

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 55, Issue 10, October, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

President	Andy McDonald 3039 Spring Valley Rd. Lorena, TX 76655 254-655-4172 babydocmac@aol.com	Treasurer	Jackie Dodson 1004 Telluride Dr. Waco, TX 76712 jackiedodson@mygrande.net
Parliamentarian	Joyce Taggart 707 W. Billington Robinson, TX 76706 254-662-3905 vanzur@sbcglobal.net	Directors	Linda Lowrance 254-675-3408 linlow55@yahoo.com Shirley Kyte 254-751-7416 sjkyte@gmail.com
Newsletter Co-Editors Dealer Chair	Kay and John Langston 629 Whiskey Hill Rd. Axtell, TX 76624 254-863-0206 johnjkbear@aol.com		Ken Mefford 254-863-5518 kamjam328@aol.com
Vice-pres.	Jon Powell 254-498-3904 RXOPUS@msn.com	Show Chair	Jennifer Bennett bennettje70@gmail.com
Secretary	Stephanie Robert shaundra9@aol.com	Website:	http://www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Webmaster	John Bennett aessic@hotmail.com

President's Message

Not available at press time.

Minutes from September meeting:

No September meeting was held.

A Message from the Show Chair

Hi everyone. I hope you all had a good September.

In regards to the April Show, I am still in need of Volunteers to help get things prepared for the Show. While it is still about 7 months away, there's a lot to do.

Advertising (distributing flyers; yard signs; word of mouth); Vendor Signage (for inside building); Rocks (picking up, maybe polishing/cutting; painting to be used for Paid Kids Door Prizes/Fossil Grabbers); Slabs (more about this will be mentioned below).

I do have some information regarding one paid advertisement we did this past year that I feel the Club should discuss due to the cost versus the questionable foot traffic produced.

One other item that we are in **desperate need of** for the show is Slabs! This means, some shop workdays to produce said slabs. However, in order for us to make them, there will need to be one (or more) shop machine maintenance days. There are several machines that need work / cleaning, some major / some minor. Please if you can help with the maintenance or the making of the slabs, please let me know!

And don't forget the contest I mentioned in last month's newsletter!! See you **October 5th**!
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 first official meeting will be on **October 5th**.
John Bennett

.....
Volunteering Opportunities ! Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!
.....

The Waco Mammoth National Monument is hosting its fourth annual **Fall Fossil Festival** on Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10am-4pm. The **Fossil Festival** is a day of fun and education for the whole family. This year's festival will feature a new gate fee of \$5 per person. Gate admission gives guest access to all festival activities and fossil remains. Formal guided tours will not run during the festival to encourage a more come-and-go atmosphere. Open access to the Dig Shelter is included in gate admission. We welcome support at our **WGMC** tent.

Sunday October 18th, the **Carleen Bright Arboretum** will be holding the annual **Fall Children's Fair**. The fair lasts from 2:00 until 5:00 and will include tons of displays, demos, and activities to better acquaint children (and maybe a few adults) in the joys of nature. I will be setting up a table to give the kids sample rocks and answer questions. Any help would be appreciated including donations of tumbled stones, non-precious but interesting common stones, and members willing to donate a few hours of their time.

If you're able to help with either or both of these, contact John Bennett at 254 733-1658 or e-mail him at: aessic@hotmail.com

.....
Upcoming Shows and Events

Oct 3-4 Fort Worth, TX
CERA Annual show
3300 Bryant Irvin Road

Oct 10-11 Temple, TX
Tri-City Gem & Mineral Show
Mayborn Civic Center

Oct 17 Waco, TX
Fossil Fest, Waco Mammoth National Monument, 6220 Steinbeck Bend Rd.

