

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 64, Issue 6, June, 2023

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Next meeting, June 3rd, 10 AM!

Remember to bring back the yard signs!

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Upcoming Events

Ft. Worth Gem and Mineral Club Show

5/27-5/28

Will Rogers Coliseum

Arlington Gem and Mineral Club Show

6/17-6/18

Grapevine Civic Center

International Gem and Jewelry Show, Houston

6/17-6/18

NRG Center

63rd Waco Gem and Mineral Show

By Harry Senn



Welcome to the 63rd Waco Gem and Mineral Show held at the Waco Convention Center. This sign in the hallway marked the entrance to McLennan Hall where we had our Show. The “arrows” on the sign pointed across the hallway to the entrance to our Show. This and other signs like this played an important role during the May 6-7, 2023 Show. The story for this sign actually began on Friday, May 5, during the day for vendors to set up their booths and tables.

This year our McLennan Hall floor space was about two-thirds the size of last year because there would be a Crafter’s Show that same weekend that needed the other one-third of the Hall for their show. That seemed like a win-win for us

as well as for the Craft Show. We envisioned that our guests could visit the craft show after walking through ours, and their visitors could be our potential guests. Then set-up day came.

The Waco Convention Center has two levels. One level is street level where Washington Avenue meets University Parks Drive. From the North entrance to the Convention Center, you could walk across University Parks Drive to Indian Spring Park on the bank of the Brazos River. You could then walk across the river on the historic Suspension Bridge constructed in November 1869 by John A. Roebling and his company, the same person and company who built the Brooklyn Bridge in New York during the same time period. Inside the Convention Center at this level you would need to go up the escalator (or steps or elevators) to the second level where McLennan Hall is located.

This second level is, oddly enough, “street level” with the back side of the Hilton Hotel, the Freedom Fountain Plaza and Convention Center East parking lot and the South side of the Convention Center parking lot. This is also street level to our McLennan Hall as well as to the very large Brazos Room floor.

Many of our vendors found it convenient to park in the Convention Center parking lot across from the Freedom Fountain for unloading and rolling their carts into McLennan Hall. The back side of the Convention Center parking lot was so packed with Crafter’s vehicles and food trucks that our vendors had no way to unload there. It was while we were setting up on Friday that we realized that the Crafter’s Show was not only using McLennan Hall, but they completely filled the Brazos room floor as well as all of the Convention Center downstairs.

On both floors were signs for the Crafters. They were printed by the Crafters and mounted on gold plated easels leased from the Convention Center. That is when we realized we needed our own signs. We needed these signs now! And we needed them all over both levels of the Convention Center! That's when one of our members came up with a brilliant, a creative, a remarkable, as well as a "crafty" idea for signs. (We're not going to mention yours truly's name here, but Scott Halvorson helped construct the signs.) A quick mid-afternoon trip to the Waco Gem and Mineral clubhouse, some printing on self-adhesive paper, and we had our signs.



We had a few unused yard signs (wire "H" stands and the printed corrugated plastic sheets) for this year as well as left-over "Richland Mall" signs from two years ago. We then cut off "Richland Mall," and combined the pieces into an "Aframe" sign, as seen in the first photo above. This sign (to the left) was at the corner of two hallways with arrows pointing to our Show. We spread the other signs around both levels of the Convention Center.



This (left photo) is Scott, our Club VicePresident after placing a sign at the bottom of the escalator. To his back was a goldplated easel with a Crafter's Show sign. Convention Center did, however, post signs announcing our Show. You see one of these stands in the lower left of this photo. The photo to the right is a small floor sign we placed in the hallway just inside the north Convention Center entrance.



The floor



This (to the left) is a view of the Show floor just before the doors opened on Friday morning. His back is to us, but that's Bob Boyd in the blue shirt to the left of center in the photo.

Bottom left is the raffle ticket jars. That's Cody Crook (his back to the camera). To the right is the Silent Auction tables. That's Jan Dodd on the phone but being as silent as she can. Scott

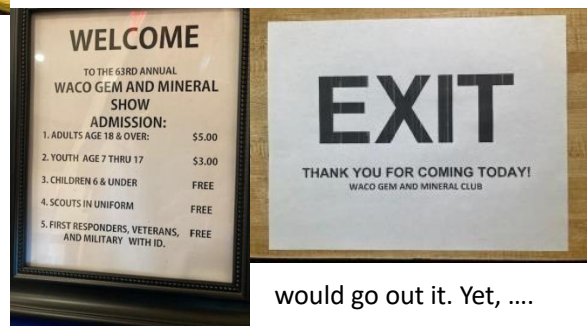


Halvorson is the tall guy in blue on the right in the next booth just beyond Silent Auction.



MANY THANKS must be given to those club members who volunteered to help with our Show. Haley Johannsen (on the left, her back to us) helped with taking money and handing out tickets. To her left (out of camera frame) was Dorothy Marstaller for one day and Nelda Cooper for the other. Jan Dodd worked the Silent Auction both days. Bob Boyd helped at the Admissions Table as well as the Raffle Table. Roy Cooper and Cody Crook worked the Raffle Table. Again, many thanks!

Signs this year really helped. Our Admission prices seemed to be acceptable and we got quite a few walk-ins from the Crafter's Show. Some signs, however, seemed to go completely unnoticed. For example, we had only one side of a double door as our entrance. The other door was locked, but opened outward for an exit. We "roped off" a divider in between. We put an "EXIT" sign on the other door so people



would go out it. Yet,

Bench Tips for May

See Other Tips in my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Problems

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>



DRILLING SMALL ITEMS

Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape over the plier jaws if needed to avoid scratches.



DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the

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business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$6.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.



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 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 Dorothy 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>



June birthstones: Pearl, Alexandrite, and Moonstone

Pearls are the only gemstones made by living creatures. Mollusks produce pearls by depositing layers of calcium carbonate around microscopic irritants that get lodged in their shells, usually not a grain of sand, as commonly believed.

A relatively modern gemstone, **alexandrite** was discovered in Russian emerald mines located in the Ural Mountains. Legends claim that it was discovered in 1834 on the same day that future Russian Czar Alexander II came of age, hence the name honoring him.

June's third birthstone, **moonstone**, was named by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's shimmery appearance shifted with the phases of the moon.

Courtesy American Gem Society

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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.

