

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. February Meeting Minutes

WG&MC MINUTES 2/2/19

Roy called the meeting to order.

We discussed Nametags-they can be purchased at Award Specialties at 431 Lake Air Dr or Firman Business Forms

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report. All bills are paid, financially we are doing ok. **If you haven't paid your dues (due in January) It's time. They are 12.00 for an individual and 20.00 for a family.** Property taxes etc. are all paid.

Jackie got a letter from Bonnelle Love who is a past member. She can't drive and would like to start attending meetings. She lives on Watts Drive near where Waco Drive crosses Valley Mills Drive. If anyone could offer her a ride, please contact Jackie Dodson.

The board thinks we need a sign on the building so people can locate us. We discussed what that sign should say. Being right on I35, we don't want to attract the wrong kind of attention. It was suggested that we use our web address and put a small sign on the door that no valuables are stored on premises.

Earthbound treasures in the Richland Mall has requested business cards and the cards with our show information on them!

Natures Treasures in Austin is having a post Tucson trunk show 3/9 -17

Field trips-

Bob Boyd said he can take us to McGregor for Turritella and Brownwood for horn coral

We could do a west Texas trip with Terri Smith, (that is an 8 hour drive 1 way)

We could look into the Oglesby Quarry owned by Lehigh Cement...

Pot Luck and a Movie – 2/21/19 at 6:00 pm!!! Come on out! It will be a 4-part film about mining sites and the finished products from them.

Michael Hartsgrove talked about our Facebook Page. He said he has been talking with Sunni about fixing it so people can post pictures of their rock, gem and mineral related goodies.

Nikki Proposed we set up an Instagram account! Nikki is collaborating with Sunni to get the account set up and Nikki will administrate the account!

Robbie Barber, a sculptor and professor in Baylor's Art School was our presenter. He was interesting. Maybe we can get him to come back and tell us more about his jewelry work in future.

☺There is a sign-up sheet for providing snacks for the meetings. It is on the glass case in the clubhouse. There is still room to sign up.

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From the editor

It was Sunday, January 13, 2019 in the wee hours of the morning when Alison says to me “what do you want to do today dear?” I answered, “we should get out into the Desert and look around!” I gathered some jerky and nuts and lots of water and started loading the jeep. Our neighbors, the several Travel Trailers and Motor homes around us, were out in their 4-wheel drive UTVs ready to head into the desert to a place called The Green Wall, “come join us” they said so we did. We followed across desert roads for about 35 miles into the desert and into the Mountains. They were skeptical as to whether the old Jeep, or maybe it was whether I, could handle the terrain but they kept an eye on us and were pleased that we kept up even on some of the steepest inclines and loosest gravel.

We traveled for 5 hours out and up, saw the sights, took pictures and turned around and headed home. The sights were beautiful and breath taking at times and down right terrifying at others. I took pictures when we stopped and when I rode with one of the neighbors at one point to get the feel of their machines. I will include a few of these pictures here.





We had a great time and hope to have another trip, this time for hunting rocks, soon! Well we have taken two escorted trips into the desert and mountains to acquire rocks. First it was for red white and blue agate. I saw a lot of red and white, but the blue was hard to find or at least hard to see. We came away with a bucket full of nice cutting material and I am sure some Leaverite!

The second trip was for Porcelain Jasper. The scenery on both trips was very beautiful but I was too busy looking for rocks to take pictures. We found some good rough on this trip!

At the Gem and Mineral club Alison and I have been taking Orientation classes and classes on as much as we can, I was in the metalsmithing classes and made my first Silver ring and silver pendant while Alison started Faceting classes. Once I finished all the silver classes I could. I got to take the faceting orientation and then on Thursday Alison and I took the Lapidary orientation. We have formed and worked several cabs from slab to the finished product.

This past week I started the Faceting process and after two full days I got a 12.9 carat stone faceted with only minor errors. At least at 12.9 carats. I can redo and cut it down a little and re facet the crown and table and now I know what those are! I do understand the machines enough that I can keep them in good working order and even explain the operation.

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From Alison Redding 2019 Show Chair:

SHOW MEMO:

How exciting! Now is the time to combine our efforts to make this the "Greatest Show Ever"

FIRST OF ALL: So many thanks to Sunni Purl for her timely communication to vendor requests and inquiries. She certainly presents the friendly face of our club.

I would like to have a meeting of the Show Committee following the General Meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2019. Plan on this meeting being approximately 1 hour to discuss all final plans and processes that will make our show a success. I will follow an outline for all subject areas.