Oct 18 Waco, TX
Fall Children's Fair
Carleen Bright Arboretum

OCT 23-24 Austin, TX
AFMS/SCFMS/AGMS
Palmer Center

ANNUAL BACK YARD ROCK AND EQUIPMENT SALE

CONTACT: KEITH HARMON 903-316-2967/ keithharmon19@yahoo.com

WHEN: SATURDAY, October 3, 2015 START AT 9AM

WHERE: 9116 US Hwy 84 West, Rusk, TX 75785

WHO: KEITH AND TONI HARMON

WHAT: OVER 50 TONS OF ROCK OF VARIOUS TYPES – AT LEAST 10 TONS NEW SINCE LAST SALE INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO: agates, jaspers, obsidians, Jade, palm wood, Arizona wood, tumbling rough, large rock, Cutting material. USED EQUIPMENT: SAWS, GRINDERS, POLISHING UNITS, VIBRATING LAPS, FLAT LAPS, SPHERE MACHINE, TUMBLERS COST: ROCK: FROM \$0.50 TO \$4.00 PER POUND AVERAGE EQUIPMENT: INEXPENSIVE FOR WHAT IT IS. PLEASE - NO EARLY SALES.

.....

A,B,C'S OF WHAT ONE CAN DO WITH ROCKS

A - Admire Them

B - Brag about them

C - Cut and cab them

D - Display them

E - Enjoy them

F - Facet them

G - Gloat over them

H - Hunt them

I - Idolize them

**J - Just enjoy their
beauty**

K - Kick them

L - Lick them

**M - Make something with
them**

N - Never tire of them

O - Ogle them

P - Polish them

Q - Quick - collect them

R - Roam for them

S - Stumble over them

T - Trade / Tumble them

U - Unable to resist them

V - Vastly enjoy them

W - Wonder about them

X - X-ray them

Y - Yearn for them

Z - Zoom to collect them

(Author unknown, from
SCFMS Newsletter, May-
June 2008)

.....

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).

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.**

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

October (Opal, Tourmaline and Calendula)

Darla Hogan	7	James and Gene Henry	16
Sumer Alexander	14		
Gene Henry	14		
Carol West	15		
Brenda Cospers	16		
Doug Dodson	16		
Tony Snyder	18		
Ray Hogan	22		

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste. Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These *bi-color* or *tri-color* gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as *watermelon tourmaline*, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge. Tourmaline is found in many localities including Brazil, Afghanistan, East Africa, and the USA.



TOURMALINE



OPAL

The name **Opal** derives from the Greek *Opallos*, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals. The opal is composed of particles closely packed in spherical arrangements. When packed together in a regular pattern, a three-dimensional array of spaces are created that give opal its radiance. See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org>

Next meeting, Monday October 5th, 7:00 PM

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/>)

CLEANING STEEL SHOT

Steel shot in a vibratory or rotary tumbler works great to burnish and shine your finished silver pieces. But a common problem is how to keep the shot clean. Carbon steel shot can get rusty if exposed to the air, and even stainless steel shot can sometimes develop a blackish coating that's hard to remove. My solution of choice to clean the shot is Classic Coke. Just pour an ounce or two over the shot and let the tumbler run for an hour or so. A bad case might require a second cleaning. Some folks like to let the bubbles in the Coke dissipate before using it so that gas pressure doesn't build up in the tumbler barrel. I've heard that it's the phosphoric acid in Coke that does the trick. While you're waiting for the shot to clean up, just settle back and enjoy the rest of the Coke.

DEBURRING A HOLE

When you drill a hole, there's usually a burr produced on the underside of the metal. Typically, burrs are removed by filing or sanding the area smooth, but doing it this way will put scratches on your piece that will have to be polished off. A quick way to remove the burr is to grab a drill that's two or three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill into a holder like a pin vice.



www.BradSmithJewelry.com

~~~~~

Petrified wood is a type of FOSSIL, in which the tissues of a dead PLANT are replaced with MINERALS (most often a SILICATE, such as QUARTZ). The PETRIFICATION process occurs underground, when wood or woody materials suddenly become buried under sediment. Mineral-rich water flowing through the sediment deposits minerals in the plant's cells and as the plant's LIGNIN and CELLULOSE decays away, a STONE cast is left in their place.

From T-Town Rockhound 6-05, via The Roadrunner, via SCFMS newsletter, Mar-Apr, 2014



Petrified Sycamore



Petrified Wood Stump



Texas State Stone  
Petrified Palm Wood

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](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.



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter  
Volume 55, Issue 10, October, 2015 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811