

# GRITTY GREETINGS

## Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 55, Issue 4, April, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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## **President's Message**

Greetings to All!

Welcome to Spring - the time for bluebonnets, thunderstorms, and freshly washed outcroppings.

Unfortunately, recent work by the US Geological Survey has revealed that all limestone in Texas is highly radioactive, so no more picking up fossils locally. Also, in related news, Happy April Fools Day!

Our meeting on Monday, April 7 will be our last one before the Big Show. We will need to figure out who is handling which functions for the show- silent auction, ticket table, hospitality, etc. - so be ready to jump on the thing you want before you get relegated to potty scrubber! Also, it'll be time to take home signs and flyers, so look for places you'll want to set those up. And on a day when you're feeling generous, raid your treasure trove for donations to the raffle and/ or the silent auction and/ or the wheel.

Okay, for the moment I'm headed in to a square room to fix a leaky nose. But like you, I'm looking forward to getting some muddy boots. If you can stand temps in the 70's, then maybe I'll see you there!

Andy McDonald  
President

**Next meeting, Monday April 6, 7:00 PM**

## **Minutes from March meeting:**

We began the meeting with the news that Bill Gillum had fallen and broken his nose. He ended up with stitches and was recovering at St Catherine's. Kay Langston was sick as well. Nancy Fisher is undergoing treatment for cancer. Please keep them all in your prayers.

The February minutes were approved as printed in the Gritty Greetings.

There was no Treasurers report because Jackie was out of town.

We discussed the break in at the shop. There has been no progress in getting our saw back, and the door has not been fixed. If you go to the shop, please be careful so the door doesn't fall on you. There is a ladder to the left of the door to use to prop it up while you are in there.

### **Show Business:**

The hall and security are arranged and paid for.

We need to get the yard signs from the shop and we'll need to distribute them at the next meeting to be put out the week before the show. Be thinking of where you can put some yard signs.

John Bennett brought fliers and has plenty more. He is working on getting the business cards. Please pick some up at the April meeting and post them anywhere you can think of.

We discussed putting a group of the cabs purchased from Thelma Johnson up for a dealer auction at the pot luck dinner the night before the show.

Jackie has gotten control of the club's website, and as soon as John Bennett can get in contact with her he will try to get it updated.

Shirley Kyte will contact the Mayborn Museum about setting up a table at the show.

Andy McDonald will talk to the folks at the Mammoth Site, and contact the geology people at Baylor.

We decided that sending letters to the local schools was a waste of time. Stephanie sent out close to 40 letters to schools around the area and got no response last year.

Barbara Bessire will get ads in the Senior News, Goldmine and American Classified newspapers. Barbara has also volunteered to get the banners from the shop and take them to be updated. She has already contacted the Scouts.

Ken Mefford and Jim Henry are getting the Amethyst Cathedral for the grand prize. We need door prizes and things for the silent auction and the kids' spin-the-wheel.

There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting for duties for the show:

Two people are needed at the front table at all times to take money for admittance and sell raffle tickets for the grand prize. We need people who can be there to help set up on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, gofers to go pick things up as needed, someone to keep the kitchen organized, and someone to make sure electricity is working. Do we have access to a microwave? We need someone to open the building for set up and on the days of the show and a bunch of other things I can't think of right now.

Stephanie Robert has a Sam's card and will pick up snacks the day before the show.

We have 14 confirmed vendors so far. JNE Lapidary, who brought the sluice last year will be back!

In other business...

April meeting's snacks will be provided by Shirley Kyte

May John and Jennifer Bennett

June Linda Lowrance and John Nicosia

July Picnic

\*\*\* We still have cabochons to auction.

\*\*\* Though some will be used for an auction with the show dealers, there are plenty more.

\*\*\* We will have a cabochon auction at the June meeting.

**Remember: Show dates are Saturday May 2, 9 AM to 6 PM & Sunday May 3, 11 AM to 5 PM.**

**Setup is Friday May 1 from 9 AM to 9 PM** Adults, \$5.00, Kids under 12, \$1. Scouts in uniform free.

Stephanie Robert.

**Notes:**

For future planning, the AFMS national show is October 23-24, 2015 in Austin.

If anyone would be willing to step into an open position, please let us know. We also need someone to arrange programs for the meetings.

We need information from newer members about your birthdates. We list the birthdays and anniversaries in each issue, but have missed a few members.

**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.**

**Upcoming Shows and Events**

**April 11-12** Abilene, TX Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Abilene Civic Center; N. 6th and Pine

**April 17-19** Alpine, TX Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club Alpine Civic Center 801 W. Holland Ave.

**April 2-4 HUGE Rock Sale (San Antonio)**

Thursday April 2nd - 10am - 5pm-

Come early and help set up 7am. Must email in advance. \$14/hr in rocks.\*\*

Friday April 3rd - 9am - 5pm

Saturday April 4th - 9am - 3pm

\*For after hour showing email in advance

\*\* - Must be able to lift 50lbs consistently

Address (Map available):

Hampton Inn & Suites Schertz

17702 IH-35 North

Schertz, Texas 78154

Directions:

Traveling on IH 35 North, Exit 175 and proceed through intersection. Hotel is on the right.

