$5.00 we can carpool to Temple.

As a side note, Jim and Allison Redding are planning on having a booth at Christmas in Salado on October 14.

We need to figure out a date to go to Mineral Wells Fossil Park to dig for fossils. We will get buckets of dirt containing fossils. The gentleman from the Dallas Paleontological Society has offered to teach a class on

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retrieving, preserving and identifying fossils.

Board members- officially;

- Andy McDonald - President
- John Lowell - past president
- Jennifer Bennet - Vice President
- John Powell - past vice president
- Jackie Dodson - Treasurer
- Parliamentarian.
- Show Chair - John Bennett – Can't serve on the board because there can't be 2 related people on the board
- Stephanie Robert - Secretary
- At Large Board Members - John Langston & John Nicosia

10/15 is the Children's Fair at the Arboretum. Volunteers will be needed. Must be there no later than 1:00.

We talked about upcoming shows.

Andy has the list for volunteers for refreshments for the meetings.

The September meeting will be Saturday, September 9 due to the Holiday on the weekend of the 2nd.

The club Auction will be after the meeting! This is fun and for the benefit of the club.

We have a number of committees that need filling out.

Please look at the list on the Gritty Greeting and see which ones you could help out with.

Andy will bring a list of the club's bylaws and proposed changes to the September meeting.

It was proposed that Bill and Betty Gillum be granted lifetime member status due to their long and dedicated service to the club. - It was passed unanimously.

Fund Raising-We need to come up with ways to raise money for the club. The new Clubhouse has so much potential, but we need to make sure we have the funds to keep it going.

Jennifer found a "*Best Little Recipes*" program with note card sized cookbooks we can sell at no cost to us. We are also going to work on putting together our own club cookbook to sell at the show. We could intersperse the recipes with rockhound trivia. Please send recipes etc. to Stephanie Robert. The sooner we get started, the better. The clubhouse rules will be posted in the shop.

Use your personal protection gear, hearing protection, dust masks, goggles, and gloves for certain materials. If you need those and don't have them, we have a case with many of those items for sale at cost in the clubhouse.

There is a possibility that we will have access to a glass kiln and a glass artist to teach us how to make glass beads!

We talked about more shelving, storage, and display cases in the clubhouse.

We are working on the A/C situation. Clifford Kelly has generously offered us a 220 Air conditioner that he isn't using. The logistics of getting it installed haven't been worked out yet.

We are working on having regular shop hours so people can come in and work. Stephanie Robert will be there from 6:00 pm to no later than 9:00 pm on Thursday evenings in August and September. Come in, we can work on wire wrapping or beading if you don't want to learn lapidary. (We are trying to have someone there on Saturday mornings also. Check the website for the schedule for more dates and times.) If you would like to work at a time that is not on the schedule, call John Bennett or Stephanie Robert and we will try to accommodate you.

We had a very nice meeting, donuts from Dee's (Yum!) and then did a wire wrap workshop.

Several of our members are dealing with serious health issues. Let's keep them in our thoughts and prayers. Bill Gillum, Kay Langston, Jim Redding, and Clifford Kelly are the ones I know of.

Stephanie Robert

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Workshop Committee Message

I am sure that a lot of you know that Jim Redding had some medical problems while on vacation last month. Until his doctor lets him know that he is capable of picking up heavy objects again, he will not be doing any maintenance or repairs to the equipment in the Lapidary Workshop. That means that I will be responsible for those tasks, hopefully with his expert guidance. Your patience is greatly appreciated with this.

Two of the rock tumblers are up and running. If you have small pieces of rock lying around because you don't know what to do with them, this might be an option to think about. We need a bunch of tumbled stones for the 2018 Show so bring them to the shop and get them tumbled. After they are done, you can pick out the pieces that you want to keep. The rest can be put to use for the club. I will even break the bigger pieces into smaller ones for you. If you don't have much experience at tumbling stones, this is a way that you can learn more about the process. We have had the oil in the saws for a month now and they seem to be working alright. The slab saw is still slow (it is old too) but it does work. The automatic shut off is messed up again but that doesn't affect your cut. Here is something for you to think about though. An extra charge of 5 cents per square inch per slab is added for using the Slab Saws, but the smaller saws that are on most of the Grinders can be used for cutting slabs from smaller materials. And they don't have an additional charge. As long as the cut you are making is smaller than four inches on a side, the smaller saws will work great. This will cut down on the wear-and-tear on the slab saw and save you some money as well.

