

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 57, Issue 11, November, 2017 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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

October Meeting Minutes

Stephanie Robert was not present for the meeting so Andy McDonald took the minutes.

With the exception of Doug Dodson's birthday being corrected to September 16th, the September Minutes were accepted.

Jackie Dodson gave the Treasurer's Report. We have money in the bank. Money continues to come in from vendors for the 2018 show. Money from the first batch of cookbooks was deposited. All bills have been paid although the rent check had not been cashed as of the meeting.

The cookbook fund raiser took in a fair amount for the first go-round. Those who have orders that have not been turned in yet need to make sure that the money is turned in by the end of the November meeting (11/04).

Allison Redding and Debbie Veteto will be providing refreshments for the November meeting. The refreshment list for 2018 is beginning to circulate. It will continue to be available at meetings.

The December Banquet will be held at the Clubhouse on December 2nd at 6:00 pm. It will be a pot-luck.

There was discussion of times for the Clubhouse to be open.

The Clubhouse is going to be open the evening of October 31st during the un-official Halloween Party, from 6:30 pm until 10:00 pm.

The Vendor Dinner held on the Friday before the 2018 Show (04/27/2018), will have a Bar-B-Que theme. Jim Redding will be providing rotisserie chicken and Jackie Dodson will be providing a beef brisket.

Upcoming shows were discussed.

Nominations were made for the 2018 Club Officers.

- Andy McDonald was nominated for President,
- Jennifer Bennett was nominated for Vice President,
- Jackie Dodson was nominated for Treasurer,
- Stephanie Robert was nominated for Secretary.
- Jim Redding was nominated to serve on the Board of Directors.

Jim Redding proposed getting a new motor for one of the rock tumblers in the Lapidary Workshop. He stated that he could get a replacement motor for \$99 and put it in himself. A motion was made to pay for the motor and have Jim do the work. That motion passed.

Debbie Veteto will be cataloging the books in the Clubhouse Library.

Workshop Committee Message

The Lapidary Workshop is in need of several things to help in its maintenance and upkeep. This is kind of a Christmas list for the shop.

1. Paper towels. These are used to soak up small spills, oil overspray from the smaller saws, and a quick non-abrasive means of wiping mineral oil off freshly cut stone pieces.
2. Ivory Soap Bars. As well as being used in the rock tumblers, Ivory Soap is 99 & ⁴⁴/₁₀₀% pure. It has no abrasive ingredients that will scratch polished stones. It has no chemicals that will cause your stones to change colors. It can also be used as an inexpensive alternative to liquid hand soap.
3. Scouring pads. These would be used to thoroughly clean slabs after cutting, clean most work surfaces in the Lapidary Workshop, and remove imbedded grime on workshop patron's hands.
4. People interested in using the equipment. There are several members of the club that would enjoy showing others how to cut and polish stones. Since everybody seems to have changing schedules, input from the members on what they want to learn and the days/times that they would be available to learn would help to provide that service to you. These would not be formal classes. Just a chance to get together with someone to have a little fun while doing something different. The shop would provide this information to staff members so they could coordinate with you.

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2018 Waco Gem and Mineral Show

After the meeting with most of the members of the Gem Show Donations Committee last month, I am going to ask the club for their assistance in procuring the items needed. If you have anything that you want to donate towards next year's show, you can bring it by the clubhouse when someone is there to accept it. John will personally accept donations before and after all scheduled meetings. What we are looking for are items related to the mineralogical or lapidary arts. Finished products like pieces of jewelry, a nice cabochon or two, mineral specimens suitable for adding to a collection, books or videos on topics related to our club purposes, kits that contain all the materials necessary to make a simple necklace. Several vendors will also be donating items to the club for the purpose of having them placed in the Silent Auction or used as Door Prizes.

Silent Auction items –The price range for these items would be in the \$5.00 to \$25.00 range. That is what you should expect to pay for those items in a standard retail setting. Since we will be running a separate Silent Auction for our show patrons that are under the age of 18, kid-friendly items will also be appreciated.

Door Prize items – The Door Prizes should be a little more valuable, or useful, than the Silent Auction items (\$10.00 to \$35.00) but may end up being bundled with similar items if necessary.

