

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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W.G.M.C. August Meeting Minutes

Call to order by Roy Cooper

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report for August!

New business: a motion was made and seconded the trim saw and all in one machine, that Alison Redding has for sale, be purchased and installed in the Club to make Lapidary accessible by children and handicapped. The vote was unanimous in favor.

We discussed a table for use where these machines will be used. John Langston volunteered a table that he has for this use.

Secondly a motion was made and seconded that anew AC/ Heating unit be purchased for the Shop area to replace the one donated by Jackie. This unit quit cooling shortly after it was installed. The motion carried and the vote was unanimous in favor! Jim Redding will be watching for a sale on these for this purchase!

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.

There is a plan to discuss, in the October meeting, inviting other clubs to the auction to increase possible proceeds.

Dinner and a movie night are discontinued until further notice!

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

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!

Alison Redding, Show Chair, requested that an advertisement be placed in the WACOAN Magazine. Alison or Sunni will look into the cost and requirements.

Beth was asked to handle the silent auction again; Bruce and Wanda were asked to help 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 Walrath and Scott Cordova assistant chair have a field trip scheduled for OCTOBER!

The October Field Trip: October 19, 2019, hunt for fossils along FM 107 west of Moody. Comanche Peak Limestone and Walnut Clay. Bivalves, Urchins, Worm tubes. 2 stops. Meet at Walmart in Hewitt, front right corner of Parking lot, at 0900. Bring small hand tools and storage. Lunch for those who want in Gatesville prior to return. Trip Lead Beth!
Bring plenty of drinking Water!

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Upcoming Shows and Events

Our next meeting is at 10:00 am on Saturday, OCTOBER 5th

at: 187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas

September 21st, 2019: Field trip for TOPAZ in Mason County which is about 3 hours from Elm Mott. The trip takes you to The Bar M Ranch, 5309 Old Junction Road in Mason, Texas. The fee is \$15.00 each and is open until dark. We are to meet at the ranch at 08:30 (check in between 08:30 and 11:00) Bring Shovel, Trowel, screens, bucket, or you may rent. Bring plenty of drinking water and lunch!

Please check out our website for all the up to date events!!!

Tri-City Gem and Mineral Show. Frank W Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, 3303 N 3rd St., Temple, TX.
Saturday October 12th 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and Sunday October 13th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Adults: \$5, teens: \$2.

60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 1 and 2 /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!

We are currently 75% FULL!!! 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.

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

OCTOBER BIRTHSTONES

Individuals born in October get to choose between two birthstones — tourmaline and opal. Each birthstone comes in a rainbow of shades and color combinations, giving October babies a variety of options. Between tourmaline (whose color depends on trace elements in its chemical makeup) and opal (which diffracts light to show a play of multiple colors), October's birthstones offer a full spectrum of gemstones to suit anyone's personal tastes.

Opal History

According to Arabic legend, opals fell from the sky in bolts of lightning. Australian aborigines, meanwhile, believed that the creator came to Earth on a rainbow, leaving these colorful stones where his feet touched the ground.

In 75 AD, the Roman scholar Pliny compared opals to volcanoes and vibrant paintings, noting that their dancing “play” of rainbow colors could simulate shades of any gemstone.

During the Middle Ages, people believed that the opal possessed the powers of each gemstone whose color appeared in its sheen, making it a very lucky stone to wear.

But Sir Walter Scott's 1829 book, *Anne of Geierstein*, transformed opal's lucky perception. The story featured an enchanted princess who wore an opal that changed colors with her moods. A few drops of holy water extinguished the stone's magic fire, though, and the woman soon died.

People began associating opals with bad luck. Within a year after publication of Scott's book, opal sales in Europe fell by 50 percent.

Discoveries of opal deposits in Australia revived opal's image after 1850 and began producing 95 percent of the world's opal gemstone supply, and many of its finest opal specimens.

The world's largest and most valuable opal, “Olympic Australis,” came from Coober Pedy, Australia in 1956, during the Olympic Games in Melbourne. Valued at \$2.5 million in 2005, this gemstone measures 11 inches long and weighs 17,000 carats (7.6 pounds).