JLB

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2018 Waco Gem and Mineral Show

A couple of things about the admissions table for the show next year; members from other clubs that are affiliated with the AFMS, as long as they have club identification, will get in for \$4.00. And as always, scouts and their scout leaders will get in for free as long as they are in uniform.

IMPORTANT, if you do not sign up to help with the show, you will not be receiving Promo Passes to hand out to your friends. You will also be required to pay admission in order to get in to the 2018 Waco Gem and Mineral Show.

I am trying to make sure that this show is even bigger and better than last year's show, and since there are so many different and fun things that need to be done, I am certain that everyone can find something that they will enjoy helping with. The sign-up sheets are in the Clubhouse on the big cabinet. If you are unable to get to the Clubhouse, email me at 2018.Show@wacogemandmineral.org to let me know that you want to sign up. Also, some of the lists have a maximum number of people that can sign up. Don't be the one left standing in the parking lot of outside the Extraco Center on the 28th with a box of rocks that you wanted to donate. We will already have all of the donations taken care of long before then.

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Club Committees and Members

We are in need of club members that want to be involved in the future of our club. If you are interested in volunteering to become a part of a committee, please speak with one of the current members of that committee to get more information. Remember that this is your club as well, and your input and participation is greatly appreciated.

Membership Committee:	.....Jennifer Bennett
Telephone Committee:	.....Jennifer Bennett
Program Committee:	.....John & Jennifer Bennett
Field Trip Committee:	.....John & Jennifer Bennett, Stephanie Robert
2018 Annual Show Committee:	.....John Bennett, Jennifer Bennett
Editorial Newsletter Committee:	.....John & Jennifer Bennett
Historical Committee:	.....Jennifer Bennett
Publicity Committee:	.....John & Jennifer Bennett
Library Committee:	.....John & Jennifer Bennett
Properties Committee:	.....John & Jennifer Bennett, James & Alison Redding
Education Committee:John & Jennifer Bennett, Andy McDonald, Stephanie Robert, James & Alison Redding
Refreshment Committee:Jennifer Bennett

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Pricing Jewelry - How to price jewelry for wholesale and retail

Pricing is such a conundrum for so many artists and there are as many different formulas and ways to go about it as there are people. The most important thing I can say is stop giving away your creations! Value yourself, value your work, and value the people you are selling to. If you give away your work to them they will be undervalued as well. They deserve a handmade piece of art that they paid a fair price for!

How I price my work? Ok here we go on the ride of the mind of moi. It's scary in here so hang on.

We all have an absolute minimum we will take. What would you sell a piece if you had to put gas in your car in a desperate moment? Ok got a price on that necklace for such a situation? You should never sell below that price, ever! Well okay if you are stranded without gas or food, but for no other reason.

If you look at that number and you are selling within \$10 of it you are doing yourself a disservice. The simplest formula in the world is; sell for at least double that price!

You say, "Well I am just doing this for fun". Would you sell your couch for less than you can replace it for fun? No. So don't sell your jewelry for less than that either. Ok I am done with the lecture.

I look at the cost of my supplies and I come up with an x-by that works for me. Let's say it is 2x or 5x. It doesn't matter. If you deal in a \$600 strand of sapphires you may just 2x the price of your supplies. If you deal with copper it may be 5x. Look at what will work for you.

Remember you have to make enough money to buy more supplies to replace what you just used and you will not sell every piece you make you so you must factor that in as well. You want to keep making jewelry and you would like to improve on the quality of supplies you use over time.

