

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 63, Issue 3, March, 2022

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Table of contents.....1

WGMC Contacts2

Minutes from last meeting.....2,3

March Birthstone.....3,4

Brad’s bench tips.....6,7

Notes8

Club Purpose.....8

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Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Meeting 2022.02.12

Call to order by the presiding officer, Harry Senn: 10:11 am.
Introduction and welcome.

Minutes were approved as published in the *Gritty Greetings*

Report from the Treasurer, Jackie

- “Rendition of our Properties” paperwork due. Nothing has changed so we will just send it back in
- Two new members paid by check by mail
- Our \$20K investments needs to be invested in something with more interest. Jackie will look into this.
- We have **two** tax-free days available from State of Texas because we are 501(c)3. **We have been using these for the show dates.**

Report from any committees

- Alison will update the club on next meeting when the Show Chair, Roy, could be there.

Unfinished business

- We are looking for a new meeting place...
- Someone needs to learn the process of being the new Treasurer
- - We will begin by looking at club officer job descriptions
- - Pam will start with “job description,” interview the Treasurer, and create itemized notebook. This will create a clear “to do” list that can be shared with club members so they can decide if they would be able to take over this responsibility.

Related: the club discussed a process of using **flash drive** for active Treasurer files, backing up to USB External Hard Drive and Treasurer’s computer; then this can be literally “passed on” to the new Treasurer.

Related: The website expense needs to be debited to the Club's New Card instead of the Treasurer's personal credit card. Harry will work with Treasurer to make this happen.

New business

The Club discussed advertising for the 2022 Show using social media.

- Jackie suggested using "What's Happening in Waco" name is "Act Locally Waco – The **WHOLE Enchilada**"
- Instagram
- Facebook
- Harry will try announcing on "Baylor Neighbor"

We have one person with experience in being "Vendor Chair" and would like to volunteer for the job as soon as this year's Show is over.

Program presentation

Bob showed video of mineral hunting in Oregon.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

March birthstones: Aquamarine and Bloodstone



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 is usually more intense in larger stones, and darker blue stones are very valuable. This gemstone is mined mainly in Brazil, but it is also found in Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan, and Mozambique.

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

The second birthstone for March is **bloodstone**, a dark-green gemstone flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. Generally found embedded in rocks or riverbeds as pebbles, primary sources for this gemstone are India, Brazil, and Australia.

Bloodstone is also called heliotrope, a word from the ancient Greek that means “to turn the sun.” Many believe it was probably named as such because of ancient ideas about how minerals reflect light. In fact, some believed that the sun itself would turn red if this gemstone was put into water.

Bloodstone is sometimes known by another name—Blood Jasper—although it’s actually chalcedony, which is a cryptocrystalline quartz. There are two forms of bloodstone: heliotrope, which is more transparent with red spots, and plasma, which is more opaque and has little or no red spots.

For those looking for **good-quality bloodstone gems**, a solid green color with visible veins of red is usually considered the best. It also comes in many shapes and cuts, including traditional cuts like emerald, oval, and cushion.

Bloodstone may not have the overt beauty of aquamarine, but many people value this gemstone for its symbolism and other properties.

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

Upcoming Shows

March • 5 – 6 March, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, gulfcoastgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com •

March-10 – 13, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, Inc. Southwest NM State Fairgrounds. - TheDGMSclub.com •

March-18 - 21 Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo State Fairgrounds - timprocks.weebly.com

April • 2 - 3, San Antonio, TX, SW G&MS 60 Fiesta of Gems, Morris Center @ Joe Freeman Coliseum, SWGMS.org •

April--2 - 3 Truth or Consequences, NM, Sierra County R&GS, Sierra County Fair Barn, - scrags.org •

April -9 - 10 Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Building, Email: delanec3@earthlink.net •

April 30 – May 1, Waco, TX, Waco GMS, Waco Convention Center, website www.WacoGemandMineral.org

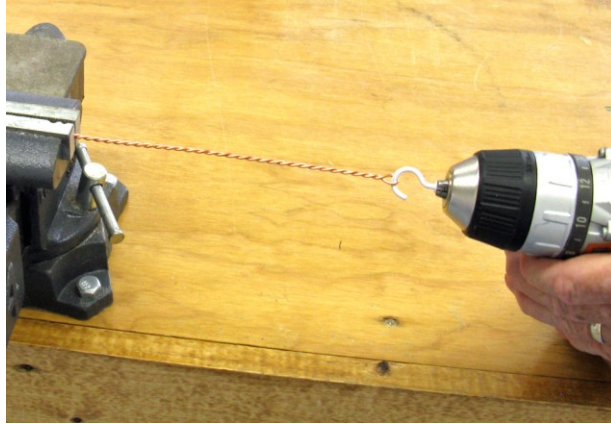
May 28–29 Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Memorial Center, <http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org>

62nd Annual
Waco Gem and
Mineral Club Show 2022

Waco Convention Center
April 30th and May 1st
Saturday 10-5 Sunday 10-5



Brad's Bench Tips



TWISTING WIRE

Twisting wire can be done with an old hand drill but goes much faster with a power tool. My preference is to use a screw gun, although a Foredom should do well.

Just make a little hook out of coat hanger wire (or use a screw-in cup hook) and chuck it up in your screw gun. Grip the free ends of the wire in a vice and slip the looped end onto your hook. Keep a little tension on the wires as you twist.

Note that a power drill is too fast a tool for this unless you have one with variable speed.

SOLDERING PRONGS

I often use prongs to hold an irregular cab or other object on rings and pendants. But prongs can be a little tricky to solder. You have to find some way to hold them all upright while soldering, and the simple butt joint that looks strong sometimes breaks when you start to bend the prong over the stone. There's nothing worse than having a prong break off when you're setting the stone *#~*!

I solved both problems with one little trick. It keeps the prongs in position for soldering, and it gives you a stronger joint at the same time.

Locate and center punch the position for each prong. Then drill holes a little smaller than your prong wire. Sand a small taper on the ends of your prong wires and stand them up in the holes. The wires support themselves, soldering is easy, and the joint is stronger because of the increased soldering area.

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems



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.

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

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.