After scientists discovered the spherical silica structure of opal in the 1960s, they figured out how to create synthetic opal in 1974.

Since then, opal gemstones have gained more popularity through recent discoveries in Ethiopia. Material mined in the Shewa Province in 1994 wasn't desirable because it was dark and tended to crack easily. Deposits in the Wollo Province, discovered in 2008, brought vivid play-of-color displays to the opal market.

Australia's depleting supplies of classic opal have impacted the price of this uniquely kaleidoscopic gemstone. Because its flashing play-of-color can suit many changing moods and tastes, the opal stays in high demand.



Tourmaline Overview

The name "tourmaline" comes from the Sinhalese words *tura mali*, which mean "stone of mixed colors." As its name implies, tourmaline stands apart from other gemstones with its broad spectrum of colors in every shade of the rainbow.

Tourmaline is not one mineral, but a fairly complex group of minerals with different chemical compositions and physical properties. Certain trace elements produce distinct colors, and many resulting varieties have their own names:

Black tourmaline, known as "schorl" is rich in iron, which causes dark shades from deep brown to bluish-black. This variety makes up 95 percent of all tourmaline, though most of it isn't gemstone-quality.

Dravite or brown tourmaline is rich in magnesium, which causes colors ranging from brown to yellow. It's named for the Drave District of Carinthia (now Slovenia) where this stone is found.

Elbaite offers the widest range of gem-quality tourmaline colors, due to lithium traces combined with other coloring elements.

Rubellite or red tourmaline is caused by manganese, but if the color becomes less vibrant under different light sources, it may be called pink tourmaline.

Indicolite or blue tourmaline can appear purplish blue or bluish green, depending on the amount of iron and titanium.

Verdelite or green tourmaline can resemble emerald, but if its color is caused by chrome and vanadium, it's called a chrome tourmaline.

Paraíba tourmaline is a vividly colored purplish or greenish blue variety found in Paraíba, Brazil. It's the most recently discovered, and because of its desirably intense colors, it's one of the most valuable. The element copper is what is responsible for its vivid colors. Copper-bearing tourmaline is also found in other parts of the world such as Mozambique and Nigeria, but only copper-bearing tourmaline from Paraíba, Brazil is called "Paraíba tourmaline."

Achroite or colorless tourmaline is rare.

Parti-colored tourmaline displays more than one color, due to chemical fluctuations during crystallization. A common color combination is green and pink. These are often cut in slices to reveal a red center surrounded by a green rim, earning the name "watermelon tourmaline."

Tourmaline is mined in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Mozambique, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the U.S.—primarily Maine and California.

Tourmaline is desirable because of its sheer range of color options. Combined with a good hardness of 7 to 7.5 on the Mohs scale, tourmaline makes very wearable birthstone jewelry.

One of this gemstone's most impressive traits is its ability to become electrically charged through heat (pyroelectricity) and through pressure (piezoelectricity). When charged, tourmaline can act as a magnet by oscillating, and by attracting or repelling particles of dust.

Ancient magicians used black tourmaline as a talisman to protect against negative energy and evil forces. Today, many still believe that it can shield against radiation, pollutants, toxins, and negative thoughts.

From the bench of Bradford Smith

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TAPERED REAMERS

A tool you don't see often these days is a tapered reamer. They're particularly useful for making an irregular hole round or for enlarging a hole to an exact diameter. For example, the small set in the yellow pouch is for holes in the range of 0.3mm to 2.5mm. They are great for sizing a tube to fit a hinge pin. Other times when I'm drilling a hole for riveting sheet metal and can't find the exact size drill, I simply drill the holes with a slightly smaller bit and enlarge them with a reamer until the wire just fits.

For larger hole sizes in sheet metal up to 14 ga, I really like the reamer with the black handle. It makes quick work of sizing holes from about 3mm to 12mm. You can find them in well-equipped hardware stores.

You may never use the large diameter reamers, but when sawing out some rings from 4mm thick sheet, I found they worked well for rounding and sizing the hole.



TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

OCTOBER Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
						WGMC Meeting 10:00 am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
						Tri-City Gem and Mineral Show
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Tri-City Gem and Mineral Show						Fossil Hunt Moody
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		