

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 61, Issue 8, August, 2020

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

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The Board of Directors of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club has decided to err on the side of caution and to NOT hold our August meeting. Hopefully we will be able to hold our September meeting on schedule. Stay safe out there.

Contacts

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61st Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 61st Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 1 and 2, 2021. Currently, some spaces are available for vendors as there have been some cancellations.

If you have any questions, please contact **2021 Show chair Alison Redding** or email:

wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org

The Ft. Worth Gem and Mineral Clubs annual show has been rescheduled. The new dates are: August 29-30, 2020. For more information, contact: fwgmc.info@gmail.com

(This is a condensed post from FaceBook group **World Wide Rock Hounds** which sounds like a fantastic idea – Ed)

I'm a Marine veteran and I work with veterans with PTSD, teaching them lapidary to help them learn an alternate way to deal with their PTSD. This started when my own son returned from Iraq and Afghanistan and was having the same problems I experienced. And has grown from there, first with his Army buddies and by word of mouth from there. I would ask all rockhounds everywhere to reach out to veterans in your area, what we do is fun and also a great way to help our veterans with PTSD.

I would like to see Rock Clubs help me see programs like this in all 50 States. There are a lot of great Americans, veterans and first responders with PTSD out there that have given everything in service of our country and communities.

Would you be willing to take someone rock hunting or teach them to cut and polish a stone, if you knew you could save a life?

I have been doing this for several years and it works. Alvin M. Martin

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August Birthstone PERIDOT



Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan. This gemstone comes in several color variations ranging from yellowish green to brown, but most consumers are attracted to the bright lime greens and olive greens. Peridot, in smaller sizes, often is used in beaded necklaces and bracelets.

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



Brad's Bench Tips

STRAIGHTENING WIRE

Have you ever pulled out some silver wire only to find that it's all bent up? The easiest way I've found to straighten it out is to stretch it a bit.

Simply put one end in the vise and grab the other end with a pair of serrated tip pliers. Then pull just enough to feel the wire stretch like a rubber band. This works best on smaller wire diameters, up to about 16 gauge.

Be careful if you are trying to pull hard on a thick wire. Brace yourself in case the wire breaks or pulls out of the pliers.



DO BEZELS SHRINK?

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or Howlite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone.

Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques
in Brad's Jewelry-Making Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

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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!

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

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.

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Here's a nice weekend project for rockhounds!



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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.