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Three or four times the cost of beads is a common factor that many use. That way you have paid for these beads, you can buy more beads (maybe even twice as many) and you have a bit of income left at the end. Have the beads pay for themselves, and generate more inventory, and make the money off of the hourly wage you charge.

Then add on what you are worth an hour. Remember that you have to pay not only for the time to make the jewelry but also for time selling, marketing, shipping, and setting up displays, paying for booths etc. What you are worth an hour will be determined by how much experience you have. Can you whip out a cab with a gorgeous wrap in 10 minutes? Then your time is worth more than \$10 an hour, more like \$50 to \$100 an hour.

So, for example I whip out 20 pairs of simple earrings for my earring display. They cost me .45 cents each to make and I can make 20 pairs in an hour. The price I come up with is 2.30. That is the minimum I can sell them for and still get 4x and 10 an hour. They were simple to make and not much skill required. If I pay myself \$20 an hour they will still only cost 2.80. Now you would never sell your earrings for 2.80 (unless we are back at the 'I need gas' scenario).

I take the \$2.30 and times by 4 and they are at 9.20 or bump it to 9.99. That is my full retail price. At this point take a good look at them. Will they sell for 14.99 in my area in a gallery? Maybe 24.99? Then bump the full retail to that. Remember they are simple earrings and this is what a gallery can sell them for. I get 50% commission. But I can also offer to sell them at any price between \$2.30 and \$10.00.

I tell them if they buy \$1000 worth they can have those earrings at \$2.59 a pair. This gives them the incentive to buy out right, I get my pieces into a gallery and if they move quickly and I get discovered I can bump up my prices until I can keep up with demand. I can also send out a rep to sell them for whatever they want but I need something over my minimum. Make sense?

But what about a necklace that takes some time and skill? It works the same. A necklace costs me \$15 to make times 4 is \$60. I add my hourly wage, let's say \$20 an hour. I times all this by 4 and get my high retail. \$320 would be the retail price. But wait, I look at the piece and I know it will not sell for that. I go back to the drawing table and crunch my numbers again. I look at what I think it will sell for and I decide \$199. Well ¼ of that is \$50 so I can double my price on the beads and make my hourly wage. Am I willing to do that? Then I decide, if that is all it will sell for then that is what I will have to take for it and reconsider replicating similar pieces in the future. Now this is your base, lowest price. \$50 is what I can sell it for and probably still get ahead. I want to sell it for at least \$100 in most situations or I will be running myself out of business. At \$50 I am barely covering my expenses. That is not a way to grow a business. I know at that price at least I am not losing money, I can still pay the electric bill, and I can put gas in the car if I am selling a lot of jewelry.

It works the other way as well. Let's say a bracelet only costs me \$1.00 but the time and skill to make it is worth far more than the value of the components. Then I raise the retail price to the cost I know the piece can sell for. There has to be a way to make money off of the art of jewelry making. That is the whole point of this endeavor. My years of skill come together to make a knockout piece then I will not give it away by any formula.

I decide this piece will easily sell for let's say \$69. My absolute bottom price is \$17.50. If it took me half an hour I make \$27 an hour. Remember this is my lowest price. Hopefully I will sell it myself at a festival and make the profit from it.

The idea is to get into high end art shows and sell some of your product at full retail (you do not want to undercut the galleries that sell at your full retail price unless you want to lose that relationship in a hurry).

You want to sell some of your product at at least 50% of your full retail through consignments and "sales" you may run. Some of your product at the almost lowest price to shops etc. to get exposure and some money running through your fingers to buy more supplies and do it all over again. And you will have some that will not sell. Those can be reworked or sent out as a donation, given to events as advertising, gifts etc.

Ok just one more lecture to those that are just doing it for fun or who do not want to make money off of their work.

Think not of yourself but of those folks that are not as fortunate as you and have to make a living from what they are doing. You are shooting them in the foot by undervaluing your work and theirs. You are worth it, and so are they. We are a community and lets work together to make it a vibrant one. Take a stroll through Neiman Marcus, a local gallery, or look at Jewelry in Barney's online. That should get you over your fear of charging for your time and supplies, and remember your pieces are unique.

