

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 60, Issue 8, AUGUST 2019

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

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Table of Contents

WGMC Contacts	1
Minutes	2
Upcoming Shows and Events	3
August Birthstones.....	4,5
Tips from Brad.....	6,7
Notes/Club Purpose	8
August Calendar of Events	9

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Contacts

President	Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	Treasurer	Jackie Dodson jackiedodson66@gmail.com
Vice-President	Scott Halverson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	Secretary	Stephanie Robert stephanie.robert1@aol.com
Newsletter Staff	James Redding Jimredding48@outlook.com	Website	www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Webmaster	Joel Purl wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

W.G.M.C. July Meeting Minutes

WG&MC MINUTES 7/6/19

Call to order by Roy Cooper

This meeting was held at the home of Jim and Alison Redding where the annual Independence Day celebration took place. If you were unable to make it, you missed out on FUN!!

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report for last half of May.

Old Business-

Dinner and a movie night will be discontinued until further notice!

Refreshment sign-up sheet is at the back of the meeting room along with the class sign-up sheets.

There will be a Wire-wrapping class held after the meeting in November. That will depend on participation but even one who wants to learn is a start. Join in and let's do something. Please sign up early so supplies can be acquired and ready. To sign up, please contact us with the club email. wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com.

There will be a Cabochon making class after the November meeting. This class will teach you how to turn a rock into a nice cabochon and set it into a piece of jewelry. Sign up early so we know what piece of jewelry you want to make! To sign up, please contact us with the club email. wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com.

Jim Redding is available at his home to teach on a one to one basis if you will contact him through the Club email and set up an appointment. He will take on more than one at a time if that is more convenient!

We need to get more activities going. But we can't do it without people teaching, and taking the classes and going on the field trips.

We started up a field trip committee- Beth Duynslager volunteered to be the chair of that, Scott Cordova was volunteered by his wife Gabby to help. We discussed various places we could go and things we could do.

Field trips-

Meeting Program:

☺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

A few weeks ago, we had an inquiry made thru our website. The gentleman asked if anyone with our club could do a presentation for his grandkids while they were in town. Our President, Roy Cooper, set up a meeting with them and they had a wonderful time. Check out our website, www.wacogemandmineral.org and under the EVENTS tab, you will find "Presentations". We hope to add many more in the future!!

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Upcoming Shows and Events

Our next meeting is at 10:00 am on Saturday, August 3rd

**187 South McLennan Drive
Elm Mott, TX 76640**

Alison will be furnishing the program for the August meeting, Let’s just say she has a box of dirt to sift through in hopes of finding treasure, and I here this dirt is loaded with treasures!

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The 60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 1 and 2 /2020. We are already HALF FULL!!! This year we will be at the Waco Convention Center. So EXCITED!! We also have blocked off rooms at the Marriott Courtyard in Waco and the rates are very reasonable! \$145 per night. Deadline to book a room to get this rate is March 1st, 2020. Check out our website under the show events for more details!

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 2020 Show chair Alison Redding or email: wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org

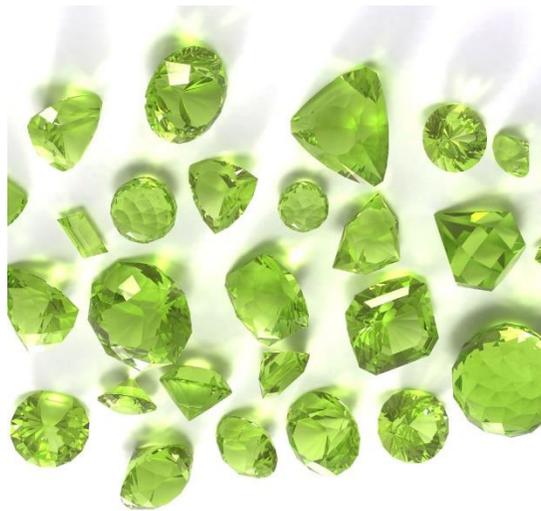
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AUGUST BIRTHSTONES

In 2016, August joined June and December as one of the three birth months represented by three different gemstones.

The original birthstone for August was sardonyx, and then peridot was added, becoming August's primary gemstone. The addition of spinel, which can be found in a variety of colors, gives August babies a plethora of options!

PERIDOT



Though peridot is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gemstone's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic *faridat*, which means "gem," but some believe it's rooted in the Greek word *peridona*, meaning "giving plenty." Perhaps that's why peridot was, according to lore, associated with prosperity and good fortune.

