

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 57, Issue 8, August, 2017

187 South McLennan Drive, Waco, TX 76640

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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

Gritty Greetings: The Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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President's Message

Hello All!

Welcome to summer- unquestionably the best time of year for a rockhound. Why? Because there's none of that pesky rain, no crowding at the collecting sites, and you don't even have to produce your own body heat.

Okay, I admit I've spent about two minutes in the past month picking up rocks, and at this time of year if you're planning any more than that you're going to need either A: hydration, hats, sunscreen, and frequent breaks or B: to adjust your latitude.

But our hobby does not hibernate! It goes indoors and stays awake- and as most of you probably know, our indoors is a new location for us. Several of us met at the new gem club shop this past Saturday, and that place is coming quickly into shape. It's a group job, but special thanks are due to the Bennett's and to Jim Redding for their above-and-beyond efforts. The shop is already partly functional- the grinding wheels, the tumbler, the faceting machine, and one trim saw are ready for use, and the other saws only lack for mineral oil, which we should have soon. Some of us have already passed our test.

If you haven't used these machines before, check the schedule of shifts, come down and learn to use them!

There are some rules to follow- to protect the equipment and the people, and to make sure the equipment stays available for members. The rulebook is easy to read and the test is not too difficult. In particular, I want to emphasize: shop equipment must stay at the shop! And please don't use the shop for personal storage, not even for hobby-related storage! We don't want to backslide into the kind of mess we had at the old shop. In fact, we'd rather just throw your stuff away.

I'm excited that the club has the ability to set up teaching sessions on its own schedule, and I hope plenty of members will certify to use the equipment and sign up for shifts to have the shop open. Also, tell your friends who like rocks that there's a new reason to join us. Let's make that place hop!

I'll see you in August!

Andrew McDonald

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Vice Presidents Message

Thank You to everyone who joined us for our Clubhouse Grand Opening and July BBQ on July 8th. For those who were unable to join us, you were in our thoughts and were missed.

Our August meeting will be held on Saturday August 5th, at 10:00 a.m. Due to the Labor Day Holiday, our September meeting will be held on Saturday September 9th, at 10:00 a.m.

Please join me in extending a heartfelt “Thank You” to Jim and Alison Redding, their son James and also John Bennett for all their hard work getting the Clubhouse into shape. It has come a long way from what it looked like the day we were handed the keys. (I do have pictures of what it first looked like, in the event anybody would like to see them.)

Keep an eye on the Calendar for the August Workshops preparing for the Show.

FUNDRAISING: Several members have approached me about possibly doing some type of fundraising to generate money to be used for the upkeep of the Clubhouse & Machines.

Two possible options are:

1. An AVON fundraiser, with me as the Sponsoring AVON Representative – Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus – ANY 2 of the SSS Bug Guard items for \$15.00 Mix of Match. With this Fundraiser, the Club would qualify for Tax Exempt status (meaning no taxes would be charged to either the ordering individual or the Club), provided a copy of the Tax Exempt Certificate is remitted and would the Club would also retain a percentage of the proceeds raised.

- OR -

2. A Cookbook fundraiser, where we sell various pre-made Cookbooks for \$8.00, and we keep anything over our cost (which is \$4.00 per cookbook). This option only requires a minimum purchase of 20 items, we would get FREE posters to promote the Sale, there’s no risk to us as we would Pre Sell the cookbooks and take payment as we sell them, the order would ship within 10 business days and they have FREE shipping. Titles include: One Dish Dinners, Kids in the Kitchen, 5 or Less Ingredients, Cookies & Bars, plus 6 others.

If you are interested in either, or both, of these fundraisers, please email me at: bennettje70@gmail.com

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Workshop Committee Message

A message from the Workshop Committee: There are still a few things that we are in need for the clubhouse. We are trying to rebuild the Waco Gem and Mineral Club Library. The old card catalog was located and there were a lot of really great books and magazines listed. If you have any of the books, or if you know who does, please try to get them to the clubhouse. If you have any books or magazines that you think would be useful for other members, we will take donations as well. We are even willing to pick them up if you are having difficulties making it to the clubhouse. Please get in touch with Jennifer Bennett to make arrangements to have them picked up.

