

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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W.G.M.C. October Meeting Minutes

Call to order by Roy Cooper:

There were 5 visitors present for the meeting. Justin, Brooks and Grandma as well as Levi.

Stephanie voiced that her family duties were interfering and she didn't have time to handle the minutes and duties of Secretary for the club and wishes to be relieved, a motion was made and seconded that Beth Duynslager be placed in that position as an interim Secretary until general elections. Beth accepted the position and vote was unanimous in favor of Beth taking the position.

Old Business: no old business to report or discuss.

New business: Volunteers for Mammoth site Fall festival **Oct 19 10 am – 3 pm** were solicited and Scott and Charllotte Halverson volunteered.

Other news:

There will be a club auction at the clubhouse after the November meeting. Anyone who wants to sell some of their good material on a fifty percent to the club and you get fifty percent is welcome to bring in their Material for the Auction! These items must be clearly marked for ownership as well as what the material is along with a minimum bid if you require one.

Scott reported that Bob Boyd cut stones today for the November auction and for future auctions for the club.

There will be a Wire-wrapping class held after the meeting in November. The class will depend on participation but even one who wants to learn is a start. **Please sign up early so supplies can be acquired and ready.**

There will be a Cabochon making class after the November meeting. This class will teach you how to turn a rock into a nice cabochon and set it into a piece of jewelry. **Sign up early so we know what piece of jewelry you want to make!**

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.

2020 Show discussion:

Members are requested to bring their silent auction and Door prize items for adults and Children for the 2020 show, to the clubhouse at our monthly Meetings. We are looking for exceptional items for the 6 Grand Prizes!

Beth was asked to handle the silent auction again; Bruce and Wanda were asked to help out at the grand prize table. They did a superb job last year and we appreciate them so much we are tasking them with the same tasks this year.

Any other members that would like to help out at the 2020 show please give your name and what you would help with to Alison Redding.

We are still looking for Displays and demonstrators for the 2020 show.

Field trips:

Our Field Trip Committee Chairperson, Beth Duynslager and Scott Walrath assistant chair have a field trip scheduled for November!

The November Field Trip:

November 9, 2019, meet at Johnson Rock Shop at 9:00 am. 238 N. Lincoln Wiggins ST in Livingston, Texas. Trip is about 179 miles from Elm Mott and we will be in search of Agate, Jasper, Quartz, Petrified Wood and Petrified Palm Wood in the Trinity Rocks Area. Lead on this trip will be Bruce! Bring plenty of drinking Water!

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Upcoming Shows and Events

Our next meeting is at 10:00 am on Saturday, November 2nd

at: 187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas

Also, the first Saturday of December is our Annual Holiday Party!! Chinese gift exchange and luncheon. Just like last year, loads of food and fun!!



60th Annual
Waco Gem and
Mineral Club
Show

Waco Convention Center
May 2nd -3rd, 2020
Sat. 9 - 6 Sun 10 - 5

Admission:
Adults \$5.,
Kids \$1. ea.

Jewelry, Rocks,
Minerals and so
much more!!!

60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 2nd and 3rd, 2020. Our event this year was met with a huge response and we expect an even bigger turnout this coming year as the event will be moved to the convention center in Waco!

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. Please take this opportunity to secure your booth space now. Check out the floorplan on our website to see what spaces are left. We are almost FULL!

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

November Birthstones:



Topaz and Citrine

Individuals born in November can choose between two sunny gemstones to brighten up this chilly month.

Topaz and citrine look so similar, in fact, that they've often been mistaken for one another throughout history. They are unrelated minerals, and topaz occurs in a wide spectrum of colors far beyond yellow.

Both of November's birthstones are abundant and affordably priced, even in large sizes, which means everyone can find a way to fit topaz and citrine into their budget.



Topaz

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 stones 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.

The largest producer of quality topaz gemstones is Brazil. Other sources include Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Russia, Australia, Nigeria, Germany, Mexico, and the U.S. — mainly California, Utah, and New Hampshire.

Measuring 8 on the Mohs scale, topaz is a very hard and durable gemstone. Its perfect cleavage can make it prone to chipping or cracking, but when cut correctly, topaz makes very wearable jewelry. Yellow gems have been called variations of the name topaz for thousands of years — long before mineralogists determined that topaz occurs in a range of colors, and that many yellowish gemstones actually belong to other mineral species.

Ancient texts from the Greek scholar Pliny to the King James Bible referenced topaz, but because of this longstanding confusion, they likely referred to other yellow gemstones instead.

During the Renaissance in Europe, people believed that topaz could break spells and quell anger. Hindus deemed topaz sacred, believing that a pendant could bring wisdom and longevity to one's life. African shamans also treated the stone as sacred, using it in their healing rituals.

Russia's Ural Mountains became a leading source of topaz in the 19th century. The prized pinkish orange gemstone mined there was named Imperial topaz to honor the Russian czar, and only royals could own it.

Since the discovery of large topaz deposits in Brazil in the mid-19th century, topaz has become much more affordable and widely available.

Processes were developed in the 1960s to turn common colorless topaz blue with irradiation treatment. This variety has since flooded the market, making it one of the least expensive gemstones available.

Light blue varieties of topaz can be found in Texas, though not commercially mined there. Blue topaz became an official gemstone of Texas in 1969—the same year Utah adopted topaz as its state gemstone.

Citrine



November's second birthstone, citrine, is a variety of quartz that ranges from pale yellow to brownish orange in 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 on the market is made by heat treating other varieties of quartz—usually the more common, less expensive purple amethyst and smoky quartz—to produce golden gemstones.

From the bench of Bradford Smith

WINDING JUMP RINGS

If you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.

And for a nice set of mandrels, look for a set of Transfer Punches. The set has 28 sizes, from 3/32 inch to 1/2 inch, and is only about \$12. In the US it is available from Harbor Freight as item number #3577, and in Europe, it's available from MZS in the Netherlands as item number 250575.



TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be really careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howelite, etc.

If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So, if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one-inch diameter ones such as those shown at riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2

NOVEMBER Calendar of Events

Always look at our website for more information on the details for each event.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						WGMC Meeting 10:00 am Midland Gem & Mineral Show
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Midland Gem & Mineral Show					Houston Gem & Mineral Show	Field trip- Johnson Rock Shop at 9:00 am Houston Gem & Mineral Show
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Houston Gem & Mineral Show						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
						Dallas Gem & Mineral Show
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Dallas Gem & Mineral Show						