

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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

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Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Upcoming events

~~ OUR NEXT CLUBHOUSE MEETING will be SATURDAY, Dec. 2, 2023 @ 11:00 am. ~~

This will be our ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MEETING!

POT LUCK: BBQ will be provided by Bob. Members and guests can bring sides appropriate for BBQ and/or dessert.

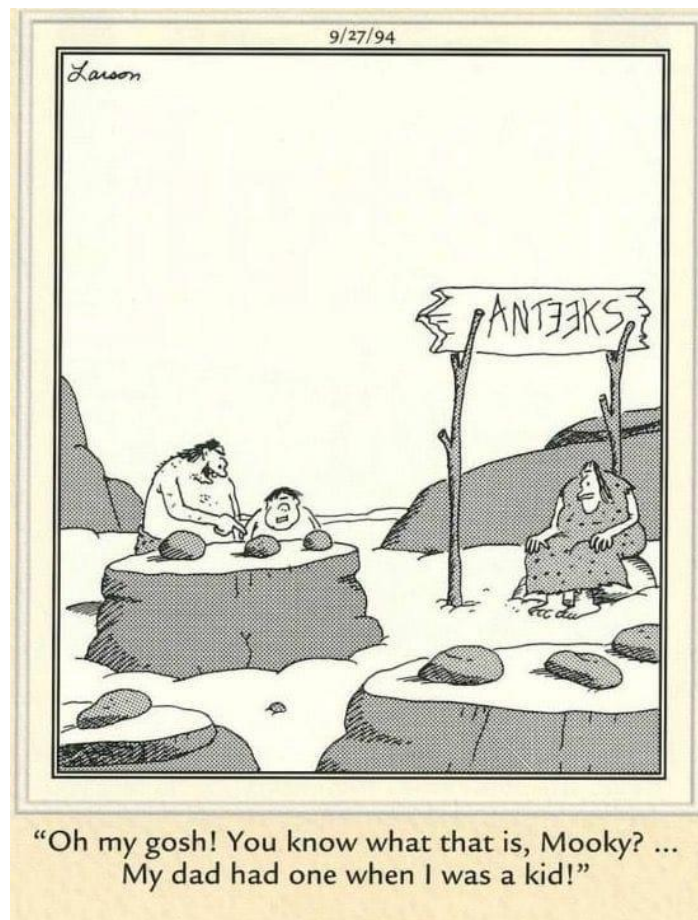
GIFT EXCHANGE: for those who want to participate - bring a wrapped gift of a value no more than \$20.

There were no minutes for the November Meeting because of the Annual Club Auction.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

Contacts

President	Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	Treasurer	Dorothy Marstaller dmarstaller1021@gmail.com
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



Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

December Birthstones

Tanzanite Zircon Turquoise



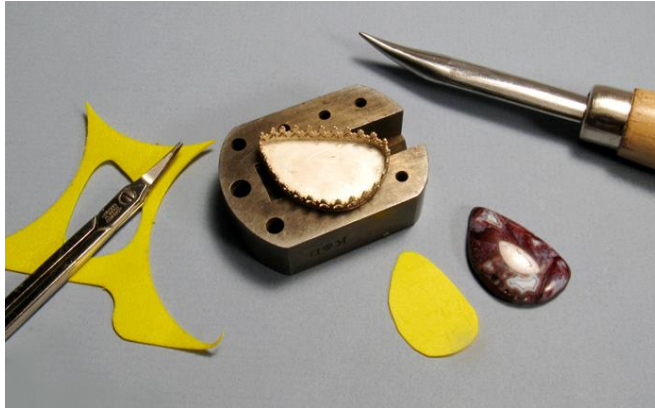
Tanzanite is the exquisite blue-purple variety of the mineral zoisite that is only found in one part of the world. Named for its limited geographic origin in Tanzania, tanzanite has quickly risen to popularity since its relatively recent discovery.

Zircon is an underrated gemstone that's often confused with synthetic cubic zirconia due to similar names and shared use as diamond simulants. Few people realize that zircon is a spectacular natural gemstone available in a variety of colors.

Admired since ancient times, turquoise is known for its distinct color, which ranges from powdery blue to greenish robin's egg blue. It's one of few minerals to lend its name to anything that resembles its striking color.

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

Bench Tips



RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides 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 it's 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.

A promotional graphic for jewelry-making books. The title "Smart Solutions For Your Jewelry Making Problems" is at the top. Below are six book covers: "Bench Tips For Jewelry Making", "24 Easy Metal Textures", "Making Design Sketches For Jewelry", "More Bench Tips", "Anatomical Jewelry Design", and "Broom Casting". At the bottom, it says "Pick Up Your Copy on Amazon" and "BradSmithJewelry@gmail.com".

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.