Gritty Greetings: The Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Jim Redding has done a wonderful job getting the Lapidary Workshop set up. All of the grinders/polishers are up and running, several with new wheels. The Rotary Tumblers are set up and ready to polish stones for the 2018 Show. The Slab Saw that is in the shop still needs to be filled with oil, but Jim has cleaned and refurbished it. The other Slab Saw is still out for repairs, but should be up and running real soon. Some new equipment is being set up as well. A Rotary Tool (Dremmel) is being set up on the central worktable. Aside from being able to drill holes in stones, this will provide some of us with the necessary tool to carve rocks more easily into shapes other than the standard oval cabochon.

One more item of note about the clubhouse, those of you that participated in the July Picnic will agree that it does tend to get a little warm in the clubhouse in the summer afternoons. Therefore, until we can get the air conditioning in the building upgraded, we will only hold scheduled classes and shop time during the mornings and evenings through August. That may continue through the first part of September depending on our semi-unpredictable Central Texas weather.

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Vendor Chair Message

A quick update on what preparations are under way for the 2018 Show:

The Venue is in possession of our signed contract & deposit. Contracts have gone out to those Vendors & Exhibitors who have requested them. If you know of someone that may be a good addition to our Show, or who may have Equipment for sale, please have them get in touch with me by email at: bennettje70@gmail.com. We currently have 5 Vendors (2 fully paid, 3 en route via snail mail) confirmed for the 2018 Show.

Sign-Up sheets for the Vendor Pot-Luck on Friday April 27th are currently being worked on and will be available, beginning at the August meeting, for you to sign up. Please note: Friday night's main course will NOT be chicken and sides from Bush's Chicken. (Don't worry, there will still be a Chicken main – but it will not be breaded or fried. (ed. And it should be less expensive for the club.))

Sign-Up sheets for Fresh Snacks in the Venue's kitchen Saturday and Sunday will also be available, beginning at the August meeting, for you to sign up.

Don't forget about those Wacky Bucks!

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2018 Waco Gem and Mineral Show

This year's show will seem a bit different to most of our members. For starters, we are going to be in the other side of the building that we have used in the past. That side is the Extraco Events Center: Exhibits Building (as opposed to the Extraco Events Center: Creative Arts Building). The cost for the space is the same for either side, but there are a lot of benefits with the Exhibits Building. To start, we have an additional 10,000 square feet of floor space so there can be a few more vendors, exhibitors, and demonstrators. Also included is a snack facility that we should be able to sell refreshments from during the show. We will have access to the same restrooms and kitchen facilities.

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The club will have a large area set up by the entrance to the kitchen. In that area we will have our Membership Information Table, Educational Areas, a Club-Only Demonstration/Lecture Area, and a large area dedicated to Games and Activities for our younger guests. For more detailed information (and the opportunity to have a say-so on everything in the Club Area) sign-up on the Club Tables Volunteer Sheet.

We already have conformation from most of our regular vendors that they will be in attendance (we even have payment-in-full from some). Most of our Demonstrators and Exhibitors from the 2017 show have told us that they will be there as well. We will be bringing in some new Exhibitors and, hopefully, a few that haven't participated in a while. Jennifer Bennett is providing her experience and contacts in heading the Vendors Committee but she does need volunteers to help out with a lot of things.

We will be starting an advertising campaign the last week of March. We will be contacting the different newspapers and television stations in McLennan County to set up on-air and in-print notifications throughout the month of April. I would really like to get someone that has a good on-air personality so that they can do morning show appearances the week before the show.

John Bennett, Show Chair

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July Meeting Minutes

The **July Business Meeting** was held with Vice President Jennifer Bennett, Treasurer Jackie Dodson, Secretary Stephanie Robert, and a quorum of the active members in attendance. Jennifer Bennett led the meeting in President Andy McDonald's absence.

