

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 63, Issue 9, September, 2022

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November meeting, club auction!

Requesting quality items for the annual club auction. Ideally, these items would have an auction value of \$10 or more. Our goal is to sell 100 items for a total of at least \$1000. Please bring items to the **September meeting** so that we have time to label, number and catalogue all the items. If there is a story behind the item or source location, that might cause someone to give a few more dollars. Thanks in advance for anything you can contribute. Roy.

Note the date! **September 10, WGMC meeting, Wire wrapping demonstration.**

Contacts

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Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for August 6, 2022

President Roy Cooper called the meeting to order: 10:14 AM

Welcome Visitor(s)

Previous Minutes approved by general consent.

June, July Financial Report given.

Committee Reports:

- Club Programs: John Langston, September, "Wire Wrap Demo"; Bob, Oct., TBA; Nov- Club Auction

- Field Trips:

Suggestions: "Texas Thru Time"; Waco Mammoth (go in Sept. after WGM Meeting); Mayborn Center

- Show Committee

-- Silent Auctions: need about \$1K of stuff

-- Need to have fewer booths; make single-tables available

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Need to elect officers in November > Nominate in Oct > Create Nominating Committee in Sept.

- Need Job Descriptions: see "Bylaws"

- 2022 SCFMS/AFMS Convention, Oct 14-16 in the New Orleans area

Information to the Convention is linked on WGM web home page

- SEPTEMBER date for WGM Meeting will be September 10 (because Sept 3 is Labor Day Weekend)

Meeting Adjourned: 10:53 AM

Club Program: Harry Senn gave a brilliant program on "Smelting Iron Ore into Iron and Steel"

Absolutely Brilliant! Ed.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

Notes

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

Deadline for submissions is the 20th 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

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

Upcoming Shows

Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society Show 9/24-25/22. Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society Show, 10/8-9/22. Frank W Mayborn Civic & Convention Center, **Temple**, TX

Austin Gem & Mineral Show 10/21-22/22 Palmer Event Center

Bench Tips for September

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

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



SMALL PARTS CONTAINERS

I'm always on the lookout for small containers to use for holding all those little parts and tools we deal with in making jewelry, especially since I'm always traveling to classes and workshops.

My latest find are some plastic vials about 15 mm in diameter and 75 mm long. Best part is they are free. The vials are used in the doctor's office to draw blood samples. They cannot be used after their expiration date and are thrown out. On my last doctors visit, I asked the nurse if they had any expired vials. She replied "How many do you want?" and tried to give me 400 of them. (We settled on 200).

The ones shown above are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They're clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label all ready to write on. I find them really handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

FINISHING PIERCED PATTERNS



After sawing patterns there's always a little cleanup to do, and the smaller cutouts can be a challenge. Needle files (7-8 inches) can get into the larger areas, and escapement files (4 inches) can get into some of the corners.

But I often find myself wanting even smaller files. I couldn't find them, even at a watchmaker tools supply company, so I had to try something else. I ended up grinding down the tip of a small 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in your Dremel or Foredom.

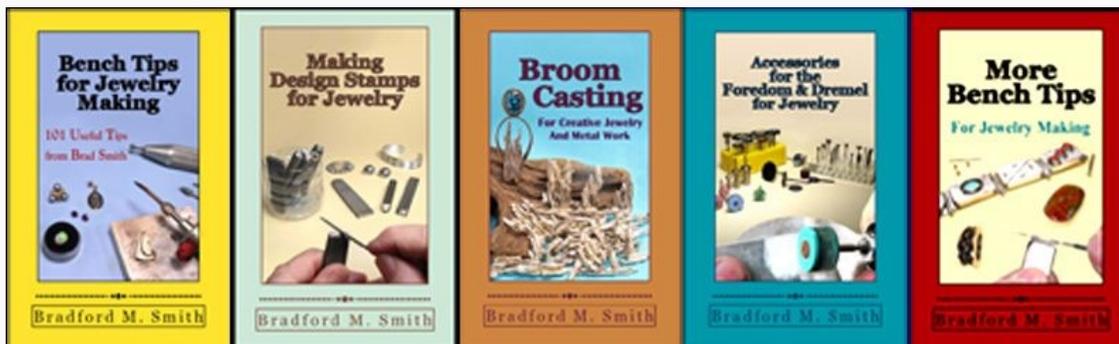
Be sure to wear your safety glasses when using this tool. A flake of steel in your eye makes for a bad day.

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>

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems





September birthstone: Sapphire

Although sapphire typically refers to the rich, blue gemstone variety of the mineral corundum, this royal gemstone occurs in a rainbow of hues. Sapphires come in every color except red, which instead earn the classification of [rubies](#).

Trace elements like iron, titanium, chromium, copper, and magnesium give naturally colorless corundum a tint of blue, yellow, purple, orange, or green, respectively. Sapphires in any color but blue are called “fancies.”

Pink sapphires toe a fine line between ruby and sapphire. In the U.S., these gemstones must meet a minimum color saturation to be considered rubies. Pinkish-orange sapphires called padparadscha (from the Sri Lankan word for “lotus flower”) can draw higher prices than some blue sapphires.

The name “sapphire” comes from the Latin *sapphirus* and Greek *sappheiros*, meaning “blue stone,” though those words may have originally referred to lapis lazuli. Some believe it originated from the Sanskrit word *sanipriya* which meant “dear to Saturn.”

Sapphire gems are found in India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, China, Australia, Brazil, Africa, and North America (mainly Montana). Their origin can affect their value as much as [color, cut, clarity, and carat size](#).

The remarkable hardness of sapphires, which measure 9 on the [Mohs scale](#), is second only to diamond. They aren’t just valuable in jewelry, but also in industrial applications, including scientific instruments, high-durability windows, watches, and electronics.

Sapphire gemstones symbolize loyalty, nobility, sincerity, and integrity



Courtesy American Gem Society

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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.

