

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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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 June meeting. Hopefully We will be able to hold our July picnic on schedule. Stay safe out there.

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	Beth Cornelius texasbadvet@gmail.com
Newsletter Staff	John Langston johnjkbear@aol.com	Website	www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Webmaster	wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

61st Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 61st 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. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org

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



Photo courtesy gemsociety.org

June birthstone:

ALEXANDRITE.

The first alexandrites were discovered in Russia in the 1830s. The gemstone is named after Czar Alexander II. It is often described as “emeralds by day and rubies by night” because it is blueish, green in the daylight and purplish, red in incandescent light. Alexandrites change color because they are a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. This gem provides dramatic proof of how a light source can affect the color of gemstones.

Courtesy American Gem Society

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Brad’s Bench Tips

QUICK CLOSE-UPS

Often when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.



LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of a half horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

I want to talk about the smaller motor-powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3-inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble. Here's what happened to two people I know.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the handpiece and then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? Not so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it!

Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friend's arm. There was no way to get a hand of the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when someone nearby could grab the power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So, when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even the little motors for granted.

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

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

Deadline for submissions is the 20th 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

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.