Grand Prize items – We will be giving away 6 items in the drawing at the end of the show. These are generally the more expensive/extravagant items that we take in from the donations. Since these are the items that we ask the public to drop the big bucks on to try to take home, they need to be more flashy and unique. We are asking for items that would cost between \$50.00 and \$100.00. A moderately sized amethyst cathedral or a matched necklace/bracelet set are good examples of donations for this category.

Items for Build-It-Yourself grab bags and similar areas – small fossil shells, crinoids, shark teeth, small polished stones, tiny pieces of quartz of all varieties, micro dinosaur toys, and small colored agate slices are a few items that come to mind. Anything similar will work as well.

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

A Question for Rockhounds

I posed a question in last month's Gritty Greeting and received quite a few responses. The question referred to stones in a rock tumbler building up excessive amounts of gas in the drum that forced the seal between the lid and the drum to fail. In addition to the numerous responses I got, there were also many tips on ensuring the best batch of tumbled stones. I hope that these answers will help you to make the best use of your tumbler as well.

AM: *I've been told that the gas is a by-product of the breakdown of organic material on the rocks, and that thorough cleaning before the first stage will help. I check the barrel a couple times in the first day or two to see if it needs "burping", but haven't usually had trouble after that.*

BB: *Place a stone under the drum before sealing the lid. Apply downward pressure when closing the drum so that the rock pushed the bottom of the drum up a little bit. That will create extra room in the drum in case you have gas build up.*

RTM: *Tumble your stones in a soapy water mixture for 12 hours prior to tumbling with a soapy grit solution. This will remove any surface particles and open cavities in the stone to allow trapped gasses to escape before the actual tumbling process begins. Sometimes it is necessary to soak a batch of stones to be tumbled in water overnight. This will loosen up debris in hidden in fissures and cracks. Clean stones tumble better with less problems.*

WG: *Add a little baking soda to the water before tumbling.*

R&S: *Use equals parts grit and granulated sugar during each stage of the tumbling. This will thicken the slurry, provide better smoothing, and aid in reducing gas emissions. Adding a teaspoon of shaved Ivory Soap per pound of stones will help to draw out the gasses that sometimes build up during rock tumbling, particularly when tumbling obsidian. Check the tumbler for gas buildup after 24 hours of continuous tumbling. If the drum seems swollen, remove it from the tumbler and 'burp' it by opening the lid slightly to let the excess gasses escape. Continue checking daily until there is no more gas buildup.*

RT: *Overtightening of the lid will cause the seal to fail more often. When using a screw-on lid or a nut on a threaded shaft, tighten it until snug or finger-tight. Any tighter can result in the lid becoming warped, creating a seal that is more prone to leaks.*

Since several of the ideas that I received had similar suggestions, I really didn't have to make too many choices. The batch of stones I started this month had been soaking in water for a day before I really started working with them. I ran them through the tumbler with soapy water for a couple of hours and rinsed them off before reloading the tumbler. I used 2 tablespoons of grit, 2 tablespoons of sugar, and 2 teaspoons of shaved Ivory soap for my 2 pounds of stones. I set the drum onto a small, rounded rock before putting on the seal and lid. I put the top on the drum and tightened the nut to finger-tight. Just to be sure, I turned the drum upside down for 15 minutes before putting it on the tumbler. As I saw no evidence of water seeping out, I started the actual tumbling. I checked the drum after 24-hours. No leaks and the bottom of the drum was still slightly concave. 48 hours later and everything was wonderful. The only differences that I saw after the full 7 days of tumbling were that the inside of the drum had a lot of beige bubbles and the stones were a lot smoother than in any of my previous batches. I did all of the same steps for the second week of tumbling

except that I checked the tumbler after 24 hours and then once more 72 hours later. I think that I have finally got the recipe down for how to tumble stones and prevent gassy buildup. And the rocks are looking so much better too.

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Presentations

Bob Boyd will be doing a presentation following the November meeting. The topic will be *Rock Hunting in Minnesota*. This is the first of several presentations that Mr. Boyd has offered to do for the club. For further information on this or upcoming presentations, ask Bob.