ALL MEMBERS:

It is time to get aggressive with our actions: The following are things the club members can help with: (Please provide your donations as soon as possible so we can determine any un-met needs.)

1. Please bring your donations for Silent Auction items for adults, Silent Auction items for children, Children's game prizes, door prizes for adults and children. If you have an exceptional item, you may want to donate a Grand Prize item. All items should include a post card indicating the description and/or name of the item, the person donating the item, and if the item is for Silent Auction, you may recommend a minimum bid. The minimum bid should be conservative so the bidder will be encouraged to bid. *(It will be at the discretion of the Show Committee to include, or exclude, or move any item from one category to another, to encourage maximum revenue possibilities and to make sure all categories are filled adequately.)* I can be available at the club house upon request, to assist with this.
2. We will have a sign-up sheet at our next meeting where you write down your name and contact information, indicating if you can be contacted to aid with any of the following: ***(Your assistance will help make our show run smoothly. :)***
 - a. pre-prep items for the show; (A list will be provided soon and may include prize packaging, vendor packet preparation, putting out street signs, picking up food and concessions items, designing club brochures, etc.)
 - b. show set-up on Friday May 3, 2019;
 - c. kitchen duty to set up for the Vendor's dinner and clean-up
 - d. Vendor's sack lunches preparation in the evening of May 3, and May 4.
 - e. Manning any of the club tables, such as; admissions, silent auction, membership tables, game tables, concessions, and any other services needed.
3. Complete the form if you will present a demonstration during the show. You can demonstrate any of your talents, methods, or equipment. NO SALES ALLOWED AS A DEMONSTRATOR. We need to know how much space we need, tables, chairs...
4. Let me know if you will prepare and set up a Show Exhibit. If you need assistance, please let us know. This needs to be completed ASAP. Again, we need to know how much table space and floor space we need.

Upcoming Shows and Events

Membership dues were due in January.
Please make sure you are current with the club!

Our next meeting is at 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 2st

at The Waco Gem and Mineral Club
187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas

A Show Committee meeting will be held immediately after the March 2 club meeting!



The 59th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on Saturday May 4, 2019 and Sunday May 5, 2019. Our event last year was met with a huge response and we expect an even bigger turnout this year!

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 Alison Redding at (254) 707-1341 or email: wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org

Movie Night/Pot Luck Thursday March 14th 6:00 p.m. at the clubhouse.

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).

Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Club dues are \$12.00 for an individual membership or \$20.00 for a family membership.

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.

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March Birthstone: Aquamarine!

For the lucky individuals born in March, two birthstones are associated with this early spring month: Aquamarine and Bloodstone.

Both stones are very different from one another in appearance, but each share a similar symbolism of preserving or enhancing the health of the wearer. Learn more about each March birthstone below.

The serenely colored aquamarine invokes the tranquility of its namesake, the sea. In fact, the name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea.

Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but also is found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

Like emeralds, this gemstone is a variety of a mineral called beryl. Large stones have been found all over the world, including one stone found in Brazil that weighed over 240 pounds. Aquamarine grows in large, six-sided crystals that can be up to a foot long, making it a great gem to be cut and polished in larger carats for statement pieces.

Not only is aquamarine one of the March birthstones, it's also used to celebrate 19th wedding anniversaries. It's a beautiful stone with little or no yellow in it, so it looks great in many settings with different colored metals and gemstones.

This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene blue or blue-green color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded.

In the Middle Ages, many believed that the simple act of wearing aquamarine was a literal antidote to poisoning. The Romans believed that if you carved a frog into a piece of aquamarine jewelry, it would help to reconcile differences between enemies and make new friends.

Still, other historical groups took this lore even further, using aquamarine as gifts to the bride at a wedding in order to symbolize long unity and love. Some even believed it could re-awaken love between two people.

The Sumerians, Egyptians, and Hebrews all admired aquamarine, and many warriors would wear it into battle to bring about victory. Many ancient medicines used powder from aquamarine to help cure all manner of infection, but it was said to be particularly good for eye ailments.

The stone is also considered to be a great addition to mental health and is used widely as a symbol in Tarot as well

From the bench of Bradford Smith

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PROTECTING FINISHED SURFACES

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So, after finishing major surfaces I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones. The blue masking tape used by painters works particularly well because it doesn't leave a sticky residue.



PICKLE PRECAUTIONS

A hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop. I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than for a hot pot so that it works almost as quickly. I keep it in a large-mouth plastic bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

Happy hammering,

- Brad

Be More Productive with Brad's "How To Do It" Books [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Discover new jewelry skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



March Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
						WGMC Meeting 10:00 am
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
				Pot luck & Movie 6:00 pm		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						