

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

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

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The Board of Directors of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club has decided to err on the side of caution and to NOT hold our November meeting. Many members have conflicting schedules for that weekend. Hopefully we will be able to hold our December meeting on schedule. Stay safe out there.

Contacts

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61st Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show

The 61st Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 1 and 2, 2021. Currently, some spaces are available for vendors as there have been some cancellations.

If you have any questions, please contact **2021 Show chair Alison Redding** or email: wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com. Visit our website for more information and to download your application. www.wacogemandmineral.org



10/31/2020. Steven McCool found this GORGEOUS, FLAWLESS, 4.49-carat, canary yellow diamond at Arkansas' Crater of Diamonds State Park. Congratulations on your remarkable diamond find, Steven, and thank you for sharing your photos and great news with us. We are all looking for one like this but haven't seen a big, perfect, pretty, canary yellow since Marvin Culver's 4.21-carat in the spring of 2006 and Robert Wehle's 5.47-carat diamond find in the fall of 2006---14 years ago. Older miners would call this Diamond a God Cut Diamond because of its natural beauty and could be set in jewelry as is.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter



November Birthstones

Topaz and Citrine



Topaz and citrine look so similar, in fact, that they've often been mistaken for one another throughout history. They are unrelated minerals, and topaz occurs in a wide spectrum of colors far beyond yellow. Both of November's birthstones are abundant and affordably priced, even in large sizes, which means everyone can find a way to fit topaz and citrine into their budget.

Through much of history, all yellow gemstones were considered topaz and all "topaz" was thought to be yellow. Topaz is available in many colors, and it's likely not even related to the stones that first donned its name. The name topaz derives from Topazios, the ancient Greek name for St. John's Island in the Red Sea. Although the yellow gemstones famously mined there probably weren't topaz, it soon became the name for most yellowish stones.

Pure topaz is colorless, but it can become tinted by impurities to take on any color of the rainbow. Precious topaz ranges in color from brownish orange to yellow and is often mistaken for smoky quartz or citrine quartz, respectively—although quartz and topaz are unrelated minerals.

The most prized color is Imperial topaz, which features a vibrant orange hue with pink undertones. Blue topaz, although increasingly abundant in the market, very rarely occurs naturally and is often caused by irradiation treatment.

(In Texas, the most prized is the light blue Star-cut Topaz - in the opinion of the editor!) Topaz is the Texas State Gemstone!

The largest producer of quality topaz gemstones is Brazil. Other sources include Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Russia, Australia, Nigeria, Germany, Mexico, and the U.S. — mainly California, Utah, and New Hampshire.

Measuring 8 on the Mohs scale, topaz is a very hard and durable gemstone. Its perfect cleavage can make it prone to chipping or cracking, but when cut correctly, topaz makes very wearable and durable jewelry.

November's second birthstone, citrine, is a variety of quartz that ranges from pale yellow to a honey orange color. It takes its name from the citron fruit because of these lemon inspired shades. The pale yellow color of citrine closely resembles topaz, which explains why November's two birthstones have been so easily confused throughout history.

Citrine's yellow hues are caused by traces of iron in quartz crystals. This occurs rarely in nature, so most citrine gems on the market are made by heat treating other varieties of quartz—usually the more common, less expensive purple amethyst and smoky quartz to produce golden gemstones.

Brazil is the largest supplier of citrine. Other sources include Spain, Bolivia, France, Russia, Madagascar and the U.S. (Colorado, North Carolina and California). Different geographies yield different shades of citrine.

With a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale, citrine is very durable against scratches and everyday wear-and-tear—making it a lovely option for large, wearable jewelry.

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

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Notes

This would be a better experience if club members would contribute articles, news items, anecdotes, etc.

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.