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Upcoming Shows and Events

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|----------------|---|---|
| November 4-5 | Amarillo Gem and Mineral Show
Amarillo Civic Center
400 Buchanan Street
finfran@midplains.coop | Golden Spread Gem and Mineral Society

Amarillo, TX |
| November 4-5 | Midland Gem and Mineral Show
Ector County Coliseum: Barn D
4201 Andrews Highway
mgmstx@gmail.com | Midland Gem and Mineral Society

Odessa, TX |
| November 10-12 | Houston Gem & Mineral Show
2017 SCFMS Convention and Show
Humble Civic Center
8233 Will Clayton Parkway
www.hgms.org
steve.blyskal@gmail.com | Houston Gem & Mineral Society

Humble, TX |
| November 18-19 | Dallas Gem and Mineral Show
Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall
1800 Rodeo Drive
www.dallasgemandmineral.org/annual-gem-mineral-show/case53d@yahoo.com | Dallas Gem and Mineral Society

Mesquite, TX |

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

How to Collect Fluorescent Minerals

By Mark C. Blazek

Reprint from August 1996 Gritty Greetings

(Originally published in Jewelry Making Gems and Minerals April 1977)

The most effective way to collect fluorescent minerals is to go into the field at night with a portable ultraviolet lamp. Night field trips have a freedom and excitement all their own. For those who have never tried this type of collecting, I can assure you it is always a unique experience. In the darkness all the ordinary colors of our daylight world disappear. Only the intensely glowing hues of fluorescent substances touched by the ultraviolet beam shine out with striking clarity.

Night collecting is not for every rockhound. There is a much greater danger involved. You must walk cautiously; avoid planting your feet on crumbling trail edge or backing into unnoticed cactus. Yet the spectacular specimens which can be collected almost always outweigh the dangers and inconveniences of this type of mineral hunting.

When looking for fluorescent minerals it is important to search locations where they are likely to be found. Old mining areas and prospects are always good places to start. I have found the best to be around the copper, lead, and zinc mining sites. Tungsten prospects will almost certainly turn up powellite and scheelite, two beautiful fluorescent minerals. Gold mining areas, however, are poor for hunting fluorescent minerals, because of the lack of mineralization.

Old ruined and abandoned ore smelters are good places to hunt fluorescents, in addition to beautiful non-fluorescent specimen. Minerals and metallic ores from dozens of mining areas were often shipped in and processed in these locations. You might check hillsides around ore smelters as truckloads of ore were often not processed at all and simply dumped over the hillside.

Many areas may require the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle and/or some strenuous hiking. U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps are, of course, very useful in all aspects of mineral hunting. Don't fear to stray from the beaten path, but mark your way with fluorescent chalk or in some other manner as it is very easy to get lost at night. (Always let people know where you are going and when you expect to return. Ed.)

As I stated earlier, the most important single factor in night prospecting is safety. Look over collecting areas in the daytime if possible. Familiarize yourself with places to lamp. Check possible hazards. Always avoid mines and shafts, especially at night. Concentrate on dumps and ore piles; they are far more productive as they represent a cross-section of the mine formations spread out in the open for easy examination.

You should, of course, follow standard field procedures and safety when hunting at night. A little bit of extra caution should be exercised. Beware of scorpions and rattlesnakes which are more or less nocturnal creatures. I have found that some scorpions fluoresce a very interesting shade of green. As for rattlesnakes, I have not yet had a strong desire to walk up to one and test it for fluorescence.

It is important to prospect with a companion when out at night. One can carry a pick and flashlight and the other can scan the area with the ultraviolet lamp. Allow your eyes to become dark-adapted so that you may be able to pick-up weak fluorescence at great distances. Most fluorescent minerals should be recognizable within a three-foot circle of your medium-powered shortwave lamp. More sensitive minerals, such as autunite, scheelite, hyalite opal, and hydrozincite,

may occasionally show up as far away as 20 feet. On an inky black night, they sometimes can be seen gleaming at 50 to 75 feet.

