GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 65, Issue 9, Sept, 2024 P.O. Box 8811, Waco, TX 76714-8811

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

Table of contents, upcoming events ……1
WGMC Contacts ……2
Minutes of August meeting……2
Sept Birthstone……3
August program photos……3-8
Brad's Tips……9
Notes ……10
Club Purpose……11

Next meeting, September 7th at clubhouse 10 AM! John Hillman, "Checking out Czech Rocks!"

2024 Upcoming events

8/30-9/1	Westfest, West, TX
9/28-9/29	Lubbock Gem and Mineral Show, Lubbock
10/18-10/20	Austin Gem Capers, Austin Palmer Events Center
10/25-10/27	Fossilmania, Glen Rose Expo Center

Contacts

President	Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	**Treasurer**	John Hillman hillmanjohn316@gmail.com
Vice-President	Scott Halvorson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	**Secretary**	Harry Senn senn.harry@yahoo.com
Newsletter	John Langston johnjkbear@aol.com	**Website** **Club email**	www.wacogemandmineral.org wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

Minutes for August 3, 2024

Call to Order: Roy called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

Rodney Parsley was introduced as the Presenter of the Program that will be seen after the meeting.

Approve Previous Minutes: Bob moved and Stephanie gave the second to accept Minutes as published in Gritty Greetings. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: John Hillman did a wonderful job presenting the Treasurers Report. He identified CD's that were renewed and one that will be renewed on Sept. 12.

Committee Reports

Program Committee: August 3 (today) Rodney Parsley will present "Five Fine Jaspers." His location is where Hwy 67 crosses I35 (9816 E. Hwy 67, Alvarado, Tx 76009). His email and phone: Texasstonelapidary@gmail.com; 817-983-2748.

September: John Hillman will present "Checking Out Czeck Rocks"

October: Bob is working on it

November: Annual Club Auction

December: Christmas Party

Field Trip Committee: we are waiting for cooler weather.

Show Committee: We will send out "Hold-the-Date" emails to the 2024 Vendors soon. The next Show will be May 2 (Friday, setup day), 3, 4, 2025. We have the Lee Lockwood Library Venue booked for 2025 and 2026.

We have received very positive feedback on how good the announcements were during our 2024 Show. Many people enjoyed the images on the show floor tv monitors. Having Concessions immediately available on the Show Floor was greatly appreciated. Some vendors were so busy they were not aware of the Concessions window, so we need to make sure to advertise "Concessions" in our emails.

New Business:

A. Even though two officers will be absent, the September Meeting will be "business as usual."

B. We now have a working Keurig coffeepot. If you have a favorite coffee flavor, feel free to bring it.

Adjourn: 10:27

September Birthstone SAPPHIRE

Sapphire, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, according to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue. Sapphire is a variety of the gem species corundum and occurs in all colors of the rainbow. Pink, purple, green, orange, or yellow corundum are known by their color (pink sapphire, green sapphire). Ruby is the red variety of corundum.

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

Program: "The 5 Fine North American Jaspers" by Rodney Parsley

After the program we got to see examples of these jaspers (shown below).

Blue Mountain Jasper

Royal Imperial Jasper (Mexico)

Willow Creek Jasper (Oregon)

Morrisonite Jasper (Oregon)

Morrisonite Jasper (Oregon)

Bruneau Jasper

Additional photos of Rodney's display:

Ocean Jasper (Madagascar) **Biggs Jasper**

Hava Ridge Jasper – Idaho *New Find

Morrisonite Jasper – Oregon
Tabu Tabu Jasper - Africa

Whiskey Creek Jasper – "New Find" Idaho

Brad's Tips

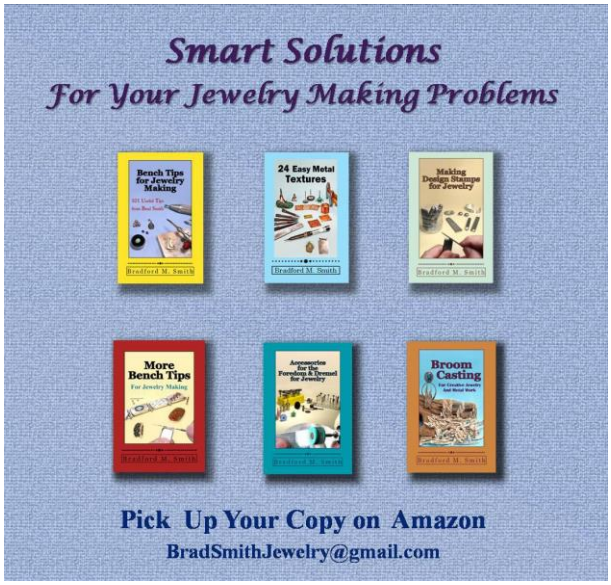
NEW MELTING DISH

A new melting dish or crucible must be given a protective coating of borax before its first use. Borax extends the life of the ceramic material. Once done, it generally does not have to be repeated.

The procedure is straightforward. Heat the new melting dish to red with a large torch. You'll need plenty of heat. I use an acetylene/air Prest-O-Lite torch with a large #5 nozzle.

When the dish is hot, sprinkle in a half teaspoon of borax, let it melt, and spread it with a carbon rod over all of the interior surface of the dish. Add more borax if needed.

Sometimes you will have to hold the dish at an angle to coat the sides up to the rim.
And don't forget to coat the pouring spout itself.



Notes

In recent months we have had previous members reconnecting and renewing their membership, we have others who move away. We are losing Jim and Gene Henry, who are in the process of moving to the Houston area to be nearer their son Greg. We shall miss them. We welcome back Linda Hill and Neil Weise, former members!

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 John Hillman 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.