

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 55, Issue 11, November, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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President's Message

Not available at press time.

Minutes from October meeting:

Bill Gillum opened with a prayer.

The August Minutes were approved as published in the Gritty Greetings. There were no minutes from September; there was no September meeting.

Next month, we will be meeting back in the Whitehall Center, rather than the Pavilion.

Jackie Dodson read the **Treasurers report.** It was approved as presented. If you have questions, please contact her.

Show Chair report:

Jennifer Bennett pointed out that the 3" x 5" add that only runs 2 days in the Waco Tribune costs \$750.00. She believes that money would be better spent elsewhere, such as the

marquee at the **Extraco Center** which would be a fraction of the cost. She has placed ads on a number of free sites, and is searching for more. This was moved, seconded and approved by a unanimous vote.

It was agreed that Stephanie Robert will order 100 pieces of **24" x 18" plastic yard signs** with the wire stands. These will be yellow with black lettering for delivery in March. We discussed planning where the signs will be placed, and will assign teams to place and pick up. Signs and locations will be handed out at the April meeting.

We discussed club shirts. Several people have said that they would rather have denim shirts than a tee. Yolanda Gustafson said she will help Stephanie get quotes for the shirts. She will try to digitize the logo John Bennett designed for us to help save fees. She knows some people in the business. It was also suggested that we look into getting shirts, bags and all from VistaPrint who does our business cards. They have a huge array of goods and services.

November refreshments- We don't know who signed up to bring these; if it was you, please let Andy McDonald know, and if he doesn't hear from anyone, he will bring snacks himself.

Upcoming:

10/11 - 12 Tri Cities show in Temple
10/17 Fossil Festival at the Mammoth Site- we will have a booth on the grounds
10/18 Children's Faire at the Arboretum
10/24 - 25 National Show, Austin G&MS and Southwest Federation Show all in Austin
10/30 - 11/1 Fossilmania, at Glenrose
12/7 Waco Gem & Mineral Club Banquet at Golden Corral at 6:30 PM

Election of officers

Andy McDonald agreed to continue as President
Jennifer Bennett volunteered to be Vice President
Jackie Dodson agreed to Continue as Treasurer
Stephanie Robert agreed to continue as Secretary
This list of officers was approved unanimously by members present.

The Kids club will meet on First Mondays at 6:00 before the regular meeting.
John Bennett will meet with the kids on Saturdays at the shop to learn Lapidary.

Website: There is a federation competition for club websites. If you have access to a computer, please check out our website: <http://www.wacogemandmineral.org>
Suggestions, critiques, compliments are welcome and requested. Contact John Bennett.

The Shop:

The machines need some major maintenance. Bearings replaced, the pulleys on one of the big slab saws are coming off. Also, everything needs attention, aligning and refurbishing. All this will cost somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500.00. A motion was made that we go ahead and authorize John to get the parts and organize the work needed to get the shop in good working order. Andy McDonald and John Nicosia will get together and order the parts. When those parts come in, they will send out a call for any able and willing hands to help with the work.

We also need to put up some shelves to hold things like the yard signs and things for the show that should be kept off the floor in case of another flood like we had last Memorial day.

Then we drew for and dispensed door prizes. Meeting was adjourned.

Stephanie

A Message from the Show Chair

I have been busy emailing our Show information to various agencies, and also posting it to free online community calendars. In addition, we had Show information available the weekend of October 17th & 18th, at two local events. That's about it for now. See you all in November. Jen

Future Rockhounds of America

We have a temporary meeting place set up. Since the Waco Gem and Mineral Club has the Carleen Bright Arboretum reserved from 6:00 until 9:00 the first Monday of each month, and since the Business Meeting starts at 7:00, the **Fossil Grabbers** will hold their meetings from 6:00 until 7:00. Our next meeting will be on **November 2nd**. John Bennett

BIRTHDAYS

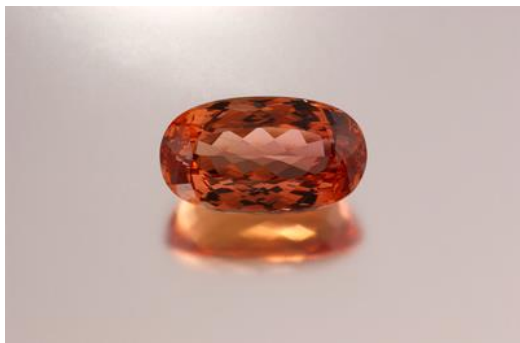
ANNIVERSARIES

November (Topaz , Citrine and Chrysanthemum)

