

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 57, Issue 7, July, 2017 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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Club Committees and Members If you would like to Volunteer to assist with a Committee, please contact someone on that committee to find out more.

Membership Committee:	Jennifer Bennett	bennettje70@gmail.com
Telephone Committee:	Jennifer Bennett	
Program Committee:	John Bennett	aessic@hotmail.com
	Jennifer Bennett	
Field Trip Committee:	John Bennett and Jennifer Bennett	
	Stephanie Robert	stephanie.robert1@aol.com
Annual Show:	John Bennett	Show Chair
	Jennifer Bennett	Vendor / Dealer Chair
Editorial:	John Langston	johnjkbear@aol.com Gritty Greetings
Historical:	Jennifer Bennett	
Publicity:	John Bennett and Jennifer Bennett	
Library:	(See note below)	John Bennett and Jennifer Bennett
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	James Redding	james.redding@ctxwifi.net
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	Andy McDonald	babydocmac@aol.com
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	James Redding and Alison Redding	
Refreshment:	Jennifer Bennett	

Whoever may be in possession, or if you know who may be in possession, of the Clubs library (card catalog indexing all the books has been located) - please get in touch with Jennifer Bennett by email or phone, to arrange getting it picked up, so it can be moved into the new Clubhouse. We would like to try to have this done before the BBQ on July 8th. (Please note we will need some time to ensure the books / catalog listing are correct and match, so the earlier the better would greatly help.) Thank you.

Contest Results: Both Winners Received a \$25 VISA Gift Card

- 1) Cookie – 4 Entries with a total of 33 Votes. **Winner – Farrah Kelley**
- 2) Cabochon – 4 Members entered a total of 20 Cabs with a total of 197 Votes. **Winner – John Bennett.**

Donations: Thank you to the following people for their contributions towards the Door Prizes, Silent Auction Items, Freebies or Grand Prizes. Your contributions were greatly appreciated! Shirley Kyte, Alison and James Redding*, John Bennett, Jennifer Bennett, Kateri Rose (Texas Magpie*), Stephanie Robert (Beedful Things*), Leith Johnson (Art and Stones*), Carol and Dan Griswold (Mohawk Opal with Fire*), Eddie Harmon (Eddie's Rocks and Relics*), Mark Randall*, Peter Cornell (Dallas Paleontological Society*), Leia and Clifford Kelley (Round Rock GPAA*), John Langston (The Ruins*), Sue Burkhardt, Angelyn Davis (Angel's Rocks & Fossils*), Judge John McCraw*, Tom Reed*, Noreen Powell, and anybody else whose name I may have missed. Individuals noted with an * after their name were Vendors / Exhibitors.

Workers: Thank you to the following Members who volunteered their time to assist with the Show (be that manning tables, assisting with set-up and break-down, etc.). John Bennett, Starlyn Carter, Francis Cook, Roy Cooper, Jackie Dodson, Bill and Betty Gillum, Jim Henry, Clifford and Leia Kelley, Farrah Kelley, Shirley Kyte, John Langston, Andy McDonald, Jonathan and Noreen Powell, Christian Bardin, and Stephanie Robert. A thank you also goes to Steven Bennett, brother of John Bennett, who assisted him with the FRA tables for a short while.

Jennifer

Waco Gem and Mineral Show 2018

By John Bennett, 2018 Show Chairperson

Yeah, it's still ten long months away, but it's surprising how quickly ten months can become ten days. It takes a lot of planning to put together a memorable event like our Gem and Mineral Show. It also takes a lot of work. I won't say that the work is hard, there is just a lot of it. Having different people committed to making sure that those tasks happen makes it easier on the club as a whole.

That being said, I am requesting help from each of you in getting all of these tasks accomplished.

There are several committees being formed, some that you may want to participate in as a decision-maker, others as a contributor, and still others that you don't know how you could do anything for.

