

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 64, Issue 10, October, 2023

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Our next meeting, October 7th, 10 AM! Followed by a field trip to Rock’n Minerals Rock Shop in Mexia.

9/23-9/24—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Show and sale; Southwest Gem and Mineral Society; Wonderland of the Americas, 4522 Fredericksburg Rd; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free; Free parking; Website: www.swgms.org/

9/23-9/24—LUBBOCK, TEXAS: Show and sale; Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Age 13 and up \$5, Age 6 - 12 \$3, 5 and under Free; We will have dealers from around the country, selling things from around the globe. Member demonstrations, Presentations, Door prizes and 2 Grand Prizes. Silent Auction, Displays, and a big Kids area; Website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

Be sure to bring your specimens to the October meeting for the November Auction!

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Contacts

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Vice-President	Scott Halvorson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	Secretary	Harry Senn senn.harry@yahoo.com
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September 9th, 2023

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Meeting Minutes

President Roy Cooper called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

There were no visitors.

Bob moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the Gritty Greetings. Jan brought the second. The Minutes were accepted by acclamation.

Dorothy gave the Treasurers Report.

Committee Reports:

A. Program Committee: The program for October will be a field trip to Rock'n Minerals Rock Shop in Mexia. Those anticipating going should let Roy know so we can let Rock'n Minerals know a day or two in advance. We can caravan and/or car pool from the WGM Clubhouse after the business meeting.

The program for November will be the Annual Club Auction. Please bring your items for Auction NO LATER THAN the October meeting. We will need time to put numbers and starting bids on them. At present we are low on both quantity and quality of items.

B. Field Trip Committee: we need ideas for late Fall/early Winter trip. Ideas: Glen Rose. Because the river has been low due to drought, new and larger tracks have been exposed. Maybe Hillsboro Clifton Museum. Monnig Meteorite Collection at TCU in Ft. Worth

C. Show Committee: The 2024 Show is set for May 4-5. May 3 is set-up day. The location will be the Lee Lockwood Library & Museum. We need to send "Save The Date!" email to prospective vendors.

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Old Business:

A. Immediately after today's meeting we will have a cleanup session as planned in August.

B. The website has been updated to clarify that the July and September meeting dates will be the second Saturday of that month.

New Business: We need volunteers to get ready to run the auction in November.

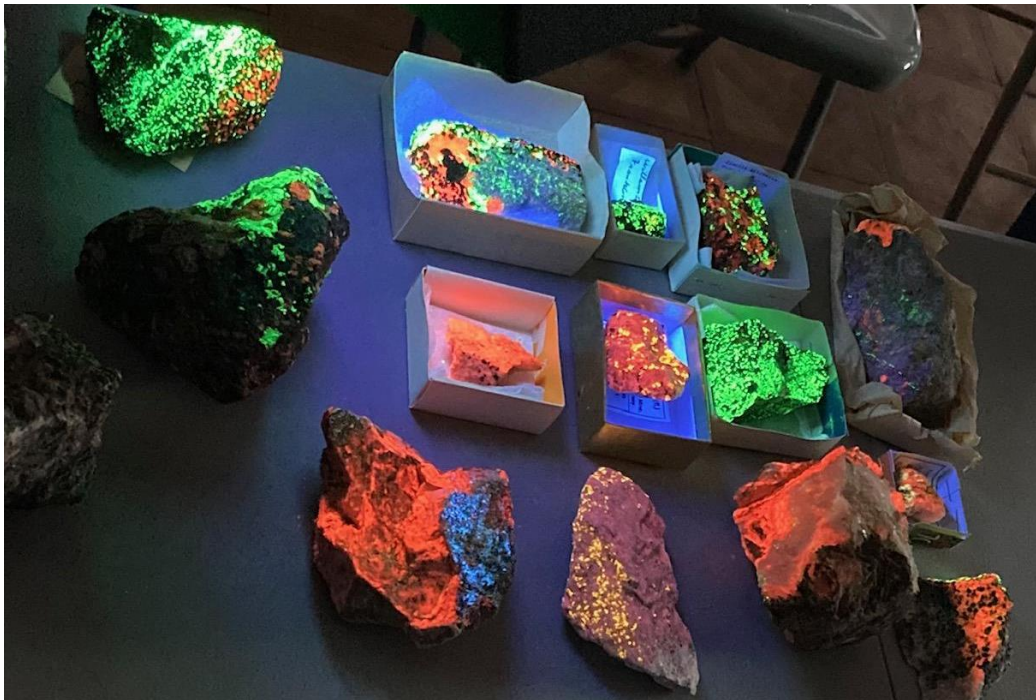
Adjourn: 10:33

Bob gave a presentation on a Field Trip he and Pam made to Sterling Hill Mine in New Jersey. It was previously a zinc mine but now is mined for florescent minerals. He showed a PowerPoint of the different locations at the mine. He then showed a collection of the samples they collected.