Allen Lopour 9
Donna Livingston 24

Tom and Brenda Cosper 2
Steve and Jeanene Betros 5
Ben and Joyce Taggart 11
Bill and Betty Gillum 17

Topaz is a gemstone available in a rich rainbow of colors. Prized for several thousand years in antiquity, all yellow gems in antiquity were called *topaz*. Often confused with citrine quartz (yellow) and smoky quartz (brown), quartz and topaz are separate and unrelated mineral species. The most prized color of topaz is called *Imperial topaz* after the Russian Czars of the 1800s and features a magnificent orange body color with pinkish undertones. Topaz also comes in yellow, pink, purple, orange, and the many popular blue tones.



Imperial Topaz



Citrine

Citrine, the other birthstone for November is known as the "healing quartz". This golden gemstone is said to support vitality and health while encouraging and guiding hope, energy and warmth within the wearer. Citrine can be found in a variety of shades ranging from pastel yellow to dark brownish orange. It is one of the most affordable of gemstones and plentiful in nature. Citrine is found most frequently in Brazil, Bolivia, and Spain.

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

Next meeting, Monday November 2nd, 7:00 PM

At the Waco Cultural Arts Fest, September 26 – 27th, The Ruins Jewelry was awarded the “Best in Category” for Jewelry! Shown here are Brenda Khozein and Carla Pendergraft presenting John Langston with the award!



Upcoming Shows and Events

Oct 30-Nov 1 Glenrose, TX
Fossilmania
Somervell County Expo Center

Nov 14-15 Round Rock, TX
Fossil Fest
Old Settlers Association Headquarters

Nov 7 Mineral Wells, TX
Crazy Fossil Dig
Mineral Wells Fossil Park

Nov 21-22 Mesquite, TX
DG&MS
Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall

Nov 7-8 Amarillo, TX
Golden Spread G&MS
Amarillo Civic Center

Nov 7-8 Midland, TX
Midland G&MS
Midland Center

For more information about specific times, and contact information, please investigate before you go to any of these events. (For example, we arrived at Fossilmania last year at 2:30 Sunday afternoon only to find that they closed at 2:00. While one unnamed vendor was unhappy that we were even there looking, one vendor, Nature’s Treasures from Austin went out of their way to sell us several items! – Ed.)

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).

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

Articles, suggestions, comments, are all requested from our members for the Gritty Greetings. This is YOUR newsletter! Inputs requested by the 20th of each month; target date for delivery and mailing is the 25th of each month. Reports of your finds on field trips, area shows, helpful hints, are all welcomed.

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/>)

HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS

Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They're wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cutoff wheel or other type of grinding wheel to shape the blades to what you need. For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small pierced areas of your waxes.



REMOVING A STONE FROM BEZEL SETTING

If you've forgotten to use dental floss and got your stone caught in a bezel, there's one thing you can try before starting to pry. Find some sticky wax or beeswax. Roll it into a pencil-sized cylinder and stick the end onto the top of the stone. Mold it on well and yank.

But if the stone is really stuck, there are two other tricks - but each with risks and consequences. The first is to pry open the bezel with a sharp knife blade being very careful not to wrinkle or tear the bezel. If you try this, make sure to pry gently in several passes around the stone.

The last solution is to drill a small hole into the bezel setting from the back side so that you can push the stone out. Note that this does leave a hole, but in some cases you can use it to saw out a design under the stone.

www.BradSmithJewelry.com

Petoskey Stones are fossilized colony corals (*Hexagonaria percarinata*). Their origin is traced back to Devonian seas that covered Michigan's Lower Peninsula about 350 million years ago. The soft, living tissue of corals is called the polyp. A limey substance is secreted by the polyp, hardening into corallite -- a skeletal base which supports the polyp and keeps it from being buried alive by bottom debris. Petoskey stones found in Michigan consist of massive corallas of varying sizes. The limey skeletons were



replaced by calcite or silica in a cell-by-cell process called petrification. When glaciers scraped the bedrock surface, fragments of this rock were carried and deposited elsewhere, primarily in the north half of the

Lower Peninsula. In 1965, the Michigan legislature became the first in the nation to select a fossil as its state stone. Petoskey stones may be found on beaches, road cuts, ditches, gravel pits and sand blows all over the state. Similar fossils of the *Hexagonaria* genus occur in many parts of the world, but the "percarinata" is limited to the Traverse Group.

John Ratcliffe
via Pickin's & Diggin'
via SCFMS Jan-Feb 2014

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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