

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 66, Issue 4, April, 2025

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

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- **Next meeting, Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, field trip to Lake Brownwood to collect horn coral. For more info see notes, page 2.**

### Upcoming Events

**April 18,19,20 Alpine Gem and Mineral Show, Alpine, TX**

**April 25,26,27 Texas Mineral and Fossil Show, Conroe, TX**

**May 3,4 Waco Gem and Mineral Show, Waco, TX Lee Lockwood Library**

## Contacts

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### Minutes for March 01, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER** President Roy Cooper called the meeting to order 10:11 am.

#### INTRODUCE AND WELCOME VISITORS

**APPROVE:** John Hillman moved that the minutes of previous meeting as published in Gritty Greetings be approved. John Langston seconded. Minutes were approved.

**TREASURERS REPORT** Again, John Hillman did a wonderful job presenting the Treasurers Report.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**There will be no official WGM Club meeting Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, because we will have a Horn Coral Field Trip to Lake Brownwood.**

We will be searching for Horn Coral and, maybe, "Grains of Rice" rock.

Some of the members are also collecting for the Club. Samples could be handed out at local schools to promote the Waco Gem and Mineral Club.

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**Primary Field Trip Meeting Place Time and Location:**

The plan is to meet in Elm Mott about 8:30 so we can leave at 9:00 am.

We will carpool as well as caravan.

**Secondary Field Trip Meeting Place Time and Location:**

Anyone from the City of Waco/ Hewitt/Woodway area may not want to drive all the way to Elm Mott to meet with the group only to have to drive back through to highway 84 and on to Lake Brownwood.

**A secondary-rendezvous location** will be at the Richland Mall in the J. C. Penney’s parking lot (adjacent to Hwy 84). **BUT YOU MUST CONTACT** Scott Halvorson at 254-424-8829 to make arrangements ahead of time (no later than Friday at Noon) on where you will be and what type of vehicle you will be in so he can meet up with you.

**SHOW COMMITTEE –**

The club will have a Work Meeting on April 26 at the Clubhouse so we can get ready for the Show.

Postcard-size cards announcing the Show are already printed. They will be available to hand out but only after April 2.

Show tables are priced at \$75 for 8-foot tables and \$55 for 6-foot tables.

**OLD BUSINESS**

“Texas Through Time Museum” in Hillsboro is helping with a Mammoth dig in Italy Texas. They could use volunteer help.

**ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 10.32 am.

**April birthstone: Diamond**



You probably already know of the diamond's toughness. In fact, it's the hardest gemstone and is made of just one element: carbon.

Its structure makes it 58 times harder than anything in nature. A diamond can only be cut with another diamond. While it's become nearly synonymous with wedding engagements, it's also the perfect gemstone for individuals who want something that's just as appropriate for everyday wear as it is for special occasions.

Diamond gemstones come in several colors, including brown, yellow, red, pink, blue, and green. They range in intensity from faint to vivid. Generally speaking, the more saturated the color, the higher the value.

In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory. These are correctly called "color-treated" diamonds.

The **diamond's unique physical properties** give it the best possible luster of any gemstone when cut and polished well. So, if you're in the market for "sparkle," the diamond is the gemstone for you.

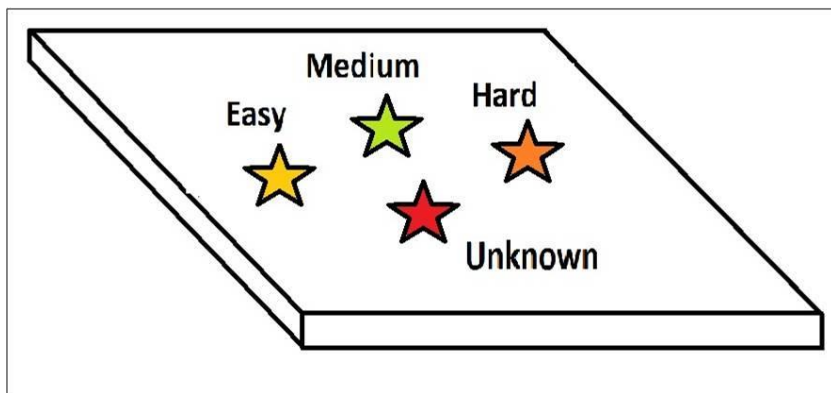
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Courtesy American Gem Society

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## Brads Bench Tips

### IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS



There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder.

What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown piece. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.

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## EMERY BOARDS



I feel the key to getting a lustrous polish on your jewelry work is having a good selection of sandpaper handy for pre-polishing before going to the buffer. I generally start around 400 grit and then go to 800 and 1200.

While some projects do require sheets of sandpaper, my favorite way of sanding small jewelry items is to use emery boards for doing your nails. I like the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

These nail boards are inexpensive and come in a variety of grits. Some grits are so fine they give an almost finished surface. Pick up a few at a beauty supply company, at your local drug store, or from Amazon.

## Notes

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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 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 Hillman 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>

### 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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