

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 63, Issue 8, August, 2022

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

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## Upcoming Shows

August 20. 21, Bossier City, LA, ArkLaTex Gem and Mineral Society

August 6<sup>th</sup> program will be presented by VP Scott on pyrite!

## Contacts

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### **Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for July 9, 2022**

**Called to Order** Roy called the meeting to order at 1:12 pm.

(Note: this was the WGM post-4<sup>th</sup>-of-July Ice Cream Social. The meeting date was moved to July 9, and the start time moved to 1 pm. for this Social.)

Bob announced that we need donations for the November Club Auction.

- He emphasized that the Arlington Club always had good results with baked goods.

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It was noted that the table was covered with many types of ice cream. There were lots of homemade sweets brought to our meeting by our wonderful Club Members.

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- The Website Calendar of Events has a list of upcoming programs.

Roy adjourned the meeting at 1:17 pm.

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## Notes

The editor requests news items from any member to be included in the Gritty Greetings.

Deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

# Bench Tips for August

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



## HOMEMADE WAX TOOLS

Save your used X-Acto or scalpel blades for utility work on the bench. They're wonderful for delicate wax work. Use a cutoff wheel or other type of grinding wheel to shape the blades to what you need.

For instance, you can carve away excess metal on the spine to make yourself some narrow carving knives that do a great job of detailing small pierced areas of your waxes.

## REMOVING A STONE FROM A BEZEL

If you've forgotten to use dental floss and got your stone caught in a bezel, there's one thing you can try before starting to pry.

Find some sticky wax or beeswax. Roll it into a pencil-sized cylinder and stick the end onto the top of the stone. Mold it on well and yank.

But if the stone is really stuck, there are two other tricks - but each with risks and consequences. The first is to pry open the bezel with a sharp knife blade being very careful not to wrinkle or tear the bezel. If you try this, make sure to pry gently in several passes around the stone.

The last solution is to drill a small hole into the bezel setting from the back side so that you can push the stone out. Note that this does leave a hole, but in some cases you can use it to saw out a design under the stone.

More smart solutions for your jewelry making problems can be found in my metal arts books on Amazon at <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

And if you enjoy these tips on jewelry making, take a look at the sample chapters from:

> Bench Tips 1 - <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>

> Bench Tips 2 - <http://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

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## Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems





### **August birthstones: peridot, spinel and sardonyx**

Peridot, spinel and sardonyx are the three birthstones for August.

The peridot birthstone is known for being formed under extreme conditions, as it can be found in the hardened lava that carried it from deep within Earth's mantle as well as in meteorites that traveled from outer space. The spinel birthstone was underappreciated until recently, as today's consumers look for an alternative to ruby, a gem with which red spinel was mistaken for centuries. Sardonyx is the original August birthstone, with a history that dates back more than 4,000 years.

Courtesy American Gem Society

#### **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.

