



GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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

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Table of contents, upcoming events.....	1
WGMC Contacts.....	2
Minutes of previous meeting.....Not available.....	
May Birthstone.....	2
Bench Tips.....	3
Notes.....	4
Club Purpose.....	4

Upcoming Events

April 25 Last planning meeting before show. Clubhouse, 10 AM. Pick up yard signs.

April 24-26 Texas Mineral and Fossil Show, Conroe

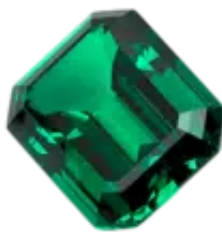
May 1 Setup for vendors and club tables, 8 AM

May 2-3 Waco Gem and Mineral Show

Contacts

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May birthstone: Emerald



As the birthstone for May, the emerald gemstone is a symbol of rebirth and is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word “*smaragdus*,” means, quite literally, “green” in Greek.

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

Bench Tips

DRILL PRESS VISES

A drill press vise is a versatile tool to hold a workpiece securely and in precise alignment. It reduces the risks of working with high power motors, using larger drill bits, and dealing with heat generated in the operation. The vise can be clamped to the drill press table if needed and is quite handy for use at the bench to hold things for sawing or riveting.

You can find them at stores that carry machine tool supplies. My feeling is that the best ones are made from steel. In particular, I like the ones with V grooves cut into the jaw plates. That lets me hold a punch straight upright or hold a rod horizontal. To find a supplier, search on "drill press vise" at sites like micromark.com mscdirect.com/enco smallparts.com grizzly.com

DENTAL GOLD

You might think that a couple pieces of dental gold would be valuable, but if you only have a small amount, it can be a problem. Sending it to a refiner is expensive for small amounts of metal.

I made the mistake of thinking I could melt it and roll it out as sheet. It turns out the trace metals in dental gold make it a good material in your mouth but cause it to crack if you try to forge it or roll it out as a sheet.

So what to do with a couple gold crowns? A reasonable alternative is to try incorporating the metal into your jewelry. If you have enough material to do a casting, that's probably the best use for dental gold.

If you're not into casting, try melting it on a solder pad and while molten, divide it into small pieces with your solder pick. Then re-flow each piece to make little gold balls for use as accents on your designs. The balls can also be planished a bit to make small discs or struck with a design stamp to add texture on the top.

**See More of my Smart Solutions
for Jewelry Making at**
<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

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 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.

