

# 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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### Table of Contents

WGMC Contacts.....	1
Minutes/From the Editor.....	2
Upcoming Shows and Events .....	4
April Birthstones.....	5
Tips from Brad.....	6
Notes.....	8
Club Purpose .....	9
April Calendar of Events .....	10

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## W.G.M.C. March Meeting Minutes

### WG&MC MINUTES 3/2/19

Waco Gem and Mineral Club President Roy Cooper, called the meeting to order.

Guests in attendance were Crystal Stark with her Daughter Riley and Son Fisher. They had a rock they were interested in identifying.

Trisha Hamby and Matthew Harrel came and are joining. Matthew works at a Paleo Museum on Hillsboro!

Wendell and Yolanda Gustafson's son Randy was also visiting.

We discussed Nametags-they can be purchased at Award Specialties at 431 Lake Air Dr or Firman Business Forms

Minutes from the February Meeting approved with a correction- the store at the Richland Mall that requested show cards is Earthbound Trading Company Not Earthbound Treasures. Nikki says that they now have our Annual Show Cards.

**Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report.** Contact Jackie with questions.

Jackie Dodson has a list of dues paid members. This will be used as a member directory. Please check with her so she can make sure her information is correct.

**Show Chair Report:** Alison will be at the clubhouse 3-4 to 3-8 getting things organized and ready for the show. If you have any time to help, contact Alison Redding to see what still needs to be done.

She has a sign-up sheet for tasks at the show. Please consider what you can do. This will be our biggest and best show yet with everyone's help. Members are encouraged to distribute the Show Cards to get the word out about our Show.

We need a sign on the building. Since Sunni Purl was not able to be at the meeting, she got volunteered to handle the Banners for the show that need replacing. The old ones are nasty and worn out. We also need a Brochure designed for Waco Gem and Mineral Club for information about the club to be handed out at the Show and as a handout anytime. Sunni was assigned this task.

Alison will make a display for the Show that is an example of the things we do at the club! This should include Cabochons, Faceted Stones Wire Wrap items, Jewelry from glass and /or stone beads, Silver Work and metal work, and the best slabs from our collections. Please provide examples of these items from your collection; or other examples that we may have overlooked; to the Clubhouse no later than April 20, 2019 for Alison to include it in the Display.

Measurements of the space in the Extraco building we will be using for the Show need to be checked and Verified so Alison and Jim Redding and Scott Halverson will Go there on Monday 3/11/2019 to get those measurements and to get questions answered about Advertising, Security, Access during the Show, the RV setups and who to see, and Electrical and Lighting issues.

### **Show Report Clear Lake Show:**

Roy Cooper and Scott Halverson were vendors at the Clear Lake Show 2/23 & 24. They said there were 1800 people thru the door on Saturday! The club members said they all did a lot of advertising of the show on

Facebook and had all their friends share it too. This brought a lot of recognition. Let's all do our part and post the show information on our Facebook pages, Instagram, Twitter, and any other social media you do.

**Field trips-**

Roy Cooper is taking a trip to West Texas 3/13 to 3/18. If you'd like to go contact him. He will be booking hunts with Terri Smith who owned the Antelope Lodge in Alpine until recently. He has a list of fees etc.

3/14 will be to the Ritchie Ranch

3/15 East Needle Peak- this is a physically demanding trip, Roy plans to go to Balmorhea and look for blue agate on that day.

3/16 South Laramar, 3/17 Stillwell ranch

**Meeting Program:**

There was a presentation on mining tourmaline at the Paradise Mine in California.

Then, Roy had brought a fantastic treat for all of us! He had been to the Paradise Mine back in December. He brought back a bag of tailings that he divided so we could each go thru some and have a chance to find our very own treasure!

**Pot Luck and a Movie – 3/21/19 at 6:00 pm!!! Come on out!** The movie will be a 4-part film about mining sites and the finished products from them.

☺There is a sign-up sheet for providing snacks for the meetings. It is on the glass case in the clubhouse. There is still room to sign up.

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**From the editor**

"April" and look how everything is blossoming and buzzing around, time to do something with those rocks you have been hoarding all this time. Spring cleanup and turn those rocks or other materials into something useful! If you need some inspiration get with one of the WGMC members for inspiration and ideas as to what to do with that stuff, the worst you could is to make your flower bed look a lot better! There are treasures in that pile just waiting to be dug out so get in there and start digging!

If anyone is looking for me, I'll be in my rock pile digging and sorting and possibly working in the flower bed!

