

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 61, Issue 3, March, 2020

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

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Contacts

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Upcoming Shows and Events

60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 2 and 3/2020. Currently, spaces are all full for the show!!! WOW!!!

If you have any questions, please contact **2020 Show chair Alison Redding** or email: wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org

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Waco Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes, 2 February 2020

Call to order by Roy at 10:05

Officers Present- President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

Committee Lead Present- Presentations, Field Trips, Facebook editor, Newsletter Editor, Web Master

Members Present- 12, Visitors none

No corrections to last month minutes. Motion to approve/second Bob/Karl. All Aye.

Treasurer report by Jackie, as of 31 January 2020. We are in good financial shape with funds to cover current bills and show. Hard copy on file with secretary.

Show report- nothing new.

Program committee report by Scott. February by Scott Fitzpatrick, Minerals of Mexico

Next month Fluorite by Scott.

Field Trip report by Beth. January was Monnig meteor Gallery at TCU. February was cancelled, but information was provided so individuals could locate Celestite in Lampasas county. March trip- several members have signed up for Agate Hunting in Alpine with Terri Smith for 15, 17, 19 March. This is during spring break so sign up ASAP if you plan on going. Details are on **terrismithagates** website. You have to email her direct to sign up.

New Business- Jackie is member of Friends of the Library and can sometimes get books on Geology, jewelry making, and minerals while she is sorting books. She wanted to know if the club was interested in her bringing a few books in when she finds them so it could be determined if they were worthwhile for the club or members to purchase for a small fee. We all agreed the club was interested in this.

Upcoming shows Big Springs, Robstown, San Antonio

Bob donated a saw to the club. Saw has some damage that will need repairs prior to it being ready for the workshop. Thank you, Bob for this great donation to the club.!!

Old Business- 18" saw not repaired yet, Roy has been busy and it looks like we need to purchase new pulleys before it can be finished. Cab machine is repaired, including water drip, thanks to Roy and Karl.

Meeting refreshments for March- Jackie, no one has signed up for April or May yet. Karl has June. Thanks to those who volunteered so far this year.

Motion to adjourn 10:26, program began.

Executive Board Meeting began after program. Present were Roy, Scott, Jackie, and Beth.

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Item 1- Jackie presented a detailed list of estimated credits and estimated debits (including the show) for the year, so the board could make a determination if we have excess funds in checking that could be transferred into a CD or other account that will earn interest. After analysis of the numbers, we decided to wait until after the show to see what excess funds may be available.

Item 2- we discussed criteria for members to have access to the key box so they may use the workshop without anyone else present.

Rules for Access to Workshop by individual members-

You must attend a class on proper use and cleanup of shop equipment.*

You have to log 10 hours of supervised workshop time.

You must be a member for six months and in good standing.

You must sign in and pay for your use of equipment. \$2 per hour for use of shop and an additional \$2 per hour to use the lapidary saw.

*for 2020 the introduction class will be held after the regular meeting once per quarter in the months of May, August, November, February. See the president/vice president immediately following presentation.

You can lose your privileges for abuse of equipment, not cleaning up, leaving AC/Heat running, or other issues as the board sees fit.

Beth



March birthstones: Aquamarine, Bloodstone

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. This gemstone was once believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene blue of aquamarine gems was said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. In the Middle Ages, many believed that the simple act of wearing an aquamarine stone was a literal antidote to poisoning. The Romans believed that if you carved a frog into a piece of aquamarine jewelry, it would help to reconcile differences between enemies and make new friends. Still, other historical groups took this lore even further, using aquamarine jewelry

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as gifts to the bride at a wedding to symbolize long unity and love. Some even believed it could re-awaken love between two people. The Sumerians, Egyptians, and Hebrews all admired aquamarine gemstones, and many warriors would wear it into battle to bring about victory. Many ancient medicines used powder made from aquamarine to help cure all manner of infection, but it was thought to be particularly good for eye ailments.

The second birthstone for March is **bloodstone**, a dark-green gemstone flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. Generally found embedded in rocks or in riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this gemstone are India, Brazil, and Australia. This ancient gemstone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets, and was believed to have healing powers, especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the "martyr's stone", as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained jasper at the foot of the cross. Many other ancient cultures believed bloodstone gems had magical powers, with some references to its ability to heal dating back to 5000 BC. The Babylonians used bloodstone in their divination, and the Egyptians prized bloodstone because they believed it helped them to defeat their enemies. They also believed it increased their strength or made them invisible. Still, others believed that bloodstone could help control or change the weather, win legal battles or give the gift of prophecy. It was so loved for its properties, many used the gemstone in jewelry, signet rings, and even small cups or statues.

Courtesy American Gem Society

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Brad's 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 solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

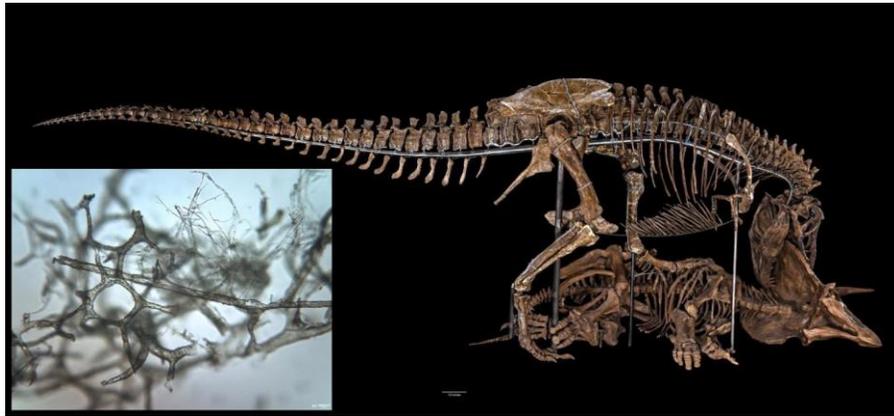
You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. As an example of the components, see items # 43060 and # 47887.

File the tip of the soldering iron into the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot. A tip design that I find ideal for some work is a length of small gauge wire that lets me reach in around the model to melt some wax. The wire is 18ga and about 15mm long. I use Sterling wire to conduct heat easily to the tip, and I silver solder it into a hole on the end of a copper or brass rod that fits into the soldering iron.enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

Discover New Jewelry Tricks in Brad's "How To" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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Dinosaur blood vessels



A team of scientists led by Elizabeth Boatman at the University of Wisconsin Stout used X-ray imaging and spectromicroscopy performed at Berkeley Lab's Advanced Light Source (ALS) to demonstrate how soft tissue structures may be preserved in dinosaur bones – countering the long-standing scientific dogma that protein based body parts cannot survive more than 1 million years.

<https://scienmag.com/science-snapshots-dinosaur-blood-vessels-giant-viruses-and-antibiotic-building-enzymes/>

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Notes

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.

Mineral and rock dealers have the opportunity of a lifetime. Long time dealer Keith Harmon must vacate his Rusk, TX house by the end of April, and has about 50 tons of rough for sale cheap. Incredible variety of agates, jaspers, and who knows what else. If interested, you must be able to move rocks by the end of April.

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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.



March Calendar of Events

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | | | WGMC meeting, clubhouse, 10 AM |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| Big Spring, Robstown | | | | | | San Antonio |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| San Antonio | | | | | | |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |
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