I have concluded that wearing leather gloves should be routine when in the field at night. You are more apt to slip and gloves will protect your hands from sharp rocks. Full-length lace boots with ankle supports and non-slip heels and soles are also important. Of course, safety glasses should be worn when chipping, chiseling, etc.

It can be very dangerous to prospect on private land at night without permission. Areas on Indian reservations are unquestionably closed.

With the advent of light, portable, powerful ultraviolet lamps, the task of fluorescent mineral hunter has been greatly simplified. Any of the light, single unit ultraviolet sources are good. Avoid two-unit instruments (the ones that have a battery pack separate from the actual lamp). I have found the two-unit instruments to be extremely cumbersome. Remember, ruggedness of the lamp is important as it will have to withstand many bumps and jolts. Units with built in white lights are especially useful. Keep the lamp as close to the rock as possible. Don't work too fast or you will miss faint showings. When in doubt, collect the sample for further examination under better conditions.

Collecting fluorescent minerals at night can be a very rewarding experience in more ways than one. One must proceed with caution and common sense, as is true in all aspects of mineral collecting. It is an eerie, strange environment – a world full of minerals that glow in the dark.

INTERMEDIATE JEWELRY CLASS

A **2-hour Intermediate Jewelry Class** will be taught on **Saturday November 18th, 2017** from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the Waco Gem and Mineral Clubhouse located in Elm Mott.

This 2-hour class will re-address the Basic Tools Used (also covered in the Basic Bead Class using Pony Beads), show the different materials (clasps, cording, crimp tubes, etc.) used in Jewelry Making, and have a selection of beads on hand for you to create your own piece. Jewelry Tools (such as Crimp Pliers, Round Nose Pliers, Cutters, etc.) will be available for you to use – however, as quantities of each are limited, you may need to wait your turn to use them.

Requirements: A Minimum of 3 Students **must be** registered for the Class to be held.

Registration: Interested parties must RSVP for the class no later than **5 p.m. on Saturday November 11th** by sending an email to: bennettje70@gmail.com Please indicate which of the Class Cost options you will be taking advantage of and please put Intermediate Jewelry Class Registration in the Subject Line.

(If you RSVP for the Class and fail to show up, you will be assessed ½ of the Class Cost option that you registered for OR you will be required to pre-pay for all future classes.)

Class Cost:

Option **A: \$20.00** – If you bring your own materials

Option **B: \$25.00** – With materials supplied to make one necklace (may use up to 2 different styles / colors of beads)

Option **C: \$30.00** – With materials supplied to make one necklace and one bracelet (may use up to 2 different styles / colors of beads)

Materials Needed (If bringing your own):

Crimp pliers

Cutters

Crimp tubes – Need 2 for a necklace and 2 if making a bracelet

Beads – Number of beads will vary depending on the size of beads being used; however, you will need enough beads to make a standard length necklace (and a bracelet if you choose to do so)

Beading Wire – Needed for the necklace

Elastic Cording – Needed for the bracelet

Clasp – Need 1 set for a necklace and 1 set if making a bracelet

*****Limited quantities of “Higher” priced / “Fancier” Beads (such as Hematite) and Clasps (such as 14K, Sterling) will be on hand for use, at additional Costs. Beads could range anywhere from \$3.00 to \$5.00 depending on which ones are used; Clasps could range anywhere from \$0.50 to \$1.50 depending on which ones are used*****

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BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

by *Brad Smith*

WINDING JUMP RINGS

Whenever you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.



TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

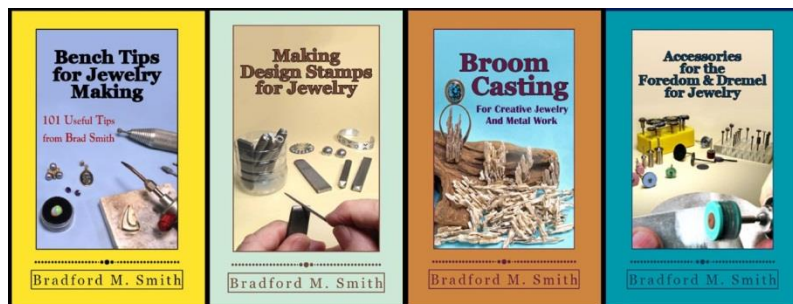
Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howlite, etc. If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at;

riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

See all Brad's jewelry books at

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith



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November 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>Amarillo G&M Show</u> <u>Midland G&M Show</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
					<u>SCFMS Convention</u> <u>& Houston G&M</u> <u>Show</u>	Last Day to Register for Intermediate Beading Class <u>SCFMS Convention &</u> <u>Houston G&M Show</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>SCFMS Convention</u> <u>& Houston G&M</u> <u>Show</u>					Bill & Betty Gillum Anniversary	<u>Intermediate Beading</u> <u>Class</u> 9:00 – 11:00 <u>Dallas G&M Show</u>
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>Dallas G&M Show</u>			Starlynn Carter Birthday			
<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>		

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NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONES: TOPAZ AND CITRINE

Through much of history, all yellow gems were considered topaz and all topaz was thought to be yellow. Topaz is actually available in many colors, and it's likely not even related to the stones that first donned its name.

The name topaz derives from *Topazios*, the ancient Greek name for St. John's Island in the Red Sea. Although the yellow stones famously mined there probably weren't topaz, it soon became the name for most yellowish stones.

Pure topaz is colorless, but it can become tinted by impurities to take on any color of the rainbow. Precious topaz, ranging in color from brownish orange to yellow, is often mistaken for "*smoky quartz*" or "*citrine quartz*," respectively—although quartz and topaz are unrelated minerals.

The most prized color is Imperial topaz, which features a vibrant orange hue with pink undertones. Blue topaz, although increasingly abundant in the market, very rarely occurs naturally and is often caused by irradiation treatment.

The largest producer of quality topaz is Brazil. Other sources include Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Russia, Australia, Nigeria, Germany, Mexico and the U.S., mainly California, Utah and New Hampshire.

Measuring 8 on the Mohs scale, topaz is a rather hard and durable gem. Its perfect cleavage can make it prone to chipping or cracking, but when cut correctly, topaz makes very wearable jewelry.

Topaz is a soothing stone that has been said to calm tempers, cure madness and eliminate nightmares.

Yellow gems have been called variations of the name topaz for thousands of years – long before mineralogists determined that topaz occurs in a range of colors, and that many yellowish stones actually belong to other mineral species.

Ancient texts from the Greek scholar Pliny to the King James Bible referenced topaz, but because of this longstanding confusion, they likely referred to other yellow stones instead.

During the Renaissance in Europe, people believed that topaz could break spells and quell anger. Hindus deemed topaz sacred, believing that a pendant could bring wisdom and longevity to one's life. African shamans also treated the stone as sacred, using it in their healing rituals.

Russia's Ural Mountains became a leading source of topaz in the 19th century. The prized pinkish orange gemstone mined there was named Imperial topaz to honor the Russian czar, and only royals were allowed to own it.

Since the discovery of large topaz deposits in Brazil in the mid-19th century, topaz has become much more affordable and widely available.

Processes were developed in the 1960s to turn common colorless topaz blue with irradiation treatment. This variety has since

flooded the market, making it one of the least expensive gems available.

Light blue varieties of topaz can be found in Texas, though not commercially mined there. Blue topaz became an official gemstone of Texas in 1969—the same year Utah adopted topaz as its state gemstone.

Topaz is a traditional gift for those with November birthdays. It's also given to celebrate 19th wedding anniversaries, and certain types (blue and Imperial, respectively) acknowledge 4th and 23rd wedding anniversaries, as well.

Since topaz was recognized as more than just a yellow gem, it has become fairly common and therefore rather inexpensive. It can be judged along the same parameters as diamonds. In fact, colorless topaz is increasingly popular as an inexpensive diamond alternative.

When buying topaz, realize that this gem is most often treated with irradiation to produce desirable colors—particularly blue. Because these processes so closely resemble how topaz forms in nature, there is practically no way to determine whether a stone has been treated.

Imperial topaz is the most highly prized for its intense reddish orange color. Yellow, orange and brown stones are more common and less expensive—although these can be treated with heat to enhance the pink and red hues.