There are so many more things I can say.

- I can talk about advertising and getting your work out there at a reduced amount to create excitement but not shooting yourself in the foot in the meantime.
- About donations done right can get lots of exposure.
- About mass produced articles that go by a different formula for shows to pay booth fee's.
- About having different lines that you can sell at gallery costs and not undercut a gallery and strain your relationship.

..... but these are articles for another day.

I am selling beads now so I have run into interesting obstacles. I will not approach a gallery where I see one of my clients selling. I will not compete with my clients. I will not do shows anymore for the same reason. I would not want to set up next to a client and compete with them. I am here to support them and help them get ahead. I do not believe in competition. I believe in everyone working together to create a vibrant, ethical community where everyone is successful in many different ways including our souls being happy.

Szarka

<http://www.magpiegemstones.com/index.php>

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Upcoming Shows and Events

September 2-4	Silver City, NM Grant County Veteran's Memorial Conference Center (next to Ace Hardware) 3031 Highway 180 East, Silver City NM www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com	Grant Co. Rolling Stones 2017 G & M Show
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September 9-10	Siloam Springs, AR Highway 43 North and Lawlis Road, Siloam Springs, AR www.nwarockhounds.org	Northwest Arkansas G & M Society Annual Fall Swap
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For more information about specific times, and contact information, please investigate before you go to any of these events.

Official State Minerals, Rocks, and Gemstones

Not all of the states in the United States have an official mineral, rock, or gemstone. Most of the states do have some form of mineral that is recognized by the state. Some have all three. There are even a few states that have more than one in a particular category. In the list of words on the next page, the words that you will be looking for are in **bold** print. Following that is a list of the different varieties along with the state or states that use them. Varieties are in *italics*. I hope you enjoy this puzzle. Who knows, you might even learn something new. I know that I did when I was putting it together.

R H I O N E L S O N I T E T I T A M E H E M I T
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 S Y L E R T R A B U F W A N E L A G A T E W T Y
 Q U R D O E N E N O T S E M I L I T E U V I Z E



Word List for Official State Minerals, Rocks, and Gemstones Word Search

- Agate** - State mineral of LA and TN, *Blue* - State gemstone of NE, *Fairburn* - State gemstone of SD, *Kentucky* - State rock of KY, *Lake Superior* - State gemstone of MN, *Montana* - State gemstone of MT, *Patuxent River Stone* - State gemstone of MD, *Prairie* - State rock of NE, *Thunderegg* - State rock of OR
- Amethyst** - State gemstone of SC
- Aquamarine** - State gemstone of CO
- Babingtonite** - State mineral of MA
- Barite Rose** - State rock of OK
- Bauxite** - State rock of AR
- Benitoite** - State gemstone of CA
- Beryl** - State mineral of NH
- Bowenite** - State mineral of RI
- Chlorastrolite** - State gemstone of MI
- Coal** - State mineral of KY, State rock of UT, *Bituminous* - State rock of WV
- Copper** - State mineral of AZ and UT
- Coral Agatized** - State rock of FL, *Black* - State gemstone of HI, *Mississippian* - State gemstone of WV
- Cumberlandite** - State rock of RI
- Diamond** - State gemstone of AR
- Emerald** - State gemstone of NC
- Flint Ohio** - State gemstone of OH
- Fluorite** - State mineral of IL
- Galena** - State mineral of MO and WI
- Garnet** - State gemstone of NY, *Almandine* - State mineral of CT, *Star* - State gemstone of ID, *Grossular* - State gemstone of VT
- Gold** - State mineral of AK, CA, and NC
- Granite** - State rock of NC, NH, and VT, *Blue* - State rock of SC, *Red* - State rock of WI
- Hematite** - State mineral of AB
- Jade (Nephrite)** - State gemstone of AK, *Wyoming Nephrite* - State gemstone of WY
- Lapearlite** - State gemstone of LA
- Limestone** - State rock of TN, *Salem* State rock of IN
- Marble** - State rock of AB and VT, *Yule* - State rock of CO
- Moonstone** - State gemstone of FL
- Mozarkite** - State rock of MO
- Nelsonite** - State rock of VA
- Opal Black Fire** - State gemstone of NV
- Palmwood Oligocene Petrified** - State rock of TX
- Pearl Freshwater** - State gemstone of KY, *Tennessee River* - State gemstone of TN
- Petoskey Stone** - State rock of MI
- Petrified Wood** - State gemstone of WA and State rock of MS
- Quartz** - State gemstone of GA, State mineral of AR, *Rose* - State mineral of SD, *Smoky* - State gemstone of NH, *Star Blue* - State gemstone of AB, *Geode* - State rock of IA
- Rhodochrosite** - State mineral of CO
- Rhodonite** - State gemstone of MA
- Roxbury Puddingstone** - State rock of MA
- Sandstone** - State rock of NV
- Sapphire Montana** - State gemstone of MT
- Serpentine** - State rock of CA
- Sillimanite** - State mineral of DE
- Silver** - State mineral of NV and TX
- Slate** - State rock of VT
- Staurolite** - State mineral of GA
- Sunstone Oregon** - State gemstone of OR
- Talc** - State mineral of VT
- Topaz** - State gemstone of UT, *Texas Blue* - State gemstone of TX
- Tourmaline** - State gemstone of ME
- Turquoise** - State gemstone of AZ, NM, and Semi-Precious gemstone of NV

BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

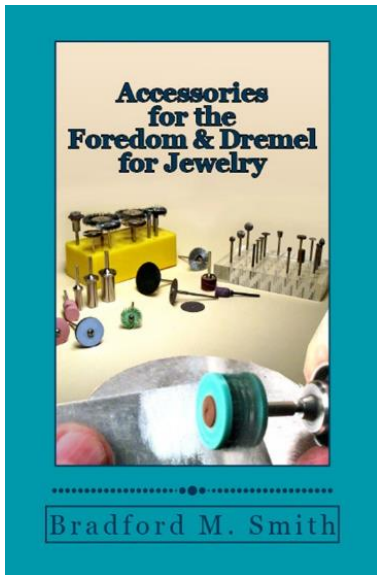
JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.



NEW BOOK ON FOREDOM TOOL BITS



Confused by all the tool bits available for your flexible shaft or hand-held motor tool? "*Accessories for the Foredom and Dremel*" explains what each is good for, which ones save the most time, and the tool bits that best improve the quality of your work. Also included are bench tips for getting good results and cautions for safe use.

The book is available on Amazon at [amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/)

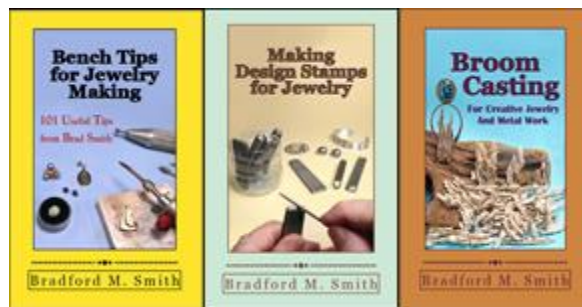
FOREDOM MAINTENANCE

If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to do almost anything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. You can watch the videos at www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx particularly

under "*Foredom Basics*" or the "*Foredom Shafting*" categories. Any repair parts needed are available on the Foredom site or from most jewelry supply catalogs.