1. A motion was made to move the standard meeting time and day to 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month. Discussion concerning the club not being locked into the Carleen Bright Arboretum schedule followed. The vote to change the club's meeting date and time passed unanimously.
2. A motion was made to change the September meeting date due to the increased traffic flow during the Labor Day weekend. Alternatives dates were discussed with a vote to hold the September meeting on the second Saturday of September (September 9). That motion passed.
3. There was discussion concerning the need for air conditioning improvements in the clubhouse. Several members stated that they would look into possibilities. Further discussion was postponed until the August meeting when more information was available.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

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Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 5th, 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.

Upcoming Shows and Events

August 12-13	Gonzales, LA Lamar Dixon Expos Center: Trademart Building www.brgemandmineral.org	Baton Rouge Gem & Mineral Show
August 19-20	Bossier City, LA Bossier Civic Center www.larockclub.com	ARKLATEX Gem & Mineral Show
August 26-27	Jasper, TX The Event Center www.pinecountrygms.org	Pine County Gem & Mineral Show

For more information about specific times, and contact information, please investigate before you go to any of these events.

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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.

Kay Langston took a nasty spill and is recuperating in the hospital. Let's all keep her in our prayers and well-wishes.

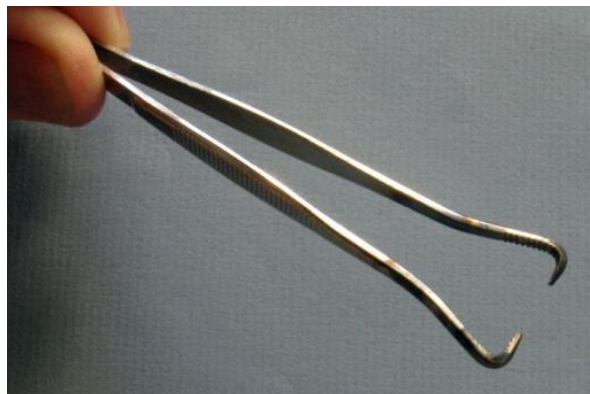
John Bennett went to the Valley Mills Public Library and did a presentation on the club and what we do here. Everyone had a great time and he can't wait to do another presentation.

The Field Trip Committee is looking into setting up a trip to Mineral Wells Fossil Park to get crinoids for the 2018 Show Grab Bags. Then we will have a class in the new facilities to learn the proper procedure for cleaning up and preparing fossils using the crinoids we collected. While the Field Trip is mainly to benefit the Education Department in providing specimens for the Grab Bags, and each member will be responsible for paying admission to the Fossil Park, the class on fossil extraction and preparation will be free. And who knows, you may be the one to find the next major fossil at the park.

BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.



DRILL BREAKAGE

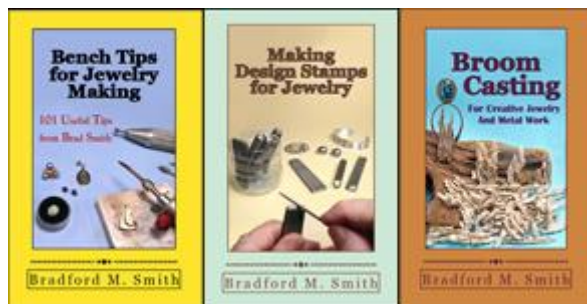
Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

See all Brad's jewelry books at

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



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JEWELRY WORD SEARCH

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

Agate	Choker	Glass	Ornamental	Silver
Amber	Clasp	Gold	Pearl	Solder
Amethyst	Clay	Green	Pendant	Spacer
Amulet	Copper	Grey	Peridot	Sterling
Aquamarine	Coral	Hematite	Pewter	Stud
Bail	Cord	Hemp	Pin	Swarovski
Beads	Craft	Hoop	Plastic	Talisman
Bell	Crimp	Horn	Platinum	Talon
Beryl	Crystal	Jade	Pliers	Thread
Black	Diamond	Jasper	Ponybead	Tiger Eye
Blue	Earrings	Jet	Porcelain	Topaz
Bone	Emerald	Jeweler	Post	Torc
Bracelet	Facet	Jewelry	Purple	Tourmaline
Brass	Feather	Jewels	Quartz	Turquoise
Bronze	Findings	Jumpring	Red	White
Brooch	Fossil	Leather	Ring	Wire
Brown	Garnet	Marble	Ruby	Wood
Cabochon	Gauge	Necklace	Sapphire	Wrap
Chain	Gemstone	Opal	Settings	Yellow
Charm	Gift	Orange	Shell	

