

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 63, Issue 4, April, 2022

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

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## Upcoming Shows

**April • 2 - 3**, San Antonio, TX, SW G&MS 60 Fiesta of Gems, Morris Center @ Joe Freeman Coliseum, SWGMS.org •

**April--2 - 3** Truth or Consequences, NM, Sierra County R&GS, Sierra County Fair Barn, - scrags.org •

**April -9 - 10** Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Building, Email: delanec3@earthlink.net •

**April 30 – May 1**, Waco, TX, Waco GMS, Waco Convention Center, website [www.WacoGemandMineral.org](http://www.WacoGemandMineral.org)

**May 28–29** Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Memorial Center, <http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org>

## Contacts

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### Waco Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes 2022.03.05

**Meeting called to order** 10:03 am.

**Minutes:** Bob: Motion to approve Minutes as posted. Karl Second. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report** from Jackie.

- Stephanie suggested we wait until after the annual Show to change CD's to higher-interest account(s).
- Jackie brought updated Financial Flash Drive to be stored at the clubhouse. Next month, she will bring an updated flash drive, store it in the clubhouse, and retrieve the previous drive. That way each month the flash drive stored in the clubhouse will be an updated copy.
- Jackie brought items to be donated for the Show.

### Program Committee report from Bob.

- We are required to have an annual Safety Training
- Bob will look into a Fire Extinguisher Safety Training program.

### Old Business

- Jackie's credit card information was deleted off the godaddy.com account and the new WGM Club card was added.  
Note: the monthly electricity expense is paid direct from the Club bank account.

**Field Trip Committee** recommendations

- Texas Turitella field trip to Mother Neff Park suggested, also another day trip to Brownwood for Horn Coral

## The 2022 Show

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- Advertising- Roy will try Waco Tourist; Harry-Baylor Neighborhood; Scott-Waco Trib, Radio PSA; Shirley-Texas Mineral Clubs, Facebook; Scott-use club funds to reach Austin, Dallas, "geo fencing" to reach downtown Waco, Silos, BU;

- Flyers for Waco Convention Center racks

- Signs on the grounds

- Need donations of quality material for Silent Auction

- Roy wants to sell a beautiful, big, polished petrified wood at cost to the Club for \$100 to be used as a prize at the Show. No objections. Unanimous consent accepted by the club.

John Langston accepted as new Vendor Chair by unanimous consent.

**Balance of the meeting** consisted of Alison going over with the Club members the details of what needs to be done to get ready for the Show, during the Show, and after the Show.

Meeting adjourned about 11:00.

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## Notes

1. A field trip has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 9th** at Brownwood, collecting horn coral. For more information, contact Bob Boyd at 817-917-4977.

2. The program for the April meeting will be petrified wood in the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

3. May program will be a safety demonstration on fire extinguishers. (Required by the Federation.)

4. The Texas Through Time Museum in Hillsboro is having a fund raising gala on **Saturday, March 26th**. The Museum is a nonprofit paleontology museum. For details, check our website under the events heading or call the Museum @ 254-262-3466. Tickets are required.

**5. Anyone with a donation to the silent auction, please bring it to the April 2nd meeting so that we have time to tag & price it. A note with the item's ID and where it came from would help, but is not necessary. We need some really good items with value to help fund the club for the coming year. Thanks in advance. Roy.**

The editor requests news items from any member to be included in the Gritty Greetings.

Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month. Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged.

### Name Tags:

It is great that we feed the pig at our meetings because we don't have or have lost or forgotten our nametags to drop a quartering the pig. The money from the pig goes toward our Scholarship program, and we really do appreciate every 2 bits, 4 bits, 6 bits or more. However, if you need a nametag you can purchase them at the businesses below!

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). or at Award Specialties at 431 Lake Air Dr.

### Club Dues:

Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Club dues are \$12.00 for an individual membership or \$20.00 for a family membership. Please check with Jackie if you aren't sure whether you've paid your Dues!

### Shop Fees:

Lapidary Workshop fee is \$2.00 per hour. Slab Saw fee is an additional \$2.00 per hour. Class fees are always dependent upon class and instructor.

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 in the clubhouse.

Our website is [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

## Brad's Bench Tips



### COLORING EPOXY

There are two ways to add color when you are using epoxies. The first is to add a powdered material like colored chalk, charcoal, or powdered colors from an art supply store. One that I particularly like is a set of pastel glitter powders. A second way is to add a liquid pigment like nail polish, model airplane paint, or tinting pigments from a marine supplies store.

In preparing epoxy for use, the important things are to use exactly equal parts of the two components and to thoroughly mix them together. Coloring material can be added at any time. If I'm making just a small amount, I squeeze out equal sized droplets onto a piece of scrap paper or aluminum foil and mix thoroughly with a toothpick.

To mix larger amounts of epoxy, I use a gram scale to weigh the first component. Then I zero the scale and weigh out the same amount of the second component, add coloring if needed, and mix.

If you are using 5-minute epoxy, the mixing needs to move quickly. But I like to work carefully when adding color. So I squeeze out equal sized droplets side by side on the scrap paper. Then I work with just one of the droplets to add the colors. The 5-minute clock only starts when you mix in the second droplet.

More smart solutions for your jewelry making problems can be found in my metal arts books on Amazon at <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

And if you enjoy these tips on jewelry making, take a look at the sample chapters from:

- > Bench Tips 1 - <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>
- > Bench Tips 2 - <http://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

## TRY A TOOTHPICK

The round, stronger toothpicks have a multitude of uses on the jewelry bench. I use them for mixing epoxy resin, for applying paste solder, and with Zam for polishing in tight spots.

Toothpicks are also handy for holding a small faceted stone while setting it. Just break off the sharp tip, mold a little beeswax over it, and press it onto the table of your stone.

## Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems



62nd Annual  
Waco Gem and  
Mineral Club Show 2022

Waco Convention Center  
April 30th and May 1st  
Saturday 10-5 Sunday 10-5



## April birthstone: Diamond

You probably already know of the diamond's toughness. In fact, it's the hardest gemstone and is made of just one element: carbon. Its structure makes it 58 times harder than anything in nature. A diamond can only be cut with another diamond. While it's become nearly synonymous with wedding engagements, it's also the perfect gemstone for individuals who want something that's just as appropriate for everyday wear as it is for special occasions. Diamond gemstones come in several colors, including brown, yellow, red, pink, blue, and green. They range in intensity from faint to vivid. Generally speaking, the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory. These are correctly called "color-treated" diamonds. The diamond's unique physical properties give it the best possible luster of any gemstone when cut and polished well. So, if you're in the market for "sparkle," the diamond is the gemstone for you.

Courtesy of the American Gem Society



### 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.

