

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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President's Message

Not available at press time.

Minutes from July meeting:

A correction for the June minutes was made- the cost of the "Front End File Uploader" for the website is \$30.00. It had gotten written down wrong. That was corrected and Minutes were approved as amended.

Shop update - at the time of the meeting, the electrical systems for the shop need serious updating, and reconfiguring. It has been operating with too much machinery on way too little supply for a long time. John Nicosia is coordinating all that with an electrician, the building owner, and the owner of the unit next door where the breaker box currently is. This needs to be remedied also; if we threw a circuit breaker, it would be necessary to get with the neighbor and get in their unit to flip it back on.

There has been no action on the display for the arboretum; we still need to find out where they want it. Andy McDonald checked and he has materials and equipment to make 1 3/4" buttons for the show next year. He just needs the artwork.

Bill and Betty Gillum are downsizing and selling some saws and machinery and rock, palm wood, etc. Contact them for further information. They will be having 1 or more garage sales, at the time of the meeting they were not sure exactly when they would be having the garage sale. (722-2956)

The meeting adjourned.

Stephanie

A message from the **Show Chair**:

Hi Everyone!

I just wanted to give everyone a short update on what's going on in regards to the upcoming show. Last month I mentioned several items that I needed to start gathering up in preparation. I am still looking for the following items: **Styrofoam egg cartons, Flat or round rocks (suitable for painting & gluing), Throw away bits /pieces and shards of rocks & stones, Door Prize and Silent Auction items (suitable for both adults & children).**

John and Kay Langston have a small stockpile of the coffee cans that they have offered to donate, and I would like to thank them for that! I would also like to thank John Langston for volunteering to be the Vendor Chair for our 56th Annual Show, and for handling the redo of the contracts and also the floor plan layout.

I am also still in need of **Volunteers** to assist with the many aspects of the Show – both leading up to and during. If you'd like to volunteer your time to assist or take the reins on any of these, please let me know. The areas that I still need assistance in are: **Advertising, Demonstrations, Grand Prize/Door Prize/Membership Table, Signage, Silent Auction Table, Spin the Wheel Table, Ticket Table.** Please see me for more details about each one.

I would like to thank John Nicosia for agreeing to help with the Floor and help relieve Vendors. I have also been busy working on some jewelry pieces and some other "crafts" to be put in for Door Prizes / Silent Auction.

If you have any questions, or need to get in touch with me regarding the Show, please feel free to contact me via email at: bennettje70@gmail.com or via cell at: 254-548-6839.

Jennifer

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Upcoming Shows and Events

AUG 8–9 Baton Rouge, LA
BRGMS SHOW - Marriott Ballroom

AUG 15–16 Bossier City, LA
Ark-La-Tex G & M Show
Bossier City Civic Center

AUG 22-23 Jasper, TX
Pine County G & M Show
The Event Center

OCT 23-24 Austin, TX
AFMS/SCFMS/AGMS, Palmer Ctr.

Notes:

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

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

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

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A very interesting interactive geological website on Texas has just been released in early June:
<http://txpub.usgs.gov/dss/texasgeology/>
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Next meeting, Monday August 3, 7:00 PM

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

August (Peridot, Sardonyx and Gladiolus)

Nancy Fisher	12	Ken and Judy Mefford	2
Alice Linkous	15	Joe and Alice Linkous	17
Donna Pelikan	20	Jacque Kelly	25
Christine Komandosky	27	Malia White	28
Shirley Kyte	30		
Jeanene Betros	31		

Peridot

Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yellowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. Peridot, in smaller sizes, often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets.



Peridot



Sardonyx

Sardonyx

Sardonyx is a form of onyx and is recognized by its layers of reddish brown and white banding. It was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans who carried into battle talismans of sardonyx engraved with images of heroes such as Mars or Hercules, believing that this would bring courage and victory. Because of its attractive banding, sardonyx has long been used to fashion cameos (carved raised figures) and intaglios (the reverse of cameos). This gemstone is found throughout the world. The most attractive specimens are found in India, but material also is mined in Czechoslovakia, Brazil, Uruguay, Germany, and in the United States.

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

A message from Virginia Adian, former President, SCFMS

Just before I received the SCFMS newsletter, I received a letter from Joyce Speed. She and Ron Carman are on the nominating committee, which has lacked leadership in securing names for SCFMS officers for the coming year. I am using this newsletter mailing group to share an urgent need. These are not just positions in name, they are vital responsibilities which need people willing to give time and effort to keep our regional federation functioning effectively. We need people to fill the positions of **SCFMS President, Executive Vice-president, and Executive Secretary (collects dues, insurance fees, and club officers' lists)**. These are three of the most important positions in our federation.

