

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter
Volume 55, Issue 7, July, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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President's Message

Not available at press time.

Minutes from June meeting:

We opened with a prayer. Andy was absent. Vice President Jon Powell presided.

We met visitor Trey White who came with his wife and sons.

We read and approved the minutes for the May meeting.

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report.

We have just over \$4200 in Checking.

Final totals from the show: We took in \$8451.00

Expenses \$7073.00

It's the first time in 2 years we have made a profit on the show.

While we were on finances, John Bennett, our web designer, would like to purchase a "front end file uploader" that would let individual members post pictures to the website. It is a one-time fee of a bit over \$200.00 (I didn't write it down). This was approved by a large majority of the members present. The rent on the shop has gone down to \$110.00 per month.

Contact Jackie with any questions.

Jon Powell got in contact with Arizona Plastics about the display box for the Arboretum. Their quote for the Lexan box and powder coated stand is now \$3500.00 to \$5000.00.

John Bennett had researched local sources. He found a Plexiglass box, equivalent to the Lexan in size, steel from CMC Steel Co., John's brother will donate the welding, and powder coating, plus a bag of QuikCrete to set it. The local option comes in right at \$950.00.

The members present agreed that the price for the locally sourced option was the way to go. We need to check with the management of the Arboretum and see where they would want it. Do we need to have a shade structure installed over it? Linda Lowrance said she'd talk to the Arboretum management. We will finalize everything when we have the information from the Arboretum. We need to plan to change out the display every month at the meeting. Displays can be fossils, stones, slabs, caps, photos, or any combination. We don't want to put specimens in there that we would be upset to lose.

We need more business cards, and Stephanie Robert is working on prices for club shirts, and yard signs.

Stephanie Robert & Cindy Rodgers met a nice couple at the Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Show. They are Patrick and Amanda and came to our meeting with a really nice geode to show.

We discussed the need to have a shop day once a month so members can meet and learn to use the machines. It was decided that we would meet on the first Saturday after our monthly meeting at 8:00 AM until further notice. The first shop gathering will be Saturday 6/6. (This first shop day fell through due to water damage at the shop from the storms on Memorial Day weekend. There was a foot of water standing for days. There are also serious electrical issues. John Nicosia and John Bennett met that Saturday and worked to clean up the mess. Thank you, John and John! We will try again in July. Hopefully everything will be fixed by then.)

Bob Griffiths told us the Mayborn Museum has a nice exhibit of artifacts and arrowheads.

It was suggested that next year we need to get more advertising for the show in the Killeen/Ft. Hood area.

The July meeting will be a pot luck picnic in the Pavilion at the Arboretum (they are still remodeling our usual room) at 7:00 PM Monday the 6th. We will continue the Cabochon Auction then. Stephanie

A message from the **Show Chair:**

I just wanted to take a moment to let everyone know some of what I have been working on since this year's show ended. As of this writing, all the vendor's, in addition to the 35 clubs listed in our SCFMS listing have been notified of the dates and other pertinent information. The online Community calendars for KWTX, KCEN, KXXV, The Austin Chronicle, Texas Highways, Tour Texas, the Austin Events Calendar, Bryan College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau, Lone Star Calendar, All Across Texas and Texas Public Radio have all been provided the information for our Show and those listings are either currently out there or pending approval for listing. I have also placed the show information in the Texas Co-Op Power Magazine & it should also be listed on their website. I am also currently working on getting advertising pricing and submission deadline dates for the printed ads.

I am starting to gather materials and items that will be needed for the Show, so if you have any of these items please don't toss them! I will be collecting materials from now until February 1st.

Large coffee cans

Styrofoam egg cartons

Flat or round rocks (suitable for painting & gluing)

Throw-away bits, pieces or shards of rocks & stones

Door prize and silent auction items (need both adult & children door prizes)

VOLUNTEERS !!! For both preparing for the show & at the show. If you would like to volunteer for any of the positions listed below, or just want to help out but you are not sure where, please let me know. There will be more areas coming in the next few months. Advertising, Demonstrations, Floor, Grand Prize / Door Prize / Membership, Identifier, Signage, Silent Auction Table, Spin The Wheel, Tickets. Please see me for specific details on each. And last, but certainly not least, Flyers for the 2016 Show are currently being drawn up. We will start getting them printed up and brought to the meetings so you can take some and start advertising.

Jennifer

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A Note from the Youth Leader

As some of you have noticed, we have kids coming to the meetings now. I sincerely hope that this affects everyone profoundly. There is an entirely new generation that is making itself available for us to share our knowledge, skills, and love of this hobby.

I will briefly explain the **Youth Program** for those of us who don't really know what our younger members are going to be doing. The AFMS created the **Future Rockhounds of America (FRA)** Badge Program in 2003 to reward young members for learning aspects of rockhounding and implementing that knowledge. The program is somewhat like the Scouting programs in that it awards badges or patches in recognition of accomplishments. There are twenty badges that encompass a wide variety of tasks such as Building a Rock Collection, Making a Presentation on Igneous Minerals, or Running a Demonstration at a Mineral Show. Each badge has multiple individual achievements that the youth must select from in order to earn their badge. Check out the Kid's Korner on our web-site for a complete list of all of the badges with their requirements.

I will be making time during each meeting for the youths. I am hoping that you are willing to occasionally spend a little time or energy in assisting them. There is a good chance that you know things that, if shared, would help the kids towards earning one or more of their badges.

If you have any questions (or suggestions), feel free to contact me.

John Bennett

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Upcoming Shows and Events

JULY 25-26 Farmers Branch, TX
Dallas CERA Show
Brookhaven College 3939 Valley View Ln.

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

AUG 15-16 Bossier City, LA
Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Show
Bossier City Civic Center

AUG 22-23 Jasper, TX
Pine County Gem & Mineral Show

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 July 6, 7:00 PM - Pot Luck Picnic and
****Cabochon auction******

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

July (Ruby and Larkspur)

Sandi Horton 30

Matthew Espinoza 9
Judy Mefford 17
Ken Mefford 19
John Nicosia 19
Bob Coleman 21



Ruby

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire. See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org>

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**

(For more information, contact this editor, or refer to complete notice in June’s Gritty Greetings)



Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

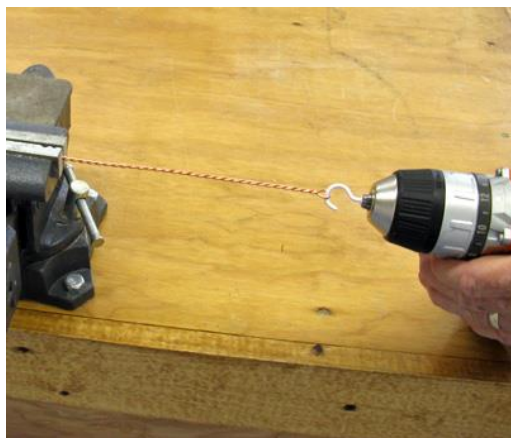
Get all 101 of Brad’s bench tips in “Bench Tips for Jewelry Making” on Amazon.com (<http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>)

SOLDERING PRONGS

I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But prongs can be a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them all upright while soldering, and the simple butt joint that looks strong sometimes breaks when you start to bend the prong over the stone. There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone *#~*!. I solved both problems with one little trick. It holds the prongs in position while soldering and it gives you a stronger joint at the same time. Locate and center punch the position for each prong. Then drill holes a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and stand them up in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

TWISTING WIRE

Twisting wire can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Foredom should do well. Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Grip the free ends of the wire in a vice and slip the looped end onto your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.



Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with variable speed.

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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