

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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

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Table of Contents

WGMC Contacts	1
Minutes	2-3
Upcoming Shows and Events	4
July Birthstones.....	5-6
Tips from Brad.....	7
Notes/ClubPurpose.....	8-9
July Calendar of Events	10

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Our next meeting is at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 6th

1796 Wildcat Circle
Gholson, Texas
The home of Jim and Alison Redding
For our July BBQ and meeting.

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W.G.M.C. April Meeting Minutes

WG&MC MINUTES 6/1/19

Call to order by Roy Cooper

Due to imminent bad weather, we had a very small group

Scott and Gabby Cordova, and Leo Gustafson and his son Adam were visiting

Minutes from the May 18th Meeting – Stephanie ran out of time to get them typed. They were read over and approved as presented.

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report for last half of May.

Our 60-month CD is due to mature on June 9. We have until June 19 to change the terms. Roy Suggested that we may want to reconsider having those funds locked up for such a long term. Roy suggested, and it was agreed among the members present, that it should be changed to 12 or 13 months whichever would get best value. It was suggested that Roy should be added to the account since he is president, rather than Andy. This was approved by all members in attendance.

We talked about the show, Jackie said we still have plenty of merchandise- tee shirts, hats, bags, etc. and shouldn't need to order more until we get closer to running out.

Our rent and water bill are fixed amounts, but the electric bill depends on usage. With summer heat coming on, we need to be mindful of our usage. Make sure the A/C is turned off when no one will be using the shop. We don't want to cook in there when we are doing classes etc., but we don't need to be cooling an empty room.

Old Business-

There is still 1 grand prize to be delivered, Roy was going to do that and then was interrupted by his surgery. Stephanie Robert knows the winner and will deliver this prize after the meeting.

Dinner and a movie night will be June 21st at 6:00 PM. If you have videos, we can use for this, please consider bringing them. Roy will run out of material soon. This is a fun evening! Come on out and join us!

Refreshment sign-up sheet is at the back of the meeting room along with the class sign-up sheets.

We have a beginning Cabochon cutting class, and a beginning wire wrap class currently in formation. Sign up if you are interested, we need to know who so we can get with you and determine when.

Show: We have the McLennan Hall at the Convention Center for May 2nd and 3rd, 2020. Per Convention rules, a dinner will not be provided for the show. We will follow up more during the July BBQ get together. They lock up totally at the end of the day, so we may not need a dedicated security guard- this can be discussed more later.

We had talked about the possibility of doing a small show in November or December with just club members. The club house is not really the best place. Stephanie checked on cost of Geneva Hall across I35. It is 2000.00 a day (unless the renter is a volunteer- then there is a discount) We can investigate that further if there is interest.

The Grapevine – Arlington Club show is 6/29 & 30 at the Grapevine convention Center.

July 6th we will not have a meeting at the Clubhouse, Jim and Alison Redding have offered their home for our picnic. 1796 Wildcat Circle (off Gholson Rd North of Waco)

We discussed doing a shop class to familiarize everyone with what machinery we have and its basic care and use, also a cabling class, and the basic wire wrap class, possibly to be done after a meeting?

We need to get more activities going. But we can't do it without people teaching, and taking the classes and going on the field trips.

We started up a field trip committee- Beth volunteered to be the chair of that, Scott Cordova was volunteered by his wife Gabby to help. We discussed various places we could go and things we could do.

Roy had brought some interesting fossiliferous rocks for show and tell.

Stephanie gave a presentation of what personal protection gear we have available, what it is used for and WHY we should use it. Please keep yourselves safe!

After the meeting, we decided that Stephanie Robert will teach a wire wrap class 6/15/19 at 10:00 at the clubhouse. Please contact her at 254-722-9751 if you would like to attend. The fee is \$25.00- most will go to the club.

Copper Wire will be supplied and there are some cabochons available to purchase from the club if you don't have one of your own to wrap. If time permits, I will show you a basic wrap for a cabochon, and how you can wrap a tumble polished stone. So, bring a cabochon and a polished rock somewhere around the size of a quarter. Bigger is ok, too small makes it hard to handle until you get the hang of it.