Ever since I became involved in SCFMS programs and served as an officer, there has been difficulty in, not only getting people to agree to be an officer, but to follow through to do the job. We have a small pool of people who have served in multiple jobs and stepped up to fill in and do jobs which have been dropped. Everyone I know who now holds an office in SCFMS has given above and beyond of their time and energy. We have 35 clubs with 3,694 members. I know there are members serving in your clubs who are willing workers and have skills and energy which could be tapped by SCFMS in an effective way. The real dilemma is that many of your clubs or club presidents have never attended the annual SCFMS meeting and to see what programs are available to your clubs or understand SCFMS business. I knew very little about federation programs when I agreed to serve as a District VP many years ago. I discovered that I did not have to know everything, I just needed to be willing to work. There are many mentors and past officers who gladly help anyone to understand the tasks which need to be done. I am willing to serve as a mentor. Have you ever read our SCFMS Constitution? It is online at: <http://www.scfms.net/> Click on CONSTITUTION. Officers' responsibilities are given there.

I urge you to send names of members you would recommend for positions, or, if you have been thinking about getting more involved, submit your own name. Those of you who have been serving as District VP or SCFMS committee chairman, is it time for you to use your knowledge and take on a greater leadership role?

Please send replies to: Joyce Speed llispeed2@gmail.com or
 Dale Miller sdalemiller@sbcglobal.net or
 Ron Carman rrcarman@centurytel.net

Packets for the SCFMS meeting are being organized now. Replies are needed as soon as possible.

Thanks to all of you have selflessly served your clubs and SCFMS. I hope all 35 clubs will send your president or alternate delegate to Austin in October for our 2015 meeting!!!

Ginna Adian

Jasper

One of the common sedimentary rocks which are popular for lapidary use is jasper. Jasper is an opaque variety of Chalcedony,

and is usually associated with brown, yellow, or reddish colors, but may be used to describe other opaque colors of Chalcedony such as dark or mottled green, orange, and

black. Jasper is almost always multicolored, with unique color patterns and habits. The appeal of Jasper is its interesting color patterns and formations. Though it can be a solid color, it is most often mottled, spotted, ringed, or striped. Each Jasper has a unique color or pattern, lending this gemstone much variety. Jasper is an ancient gemstone, and is mentioned in the bible and other classical sources. Though fairly common and affordable today, Jasper in antiquity was regarded as a valuable stone. Jasper is generally an inexpensive gemstone when used in jewelry. It is cut and polished into cabochons, and used as beads for necklaces and bracelets. It is also carved into cameos which can be worn as pendants. Jasper has an over-abundance of variety names. Some variety names are generally used by collectors and dealers, but there are many made up by dealers to describe a locality or other habit. The varieties below are the well-known names or varieties that are commonly encountered. Seldom-used and localized trade names are not described here:

- **Agate Jasper** - Opaque multicolored Jasper, or Jasper with banding; may also refer to a single stone with a combination of both Agate and Jasper.

- **Biggs Jasper** - Jasper from Biggs Junction, Oregon, with varying light and dark color brown bands and pretty formations.

- **Brecciated Jasper** - Jasper in rounded fragments naturally cemented together in a gray material; appears similar to breccia.

- **Bruneau Jasper** - Jasper from Bruneau Canyon, in Owyhee County, Idaho, with distinctive brown, cream, (and sometimes even red or green) banding and patterns.

- **Cave Creek Jasper** - Reddish Jasper found near Cave Creek in Maricopa County, Arizona.

- **Deschutes Jasper** - Jasper from a deposit slightly east of Biggs Junction, Oregon, near the Deschutes River, with good banding and

interesting color formations.

- **Egyptian Jasper** - Form of Orbicular Jasper with white and gray circles on a red background. It is found as rounded pebbles on the beaches of Egypt. A similar Jasper is found on the beaches of Washington state and sometimes also labelled as Egyptian Jasper.

- **Green Jasper** - Jasper with a light to dark green color. Green Jasper differs from Prase and Plasma since it is fully opaque.

- **Jaspilite** - Banded rock that is a mixture of Hematite and Jasper.

- **Kinradite** - Orbicular Jasper with concentric rings of colorless or white Quartz. Occasionally used as a synonym of Jasper.

- **Leopard Jasper** - Form of Orbicular Jasper with tan color rings, appearing similar to the spots of a leopard.

- **Morgan Hill Jasper** - Jasper from Morgan Hill, California, with small reddish and yellow "poppy" formations. Also synonymous with "Poppy Jasper".

- **Morrisonite** - Multicolored Jasper from the Owyhee River gorge in Malheur Co., Oregon.

- **Moss Jasper** - Form of Jasper or Chalcedony containing dense inclusions of green Hornblende that cause the pattern to resemble moss. Often used as a synonym for Moss Agate, though Moss Agate is translucent whereas Moss Jasper is opaque.

- **Ocean Jasper** - Form of Orbicular Jasper found on the coast of Madagascar with small, tight, concentric ring formations.

- **Opal Jasper** - Form of Brecciated Jasper in which the cementing material is Opal.

- **Orbicular Jasper** - Jasper with rounded concentric rings throughout.

- **Owyhee Jasper** - Form of Jasper with scenic picture formations found near the Owyhee River in Oregon.

- **Picture Jasper** - Form of Jasper with scenic picture-like formations.

- **Poppy Jasper** - Form of yellow

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