Traveling on IH 35 South, Exit 175 and make left turn over IH 35 and proceed northbound on access road. Hotel will be on the right side.

(Walk through front door. Go straight when carpet starts Show room is on the right.)

Gems and faceting rough

Minerals – literally 1000(s) of exquisite minerals from around the world

Fossils – Beautiful specimens from around the world

Lapidary rough and slabs – 1000(s) of lbs from around the world

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, and Lapidary rough (Too many to list)

For more information, see editor or Andy. (This info is being sent to all e-mail subscribers)

## **BIRTHDAYS**

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

**April (Diamond)**

James Henry

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## **Diamond**

As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one. And now you have more choices than ever. Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gem of the earth. Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory. These are correctly called color-treated diamonds. When purchasing a fancy-color diamond, the shopper should ask if any enhancements or treatments were used to improve its color and/or clarity.

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

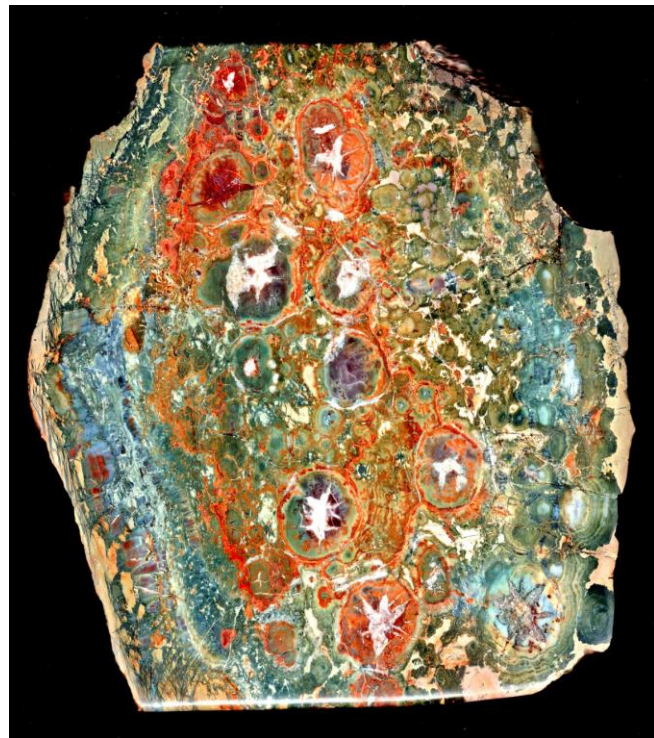
Thanks to: East Texas G&MS, Rock'N'Rose, 3/2015, for this gem!

**SYNOPSIS OF THE MARCH CLUB PROGRAM**

**BY PETE KEISER**

On March second Pete Keiser presented the club program on the subject of dinosaur coprolite from southern Utah. By far, hands down, this was the best program ever put on by anyone anywhere in the history of club programs. Hey, what do you expect? As long as I'm the one that has to critique my own program, I'm going to embellish it.

I started out by explaining the definition of coprolite. It's petrified excrement (poo, poop, etc.) from any creature. At that point, I gave the crowd the option of forgoing the coprolite program, and instead, having an intervention or discussion regarding the mental and psychological issues of those that would like to go, or do go out in the middle of a barren desert with all the potential dangers this venture could entail to look for old dead critter poop. As it turned out; most of the attendees have issues. Serious issues.



From there I explained that coprolite is formed in the same manner as petrified wood and that the specimens displayed are from the Chinle Formation of the upper Triassic period (a little over 200 million years ago). From there I presented photos of the landscape leading into the rock hounding area, and a large number of photos from southern Utah. The surrounding county has the largest number of National Parks, National Monuments/recreation areas, and scenic areas on Navaho reservation land than any other area of the country. Photos showing the desert wildlife and a few unmarked Pueblo Indian ruins were also presented. Next was the projection of nearly sixty coprolite and petrified wood specimens I found, cut & polished.

(continued)

When driving home the evening of the program it dawned on me there was one item left out. Not only does the area have the prettiest poop I've ever seen, it also has the best smelling poop I've ever had the pleasure of sensing. Yes, you read that correctly. It was very cold there one night while camping out. Firewood within a reasonable range was nonexistent, but there were plenty of cow pies left from the open-range cattle. About the only vegetation for them to eat in the area is an aromatic wild sage. That burning pile of cow pies smelled better than anything you could buy at an incense shop.

Poo Poo Pete

^^

**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/>)*

**DIVIDERS**

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them. They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.

**PIECE OF LEATHER**

Leather has a multitude of uses in the shop. I often use a scrap of it to avoid scratching the back of a piece of jewelry while setting stones. It's also great for times when you need to clamp one of your tools in a vise, for instance a drawplate.

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 225 Robinson Highway in Waco. Our website is

[www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://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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