

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 59, Issue 12, December 2018

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

<< << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

### Table of Contents

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| WGMC Contacts .....               | 1     |
| Minutes .....                     | 2-4   |
| Upcoming Shows and Events .....   | 5-6   |
| December Birthstones.....         | 7-9   |
| Tips from Brad.....               | 10    |
| Notes and Club Purpose.....       | 11-12 |
| December Calendar of Events ..... | 13    |

<< << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

### Contacts

|                         |   |                  |   |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|---|
| <b>President</b>        | Andy McDonald<br>254-366-3846<br><a href="mailto:babydocmac@aol.com">babydocmac@aol.com</a> | <b>Treasurer</b> | Jackie Dodson<br><a href="mailto:jackiedodson66@gmail.com">jackiedodson66@gmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Vice-President</b>   | Roy Cooper<br><a href="mailto:coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com">coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com</a>    | <b>Secretary</b> | Stephanie Robert<br><a href="mailto:stephanie.robert1@aol.com">stephanie.robert1@aol.com</a>      |
| <b>Newsletter Staff</b> | James Redding<br><a href="mailto:Jimredding48@outlook.com">Jimredding48@outlook.com</a>     | <b>Website</b>   | <a href="http://www.wacogemandmineral.org">www.wacogemandmineral.org</a>                          |
|                         |   | <b>Webmaster</b> | Joel Purl<br><a href="mailto:wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com">wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com</a> |

<< << << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

## November Meeting Minutes

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

#### WG&MC MINUTES 11/3/18

We had 7 visitors who joined the club this month!

Colleen and Paul Gardener, Bruce Walrath, Diane and Mark Cochran, James Redding, and Beth Cornelius who has experience in Geology!

The Minutes from the October Meeting were approved as printed in the Gritty Greeting.

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report.

The Gentleman who owns the tire shop next door is letting us use his WIFI. Jim Redding suggested we offer him 10.00 a month for that use and ask to run a wire, which is more reliable, from his shop to ours. That was unanimously approved.

The clubhouse is looking great! The new paint and all the repairs make it so much nicer! Thank you so much to the Redding's, Roy, and all who have worked so hard to make it a nice place to come!

#### **Upcoming shows:**

Please see the list elsewhere in the Gritty Greetings.

#### **Old business:**

The pot luck dinner and movie night were fun. We ate a nice dinner and watched a movie about Tanzanite- where it comes from, how it is mined, treated, faceted, etc., and then we watched a video about the behind the scenes workings of Jewelry TV.

Progress on club vests/shirts: It was decided that tee shirts would be better. Black tees with the website and the picture from our business cards have been ordered in sizes men's small thru 3x. and blue pebble Pup shirts in various kid's sizes. These will be for sale as soon as they come in and at the show.

Tote bags: Tote bags and baseball caps have also been ordered, and we still have the magnetic signs for cars.

#### **Work on Clubhouse:**

The door into the workshop still needs to be found and installed, it's an odd sized opening.

Shirley Kyte suggested we get oilcloth aprons for the shop to protect people's clothes when we start doing lessons. That will be done.

#### **Show Chair report 2019-**

Allison didn't do a formal report, a LOT has been done, she has a list of all that, and all that needs to be done yet.

We need door prizes, silent auction items, kid's silent auction items- think of things you might want to own yourself.

\*Again, Yolanda and her grandkids are sewing grab bags for kids. We could use some fossils, etc., for those.

\*We all need to do our best to make an exhibition box for display at the show. These can have whatever you want to put in them. If you have a collection of rocks with stripes, or fossils, or cabochons, nifty things you found around on hikes etc. these are educational and great for stirring up interest in our club. Bob Boyd said he'd ask the Arlington club if we could borrow some display boxes from them, since we only have a few right now.

### New Business

**Merchandise!!** We have new t-shirts for Adults and Children. Tote bags and baseball caps. While supplies last. Go to our website [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org) and look under "STORE" to see more.



**Adult shirts:**

S, M, L and XL \$12 ea

2XL and 3XL \$15 ea

**Kids:**

XS, S, M, L and XL \$10 ea

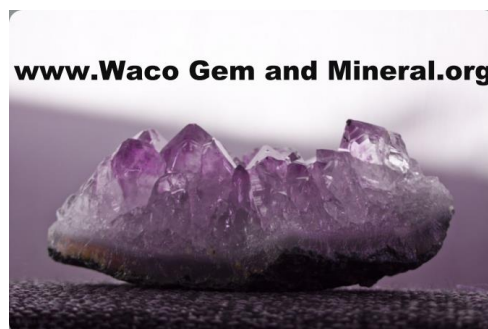
**Tote bag:**

\$2 ea

**Baseball Cap:**

\$8. Ea

We will have these items at the clubhouse for purchase in December. Cash, Check or Charge!! We also still have Car magnets available. 1 for \$20 or 2 for \$30!!