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August 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>Meeting</u> <u>10 a.m.</u> <u>Workshop</u> <u>Noon - 1</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
				<u>Clubhouse</u> <u>Open</u> <u>9 - Noon</u>		<u>Nancy</u> <u>Fisher's</u> <u>Birthday</u> <u>Baton Rouge</u> <u>Gem &</u> <u>Mineral Show</u>
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Baton Rouge</u> <u>Gem &</u> <u>Mineral Show</u>	<u>Clubhouse</u> <u>Open</u> <u>6 - 9 pm</u>					<u>ARKLATEX</u> <u>Gem &</u> <u>Mineral Show</u>
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>ARKLATEX</u> <u>Gem &</u> <u>Mineral Show</u>						<u>Clubhouse</u> <u>Open</u> <u>9 - Noon</u> <u>Pine County</u> <u>Gem &</u> <u>Mineral Show</u>
<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		
<u>Pine County</u> <u>Gem &</u> <u>Mineral Show</u>			<u>Shirley</u> <u>Kyte's</u> <u>Birthday</u>	<u>Clubhouse</u> <u>Open</u> <u>6 - 9 pm</u>		

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BIRTHSTONES for the Month of AUGUST are PERIDOT, SARDONYX, & SPINEL

Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gem's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "*peridot*" is derived from the Arabic *faridat* which means "*gem*," but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word *peridona*, meaning "*giving plenty*." Perhaps that's why peridot is associated with prosperity and good fortune.

Peridot is the rare gem-quality variety of the common mineral olivine, which forms deep inside the earth's mantle and is brought to the surface by volcanoes. In Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the volcano goddess of fire who controls the flow of lava.

Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites.

Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gems. That's why this is one of few stones that only comes in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending how much iron is present.

Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan and Africa.

Peridot only measures 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, so while the raw crystal is prone to cracking during cutting, the finished gemstones are fairly robust and easy to wear.

Also known as "*the Evening Emerald*" because its sparkling green hue looks brilliant any time of day, peridot is said to possess healing properties that protect against nightmares and evil, ensuring peace and happiness. Babies born in August are lucky to be guarded by peridot's good fortune.

Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped stone with white bands.

Its name, similarly, combines sard (referencing the ancient Persian city, Sardis, in present-day Turkey, where the red stone was found) with onyx (from the Greek word of the same spelling, which meant "*nail or claw*.")

Sard ranges in color from yellowish red to reddish brown, depending on how much iron oxide is present. Sard is easily confused with carnelian, another type of chalcedony that is slightly softer and lighter in color.

Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands—instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate, another type of chalcedony.

The finest examples of sardonyx, which display sharp contrasts between layers, are found in India. Other sources include Brazil, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Madagascar, Uruguay and the United States.

Measuring 6.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, sardonyx is widely available and relatively inexpensive as gems, beads, and jewelry. It is often carved into cameos, intaglios and brooches to show the color contrast between layers.

Used as a stone of strength and protection since ancient times, sardonyx is associated with courage, happiness, and clear communication. Some believe that placing sardonyx at each corner of a house will grant protection against evil.

The spinel is often assumed to be other gemstones because it tends to resemble either a ruby or sapphire. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what sets it apart from other gems. Spinel also has a lower Mohs hardness than ruby and sapphire.

Significant deposits of spinel have been found in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

It has also been found in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tadjhikistan, Tanzania and the U.S.

Vivid red is the most desirable color of spinel gemstones, followed by cobalt blue, bright pink and bright orange. The more affordable stones are often those with paler colors, like lavender. You may also find spinel in black, violet blue, greenish blue, grayish, pale pink, mauve, yellow or brown. So many choices!

When shopping for spinel, a good quality stone should have no visible inclusions. The more inclusions, the less valuable the stone. Spinel can be found in various cuts, like octagons, trillions, squares, rounds and fancy shapes, like ovals, pears, and cushions.

Courtesy of
<http://www.americangemsociety.org>

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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 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>

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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