

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 65, Issue 3, March, 2024

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

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Upcoming events

~~ OUR NEXT CLUBHOUSE MEETING will be SATURDAY, Mar.2nd, 2024 @ 10:00 am.

Greatest Little Treasure Show in Texas, Kuykendall Event Center, Llano, - 03/23/2024-03/24/2024

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show, RMB REGIONAL Fairgrounds, Robstown, TX March 2, 3.

Contacts

President Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	Treasurer John Hillman hillmanjohn316@gmail.com
Vice-President Scott Halvorson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	Secretary Harry Senn senn.harry@yahoo.com
Newsletter John Langston johnjkbear@aol.com	Website www.wacogemandmineral.org
	Club email wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

WGMC Minutes for February 3rd, 2024

Scott Halvorson, in Harry Senn's absence

1. The meeting was **Called to Order** at 10:00 am by President Roy Cooper. Approximately 15 members attended.
2. Fines and donations to the scholarship fund were collected.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as published in the Gritty Greetings.
4. Dorothy tendered her resignation as Treasurer. Motion was made by Kathy and seconded by Kenny to accept. Motion carried.
5. John Hillman agreed to serve if elected.
6. A portion of the bylaws states that a person must be a member for at least a year to be eligible to be an officer.
7. John has been a member for only 10 months.
8. Motion was made by Jan and seconded Kenny to suspend only the referred to portion of the bylaws just long enough to have a vote. Motion carried.
9. It was moved my Kathy and seconded by Stephanie to nominate John Hillman to replace Dorothy as Treasurer. Motion approved.
10. John Langston called for a vote to elect John Hillman for Treasurer. Seconded by Kenny, approved by acclamation.

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11. John Hillman gave the Treasurer's report.

12. Committee reports.

Program for March, Varicite, by Bob. Field trip, Gallery 11, today. Possible April field trip, Pyrite and Ammonite hunt in Hewitt. Scott found location.

Show, May 3rd, setup day. Venue is the Lee Lockwood Library. Time to decide on vendors and layout.

13. New Business.

Contract with Reliant Energy is due for renewal. Rate will be 11.5 cents per KWH. Motion made by Stephanie, seconded by Dorothy to renew. Motion passed.

We have one CD at Independent Financial that is due for renewal. By consensus the club decided we had enough in the checking account to finance the show. Kathy moved and Dorothy seconded to renew the CD. John said he would check on rates.

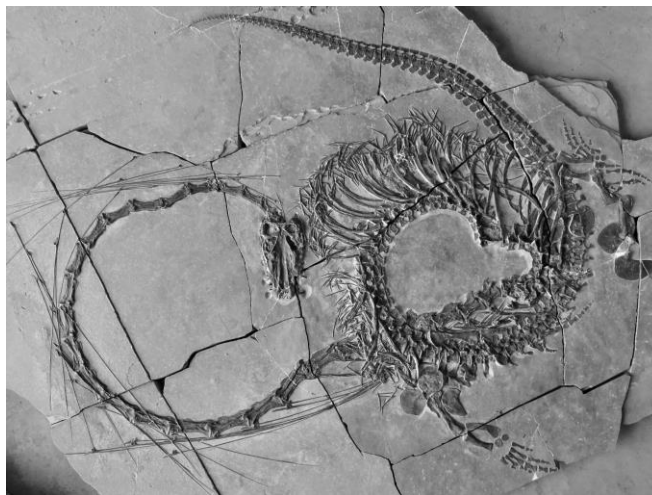
14. Clifford Kelly reported that there will be a "swap meet" in Llano on March 23rd and 24th. Items available will be rocks, equipment and related items. Gold panning will also be available.

Meeting adjourned. All present then travelled to Gallery 11 for the field trip!

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Palaeontologists reveal a 240-million-year-old 'Chinese Dragon'

An international team of scientists have described new fossils of *Dinocephalosaurus orientalis* - a five-metre-long aquatic reptile from the Triassic period of China, dating to around 240 million years old.



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March Birthstone

Aquamarine



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 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.

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

Member Jan Dodd has been in Providence Hospital for a few days and will schedule a surgery sometime soon. Please keep her and her husband Rance in your prayers.

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 dollar in the pig. The money from the pig goes toward our Scholarship program, and we really do appreciate every dollar or more. However, if you need a name tag 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 John 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>

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.

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