**Membership-** We need more members. We need someone who can contact the people we do have information on and reach out to old members. Some letters have gone out to former members in hope of bringing them back.

Our December Gathering will be a potluck Lunch at the Clubhouse at 12:00 noon December 1, 2018. It was suggested that it would be fun to do a “Chinese Christmas...” with a limit of \$20.00- so if you would like to participate in that please bring a wrapped gift.

The question was asked as to when Dues need to be paid. Membership dues must be in to the Federation in September. We collect Dues in January, so membership paid now is good to January of 2020.

**November is election of officers.** We talked about a nominating committee.

Officers that were willing to continue as is in October were:

Andy McDonald – President

Roy Cooper—Vice President

Jackie Dodson—Treasurer

Stephanie Robert—Secretary (Charlotte said she would help when necessary!)

Nominations were opened- Jim Redding nominated Roy Cooper as President, Roy accepted that nomination.

- Allison Redding nominated Scott Halverson as Vice President if Roy win’s President.

Andy and Roy left the room for a show of hands vote. Roy won and will be president for the next year. Scott will be VP.

Jackie will remain as treasurer. Allison Redding volunteered to work with Jackie and learn the position in case Jackie needs backup.

Stephanie will continue as secretary.

The meeting adjourned, and Bob Boyd did a fantastic presentation on turquoise!!!

A HUGE THANK YOU to Joel Purl for his help and work on our website! The word is getting out and they are loving it. Please check us out and tell your friends. New things are going up all the time.

<< << << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

## Upcoming Shows and Events

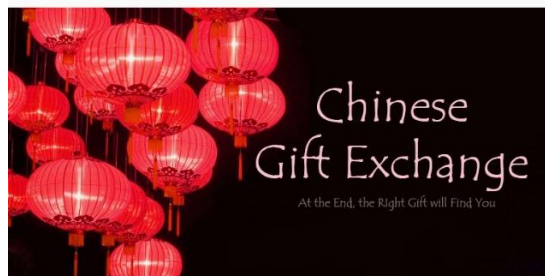
### Holiday Luncheon and Gift Exchange



Our next gathering will be our Holiday Luncheon and gift exchange. The Redding's and Purl's will supply the meats for the main dish. Grilled chicken and sausage links. Please bring a side dish, desert or whatever you wish to share with the group.



We have decided to do a Chinese gift exchange this year. If you want to participate, please bring a wrapped gift around \$20. Does not have to be rock/mineral related. Your choice. We will meet at noon Saturday Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at the club house. 187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas.



NO MOVIE NIGHT IN DECEMBER. ☹️ We will resume that in January.



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.

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)

<< << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

## **December Birthstone: Tanzanite, Zircon or Turquoise**

### **December Birthstones**

December's birthstones offer three ways to fight the winter blues: tanzanite, zircon and turquoise – all of them, appropriately, best known for beautiful shades of blue.

These gems range from the oldest on earth (zircon), to one of the first mined and used in jewelry (turquoise), to one of the most recently discovered (tanzanite).

All of these stones are relatively inexpensive, but their beauty rivals even precious gems. Colorless zircon is a convincing replacement for diamond, tanzanite often substitutes sapphire, and turquoise is unmatched in its hue of robin's egg blue.

Whatever your style preference or budget, one of December's three birthstones will match your true-blue desires.



Tanzanite is the exquisite blue variety of the mineral zoisite that is only found in one part of the world. Named for its limited geographic origin in Tanzania, tanzanite has quickly risen to popularity since its relatively recent discovery.

Zoisite had been around more than a century and a half before this rare blue variety was found in 1967. Trace amounts of vanadium, mixed with extreme heat, cause the blue color – which ranges from pale blue to intense ultramarine with violet undertones.

Due to pleochroism, tanzanite can display different colors when viewed from different angles. Stones must be cut properly to highlight the more attractive blue and violet hues, and deemphasize the undesirable brown tones.

The majority of tanzanite on the market today is heat treated to minimize the brown colors found naturally, and to enhance the blue shades that can rival sapphire.

Tanzanite is still only found on a few square miles of land in Tanzania, near majestic Mount Kilimanjaro. Its price and availability are directly tied to mines in this region.

Tanzanite measures 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale of hardness – which is not nearly as hard as the sapphire it often substitutes. Given its vulnerability to scratch during daily wear and abrasion, tanzanite is better suited for earrings and pendants than rings.

Between its deep blue color and its limited supply, tanzanite is treasured by many – whether one is born in December or not!

# Zircon



Zircon is an underrated gem that's often confused with synthetic cubic zirconia due to similar names and shared use as diamond simulants. Few people realize that zircon is a spectacular natural gem available in a variety of colors.

The name zircon likely comes from the Persian word *zargun*, meaning "gold-colored." Others trace it to the Arabic *zarkun*, meaning "vermillion." Given its wide range of colors – spanning red, orange, yellow, green, blue and brown – both origins make sense.

