

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 64, Issue 2, February, 2023

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### Next meeting, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Contacts

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## Upcoming Events

### **Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Show**

3/4, 3/5  
Robstown, TX

### **Central Texas Gem & Mineral Show**

3/18, 3/19  
Abilene, TX

### **Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Club Show**

3/18, 3/19  
Pasadena, TX

## Minutes for February 4, 2023

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Roy Cooper, President - Present  
Scott Halvorson, Vice President - Present  
Dorothy Marstaller, Treasurer - Present  
Harry Senn, Secretary - Present

Roy **Called the Meeting to Order** 10:14 am.

Roy welcomed back two visitors.

Roy announced the \$0.25 donation to the Endowment Fund for those who forgot to wear their name badges.

Discussion began about the Endowment Fund where our Club donates to the SCFMS (South Central Federation of Mineral Societies). We send \$50 to them each year. Roy will find out to whom we send the donation.

As far our dues, we get a bill from SCFMS in August so SCFMS can have it by end of September.

We need to change the WGM Club person designated as the email contact for SCFMS.

**Minutes** of the last meeting: Karl - Motion; Bob - Second. Previous Minutes Motion passed.

Dorothy gave the **Treasurers Report**.

Discussion began about how the Club House was taken care of in severe cold weather. Karl anticipates a freeze: heater is kept on the low setting and water is left dripping.

### Committee Reports

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The next **Field Trip** will probably be after a Club meeting and during warmer weather.

The **Show Chair** said we had commitments for all our booths. Payment for them is due March 1.

Also, reminder to Club Members: we need materials for the Silent Auction.

**Old Business** was a great big thanks to Scott for procuring the big screen TV and wall mount and to Tom and Bob Boyd for procuring the HDMI cable. Roy helped prep the room for installing the cable.

There was discussion about a new monitor, but we decided to wait on that.

**Bank Signature Card Discussion:** Dorothy moved to have three people on the Bank Signature Card.

Stephanie brought a second to the motion. The three people that should be listed on the Signature Card should be: Roy Cooper, Scott Halvorson and Dorothy Marstaller. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:** Harry brought to the attention of the Club that we need to have a "Password Policy." This means that each of the existing Club Officers would know the login and passwords of each of the online accounts the Club is responsible for, and that any change in Officers would require a change in all the passwords. The Club agreed to think about how this should be worded and when to present it to the Club for a vote.

**Meeting Adjourned: at 11:00 am**

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The Program following the meeting was the first half of the video, "Gemstones of America." The video was viewed on our brand new wide screen TV.

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

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

## March Birthstones

## Aquamarine and Bloodstone

The serenely colored **aquamarine** invokes the tranquility of its namesake, the sea. In fact, the name "aquamarine" is derived from the Latin word *aqua*, meaning water, and *marina*, meaning the sea.

Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green. The color is usually more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. This gemstone is

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mined mainly in Brazil, but it is also found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

Like emeralds, this gemstone is a variety of a mineral called beryl. Large gemstones have been found all over the world, including one gemstone found in Brazil that weighed over 240 pounds. Aquamarine grows in large, six-sided crystals that can be up to a foot long. This makes it a great gemstone to be cut and polished in larger carats for bold statement jewelry pieces.

Not only is aquamarine one of the March birthstones, it's also used to celebrate 19th wedding anniversaries. It's a beautiful gemstone with little or no yellow in it, so it looks great in many settings with different colored metals and gemstones.

The second birthstone for March is **bloodstone**, a dark-green gemstone flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. Generally found embedded in rocks or riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this gemstone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

Bloodstone is also called heliotrope, a word from the ancient Greek that means "to turn the sun." Many believe it was probably named as such because of ancient ideas about how minerals reflect light. In fact, some believed that the sun itself would turn red if this gemstone was put into water.

Bloodstone is sometimes known by another name—Blood Jasper—although it's actually chalcedony, which is a cryptocrystalline quartz. There are two forms of bloodstone: heliotrope, which is more transparent with red spots, and plasma, which is more opaque and has little or no red spots.

For those looking for **good-quality bloodstone gems**, a solid green color with visible veins of red is usually considered the best. It also comes in many shapes and cuts, including traditional cuts like emerald, oval, and cushion.

Bloodstone may not have the overt beauty of aquamarine, but many people value this gemstone for its symbolism and other properties.

Courtesy of Gemological Institute of America





### 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.

