

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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W.G.M.C. January Meeting Minutes

WG&MC MINUTES 1/5/19

We had 2 visitors who joined the club this month, Frank and Sarah Epps!

There were no Minutes from the December Meeting

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report.

All bills are paid, financially we are doing ok.

It's time to pay club dues. They are 12.00 for an individual and 20.00 for a family.

Old Business-

There were no committee reports this month.

Scott said that if you don't have a name badge, you can get one at Award Specialties on Lake Shore at Sanger- just put your name with Waco Gem and Mineral Club below it on blue. It's a bit less \$ than Print Mart, though they realty aren't expensive there either.

Upcoming shows:

Please see the list elsewhere in the Gritty Greetings.

The Dallas International Gem and Jewelry show is 1/11-13/19, Fredericksburg and Tyler are in January.

We had a quick meeting this month followed by a fascinating program on Petrified wood by Bob Boyd.

There is a signup sheet for providing snacks for the meetings. It is on the glass case in the clubhouse. Consider signing up.

I hope everyone has a Happy 2019.

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From the editor

Alison and I arrived in Quartzite on January 4 and settled in to our site at the Palms RV Resort. It was a long trip and we saw the aftermath of some bad road conditions as we traveled just behind the icy conditions. On the 5th we headed out to Tyson Wells and spent the day shopping and taking pictures of interesting things. I can't even begin to tell about Alison's purchases, but she did get some nice ones. We found the people we buy our tools and other items for holding finished pieces of Jewelry. I picked up a few of the items I needed for the Silversmithing Class Ali picked up some of the boxes and a few tools she needs for bead work. Here are a few of the pictures I thought were interesting.



We found information on the Quartzite Gem and Mineral club and visited on Sunday, took more pictures! They really have an interesting facility, there are 5 different shops, I am told, and they are into a lot more than we have touched on. They also have a lot of volunteer activity as their shops are open most of the week. Orientation is on Thursdays and Ali and I plan on going and becoming members and learning as much as we can about the operation of their club. Here are a few pictures of the club.



This was new member orientation for January 10, one is held every Thursday, 42 new members at this meeting!

On our third day we went to Desert Gardens and picked up some Slabs and other material for making beautiful jewelry. It is beautiful here though a little colder than usual. It is still short sleeve weather for me.



You can see from the pictures that there is a lot to see here and next week is the Pow Wow show in which the QGMS plays a large part and shuts down club activities for that week. One more show to attend and we have only been here one week.

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Upcoming Shows and Events

Our next meeting is at 10:00 pm on Saturday, February 2nd
at The Waco Gem and Mineral Club
187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas



Our speaker for the February meeting will be
Robbie Barber with the Fine Arts Dept., at Baylor University!!



Movie/Pot Luck Dinner Night: February 21st, 6 p.m. at the clubhouse.



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

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Amethyst

February Birthstone

For individuals with February birthdays, the amethyst makes a perfect birthstone. This month is often cold, dark and short for many people around the world, so the amethyst—which is often associated with qualities of peace, courage and stability—is the right gem for individuals who need a little extra warmth and strength this time of year.

A beautiful purple quartz, the amethyst is an easily recognizable gem, but you may not know everything about it just yet! Take a look below to learn more about the amethyst.

Amethyst is purple quartz and is a beautiful blend of violet and red that can be found in every corner of the earth. The name comes from the Ancient Greek, derived from the word “methustos,” which means “intoxicated.” Ancient wearers believed the gemstone could protect them from drunkenness.

Amethyst, as previously mentioned, is composed of quartz, which is the second most abundant material found in the Earth’s crust. Amethyst gets its color from irradiation, iron impurities and the presence of trace elements. Its hardness (a 7 on the Mohs scale) is the same as other quartz, which makes it a durable and lasting option for jewelry.

While amethyst is most commonly recognized to be a purple color, the gemstone can actually range from a light pinkish violet to a deep purple that can read more blue or red, depending on the light. Sometimes, even the same stone can have layers or color variants, so the way the gemstone is cut is important to the way the color shows in a finished piece.

Amethyst often occurs in geodes or in the cavities of granitic rocks. It can be found all over the world, including the United States, Canada Brazil and Zambia.

The amethyst is not only the February birthstone, it is also used to celebrate the 6th and 17th year of marriage.

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also was said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. Amethyst jewelry has been found and dated as early as 2000 BC.



It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Some historical accounts say that Saint Valentine had an amethyst ring carved with an image of Cupid. And for those familiar with Old Testament history, amethyst was one of the twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel.

For many years, amethyst was held to be one of the most precious gemstones, often favored by royalty or exclusively by the clergy as a symbol for the deity of Christ. It was even held for many years in the same regard as the diamond. It wasn't until the discovery of more abundant supplies of amethyst that it became a gemstone enjoyed by more than just the wealthiest buyers.

Many wearers of amethyst throughout history and even today prize the gem for its symbolism as well as its beauty. Leonardo da Vinci once said that amethyst helps to quicken intelligence and get rid of evil thoughts. Other qualities like peace, stability, courage and strength are said to be derived from this gemstone.

Today, many wearers simply prize the amethyst for its beautiful shade and the way it complements both warm and cool colors.

Thanks to the American Gem Society for this article on Amethyst!

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February 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
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
				Pot luck & Movie 6:00 pm		
24	25	26	27	28		