Topaz crystals have yielded some of the largest gemstones ever cut. Mines in Brazil produced both the world's largest cut blue topaz (the "*Brazilian Princess*," weighing 21,327 carats) and the largest cut yellow topaz (the "*American Golden Topaz*," weighing 22,892.5 carats).

November's second birthstone, citrine, is the variety of quartz that ranges from pale yellow to brownish orange in color. It takes its name from the citron fruit because of these lemon-inspired shades.

The pale yellow color of citrine closely resembles topaz, which explains why November's two birthstones have been so easily confused throughout history.

Citrine's yellow hues are caused by traces of iron in quartz crystals. This occurs rarely in nature, so most citrine on the market is made by heat treating other varieties of quartz—usually the more common, less expensive purple amethyst and smoky quartz—to produce golden gems.

Brazil is the largest supplier of citrine. Other sources include Spain, Bolivia, France, Russia, Madagascar and the U.S. (Colorado, North Carolina and California). Different geographies yield different shades of citrine.

With a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale, citrine is relatively durable against scratches and everyday wear-and-tear—making it a lovely option for large, wearable jewelry.

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Citrine is sometimes known as the “*healing quartz*” for its ability to comfort, soothe and calm. It can release negative feelings, spark imagination and manifest fresh beginnings. It’s even called the “*merchant’s stone*” for its tendency to attract wealth and prosperity.

Citrine quartz has been adored since ancient times. The name citrine was used to refer to yellow gems as early as 1385, when the word was first recorded in English. However, since the gem’s color closely resembled topaz, these two November birthstones shared a history of mistaken identities.

Quartz and topaz are actually unrelated mineral species. But before these differences were clear, many cultures called citrine (the yellow variety of quartz) by other names like gold topaz, Madeira or Spanish topaz—contributing to the confusion.

Throughout history, people believed that citrine carried the same powers as topaz, including the ability to calm tempers, soothe anger and manifest desires, especially prosperity. To leverage these powers, Egyptians used citrine gems as talismans, the ancient Greeks carved iconic images into them, and Roman priests fashioned them into rings.

A key discovery gave citrine a boost of popularity in the mid-18th century. Mineralogists realized that amethyst and smoky quartz could be heat treated to produce lemony and golden honey hues of citrine, contributing to an abundance of affordable enhanced gems on the market.

Once citrine was distinguished from topaz, it quickly became popular in women’s jewelry as well as men’s cufflinks and rings. Today, it remains one of the most affordable and frequently purchased yellow gemstones.

Whether shopping for a November birthday, a 13th wedding anniversary, or just an affordable piece of jewelry to complement any style, citrine makes a perfect gift.

Citrine is one of the most affordable and abundant gemstones on the market. Even fine, large gems are modestly priced, which means everyone can find citrine to fit their budget.

These gems can be evaluated by the same factors as diamonds. Because the majority of citrine gems on the market have been heat treated—and because it takes an expert to detect these enhancements—it’s wise to shop with an AGS jeweler who can help you choose the best gem.

The finest citrine gems are saturated with yellow, orange and reddish hues, while stones of lower value appear pale or smoky. Earth-tones of amber brown are also increasingly popular.

Because these colors are rare in nature, most citrine is created by heating less expensive varieties of quartz, including amethyst and smoky quartz, to produce yellow gems. Most citrine on the market has been heat treated.

Citrine is readily available in sizes up to 20 carats—and, because its price doesn’t rise exponentially with carat weight, big gems are relatively inexpensive.

At its largest, citrine can weigh hundreds and even thousands of carats, like a Brazilian stone at the Smithsonian Institution weighing 2,258 carats.

Thanks to the abundance of large citrine, and the treatment methods that turn less expensive stones into this yellow gem, it’s easy to find citrine at a good price.

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



Our next meeting will be Saturday, November 4th at 10 AM in 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.

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.

Lapidary Workshop fee is \$2.00 per hour. Slab Saw fee is 5¢ per square inch of slab. Class fees are always dependent upon class and instructor.

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The Waco Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies; and the 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>

Club Purpose

- 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.



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