Now is also the time to plan times and secure volunteers for activities at the clubhouse! We can each volunteer some time each month to teach a class a class or to monitor or Forman a shop activity. We will need people proficient on the 10- and 18-inch saws, some people proficient on the lapidary machines, some people proficient on Faceting and of course someone who can at least give a basic class on silver soldering. Each of these needs a schedule for time at the club and will have to keep records of their activities and participants as well as any monies collected for classes and shop use.

I think one or two days or evenings per month for each of us would get the club up and on its feet! Maybe we need to post class lists to see what interest we stir up and take volunteers for teaching or supervising those that show interest.

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Upcoming Shows and Events

Our next meeting is at 10:00 pm on Saturday, April 6th  
**at The Waco Gem and Mineral Club**  
187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas

April 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> 2019 Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show in Abilene. See our website for more information under EVENTS section.

Movie Night 4/18/2019 @ 6:00 at the clubhouse.



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.

Alison Redding, our Show Chair, wants to encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming Show this coming May. If you want to volunteer to help with the show, please contact Alison at the meeting or at the number listed for her under the Show Information.

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

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## April Birth Stone:



Diamond

For those fortunate to be born in April, the most prized gemstone of all is their birthstone. For this month, diamonds truly are a girl's (or a boy's) best friend.

Take a look below for more information on this gorgeous birthstone.

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 and can only be cut with another diamond. While it's become nearly synonymous with wedding engagements, it's also the perfect stone for individuals who want something that's just as appropriate for everyday wear as it is for special occasions.

Diamonds come in several colors, including yellow, red, pink, blue, and green, and 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.

Its unique physical properties mean it has 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.

Diamonds have been admired for centuries, and some historians estimate it was traded as early as 4 BC. One of the reasons it is so admired and valued is because of the process by which a diamond must be formed well below the earth's crust, then forced upward until it is uncovered.

But before this process was understood, many ancient civilizations believed that diamonds were lighting made real on earth. Perhaps this is the reason that diamonds have often been associated with great healing powers. Many thought the diamond could cure brain disease, alleviate pituitary gland disorders and draw toxins from the blood.

Historically, the diamond first became a popular gemstone in India, when the Moghuls and Imperial Colony easily mined diamonds from deposits along three major rivers. Today, the diamond is most widely known as the stone to give as part of an engagement ring.

Throughout history, however, the diamond has nearly always symbolized eternal and lasting love. So, whether you're getting engaged, or simply want to give yourself a truly meaningful gift, the diamond has both beauty and enduring symbolism.

*Many thanks to the American Gem Society for this article on April's Gem Stone.*



An inexpensive hammer can be easily turned into a great texturing tool by grinding a pattern of narrow lines into its face.

The tool I like to use to grind the pattern is a thin separating disc in a Foredom or Dremel. Be sure to hold the hammer and separating disc steady as you carve and wear those safety glasses to protect your eyes.

For the pattern to work well, a major part of the face needs to be ground away leaving only small areas of high points. That way the high points will have enough force to emboss the pattern into your sheet metal.

My preference is to use small ball peen or cross peen hammers. They are quite inexpensive from tool dealers at swap meets and rock & mineral shows. There is no reason to buy an expensive hammer to experiment with creating your own textures.

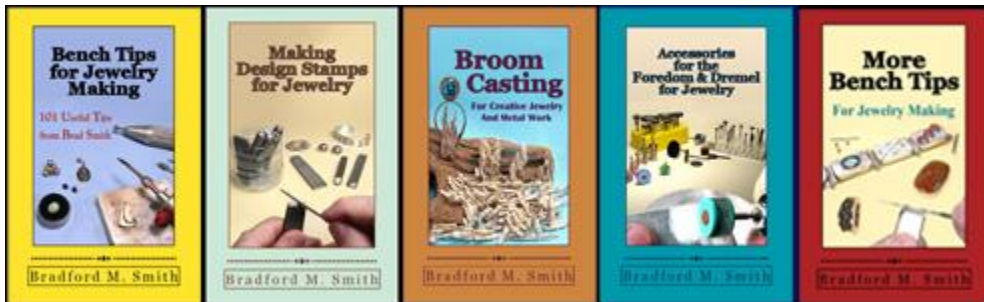
And BTW, if you don't like the first pattern you create, simply file or grind it off and try again.

This is just one of the many tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" See a sample chapter at <https://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

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Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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



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NOTES:

**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!

**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. The money from the pig goes toward our Scholarship program, and we really do appreciate every bit. 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.

**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.

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April Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						WGMC Meeting 10:00 am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
						Abilene Convention Center Show
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Abilene Convention Center Show				Pot luck & Movie 6:00 pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				