The very first time that I volunteered to work on a committee, it was an admissions committee for an event that admits over 3,000 people in a single weekend. I figured that all there would be to it was occasionally sitting at a table overseeing a couple of people while they took in money and gave out tickets. I was a little naïve back then. Fortunately, there were others that had held my position before that were willing to give me a helping hand, a lot of advice, and that kick to the seat of my pants when I really needed it. The event went off great that weekend. There were more than 4,500 people that passed through the gates with the only complaint being that they wished that the gate last year had been as smooth. The reason for that was because of one thing. It wasn't that I was so great at selling tickets. It wasn't even my winning personality. It was that I relied on those who volunteered to do their tasks to the best of their ability. All I really had to do, other than answer lots of phone calls on the progress leading up to the first

day of the event, was to fill in for one of the volunteers who broke his leg when he fell off the mountain. I had one person who was in charge of getting the tickets printed up. I had another that worked up the shift schedule for each day. I had another that was in charge of making sure that everyone would get a collectible token to remember the event by (she had about 20 people helping her knit pouches). There were other volunteers too. The people who actually worked the gate and the runners that ran the half mile to the camping area to deliver messages and bring back water and snacks for the gatekeepers. And everyone that worked on the admissions committee had a lot of fun.

I am asking for your help with this. I know that right now times are tough. There aren't enough hours in a day to take care of the things that we need to take care of, much less when we add a bunch of tasks to do for the show. But it really doesn't take much to contribute. Some of the work can be accomplished during our monthly meeting. Some of the tasks can be finished by spending an afternoon with a few other members. The most important thing that needs to get taken care of is in lining up the committees of volunteers.

Here are the committees that are being formed as of now, and a general idea as to what they will be responsible for. I hope that you can find something that you would enjoy helping with.

Competitions Committee – This group would be responsible for coming up with a few different contests that could be entered by the club members. Past examples would be the Cookie Competition that was judged by the vendors, a Cabochon Competition that is judged by the visitors to the show, and a Display Competition. Committee members would be responsible for selecting competitions and prizes, coming up with and publishing the rules for the competitions, and the actual running of the competitions during the show.

Vendor Committee – This committee would be in charge of making sure that the vendors, exhibitors, and demonstrators had a great time at the show. This committee is responsible for the Friday night supper before the show and the gift to the Rollin' Rock Club. Jennifer Bennett has already volunteered for this committee as she has a lot of experience with our vendors. I know that she is going to be needing volunteers to help her with the responsibilities of this. You can get with her to ask her what you can do to help.

Club Committee – This committee will have several sub-committees. They will be responsible for the Admissions table, the Membership table, and the classes that the club will run during the show. I'm hoping that the last part will intrigue you. The last reference that I have seen on classes at the show was in 1996. The majority of what this group will be responsible for is making sure that we have enough volunteer workers during the show. We are going to need to keep the Membership and Admissions tables staffed the entire show.

Donations Committee – This is a fun committee. I was an active part of this one for the 2017 show. You ask for donations and you select the best category for each donation. We are going to be needing items for the touch table (or tables if we have as much as we had last time), Grand Prizes (six of them), Door Prizes, and Silent Auction items. But the list doesn't need to stop there. We could have an exhibit of the different items used to make Jewelry (this could also work with the Classes that the Club Committee will be working on), or a display of the different types of sedimentary rock found in Central Texas, or even a collection of some of the best work that has been done by our members.

Publicity/Advertising Committee – This committee will be one that I am very involved in. This committee will be responsible for all of the publicity for our show. There are flyers that will need to be hung, yard signs that need to be placed, and media that needs to be notified and invited. I would even like to see

us do an appearance on the Channel 10 Morning Show. This committee will also be responsible for the Promotional Passes for the show but more on that later.

Education/Youth Activities Committee – This committee is the one that I feel is the most important as it could very well be the stepping stone that a kid needs to enter the realm of becoming a Rock Hound or even a professional in the Geo-Sciences. We need to have fun activities for the kids (and adults). We need to have educational activities. We have the Wheel of Rocks (trademark pending), but they need stuff to give away. That will be another responsibility of this committee, getting together with the donations committee to ensure there are enough items to run the Wheel constantly for two days.

So you see, there is probably something that you can do to help make the show something memorable. And as a way to make it a memory that we can share with our family and friends, we come to Promotional Passes. I heard a few complaints during the 2017 show that people didn't get their 'Free Passes'. Everyone had been notified that the 'free passes' would be given out to volunteers and contributors but evidently not everyone reads the newsletter or listens to all of the announcements during the meetings. In light of that, I am putting the 'Promo Pass' Rules in this newsletter. I will also put it in every other newsletter until the show. They will also be posted on the bulletin board at the clubhouse.

