

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 63, Issue 1, January, 2022

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

<< << << << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >>

Table of contents.....	1
WGMC Contacts	2
Christmas party picture.....	2
January Birthstone.....	3
Brad's bench tips.....	5,6
Notes	7
Club Purpose.....	8

<< << << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

The January meeting will be held not on the first Saturday, since that will be New Year's Day, but will be held the following Saturday, January 8th! We hope to see everyone there. We also hope that you all will have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year! Stay safe out there!

Contacts

Presidente	Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	Treasurer	Jackie Dodson jackiedodson66@gmail.com
Vice-President	Scott Halverson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	Secretary	Harry Senn senn.harry@yahoo.com
Newsletter Staff	John Langston johnjkbear@aol.com	Website	www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Webmaster	wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

<< << << << << << << << << <> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >> >>

Our Christmas party was held on Dec. 4th, with thirteen of us celebrating! After delicious food, we had a gift exchange!



January birthstone: Garnet



The word “garnet” comes from the 14th century Middle English word gernet, meaning “dark red.” The word is derived from Latin granatum, which means “seed,” and is called so because of the gemstone’s resemblance to the beautifully red seeds of the pomegranate. Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites. Some rare garnets are even blue, colorless, or—most rare of all—change colors in different lights. But the most common garnet color is a beautiful range of reds, from rust colored to deep violet red. The garnet is a very durable gemstone (6.5-7.5 on the Mohs scale) found all over the world, including Wyoming, Czech Republic, Greece, Russia, Tanzania, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, and India. Mandarin Spessartite Garnets, also known as Mandarin garnets, are considered to be the most rare and expensive of all garnet gemstones. The folklore on garnet is extensive. Legend has it that the garnet can bring peace, prosperity, and good health to the home. Some even called it the “Gem of Faith,” and it’s believed that to those who wear it and do good, more good will come. (Conversely, it was also said to bring very bad fortune to those who commit bad acts while wearing it.) The garnet also symbolized deep and lasting friendship. With that legend in mind, give garnet jewelry to someone whose friendship you deeply value. No matter why or how you wear garnet, this beautiful gemstone is perfect for those who share January birthdays and want to start each New Year with a sense of goodwill, happiness, and purpose.

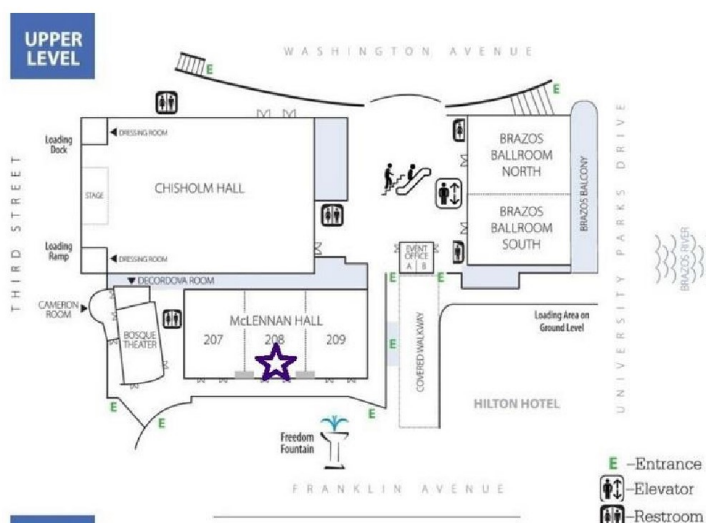
American Gem Society

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

62nd Annual
Waco Gem and
Mineral Club

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

Show 2022



Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

Volume 63, Issue 1, January, 2022

Page 4

Brad's Bench Tips

MARKING YOUR TOOLS

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

I formed my initials from a couple 4mm strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.





NO SCRATCH VISE JAWS

If your bench vise has replaceable jaws, there is a simple modification to customize it for bending sheet metal and holding jewelry pieces without worrying about the jaws leaving scratch marks.

I make a duplicate set of jaws from high density plastic such as Nylon or Delrin. Remove the jaws and use them as a template. Cut two pieces from a 1/2 inch sheet of scrap plastic. Then clamp the steel jaw over the plastic and drill through the steel side and into the plastic.

Finally, use a larger drill to countersink the plastic for the screw heads.

Plastic can be obtained from the scrap bin at a local plastics store, can be purchased online from Ebay, or can be repurposed from an old kitchen cutting board.



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.

