

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 63, Issue 7, July, 2022

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

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Ants helping humans find missing fossils, in their mounds!

[Fossil-finding ants amass huge haul of ancient creatures \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/fossil-finding-ants-amass-huge-haul-of-ancient-creatures/ar-AAYHTtZ?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=f821674a68da4070b0be26632a2c7400)

[https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/fossil-finding-ants-amass-huge-haul-of-ancient-creatures/ar-](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/fossil-finding-ants-amass-huge-haul-of-ancient-creatures/ar-AAYHTtZ?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=f821674a68da4070b0be26632a2c7400)

[AAYHTtZ?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=f821674a68da4070b0be26632a2c7400](https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/fossil-finding-ants-amass-huge-haul-of-ancient-creatures/ar-AAYHTtZ?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=f821674a68da4070b0be26632a2c7400)

## Contacts

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### **Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for June 4, 2022**

**Call to order:** Roy called the meeting to order at 10:10 am at the Clubhouse.

#### **Welcomed Visitors**

**Correction to Minutes:** The Cactus Club hasn't met in the WGM Clubhouse so far.

Motion to accept minutes as corrected: Harry moved, Karl second. Motion passed

**Treasurers Report:** Jackie gave the Treasurer's report. The updated financial information is on a thumb drive in the Clubhouse. It is updated each month and is available for preview by any member.

-- Facebook expense for advertising our Show: - we don't think we got our money's worth.

-- Scott reported about the "geofencing" process which covered Waco Trib, Dr Pepper, Magnolia area.

23,000 "impressions" put out; 75-80 clicked on ad; 120 used mouseover; "Tracking" click + through-door didn't work.

-- Karl said ads should be single focus to catch attention.

-- Bob reported that, to get a broadcast from "Texas Country Reporter" you must get the information in before the end of the year in order to be on their website

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

**NEXT WGM CLUB MEETING:**

**Our “4<sup>th</sup> of July Picnic” will take place on Saturday, JUNE 9, 2022 at the WGM Clubhouse.**

**It will be an “Ice Cream Social,” with the Club supplying the ice cream.**

**This Social/Meeting will start at 1:00 pm, Saturday Afternoon.**

**Members are welcome to bring something sweet that requires ice cream on top (pie, brownies, etc.)**

**Field trips:**

-- suggestions: Texas Thru Time (Hillsboro); Mammoth Site (Waco) is air conditioned; Ark and Stone (Dallas)

**Show Committee:**

McLennan Room (WCCC) is available

-- only 2/3 of the room (10,000 sq ft) is available; is more than enough room for us

-- the other 1/3 will be a Crafter’s Convention (which should work as a compliment to our show)

-- Traffic flow should pass by ticket table, then the first vendors encountered should be our WGM tables

-- at least 1 geode cracker

-- **Date of the 2023 Show: May 5 (setup), 6, 7, 2023**

-- Roy has copy of contract if anyone wants to look at it.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

-- from here on out we will delete money amounts from the minutes. (No one outside the club needs to know how much money we have.)

**Adjourn:** Roy adjourned the meeting at 10:46 am.

Roy then gave a presentation on “Moh’s Hardness and Identification”

## Notes

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>

## Bench Tips for June

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



### DEBURRING A HOLE

When you drill a hole, there's always a burr produced on the underside of the metal. We all have our ways of removing them - typically 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.

### 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 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.

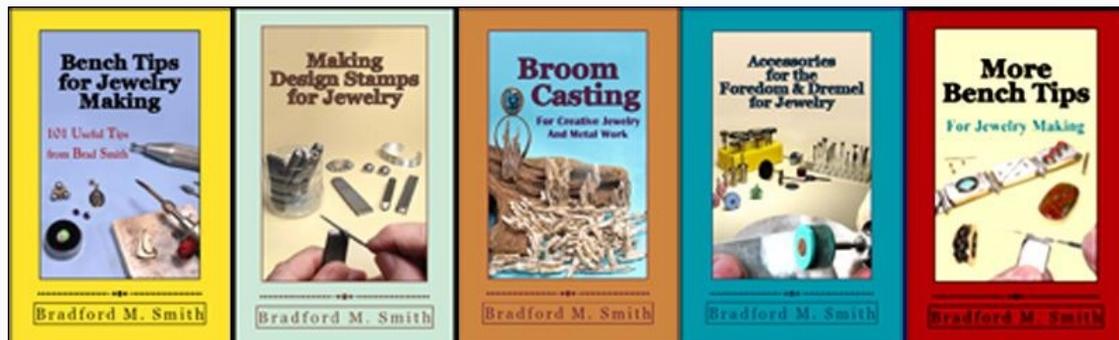
**More smart solutions for your jewelry making problems can be found in my metal arts books on Amazon at <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>**

**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>

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## Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems





## July birthstone: Ruby

In ancient India, ruby was called the “king of precious stones” for its rarity, hardness (second only to diamond), beauty and seemingly mystical powers. Long associated with the life force blood, ruby was a symbol of power and youthful energy in Indian jewelry. In past centuries, some believed this birthstone for July could predict misfortune or danger, and others claimed it would cure inflammatory diseases and soothe anger. Burmese warriors believed it made them invincible in battle. Medieval Europeans maintained that rubies bestowed health, wisdom, wealth and success in love.

Courtesy American Gem Society

All rubies [fluoresce](#), whether they’re mined or created in a lab, since natural and synthetic [ruby](#) gemstones have the same chemical composition and physical properties. However, there are slight differences in fluorescence patterns between natural and synthetic stones and even between [natural rubies from different sources](#).

Courtesy [INTERNATIONAL 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.

