

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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

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Table of contents.....1

**Important note** .....1

WGMC Contacts .....2

January Birthstones.....3

Brad’s bench tips .....4,5

Notes .....6

Club Purpose.....7

**President and Vice President will be out of town in January, so we will not have a January meeting. Hopefully we will be able to hold our February meeting on schedule. Stay safe out there and have a Happy New Year!**

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## Contacts

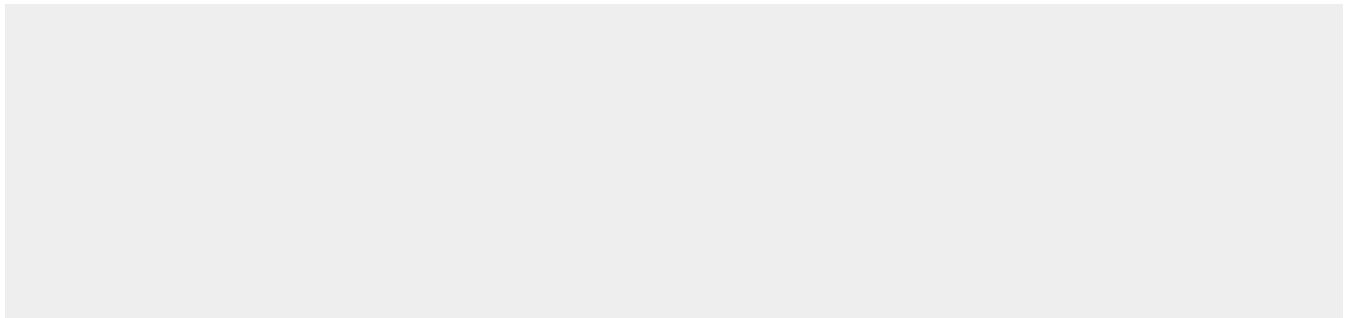
<b>President</b> Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 <a href="mailto:coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com">coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Treasurer</b> Jackie Dodson <a href="mailto:jackiedodson66@gmail.com">jackiedodson66@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-President</b> Scott Halverson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	<b>Secretary</b> Beth Cornelius texasbadvet@gmail.com
<b>Newsletter Staff</b> John Langston johnjkbear@aol.com	<b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.wacogemandmineral.org">www.wacogemandmineral.org</a>
	<b>Webmaster</b> <a href="mailto:wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com">wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com</a>

### 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 1 and 2, 2021. Currently, some spaces are available for vendors as there have been some cancellations.

If you have any questions, please contact **2021 Show chair Alison Redding** 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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## January Birthstone Garnet

The garnet is so durable, remnants of garnet jewelry have been found dating as far back as the Bronze Age. Other references go back to 3100 BC when the Egyptians used garnet as inlays in their jewelry and carvings. The Egyptians even referred to it as the symbol of life. The garnet gemstone was very popular

with the Romans in the third and fourth centuries.

This gemstone was used as a talisman for protection both by warriors going into battle and those who wanted to ward off pestilence and plague. Some ancient healers and wise men even placed garnets in wounds and praised its healing powers.

Garnet jewelry has been a fixture throughout the ages. Garnet gems were often used as signet rings in ancient Rome, and the nobility favored garnets in the Middle Ages.

The Victorians made garnets very popular during that time period. Some of the loveliest garnet gemstone jewelry from that era mimics its pomegranate namesake, with clusters of tiny red gems forming a larger

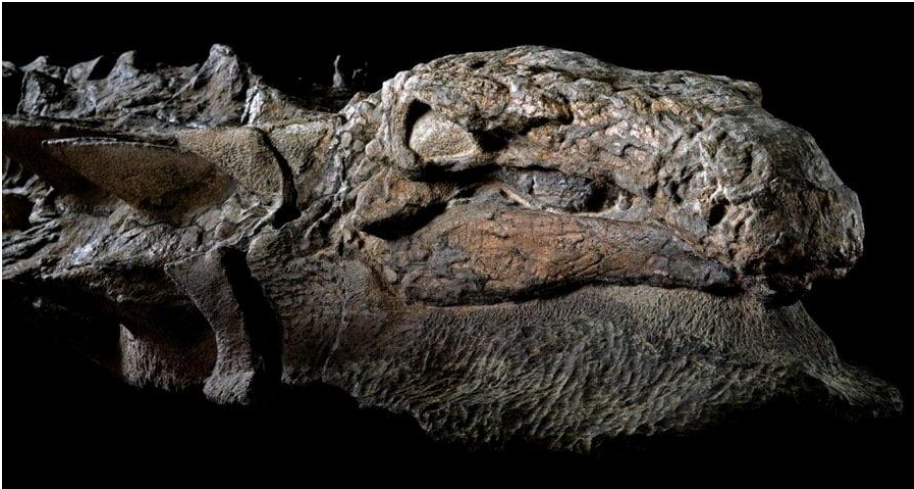


statement piece.

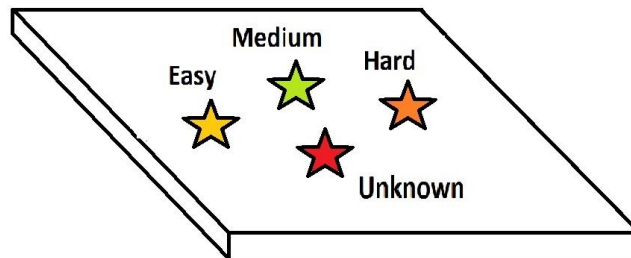
Today, the garnet can be found in a range of jewelry pieces and styles, from beautiful rings to stunning tiaras. Since garnet gemstones can come in a range of colors, rare garnets in green or blue make breathtaking pieces, especially in pendants or drop earrings.

- See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>

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## Brad's Bench Tips



## ADJUSTABLE CHUCK FOR DREMELS

Many of us have a Dremel motor tool to use at home or when out to a class or workshop. The one thing that makes this tool much more productive is the addition of one inexpensive option, an adjustable chuck.

The basic motor tool as sold typically comes with a collet chuck. This means you have to use a wrench to change every tool bit, you have to switch collets to use different shaft sizes (3/32 or 1/8 inch bits), and you can't use ordinary drills at all - only the special ones that have a 3/32 shaft.

A simple and inexpensive (\$12) adjustable chuck solves all of this. It's available in most large local hardware stores or modelmaking outlets. Tightening the chuck is done easily by hand to any size shaft. No key is required.

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## IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

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**Brad's "How To" Books Make a Nice Holiday Gift**

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

## Notes

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

Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month.

### **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](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.