Please bring whatever tools you have; I have a very few extras. Wal Mart, Michaels or Hobby Lobby all have basic sets of pliers and snips that aren't crazy expensive- and look on line for Michaels or Hobby Lobby Coupons.

From the editor

Alison and I went to Murphysboro, Arkansas to the Diamond Mine, well actually Alison went to the Diamond Mine with her Sister Shawn, I watched the dog and tried to find some good Arkansas Agates, I might have succeeded where the diamond hunters failed miserably. I'll let you know when I get a chance to slice off a slab or two.

BTW: Alison will be furnishing the program for the August meeting, Let's just say she has a box of dirt to sift through in hopes of finding treasure, and I hear this dirt is loaded with treasures.

Upcoming Shows and Events

This is our new post card for advertising, front and back. If the shoppers can't find us, they really don't need to be out driving! LOL

Front view



Back view



The 60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on _May 2nd and 3rd, 2020. Our event last year was met with a huge response and we expect an even bigger turnout this year!

Booth spaces are on a first come, first serve basis and we are expected to sell out quickly as we will only have a limited number of vendor spaces. As soon as we get more information on pricing, we will be posting it on our website.

If you have any questions, please email: wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org.

JULY BIRTHSTONE



Ruby, the king of precious gems, is the birthstone for fortunate folks born in July. Symbolic of the passion and energy associated with the color red, the vibrant ruby is said to bring love and success.

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, colored by the element chromium. All other colors of gem-quality corundum are called sapphire, which means color is key for this royal stone.

Accordingly, the name “ruby” comes from Rubeus, the Latin word for red. In ancient Sanskrit, ruby translated to ratnaraj, which meant “king of precious stones.” These fiery gems have been treasured throughout history for their vitality.

The chromium that gives ruby its red color also causes fluorescence, which makes rubies glow like a fire from within. Paradoxically, chromium is also what makes this gem scarce because it can cause cracks and fissures. Few rubies actually grow large enough to crystallize into fine quality gems, and these can bring even higher prices than diamonds.

Burma’s Mogok Valley historically produced the finest ruby material, famous for its deep blood-red color with purplish hues. These Burmese Rubies, also called Pigeon’s Blood Rubies, command a premium over brownish or orange-tinged varieties from other regions.

The Mong Hsu region of Myanmar began producing rubies in the 90s after discovering that heat treatment improved the color saturation. Other ruby deposits exist in Vietnam, Thailand, India, parts of the Middle East, East Africa and even the United States.

Tough and durable, ruby measures 9 on the Mohs scale. Diamond is the only natural gemstone harder than ruby.

Ruby’s strength and red fluorescence make it valuable for applications beyond jewelry. Both natural and synthetic rubies are used in watchmaking, medical instruments and lasers.

Due to its deep red color, ruby has long been associated with the life force and vitality of blood. It is believed to amplify energy, heighten awareness, promote courage and bring success in wealth, love and battle.

Symbolic of passion, protection and prosperity, the ruby has been revered since ancient times.

Rubies have been particularly prized in Asian countries. Records suggest that rubies were traded along China’s North Silk Road as early as 200 B.C. Chinese noblemen adorned their armor with rubies because they believed the gem would grant protection. They also buried rubies beneath building foundations to secure good fortune.

Ancient Hindus believed they’d be reborn as emperors if they offered rubies to the god Krishna. In Hindu

From the bench of Bradford Smith

Work Smarter With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Happy hammering,

- Brad

EMERY BOARDS

The sanding boards for doing your nails are one of my favorite finishing tools. I use the ones with a thin foam core. They have enough resistance to sand just the high points off a flat surface and yet give a little when you're trying to smooth off a curved surface.

Plus they're 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 or at your local drug store.

1 pic

DENTAL FLOSS

When testing the fit of a stone in the bezel, it's all too easy to get it stuck. If tapping the finding or opening up the bezel a bit with a knife blade doesn't dislodge it, you might have to drill a small hole in the bottom and push it out with a needle.

To avoid all this frustration, use the old dental floss trick. Lay a piece of over the top of the bezel before you seat the stone. Then just pull on the string to remove the stone.

Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Discover new jewelry skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



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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.

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July Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						WGMC Summer BBQ 11:00 am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Pot luck & Movie 6:00 pm		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			