



GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 67, Issue 2, February, 2026

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

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Upcoming Events

February 7 **Monthly meeting at clubhouse, 10 AM, followed by a field trip. (next page)**

February 7 – 8 East Texas Gem and Mineral Show, Tyler Rose Garden

February 14-15 Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society Show, Georgetown

February 28-March 1 Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Show

May 2-3 Waco Gem and Mineral Show

Field trip:

Erik Royal has agreed to host the Waco Gem & Mineral Club for a field trip at his farm west of Waco. It will take place on Saturday, February 7 after the club's regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

We will be primarily looking for petrified wood. Erik informed me metal detectors are welcome since several 19th century homes once occupied the farm.



The farm is located off U. S. Highway 84 on LCR 120. Take 84 toward Mexia and turn left at the road sign Watt, a small farming community. Travel north on LCR 120 approximately 2 miles until reaching the farm compound. The farmhouses are located where LCR 120 takes a large bend to the right.

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 Stephanie Robert stephanierr61@gmail.com
Newsletter John Langston johnjkbear@aol.com	Website www.wacogemandmineral.org Club email wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

January 3, 2026

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Meeting Minutes

1. Registration
2. Call to order
3. Introduce and welcome visitors:

we had a UTA geology student- Alex Hyde

Austin Johnston brought Belt Johnston (5th grade) and Amelia (3rd grade)

A discussion was had about connecting with schools for education purposes. Kathy Aydt has been talking with multiple districts in our area. Amanda K. provided a contact for Connally Elementary.

4. Collect for the scholarship fund – 1.00 for not wearing your name tag. Donations also accepted. For new members – name tags can be ordered at Printmart 202 Deb, or Award Specialties 431 Lake Air Dr.
5. Accept Minutes of previous meeting- December meeting was good food and fellowship, no meeting.
6. Treasurers Report presented by John Hillman

We were able to send 75.00 to the South Central Federation for the scholarship fund, and we took in 660.00 with the club auction in November. Contact John if you have any questions.

7. Committee Reports:

- A. Show committee: we are booked at the Lee Lockwood Library for the 1st weekend in May. Roy has sent save the date to e-mails to last year's vendors, and a separate email to waiting list vendors to see if they are still interested.

We need to make a new post card sized add and email copies to all clubs.

This will be our 66th Annual Show! We always need volunteers, there's plenty for everyone to do.

- B. Field Trip Committee:

Suggestions were:

*we need to get back out to Whitney to finish picking up the last of a generously donated collection.

*John Hillman knows a farmer in Watt who has a field we can hunt in...

* Texas thru Time Fossil Museum in Hillsboro

*Perot Natural History Museum in Dallas

*Brownwood to collect horn coral fossils

*Marble Falls

*Alex Hyde (the UTA student) brought a collection of fabulous fossils he collected on the banks of the Sulphur River near Ben Franklin Texas. That area is soon to be under a lake.

If interested, come to the meeting or contact a club officer so we can get planning.

8. Old business: We still need to find a new clubhouse, we're paying \$700.00 a month, there are rumors that the owners will eventually want to do something else with this property.

9. New business:

*We need to have a work day to replace worn wheels and blades on cabbing machines and replace the spring on the 18" saw.

*Need to work on organizing silent Auction items for the show.

*Need some material tumbles as kids give-aways at the show

*John Langston would like for someone to take over the newsletter Please!

10. No other business.

Adjourned.

The program was a presentation by Roy Cooper about the Mississippi Petrified Forest site in Flora, just northwest of Jackson. It is a paid site with trails and a museum, you can't pick up samples there.

February birthstone: Amethyst



Amethyst is composed of quartz, which is the second most abundant mineral found in Earth's crust, next to feldspar. The gemstone gets its color from irradiation, iron impurities, and the presence of trace elements. It has a good toughness, and its hardness is a 7 on the Mohs scale, the same as other quartz, making it a good option for jewelry.

While amethyst is most commonly recognized to be a purple color, the gemstone can range from a light pinkish violet all the way to a deep purple that can read more blue or red, depending on the light. Sometimes the same stone can have layers or color variants, so the way the gemstone is cut plays a role in 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.

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

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.

