

# GRITTY GREETINGS



**Waco Gem and Mineral Club**

Volume 61, Issue 4, April, 2020

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

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**Note:** As of this writing, the show is still a go, but due to the McLennan County wide lock-down, and the limit of 10 people in any close proximity, we will make a decision, with the Waco Convention Center whether we will be able to have the show as planned. Another notice will be sent out to all members as more information becomes available. Likewise, our April meeting, scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>, will **NOT** take place. Thank you for your understanding. Stay safe out there.

## 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 2 and 3/2020. Currently, spaces are all full for the show!!! WOW!!!

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](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

### Waco Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes, 7 March, 2020

**Call to order** by Roy at 10:00

**Officers Present-** President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

**Committee Lead Present-** Show, Presentations, Field Trips, Facebook editor, Newsletter Editor, Web Master (not present)

**17 Members present**, No visitors

Last month minutes approved motion (Jim/Bob) all aye

**Treasurer Report** by Jackie as of 29 February, 2020 on file with secretary. Please pay your dues for 2020 if you have not done so.

**Program committee-** Scott gave a great presentation, will lots of different examples of fluorite. Next month-tentative is Nikki on Tucson Rock Show.

Field Trips by Beth this month 17-19 Agate hunting with Teri Smith near Alpine, TX. Sign up directly with Teri.

**Show report** by Allison. Please get your donations in for the silent auction. Allison will begin sorting, labeling, bagging donations; and doing general show prep work 16-20 March (1200 noon until 600 pm) at the club. If you are able to assist for 30 minutes or several hours please contact her directly or show up at the club during these hours. An ad has been placed on Facebook announcing the show (2 months). Allison will place an ad in newspaper, Scott will take care of radio/TV ad coordination. We need **volunteers to place signs around Waco** Monday or Tuesday the week of the show (signs need to be picked up Monday after the Show). Signs are at the Club. Jackie is slated for the entrance table but we need a **volunteer to assist her** and be prepared to take over if necessary. Stephanie is coordinating to get vendor bags and maps so we can put together the bag after next months meeting. Bob/Andy have volunteered for the demonstration table. Beth agreed to work the silent auction table. **We still need volunteers for the kids table.** Also need to let Allison know if anyone wants to set up a display and if you need display case. Lastly if you are available to help move boxes and set up the clubs entrance table, exit table, kids table, and grand prizes, **we will need help Friday morning May 1st and breakdown Sunday afternoon.** ALL THE FUNDS RAISED BY THE CLUB AT THIS EVENT HELP KEEP THE CLUB DOORS OPEN, SO PLEASE ASSIST WHEREVER YOU CAN. THANKS.

**New Business-** past member Ken Mefford recently passed away, our condolences and prayers are with his family. He donated many of the great items that we auctioned off at the silent auction last year at the show.

**Old Business** - The 18" saw is not ready for use yet, parts are on order. Karl and Jim are working this. Thanks Karl for all your work so far. The saw donated by Bob is missing its motor, Bob will look for it. Thanks Jackie, for the refreshments this month. Refreshment s- Scott has April, John L has May, Karl has June, July is picnic. Motion to adjourn 10:29.

Scott's Fluorite program begins.

**Beth**

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March 24, 2020

We, at ALAA, want to extend our sincere concern for all of you all over these United States. It's been troubling times for all of us. This global corona virus pandemic is affecting all of our families, our businesses, our communities, even our way of life. We urge you all to take precautions for your safety and health and that of your families. We are strong, we are Americans and we have been through trying times in the past. Nothing will keep us down.

Let's all hope and pray that this curse will come to an end soon and we can get back to what recreational rockhounds do best.... Collect Rocks.

So, Rock On!

*Shirley, the officers and directors of  
American Lands Access Association.*



## **April birthstone: Diamond**

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

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Diamond gemstones come in several colors, including brown, yellow, red, pink, blue, and green. They 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.

The diamond’s unique physical properties give it 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.

Courtesy American Gem Society

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## Brad’s Bench Tips

### PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely. The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.



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### PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb, I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things.

First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

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Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).



Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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## Notes

### 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.

**Mineral and rock dealers have the opportunity of a lifetime. Long time dealer Keith Harmon must vacate his Rusk, TX house by the end of April, and has about 50 tons of rough for sale cheap. Incredible variety of agates, jaspers, and who knows what else. If interested, you must be able to move rocks by the end of April.**

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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>

**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.



**April Calendar of Events**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
						Abilene
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Abilene						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