See all Brad's jewelry books at
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



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September Calendar of Events

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
				<u>Workshop</u> <u>6 pm – 9 pm</u>		<u>Meeting</u> <u>10 a.m.</u> <u>S. Kyte</u> <u>Snacks</u> <u>Workshop</u> <u>Noon - 1</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Jennifer</u> <u>Bennett</u> <u>Birthday</u>		<u>Thomas</u> <u>Buchak</u> <u>Birthday</u>	<u>Bennett’s</u> <u>Anniversary</u> <u>Roy Cooper</u> <u>Birthday</u>	<u>Workshop</u> <u>6 pm – 9 pm</u>	<u>Larry</u> <u>Woodard</u> <u>Birthday</u>	<u>Workshop</u> <u>9 am - noon</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
				<u>Workshop</u> <u>6 pm – 9 pm</u>		<u>James</u> <u>Redding</u> <u>Birthday</u>
<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Cynthia</u> <u>Rodgers</u> <u>Birthday</u>		<u>Wendell</u> <u>Gustafson</u> <u>Birthday</u>		<u>Workshop</u> <u>6 pm – 9 pm</u>		<u>Workshop</u> <u>9 am - noon</u>

BIRTHSTONE for SEPTEMBER is SAPPHIRE

Although sapphire typically refers to the rich blue gemstone variety of the mineral corundum, this royal gem actually occurs in a rainbow of hues. Sapphires come in every color except red, which earn the classification of rubies instead.

Trace elements like iron, titanium, chromium, copper and magnesium give naturally colorless corundum a tint of blue, yellow, purple, orange or green, respectively. Sapphires in any color but blue are called “*fancies*.”

Pink sapphires, in particular, tow a fine line between ruby and sapphire. In the U.S., these gems must meet a minimum color saturation to be considered rubies. Pinkish orange sapphires called *padparadscha* (from the Sri Lankan word for “*lotus flower*”) can actually draw higher prices than some blue sapphires.

The name “*sapphire*” comes from the Latin *sapphirus* and Greek *sappheiros* meaning “*blue stone*,” though those words may have originally referred to lapis lazuli. Some believe it originated from the Sanskrit word *sanipriya* which meant “*dear to Saturn*.”

Sapphires are found in India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, China, Australia, Brazil, Africa and North America (mainly Montana). Their origin can affect their value as much as color, cut, clarity, and carat size.

Due to the remarkable hardness of sapphires—which measure 9 on the Mohs scale, second only to diamond—they aren’t just valuable in jewelry, but also in industrial applications including scientific instruments, high-durability windows, watches and electronics.

Sapphires symbolize loyalty, nobility, sincerity and integrity. They are associated with focusing the mind, maintaining self-discipline and channeling higher powers.

September’s birthstone, the sapphire, has been popular since the Middle Ages. Back then, the celestial blue color of this gem symbolized heaven and attracted divine favor and wise judgment.

Greeks wore sapphire for guidance when seeking answers from the oracle. Buddhists believed it brought spiritual enlightenment, and Hindus used it during worship. Early Christian kings cherished sapphire’s powers of protection by using it in ecclesiastical rings.

Ancient Hebrews believed that the Ten Commandments were engraved on tablets of sapphire, though historians now believe the blue stone referenced in the Bible may have been lapis lazuli.

Classical violet-blue sapphires traditionally came from the Kashmir region of India between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The world record price-per-carat for sapphire was set by a gem from Kashmir, which sold at auction for \$242,000 per carat (more than \$6.74 million total) in October 2015.

Famous star sapphires like the 1404.49-carat Star of Adam, the 563.4-carat Star of India and the 182-carat Star of Bombay came from Sri Lankan mines.

Australia was a significant source of sapphires until deposits were discovered in Madagascar during the 1990s. Madagascar now leads the world in sapphire production.

In 1902, French chemist, Auguste Verneuil, developed a process to make synthetic sapphire. The abundance of synthetic sapphire unlocked industrial applications spanning integrated circuits, satellite communication systems, high-durability windows and scientific instruments.

This gem became a symbol of royal love in 1981 when Britain’s Prince Charles gave Lady Diana a 12-carat blue sapphire engagement ring. Prince William later gave this ring to Catherine Middleton when he proposed in 2010.

Today, top-quality blue sapphire remains one of Mother Nature’s rare gems.

Courtesy of:

<http://www.americangemsociety.org>

Our next meeting will be Saturday, September 9th, 10 AM at 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 5¢ per square inch of slab. 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

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