

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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W.G.M.C. December Meeting Minutes

WG&MC MINUTES 12/1/18

There were no minutes in December since the monthly meeting was our annual Christmas Party and there was lots of Christmas fun and food. We all had a great time eating and sharing the gift exchange!

We had one visitor who became a member and shared the Christmas party with us!

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For this month's meeting Bob Boyd will be giving a presentation. it will be a good one and everyone will enjoy it.

Don't forget that Bob will also be starting the Silversmithing class and all that are interested are welcome. The cost will be reasonable for Silversmithing classes and you will be able to take as much as you want! Bob will explain all of this at the meeting.

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From the editor

My apologies for the late appearance of the Gritty Greetings, I let things get in the way and didn't get in front of my computer until in the middle of our trip to Quartzite. I will work on February's News Letter, when Alison isn't dragging me around the sites in Quartzite, and get it sent out if I can get good internet connection. I may have to find one of those internet coffee shops, however, they may be scarce in that area. I have my camera and intend to take pictures and will write a little article for February's News Letter with pictures.

The trip so far: We are in Lordsburg, New Mexico, and have been without problems. We were headed into icy roads but we changed from heading to Hobbs, New Mexico, to a more southerly route, and have had a nice trip traveling along just after the bad weather had cleared. It had been pretty bad according to the vehicle's that were still along side of the road and the Box trailer that was totally destroyed still along side the road. But the brush and Cacti in places had a snow covering that looked like they were in bloom and made the drive quite nice. Tomorrow we head out on our last leg of the journey and should arrive in Quartzite around 5:00 pm.

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Upcoming Shows and Events

Please visit our website, www.wacogemandmineral.org for all the latest and greatest! We try to keep it updated with all the fun information. Check out our Events page with all upcoming events. Visit our STORE for merchandise to buy! We have shirts for adults and kids, baseball hats, tote bags and car magnets! Please get yours today while supplies last!!

Our next meeting is at 10:00 pm on Saturday, January 5, 2019

Pot luck dinner & Movie Night @ 6 p.m. Thursday January 17th

at The Waco Gem and Mineral Club
187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas



The 59th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on Saturday May 4, 2019 and Sunday May 5, 2019. Our event last year was met with a huge response and we expect an even bigger turnout this year!

Booth spaces are on a first come, first serve basis and we are expected to sell out quickly as we will only have a limited number of vendor spaces. Please take this opportunity to secure your booth space now.

If you have any questions, please contact Alison Redding at (254) 707-1341 or email: wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org

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January Birth Stone:

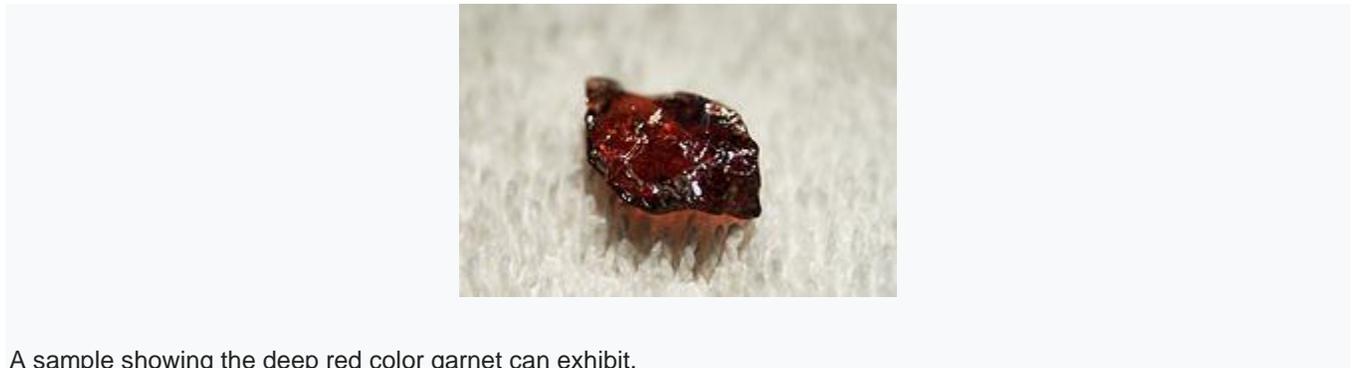


Garnet:

Garnets are a group of silicate minerals that have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives.

All species of garnets possess similar physical properties and crystal forms, but differ in chemical composition. The different species are pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular (varieties of which are hessonite or cinnamon-stone and tsavorite), uvarovite and andradite. The garnets make up two solid solution series: pyrope-almandine-spessartine and uvarovite-grossular-andradite.

Garnet species are found in many colors including red, orange, yellow, green, purple, brown, blue, black, pink, and colorless, with reddish shades most common.



A sample showing the deep red color garnet can exhibit.

Garnet species' light transmission properties can range from the gemstone-quality transparent specimens to the opaque varieties used for industrial purposes as abrasives. The mineral's luster is categorized as vitreous (glass-like) or resinous (amber-like).

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From the bench of Bradford Smith

STIFFENING EARRING POSTS

Soldering an earring post will always soften the wire a bit. The easiest way I've found to harden it is to grip it with pliers and twist it a couple half turns. This work hardens the wire and also tests your soldered joint.

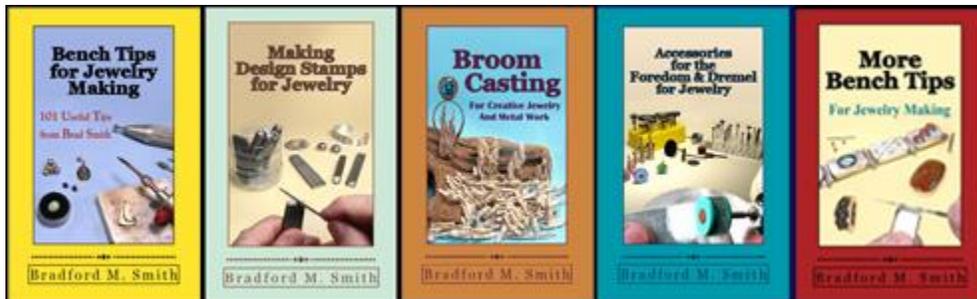
SOLVENT DISPENSER

Frequently I need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like the bottle of an alcohol lamp or a nail polish bottle that I use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often, I can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as I get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes aren't too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents most frequently used. The bottles have a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip, I don't spill a drop.

A Google search will turn up many suppliers. One I've used is Carolina Biological Supply Company at www.carolina.com The bottle is Catalog # 716580 - Unitary Wash Bottle, Low-Density Polyethylene, 125 ml USD \$ 5. They have several sizes, as well as, other bottles labeled for specific solvents.

Discover new jewelry skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



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