Zircon commonly occurs brownish red, which can be popular for its earth tones. However, most gem-quality stones are heat treated until colorless, gold or blue (the most popular color). Blue zircon is the alternative birthstone for December.

Color differences in zircon are caused by impurities, some of which (like uranium) can be slightly radioactive. These gems are also treated with heat to stabilize the radioactivity.

While radiation can break down zircon's crystal structure, it plays a crucial role in radiometric dating. Zircon, the oldest mineral on earth, contains important clues about the formation of our planet.

Colorless zircon, known as Matura Diamond, displays brilliance and flashes of multicolored "fire" that can rival fine diamond. There's one key difference though: Zircon is more brittle. Though it measures 7.5 on the Mohs scale of hardness, its faceted edges can chip.

Zircon from Australia dates back 4.4 billion years. Australia still leads the world in zircon mining, producing 37 percent of the world's supply. Other sources include Thailand, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Cambodia, Canada and the United States.

Since the Middle Ages, people have believed that zircon can induce sleep, ward off evil and promote prosperity.



# TURQUOISE



Admired since ancient times, turquoise is known for its distinct color, which ranges from powdery blue to greenish robin’s egg blue. It’s one of few minerals to lend its name to anything that resembles its striking color.

The word turquoise dates to the 13th century, drawing from the French expression pierre tourques, which referenced the “Turkish stone” brought to Europe from Turkey.

Ancient Persia (now Iran) was the traditional source for sky blue turquoise. This color is often called “Persian blue” today, regardless of its origin. The Sinai Peninsula in Egypt was also an important historical source.

The U.S. is now the world’s largest turquoise supplier. Nevada, New Mexico, California and Colorado have produced turquoise, but Arizona leads in production by value, as well as quality. The stone’s popularity here makes it a staple in Native American jewelry.

Turquoise is found in arid regions where rainwater dissolves copper in the soil, forming colorful nodular deposits when it combines with aluminum and phosphorus. Copper contributes blue hues, while iron and chrome add a hint of green.

Some turquoise contains pieces of host rock, called matrix, which appear as dark webs or patches in the material. This can lower the stone’s value, although the uniform “spiderweb” pattern of Southwestern turquoise is attractive.

Turquoise is sensitive to direct sunlight and solvents like makeup, perfume and natural oils. The hardest turquoise only measures 6 on the Mohs scale, which made this soft stone popular in carved talismans throughout history.

From ancient Egyptians to Persians, Aztecs and Native Americans, kings and warriors alike admired turquoise for thousands of years. It adorned everything from jewelry to ceremonial masks to weapons and bridles – granting power and protection, particularly against falls.

Highly esteemed for its striking namesake color and its ancient history, turquoise remains popular through time.

<< << << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

Learn New Jewelry Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

Many thanks,

- Brad

[www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)

### 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 I have are called "Vacutainers", but there are probably many other names. They are clear plastic with a rubber stopper and a paper label already to write on. I find them handy for small parts like jump rings, prong settings, small drills, nuts & bolts, faceted stones, and precious metal filings.

### SOURCE FOR PLASTIC

We often use plastic in our studios, like for a single part die or for a template, so it's handy to have a small supply along with the rest of your sheet, wire, copper and bronze. But we seldom think to buy and stock any plastic.

The plastics store I go to has a scrap bin out back where they give away their scraps. I usually opt for the 3/8- and 1/2-inch thicknesses for use as forming dies, but there's always a variety of sizes and colors to choose from including thin sheets that are good for templates.

If you can't find a shop with Google or Yellow Pages, do a search on Ebay.com for scrap plastic by the pound.

Learn New Jewelry Skills with Brad's "How to Do It" Books

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



<< << << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

# NOTES

Waco Gem & Mineral Club nametags are available at **Firmin Business Forms**, 202 Deb Ave, Waco, TX 76712 (254) 776-5742. Cost with a pin back is \$8.00 (with tax \$8.66), and with a magnet back is \$11.00 (\$11.91).

[www.firmin.com](http://www.firmin.com) Map: `<iframe src="https://www.google.com/maps/embed?pb=!1m14!1m8!1m3!1d13606.447506579954!2d-97.194055!3d31.5073505!3m2!1i1024!2i768!4f13.1!3m3!1m2!1s0x0%3A0xe72f54e9909a9a81!2sFirmin+Business+Forms+Inc!5e0!3m2!1sen!2sus!4v1542059673050" width="400" height="300" frameborder="0" style="border:0" allowfullscreen></iframe>`

Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Club dues are \$12.00 for an individual membership or \$20.00 for a family membership.

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 located in the clubhouse.

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

Our email is [wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com](mailto:wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com)

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

<< << << << << << << << << << << << << << << >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

**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.



<< << << << << << << << << << << << << << << >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