Peridot is the rare gem-quality variety of the common mineral olivine, which forms deep inside the Earth's mantle and is brought to the surface by volcanoes. In Hawaii, peridot once symbolized the tears of Pele, the volcano goddess of fire who controls the flow of lava. Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites. Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gemstones. That's why this is one of few gemstones that only comes in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending how much iron is present. Though it is known as "the Evening Emerald" because its sparkling green hue, peridot looks good any time of day.

Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Africa.

Peridot only measures 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale, so while the raw crystal is prone to cracking during cutting, the finished gemstones are robust and easy to wear.

SARDONYX



Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped gemstone with white bands.

Its name, similarly, combines sard (referencing the ancient Persian city, Sardis, in present-day Turkey, where the red stone was found) with onyx (from the Greek word of the same spelling, which meant “nail or claw.”)

Sard ranges in color from yellowish red to reddish brown, depending on how much iron oxide is present. Sard is easily confused with carnelian, another type of chalcedony that is slightly softer and lighter in color.

Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands—instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate, another type of chalcedony.

The finest examples of sardonyx display sharp contrasts between layers and are found in India. Other sources include Brazil, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Madagascar, Uruguay, and the United States.

Measuring 6.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, sardonyx is widely available and relatively inexpensive as gems, beads, and jewelry. It is often carved into cameos, intaglios, and brooches to show the color contrast between layers.

Used as a gemstone of strength and protection in ancient times, sardonyx is associated with courage, happiness, and clear communication. Ancients believed that placing a sardonyx gemstone at each corner of a house will grant protection against evil.

SPINEL



The spinel is often mistaken for either a ruby or a pink sapphire, as it can resemble either. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what set it apart from other gemstones. Spinel also has a lower Mohs hardness than ruby and sapphire.

Significant deposits of spinel have been found in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It has also been found in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tadjikistan, Tanzania, and the U.S.

Vivid red is the most desirable color of spinel gemstones, followed by cobalt blue, bright pink, and bright orange. The more affordable gemstones are often those with paler colors, like lavender. You may also find spinel in black, violet blue, greenish blue, grayish, pale pink, mauve, yellow or brown.

From the bench of Bradford Smith

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 4" barrette file using a separating disk (or cutoff wheel) in the 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.



MAKING FILIGREE WIRE

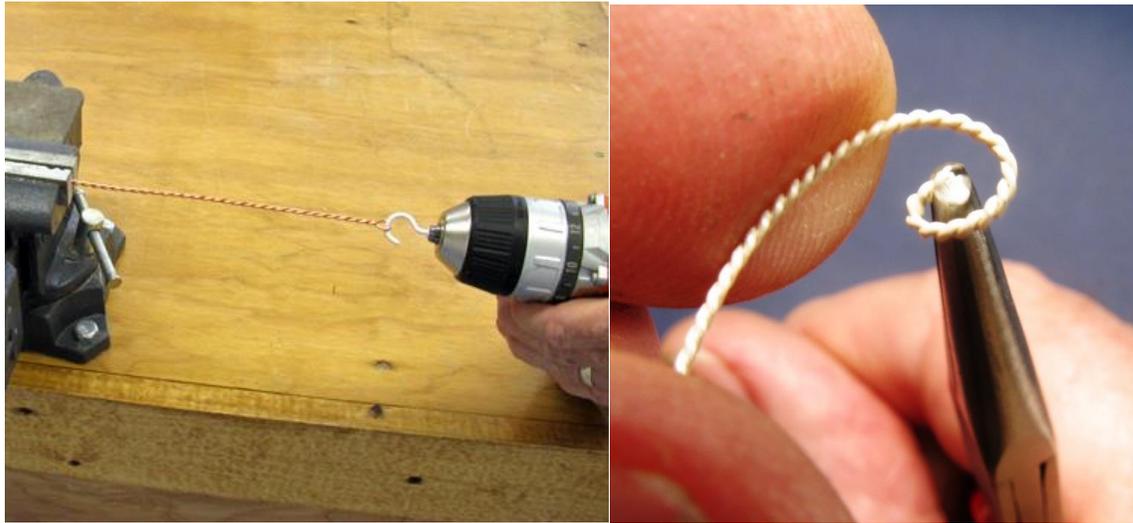
Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26-gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.

Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other.

I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. You'll need a small hook in the spindle, either a cup hook from the hardware store or a nail that has been bent into the shape.

Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.



Work Smarter With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



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AUGUST Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						WGMC Meeting 10:00 am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	27
28	29	30	31			