

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 64, Issue 2, February, 2023

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Next meeting, February 4th.

Movie, “Gemstones of America,” produced by the National Museum of Natural History.

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Upcoming Events

East Texas Gem & Mineral Show –

1/27 thru 1/29

Tyler Rose Garden, Tyler, TX

Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society

GEMBOREE Will be the 3rd weekend in February which is

2/18 thru 2/19

Georgetown, TX

2023.01.07 Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes

Roy Cooper, President, called the meeting to order at 10:22 am.

The two visitors introduced themselves.

The **minutes** of the previous meeting were approved as published in the Gritty Greetings.

Jackie gave the **Treasurers report**.

The new Treasurer, Dorothy Marsteller, and the President, Roy Cooper will arrange a time to go together to the Bank to sign the new Signature Card for the Club.

The **program** for February will be a movie entitled, "Gemstones of America," produced by the National Museum of Natural History.

Suggestions for **field trips** included: Waco Mammoth Site, Texas Thru Time Museum, Clifton Museum of Natural History, or hunting for Turritella at Mother Neff Park (outside the park).

Roy gave the **Show Committee** report. Of the Vendor Booth invitations that were sent, 15 have been received at this time. This coming week the spaces on the Show Floor will start to be filled.

For **old business**, Scott reported on the new wide screen TV the club purchased, and explained that the next step is to set up the TV and connect it to our LAN.

During the **new business**, Roy, on behalf of the entire Club, presented Jackie with a Gift Card to express our **thanks for the wonderful work she has done** with the finances. She has been so dedicated, diligent and thorough, and we appreciate all her hard work through the years and through the many Club Shows.

Roy then **adjourned** the meeting at 10:56 am.

After the meeting, Bob gave a wonderful presentation on "The Agates of Big Bend." He had samples of these agates. He showed samples of "pseudomorph" crystals.

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. Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged.

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

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

February Birthstone Amethyst

Amethyst is purple quartz and is a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the world. The name comes from the Ancient Greek, derived from the word methustos, which means “intoxicated.” Ancient wearers believed the gemstone could protect them from drunkenness. Amethyst, as previously mentioned, is composed of quartz, which is the second most abundant material found in Earth’s crust. Amethyst gets its color from irradiation, iron impurities, and the presence of trace elements. Its hardness (a 7 on the Mohs scale) is the same as other quartz, which makes it a durable and lasting option for jewelry. While amethyst is most commonly recognized to be a purple color, the gemstone can actually range from a light pinkish violet to a deep purple that can read more blue or red, depending on the light. Sometimes, even the same stone can have layers or color variants, so the way the gemstone is cut is important to the way the color shows in a finished piece. Amethyst often occurs in geodes or in the cavities of granitic rocks. It can be found all over the world, including the United States, Canada, Brazil, and Zambia. The amethyst is not only the February birthstone, it is also used to celebrate the 6th and 17th year of marriage.



Courtesy of American Gem Society

Image courtesy jewelsforme.com

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

Bench Tips



CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber molds. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.



USING YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shaft sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.

If you enjoy these tips on jewelry making, see many more in the sample chapters from these two books:

- > Bench Tips 1 - <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>
- > Bench Tips 2 - <http://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems



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.

