

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 64, Issue 9, September, 2023

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

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Our next meeting, September 9th, 10 AM!

9/8 – 9/17 – DENVER Mineral, Fossil, Gem, & Jewelry Show at the National Western Complex and Denver Coliseum. The Denver Show is a free event at the large 2-level Events Center, the 3-level National Western Complex (NWC), the Denver Coliseum and 100 tents adjacent to all 3 buildings. Peruse a gigantic array of fine mineral specimens, fossils, dinosaurs, gems, gemstones, lapidary, cabochons, artisan & antique jewelry, beads, crystals, meteorites, metaphysical, gold, silver, turquoise, Native American items, art, miner’s rough, tools, supplies, customized services, and much more.

9/23-9/24—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Show and sale; Southwest Gem and Mineral Society; Wonderland of the Americas, 4522 Fredericksburg Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free; Free parking; Website: www.swgms.org/

9/23-9/24—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: Show and sale; Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Age 13 and up \$5, Age 6 - 12 \$3, 5 and under Free; We will have dealers from around the country, selling things from around the globe. Member demonstrations, Presentations, Door prizes and 2 Grand Prizes. Silent Auction, Displays, and a big Kids area; Website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

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Contacts

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Vice-President	Scott Halvorson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	Secretary	Harry Senn senn.harry@yahoo.com
Newsletter	John Langston johnjkbear@aol.com	Website	www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Club email	wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

August 5, 2023

[Waco Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes](#)

President Roy Cooper made the **Call to Order** at 10:04 am. He then welcomed the visitors and had them introduce themselves. The club was reminded of the \$1.00 donation members should make if they are not wearing their name badge at the meeting.

There were no actual **Minutes of the Last Meeting** to approve because the July meeting was an Ice Cream Social. A summary of the meeting could be read in the Club's publication, "Gritty Greetings."

Jan Dodd gave the **Treasurer's Report**.

[Committee Reports](#)

A. Program Report: Bob will present September's program on New Jersey Fluorescents.

October's program will be a Field Trip to John Zuniga's rock shop in Mexia. Members will be able to carpool and caravan for this trip.

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November will be our Annual Club Auction. Please bring donations **bring donations** of material for the Auction **no later than our October meeting.**

December will be our Christmas Party.

B. Field Trip Committee: This is the trip to Mexia.

C. Show Committee:

We still need a new Show Chair as well as a Vendor Chair for the 2024 Show.

Scott gave details of our new venue possibility: Lee Lockwood Scottish Rite Library & Museum at 2801 W Waco Dr, Waco, TX 76707. (This is the building on Waco Drive.)

- Parking for 300 and easy access to the parking from Waco Drive
- "Basement" (lower level of the building) over 10,000 sq. ft. floor area
- "Ramp" available from parking lot to Show Floor at the time of move-in and move-out
- An elevator is available
- We can lock in the date per year
- Expense is \$2,500 which includes some tables, chairs and electricity
- Maybe we could get a food truck (or two) for parking lot
- The "Museum" part is monitored by their staff
- The table floor plan is flexible
- Plenty of parking for RV's (but no hookups available)
- They allow for good signage on their grass to catch the Waco Drive traffic.

MOTION: Harry moved that our Club commit to this venue. Haley brought the second. Motion passed.

No Old Business.

New Business:

A. Cleanup Day is needed in the clubhouse: clean up the refrigerator, clean the AC filter, store the Show signs.

B. We need to **reword the website home page** to correct some confusion about then the July and September Club Meetings dates. We state there will be no meeting the first week of those months, but we need to add that we will meet "...on the second Saturday..."

C. The **September Club Meeting** will be on September 9 (the second Saturday of that month).

The **Meeting was Adjourned** at 10:34 am.

Scott presented the program for August: "Tanzanite".

September Birthstone SAPPHIRE



Sapphire, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue. Sapphire is a variety of the gem species corundum and occurs in all colors of the rainbow. Pink, purple, green, orange, or yellow corundum are known by their color (pink sapphire, green sapphire). Ruby is the red variety of corundum.

- See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>

Bench Tips

(from a previous issue)

RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel can hide a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. But if you choose to raise it up, the question is what is the best material to use?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose.

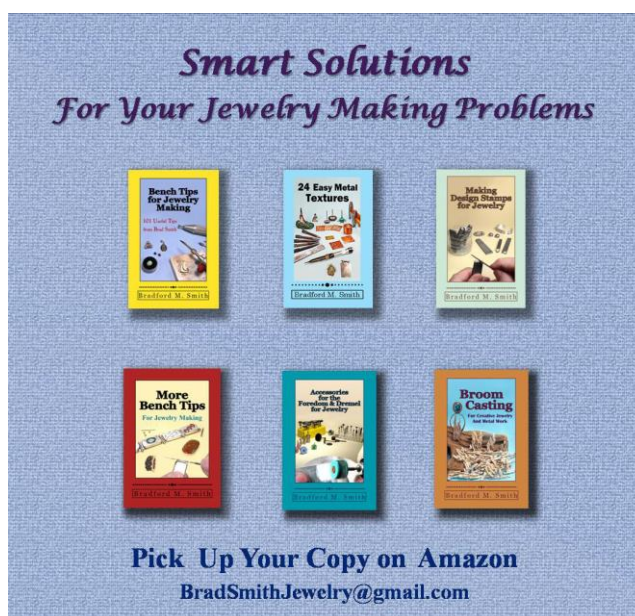
In any case, I now prefer to insert a flat sheet to boost up my stones. It can be a scrap of metal or some plastic from product packaging or old credit cards. In either case, just cut a piece to loosely fit into the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check its height.

TRANSPARENT CABS

When bezel setting a transparent cabochon in silver, I usually cut out the back of the bezel to allow background light to show off the colors and patterns in the stone. If this is not possible or appropriate, I worry that the silver bezel will tarnish under the stone and will ruin its brilliance. What to do?

My solution is one extra step before setting the stone. I place a piece of thin silver Mylar plastic under the stone to act as a mirror that will never tarnish. Mylar is readily available in craft and gift wrap stores, or in a pinch from a party balloon supplier. You may even want to experiment with using colored or patterned Mylar (i.e. diffraction pattern) under some stones.

Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques
in Brad's Jewelry-Making Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



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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 dollar in the pig. The money from the pig goes toward our Scholarship program, and we really do appreciate every dollar or more. However, if you need a name tag 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>

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.

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