

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 61, Issue 7, July, 2020

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

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The Board of Directors of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club has decided to err on the side of caution and to NOT hold our July picnic. Hopefully We will be able to hold our August meeting on schedule. Stay safe out there.

**Contacts**

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		<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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The Ft. Worth Gem and Mineral Clubs annual show has been rescheduled. The new dates are: August 29-30, 2020. For more information, contact: [fwgmc.info@gmail.com](mailto:fwgmc.info@gmail.com)



July birthstone:

## RUBY

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagination, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gem species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value. The most prized color is a medium or medium dark vivid red or slightly purplish red. If the gem is too light or has too much purple or orange, it will be called a fancy-color sapphire. See more at:

<http://www.americangemsociety.org>

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### **Tanzanian miner finds record tanzanite gems, becomes overnight millionaire**



**Wow! 33 pounds of tanzanite gemstones!**

[https://www.foxnews.com/science/tanzanian-miner-finds-gems-becomes-millionaire?fbclid=IwAR01wwRLjd7-rT\\_bXbMprq5uJ2Tz2C4MLKbp-mi2XrDzsD4eKVzdwnJ90SM](https://www.foxnews.com/science/tanzanian-miner-finds-gems-becomes-millionaire?fbclid=IwAR01wwRLjd7-rT_bXbMprq5uJ2Tz2C4MLKbp-mi2XrDzsD4eKVzdwnJ90SM)

# Brad's Bench Tips

## SHEET & WIRE STORAGE

The more you work with jewelry, the more problems you have finding the piece of metal you need. My pieces of sheet were generally stored in various plastic bags, and the wire was in separate coils. Few were marked, so it often took me a while to locate that piece of 26 ga fine sheet I bought last year, especially since I usually take my supplies back and forth to classes.

A tip from a friend helped me organize everything. I bought an expanding file folder from the office supplies store (the kind that has 13 slots and a folding cover) and marked the tabs for each gauge of metal I use. Then I marked all my pieces of sheet with their gauge,

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## LITTLE BALLS

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.

But there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. When you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round pieces roll to the bottom. Bag the

put them in plastic bags, marked the gauge on the bag, and popped them into the folder. I usually store coils of wire loose in the folder, but they can also be bagged if you prefer. I use one tab for bezel wire and one for the odd, miscellaneous items.

The resulting folder is really convenient when I want to take my metal out to a class or workshop, and it's colorful enough for me to easily find in the clutter of the shop !



good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.



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

This editor and his grandson spent a couple of hours at the Arlington Gem and Mineral Show this past weekend, meeting new friends and visiting with old friends. We came away with a few rocks and cabs!

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### Notes

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.

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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.

