



GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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Upcoming Events

October 24-26 Fossilmania, Glen Rose

November 1-2 Fossil Fest, Round Rock

November 22-23 Dallas Gem and Mineral Society Show, Mesquite

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Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for October 4, 2025

A **CALL TO ORDER** – President Roy Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:08 am. The visitors were welcomed.

The minutes of the previous meeting as published in Gritty Greetings were approved by acclamation. B.

TREASURERS REPORT: Given briefly as John had to leave early. C.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

D. PROGRAM COMMITTEE

November: Annual WGM Club Auction. Members, Visitors, Other Clubs' Members Welcome! It was discussed that maybe we could publish a partial list of items prior to the meeting. We could use help preparing for the auction. Two items for sale (not in auction): 18" lapidary saw and 20" Vibra Lap. First come, first serve! Cash or checks is the best way to pay, although Venmo is an option. Cards can be used but not at point of sale because no WiFi at the clubhouse. John will run them through manually after the meeting. December: Annual WGM Club Christmas Party January: Mississippi Petrified Forest E. **FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE** –

There were other locations mentioned, and the persons who shared them were going to follow up by getting the owner's permissions first, then getting back to the Club with the location(s). F. **SHOW COMMITTEE** – We need to start planning all the options for advertising.

G. **OLD BUSINESS** – Everything donated has now been picked up from the Brockington residence in Whitney! Thanks to all who helped pick up and transport and store this huge volume of materials! H. **NEW BUSINESS**

Nomination is open for secretary. Harry has resigned as Secretary, but will serve until the new one is elected. He will continue maintaining the website (because that is not an elected position.) Officer Elections will take place during the November meeting.

We discussed the use of display cases to help get our name out to local schools. It was suggested that we load the cases with rocks and fossils to put in libraries. We would need labels to identify the Waco Gem and Mineral Club along with our website information.

I. Adjourn

November birthstones: Topaz and Citrine



Through much of history, all yellow gemstones were considered **topaz** and all topaz was thought to be yellow. Topaz is available in many colors, and it's likely not even related to the stones that first donned its name.

The name topaz derives from *Topazios*, the ancient Greek name for St. John's Island in the Red Sea. Although the yellow gemstones famously mined there probably weren't topaz, it soon became the name for most yellowish stones.

Pure topaz is colorless, but it can become tinted by impurities to take on any color of the rainbow. Precious topaz ranges in color from brownish orange to yellow and is often mistaken for smoky quartz or citrine quartz, respectively—although quartz and topaz are unrelated minerals.

The most prized color is Imperial topaz, which features a vibrant orange hue with pink undertones. Blue topaz, although increasingly abundant in the market, very rarely occurs naturally and is often caused by irradiation treatment.

November's second birthstone, **citrine**, is a variety of quartz that ranges from pale yellow to a honey orange color. It takes its name from the citron fruit because of these lemon inspired shades.

The pale yellow color of citrine closely resembles topaz, which explains why November's two birthstones have been so easily confused throughout history.

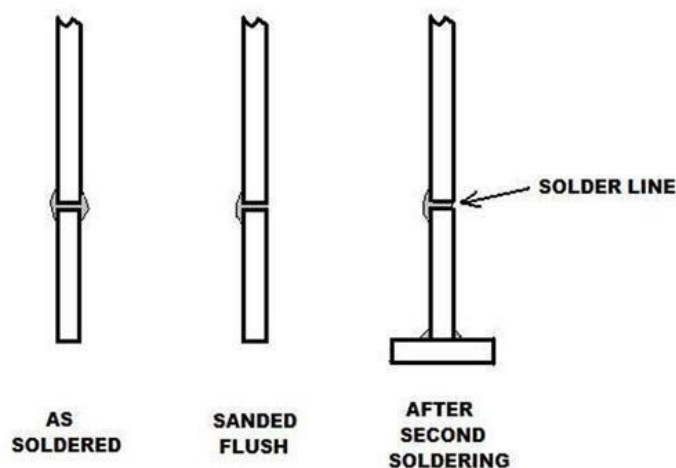
Citrine's yellow hues are caused by traces of iron in quartz crystals. This occurs rarely in nature, so most citrine gems on the market are made by heat treating other varieties of quartz—usually the more common, less expensive purple amethyst and smoky quartz to produce golden gemstones.

Brazil is the largest supplier of citrine. Other sources include Spain, Bolivia, France, Russia, Madagascar and the U.S. (Colorado, North Carolina and California). Different geographies yield different shades of citrine.

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

Bench Tips for November

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES



After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to resand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all the soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible like when a soldering operation prevents you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution .

LOOSE HEADS



Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammerhead. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammerhead is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammerhead that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.

See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

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 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

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.

