

# GRITTY GREETINGS



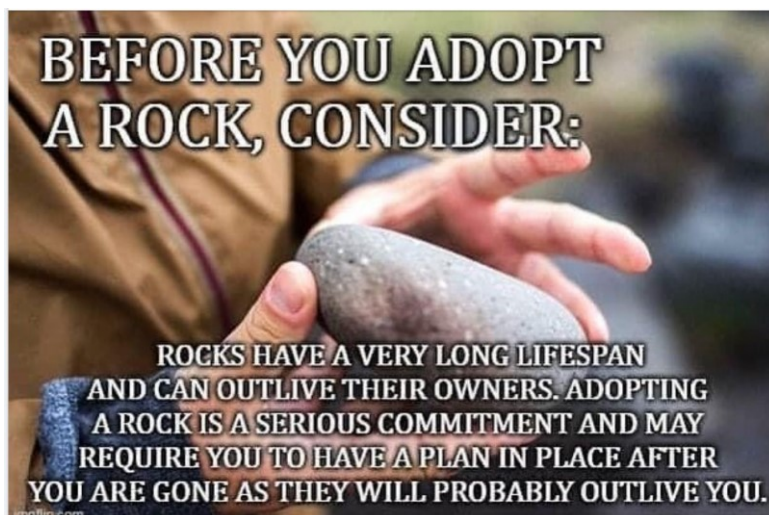
## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 63, Issue 12, December, 2022

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

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### **Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes, 11-5-22**

**10:09 meeting called to Order**

**Minutes of last meeting:** Bob-Motion to approve, Karl 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved

**Committee Report:**

**December:** Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> is Christmas Party

**January:** Bob Boyd

**February Movie:** Gem Stones of America:

**Field Trip Committee:** Arkastone: Dallas; field trip not finalized

**Show Committee:** no report

**Financial Report:** few changes

**Old Business:**

**- Discuss replacing the failed projector with big screen TV**

Runs through the computer

Put TV on wall and secure

Scott: Walmart = 58" \$298.00 Hi Sense

65" 348.00 Phillips

50.00 Mounting Bracket

Bob Boyd donating the (LAN) cable

Dorothy: moved to give Scott the Authority to purchase. Bob Boyd 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

**- Need Treasurer:**

Motion: Roy nominated Dorothy Marstaller as Treasurer; Pam Boyd will help Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

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Thanks to all who cleaned up Club House last weekend. Thanks to Tony who did the weedeating!

**Plans for Christmas Party:**

**When:** December 3<sup>rd</sup> Come at 11:00 am; Start at 12 noon.at Club House.

**Gift Exchange:** Bring WRAPPED GIFT no more than \$20.

**Nelda: Decorations**

**Decorate on Friday, Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am.**

**Meal:** POT LUCK

Bob Boyd will provide meat.

Members are encouraged to each bring a dish.

**Adjourned the meeting:** 10:30

Auction Started...

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

**Notes**

The editor requests news items from any member to be included in the Gritty Greetings.

Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 Jackie 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](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

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## December Birthstones    turquoise, tanzanite and zircon

**Turquoise** is a semi-translucent to opaque gem that ranges from blue to green and often has veins of matrix (remnants of the rock in which it formed) running through it. This December birthstone has been cherished for millennia. The pharaohs and other rulers of ancient Egypt adorned themselves with it. Chinese artisans carved it more than 3,000 years ago.

The turquoise birthstone was thought to possess many beneficial powers, like guaranteeing health and good fortune. From the 13th century on, it was believed to protect the wearer from falling (especially off horses), and would break into several pieces at the approach of disaster. Hindu mystics maintained that seeing a turquoise after beholding the new moon ensured fantastic wealth.

This turquoise birthstone also played an important role in the lives of Native Americans. The Apache thought turquoise could be found by following a rainbow to its end. They also believed that attaching the December birthstone to a bow or firearm made one's aim more accurate. The Pueblo maintained that turquoise got its color from the sky, while the Hopi thought the gem was produced by lizards scurrying over the earth.



A 46.28 ct medium green blue turquoise free-form cabochon Photo: Robert Weldon/GIA

This December birthstone adorns the funerary mask of King Tut, who ruled Egypt more than 3,000 years ago. It also appears in jewelry belonging to more modern royalty: Wallace Simpson (1896–1986), Duchess of Windsor (the woman for whom King Edward VIII gave up his throne), wore a famous [amethyst and turquoise necklace](#) made by Cartier. Turquoise is also the gem of the [11th wedding anniversary](#).

In European tradition, the gift of a turquoise ring means “forget me not.” Turquoise is considered a national treasure in Tibet, where it is believed to grant health, good fortune and protection from evil. December's birthstone also imparts peace to those who wear it.



**Tanzanite** may be a relative newcomer to the world of colored stones, but it was one of the most exciting gem discoveries of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Blue stones emerging from Tanzania were identified as the mineral zoisite in 1962. Not until 1967, though, did prospectors locate the primary source for this December birthstone: the Merelani Hills. It was eventually named tanzanite in honor of its country of origin. The tanzanite birthstone is often described as “velvety,” mostly because of its deep and saturated color, which ranges from a pure rich blue to violet, with the blue considered most valuable.

Tiffany & Co. believed that tanzanite had international appeal and became its main distributor. In 1968, Tiffany launched a major advertising campaign to promote it. With its vivid colors, high clarity and potential for large cut stones, tanzanite quickly became a sensation. Today, it is not only a December birthstone, but it is also the gem for the [24th wedding anniversary](#).

The origins of the word “*zircon*” have elicited colorful debate. Some scholars believe it comes from the Arabic word *zarkun*, meaning “cinnabar” or “vermillion.” Others think the source is the Persian word *zargun*, or “gold colored.” Considering the broad color palette for this December birthstone – red, orange, yellow, brown, green and blue – either derivation seems possible. Colorless zircon is known for its brilliance and flashes of multicolored light, called fire, which have resulted in centuries of confusion with diamond.

During the Middle Ages, this December birthstone was thought to lull one into a deep sleep and scare off evil spirits. In the Hindu religion, zircon alternates with hessonite garnet as one of the nine [gems of the \*navaratna\*](#). When worn together, the nine gems protect the wearer and bring wealth, wisdom and good health.

Victorians had a fondness for blue zircon. Fine specimens can be found in English estate jewelry from the 1880s.



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

# Bench Tips

## PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.

Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).



## DIVIDERS

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A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance, assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.

If you enjoy these tips on jewelry making, see many more in the sample chapters from these two books:

> Bench Tips 1 - <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>

> Bench Tips 2 - <http://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

## Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems



### 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.