You will only receive 'Promotional Passes' for volunteering and/or donating before the show. If you commit to working a table during the show, you will be eligible to receive 'Promo Passes'. If you donate items for the Silent Auction, you will be eligible for 'Promo Passes'. If you join a committee, you will be eligible for 'Promo Passes'. If you wait until Saturday, April 28th to volunteer to work the Membership table, you will NOT be eligible for 'Promo Passes'. If you bring Kolaches on Sunday morning and had signed up to do that, you will have already received your 'Promo Passes' for your contribution.

There are lots of ways to earn the 'Promotional Passes' for the show. I really want to give them away. But you will not get the perks for the show if you don't make the necessary prior commitment to do something. A member that waits until the last minute to volunteer makes the chairperson's job much more difficult. If the chair for Admissions knows that they need to have coverage on that table for a total of 50 man-hours, waiting until the April Business Meeting to volunteer may mean that you won't get to work at this show. The chairperson probably already made the schedule using the members who had already made their commitments. In that instance, there probably will not be a slot that you can work, meaning that you won't get your 'Promo Passes' and you will have to pay the member price to attend the show. If you have any questions about the volunteer process or 'Promotional Passes', feel free to talk to me. I can go into more detail if further clarification is necessary.

Notes:

Clifford Kelley will be having surgery on June 30th, at the VA in Temple.

Gene Henry's nephew passed away in Maryland and Jim and Gene just returned from the funeral.

We ask that they all be kept in your thoughts & prayers.

Someone is needed to take over the editing and distributing the Gritty Greetings. Time involved is perhaps 3 to 4 hours a month. Please see John Langston if you are interested.

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).

Dues are \$12.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a couple.

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Upcoming Shows and Events

July 01-02 Grapevine, TX Arlington G&MS Grapevine Convention Ctr

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

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July (Ruby and Larkspur)

BIRTHDAYS

Judy Mefford	17
Ken Mefford	19
John Nicosia	19
Piper McDonald	21

ANNIVERSARIES

Allen Lopour	6
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Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, colored by the element chromium. All other colors of gem-quality corundum are called sapphire, which means color is key for this royal stone.

Accordingly, the name "ruby" comes from *rubeus*, the Latin word for red. In ancient Sanskrit, ruby translated to *ratnaraj*, which meant "king of precious stones." These fiery gems have been treasured throughout history for their vitality.

The chromium that gives ruby its red color also causes fluorescence, which makes rubies glow like a fire from within. Paradoxically, chromium is also what makes this gem scarce because it can cause cracks and fissures. Few rubies actually grow large enough to crystallize into fine quality gems, and these can bring even higher prices than diamonds.

Burma's Mogok Valley historically produced the finest ruby material, famous for its deep blood-red color with purplish hues. These Burmese Rubies, also called Pigeon's Blood Rubies, command a premium over brownish or orange-tinged varieties from other regions.

The Mong Hsu region of Myanmar began producing rubies in the 1990s after discovering that heat treatment improved the color saturation. Other ruby deposits exist in Vietnam, Thailand, India, parts of the Middle East, East Africa and even the United States.

Tough and durable, ruby measures 9 on the Mohs scale. Diamond is the only natural gemstone harder than ruby.

Ruby's strength and red fluorescence make it valuable for applications beyond jewelry. Both natural and synthetic rubies are used in watchmaking, medical instruments and lasers.

Due to its deep red color, ruby has long been associated with the life force and vitality of blood. It is believed to amplify energy, heighten awareness, promote courage and bring success in wealth, love and battle.

<http://www.americangemsociety.org>

Next meeting, picnic, Saturday, July 8th, 2 PM at the new shop location.
187 S. McLennan Drive, between the Tire Shop and the Dairy Queen/Tiger Mart on the northbound service road of I35 in **Elm Mott**.

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

See all Brad's jewelry books at
Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin"

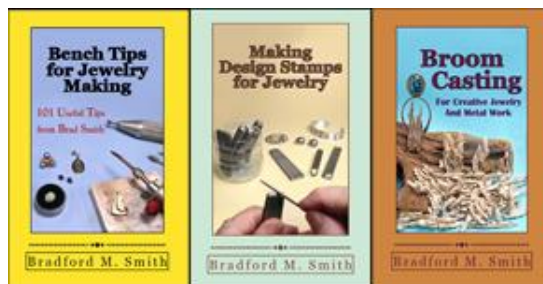
For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.



EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel. Then rough polish the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.



This space reserved for a club member's article or pictures.
(Hint, Hint)

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. Old 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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