

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

.Volume 62, Issue 7, July, 2021

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Welcome to new members signed up at the show!!!!

- Deanna Ford, with Bradley, Macie, Madison, Micah
- Dorothy Marstaller
- Janice Dodd (Ed note: corrected name!)
- Ted and Grace Miller
- George Meyers

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

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Minutes of June 5, 2021 Meeting

Roy called meeting to order.

Two new members recognized, Celia Holder and John Holder.

Thanks to every volunteer who helped at the Show!

Jackie presented show details:

Cash ticket sales, auction, grand prize	\$4685
Vendors	\$8000
Total Income	\$12,945
Estimated Expenses	\$4000

She has breakdown of expenses. If anyone needs further explanation, please contact her.

We need to make a decision on renewal of CD's that come due in June. Jackie suggests just rolling it over. Stephanie has a niece that can help with investing the CD money. She will bring information to the next meeting.

Roy read a letter from Alison thanking everyone for helping with the show.

We need a volunteer for the field trip committee.

We need ideas and volunteers for the program committee.

Old business

The 18 inch saw is now usable.

We need a new secretary. Roy read a list of duties. Niki asked for a month to think about it. Jackie has been doing some of the secretary's duties. Harry suggested sending an email to all members with the duties listed to see if there is any interest. Harry will set up the email list.

New business

Bonnell Love, long time member passed away. Her daughter is selling her collection on Saturday, June 12 from 10 AM to 1 PM. 3824 Watt Ave. in Waco. Call Kristine Casey at 254-717-5049 for directions or more information.

Jackie is having a memorial service for her husband at Grace Gardens Saturday, June 12th. From 1 to 3.

The door and windows are broken. Harry will check into prices and ways to fix. Stephanie suggests going the cheapest way due to the building being torn down in the near future.

Suggestions for the July meeting on 7-3-2021. Stephanie moved we have potluck at clubhouse on second Saturday, 7-10-2021. Scott seconded. Everyone agreed. We will meet at 11 AM for the potluck lunch.

Roy suggested doing away with the snacks for meetings. Everyone agreed.

Arlington Gem and Mineral Show is in Grapevine June 19, 20.

Bob is interested in hosting silversmithing classes. If anyone is interested, contact Bob Boyd or one of the club officers.

Stephanie suggested the club have another show before Christmas at the mall. Scott will check with the mall for that possibility and details.

Harry is offering free aloe plants and cactus to a good home!

Meeting adjourned and Bob presented the show on Topaz.

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July birthstone: Ruby

Ruby is the red variety of the mineral corundum, colored by the element chromium. All other colors of gem-quality corundum are called sapphire, which means color is key for this royal gemstone.

Accordingly, the name “ruby” comes from rubeus, the Latin word for red. In ancient Sanskrit, ruby translated to ratnaraj, which meant “king of precious stones.” These fiery gems have been treasured throughout history for their color and vitality.

The chromium that gives ruby its red color also causes fluorescence, which makes rubies glow like a fire from within. Paradoxically, chromium is also what makes this gem scarce because it can cause cracks and fissures. Few rubies actually grow large enough to crystallize into fine quality gems, and these can bring even higher prices than diamonds.

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Burma's Mogok Valley historically produced the finest ruby material, famous for its deep blood-red color with purplish hues. These Burmese Rubies, also called Pigeon's Blood Rubies, command a premium over brownish or orange-tinged varieties from other regions.

The Mong Hsu region of Myanmar began producing rubies in the '90s after discovering that heat treatment improved the color saturation. Other ruby deposits exist in Vietnam, Thailand, India, parts of the Middle East, East Africa, and even the United States.

Tough and durable, ruby measures 9 on the Mohs scale. **Diamond** is the only natural gemstone harder than ruby.

Ruby's strength and red fluorescence make it valuable for applications beyond jewelry. Both natural and synthetic rubies are used in watchmaking, medical instruments, and lasers.

Courtesy American Gem Society - See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>

Bench Tips for July

FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet.

The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 16 or 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "escutcheon pin"

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to a leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.



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.