Here is what the samples looked like as displayed on the table:



Here is the view with the lights when Bob shined a UV light on the samples:



This is a closer view of two of the samples:

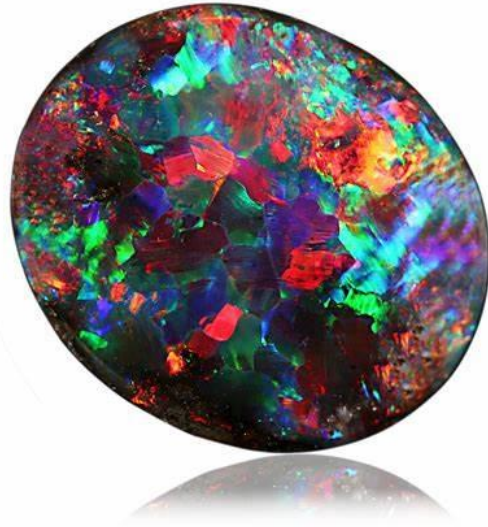


On the left is a piece of calcite (not from Bob's New Jersey Collection):



October Birthstones

Tourmaline and opal



The name “**tourmaline**” comes from the Sinhalese words *tura mali*, which mean “stone of mixed colors.” As its name implies, tourmaline stands apart from other gemstones with its broad spectrum of colors in every shade of the rainbow.

Tourmaline is not one mineral, but a fairly complex group of minerals with different chemical compositions and physical properties. Certain trace elements produce distinct colors, and many resulting varieties have their own names.

Black tourmaline, known as “schorl” is rich in iron, which causes dark shades from deep brown to bluish-black. This variety makes up 95 percent of all tourmaline, though most of it isn’t gemstone-quality.

Dravite or brown tourmaline is rich in magnesium, which causes colors ranging from brown to yellow. It’s named for the Drave District of Carinthia (now Slovenia) where this stone is found.

Elbaite offers the widest range of gem-quality tourmaline colors, due to lithium traces combined with other coloring elements.

Rubellite or red tourmaline is caused by manganese. However, if the color becomes less vibrant under different light sources, it may be called pink tourmaline.

Indicolite or blue tourmaline can appear purplish blue or bluish green, depending on the amount of iron and titanium.

Verdelite or green tourmaline can resemble emerald. However, if its color is caused by chrome and vanadium, it’s called a chrome tourmaline.

Paraíba tourmaline is a vividly colored purplish or greenish blue variety found in Paraíba, Brazil. It’s the most recently discovered, and because of its desirably intense colors, it’s one of the most valuable. The element copper is responsible for its vivid colors. Copper-bearing tourmaline is also found in other parts of the world such as Mozambique and Nigeria; but only copper-bearing tourmaline from Paraíba, Brazil is called “Paraíba tourmaline.”

Achroite or colorless tourmaline is rare.

Parti-colored tourmaline displays more than one color, due to chemical fluctuations during crystallization. A common color combination is green and pink. These are often cut in slices to reveal a red center surrounded by a green rim, earning the name “watermelon tourmaline.”

Tourmaline is mined in Brazil, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Mozambique, Madagascar, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the U.S.—primarily Maine and California.

Tourmaline is desirable because of its sheer range of color options. Combined with a good hardness of 7 to 7.5 on the [Mohs scale](#), tourmaline makes very wearable birthstone jewelry.

One of this gemstone’s most impressive traits is its ability to become electrically charged through heat (pyroelectricity) and through pressure (piezoelectricity). When charged, tourmaline can act as a magnet by oscillating and by attracting or repelling particles of dust.

The name “**opal**” originates from the Greek word *opallios*, which meant “to see a change in color.” The Roman scholar Pliny used the word *opalus* when he wrote about this gemstone’s kaleidoscopic “play” of rainbow colors that could simulate shades of any stone.

Opal’s characteristic “play-of-color” was explained in the 1960s, when scientists discovered that it’s composed of microscopic silica spheres that diffract light to display various colors of the rainbow. These flashy gemstones are called “precious opals.” Those without play-of-color are “common opals.”

Dozens of opal varieties exist, but only a few, such as fire opal and boulder opal, are universally recognized. Opals are often referred to by their background “body color” of black or white.

Opal’s classic country of origin is Australia. Seasonal rains soaked the parched Outback, carrying silica deposits underground into cracks between layers of rock. When the water evaporated, these deposits formed opal. Sometimes, silica seeped into spaces around wood, seashells and skeletons, resulting in opalized fossils.

Since opal was discovered in Australia around 1850, the country has produced 95 percent of the world’s supply. Opal is also mined in Mexico, Brazil, Honduras, Ethiopia, the Czech Republic, and parts of the U.S., including Nevada and Idaho.

The water content of opal gems can range from three to 21 percent—usually between six and 10 in gem-quality material. This, combined with hardness of only 5.5 to 6 on the Mohs scale, makes opal a delicate gemstone that can crack or “craze” under extreme temperature, dehydration, or direct light.

Wearing opal jewelry is well worth the extra care, though. This October birthstone has remained a popular choice for centuries.

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

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. 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 dollar in the pig. The money from the pig goes toward our Scholarship program, and we really do appreciate every dollar or more. However, if you need a name tag 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 Dorothy 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.

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