

GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 57, Issue 5, May, 2017 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

President	Andy McDonald 254-655-4172 babydocmac@aol.com	Treasurer	Jackie Dodson jackiedodson@mygrande.net
Newsletter Co-Editors Dealer Chair	Kay and John Langston 254-863-0206 johnjkbear@aol.com	Vice-pres. Show Chair	Jennifer Bennett bennettje70@gmail.com
Secretary	Stephanie Robert stephanie.robert1@aol.com	Website: Webmaster	http://www.wacogemandmineral.org John Bennett aessic@hotmail.com

President's Message Not available.

April Meeting Minutes

Bill Gillum opened with a prayer.

Guests: Larry and Judy Woodard from Mart and Jerry Parton from Iowa. Jerry was helping his daughter move here, as she just got a job at Baylor. Hopefully we will see them again.

Minutes from March were approved as printed in the Gritty Greetings.

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report. If you would like details, contact Jackie. She is still taking membership dues. If you can't remember if you have paid or not, give her a call.

Nancy Fisher sent greetings. She's doing well, and not having to have Chemo treatments currently.

Upcoming shows and field trips: Temple, Fort Worth and Arlington clubs have upcoming trips - check their websites for details. Arlington will be going to Arkansas to dig for Quartz 4/25 & 26.

Shop news-

We have no electricity at all now; they have even removed the panel box. We really need to find a new location. Any suggestions would be welcome. If we had the space, we could do all kinds of fun things. There are people from other clubs that could come do workshops for us if we have the interest and location to do them.

Show news-

We have 22 vendors and 3 exhibitors confirmed. WIFI has been arranged, so we and the vendors will be able to take credit and debit cards, Security is set up for Friday and Saturday nights from 8 PM to 8 AM. We will provide Bush's Fried Chicken; we need veggies, fruits and assorted sides. Jennifer has a list of known food allergies, etc. Jennifer Bennett also has sign-up sheets for the club tables, food for the pot luck dinner. We are arranging for coffee, a microwave and the usual Sam's run for snacks and water, There is a horse show at the Extraco Center that weekend. We have been told that our people won't have problems with parking, etc.

If you possibly can, we can use all the help we can get. Blue shirts will help vendors and visitors spot you and Yolande still has club patches. Also, if you need fliers, contact Jennifer Bennett and she can email you one to print out. Let's spread the word and make this the best show yet! There are still yard signs.

Contact Andy McDonald to get some. They need to be displayed the week before the show.

Andy and Jackie represented the club at the **Arboretum's Gardeners Gathering**. The attendance was less than usual due to storms in the morning.

A Field Trip Committee has been formed to come up with, research, and organize day trips for club members. We are just getting started. If you have ideas, contact the Bennetts or Stephanie Robert.

The end

Stephanie

Some excerpts from Jennifers reports from April which are still pertinent:

Volunteers are still **urgently** needed for the show: Admission Table, Silent Auction Table, Grand Prize/Membership/Door Prize Table, Spin-the-Wheel, Dino, Floor Security.

We need someone who is able to make a run to Sam's/Store to purchase the usual Club items for the Kitchen – beverages (need Diet DP or Diet Coke), snacks, fruits, etc.

We also need someone to make the Club meal item run – which entails picking the food up from the Vendor and delivering it to the Venue by 6:00 p.m. (Meal is set to be served by 6:30)

If you are in need of a Club patch, Yolande has those for \$7.00 each. Please contact her if interested.

Blue Shirts – PLEASE be sure to wear a Blue Shirt that either has the Club Name or Club Patch on it, in addition to wearing your Name Badge. If you have not purchased your Name Badge, please see the information located in the Gritty Greetings for where to purchase them.

If you have camp chairs or tables that you can bring for use at the show, that would be great. This would free up some of the chairs for use as seating / rest areas for guests.

If you will be assisting at Vendor set-up, please remember that set-up runs from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. We will also be holding our potluck dinner at 6:30 Friday night so please be sure to have your dishes in the kitchen at the Venue no later than 6:00 p.m. PLEASE.

Next meeting, Monday, May 1st, at Carleen Bright Arboretum, 7:00 PM.

Our guest speaker will be **Helen Serras-Herman**. Her company is **Gem Art Center**, and she will be a vendor at our show as well. She is a gem carver and jewelry artist, and a frequent article contributor for **Rock & Gem Magazine**.

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).

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

Upcoming Shows and Events

April 29-30	Waco, TX	Waco G&MC	Extraco Events Center
May 6 -7	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock G&MS	Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
May 27 – 28	Fort Worth, TX	FWG&MC	Will Rogers Memorial Center

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

BIRTHDAYS

May (Emerald and Lily of the Valley)

Jon Powell	3
John Bennett	13
Kay Langston	15
Malia White	15
Trayne White	15
Stephanie Robert	20
Mary Massirer	22
Francis Cook	28

ANNIVERSARIES

Donna Livingston	5
------------------	---

Emerald

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word “smaragdus,” means, quite literally, “green” in Greek.

Like [aquamarine](#), emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color is presents itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist.

Most emeralds end up being heat treated to deepen or enhance the color. The deeper or more green an emerald, the more valuable it is. The rarest emeralds will appear to be an intense green-blue.

Emeralds are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

<http://www.americangemsociety.org>

Bench Tips

by Brad Smith

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

BORAX COATING A MELTING DISH

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated. The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle. When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed. Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim. And don't forget to coat the pouring spout itself.



FILIGREE

One of my favorite types of jewelry is filigree, and each country seems to have its own variation of it. I love the swirls and the detailed texture of the fine elements. Pieces I've done are generally of the Russian variety. It may look complicated but it really is not. Start with a border of 16 or 18 ga wire and fill in the interior with swirls of the filigree.



Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other. I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.

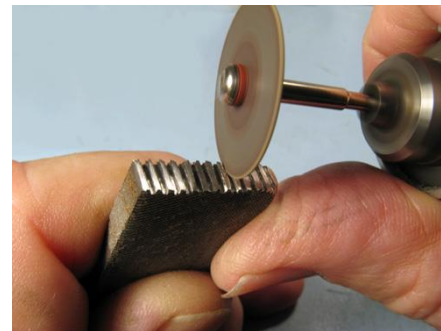
CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to

sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.



DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chainmaking, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not to tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Code of Ethics

While this is published in every issue of the AFMS newsletter, we probably don't include it often enough in our club newsletter.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the Rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

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.



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 57, Issue 5, May, 2017 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811