

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 65, Issue 8, August, 2024

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

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

Table of contents, upcoming events	1
WGMC Contacts	2
Minutes.....	2
August Birthstones.....	3,4
Bench Tips.....	5,6
Notes	6,7
Club Purpose.....	7

2024 Upcoming events



BEGINNING WIRE WEAVING
JEWELRY MAKING CLASS
WITH DIANNE COLLIER

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024
2:00PM - 4:00PM
\$40 PER PERSON
ALL SUPPLIES PROVIDED

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
WWW.WORKSHOPAT219.COM

219 Artisan Market & Workshop
329 West 5th
Clifton, Texas 76634

August 2-4, Dallas Summer Gem, Jewelry, and Bead Show, Grapevine Convention Center.

August 30-September 1, WestFest, West, TX

September 28-29, Lubbock Gem and Mineral Show, Lubbock Memorial Convention Center.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

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	www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Club email	wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

Minutes for July 13, 2024

This meeting was the Annual Ice Cream Social and the Business Meeting was very informal.

Around 10:26 am John Hillman gave the Treasures Report. One of the larger expenses for last month was the renewal expense (for 3 years) for the WGM website lease. He mentioned the status of CD's and when they will be renewed.

Roy recognized the guests and then made a few comments about the 2024 Show. A business meeting in the not-too-distant future will be dedicated to evaluating the Show and how we could make improvements for the 2025 Show.

He mentioned that we had 841 attendees with around 145 who were 17 and under and that the trips to local schools paid off. Also, the day before we began setting up for the Show, there was a banquet with First Responders at the Library. Our Show was announced to the attendees and announced that First Responders would get in free.

Because the ice cream was beginning to melt, Roy ended the informal meeting around 10:47 am.



August birthstones: Peridot, Sardonyx, Spinel

Though **peridot** is widely recognized by its brilliant lime green glow, the origin of this gemstone's name is unclear. Most scholars agree that the word "peridot" is derived from the Arabic *faridat*, which means "gem;" however, some believe it's rooted in the Greek word *peridona*, meaning "giving plenty." Perhaps that's why peridot was, according to lore, associated with prosperity and good fortune.

Peridot is the rare gem-quality variety of the common mineral olivine, which forms deep inside the Earth's mantle and is brought to the surface by volcanoes. In Hawaii, peridot once symbolized the tears of Pele, the volcano goddess of fire who controls the flow of lava. Rarely, peridot is also found inside meteorites.

Peridot's signature green color comes from the composition of the mineral itself—rather than from trace impurities, as with many gemstones. That's why this is one of few gemstones that only comes in one color, though shades may vary from yellowish-green to olive to brownish-green, depending on how much iron is present.

Though it is known as "the Evening Emerald" because of its sparkling green hue, peridot looks good any time of day.

Most of the world's peridot supply comes from the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. Other sources are China, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Africa.

Peridot only measures 6.5 to 7 on the Mohs scale. So, while the raw crystal is prone to cracking during cutting, the finished gemstones are robust and easy to wear.

Sardonyx combines alternating layers of sard and onyx—two types of the layered mineral chalcedony—to create a reddish zebra-striped gemstone with white bands.

Its name, similarly, combines *sard* (referencing the ancient Persian city, Sardis—in present-day Turkey—where the red stone was found) with *onyx* (from the Greek word of the same spelling, which meant "nail or claw.")

Sard ranges in color from yellowish-red to reddish-brown, depending on how much iron oxide is present. Sard is easily confused with carnelian, another type of chalcedony that is slightly softer and lighter in color.

Sardonyx, like onyx, shows layers of parallel bands—instead of the chaotic, curved bands that compose agate, another type of chalcedony.

The finest examples of sardonyx, which display sharp contrasts between layers, are found in India. Other sources include Brazil, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Madagascar, Uruguay, and the United States.

Measuring 6.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, sardonyx is widely available and relatively inexpensive as gems, beads, and jewelry. It is often carved into cameos, intaglios, and brooches to show the color contrast between layers.

The **spinel** is often mistaken for either a ruby or pink sapphire, as it can resemble both. In fact, some of the most famous rubies in history have turned out to be spinel. But its distinguishing features, like its octahedral crystal structure and single refraction, are what sets it apart from other gemstones. Spinel also has a lower Mohs hardness than ruby and sapphire.

Significant deposits of spinel have been found in Cambodia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. It has also been found in Afghanistan, Australia, Brazil, Madagascar, Nepal, Nigeria, Tadjikistan, Tanzania, and the United States.

Vivid red is the most desirable color of spinel gemstones, followed by cobalt blue, bright pink, and bright orange. The more affordable gemstones are often those with paler colors, like lavender. You may also find spinel in black, violet blue, greenish blue, grayish, pale pink, mauve, yellow, or brown.

When shopping for spinel, a high-quality gemstone should have no visible inclusions. The more inclusions, the less valuable the gemstone. Spinel birthstones can be found in various cuts such as octagons, trillions, squares, rounds, ovals, pears, and cushions.

Courtesy American Gem Society - See more at: <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>

BENCH TIPS - Brad Smith



SANDING DISKS

One of the flexshaft tools that saves so much time is the snap-on sanding disk. I mainly use the medium and fine grits but sometimes like the very fine ones that are sold for working with platinum.

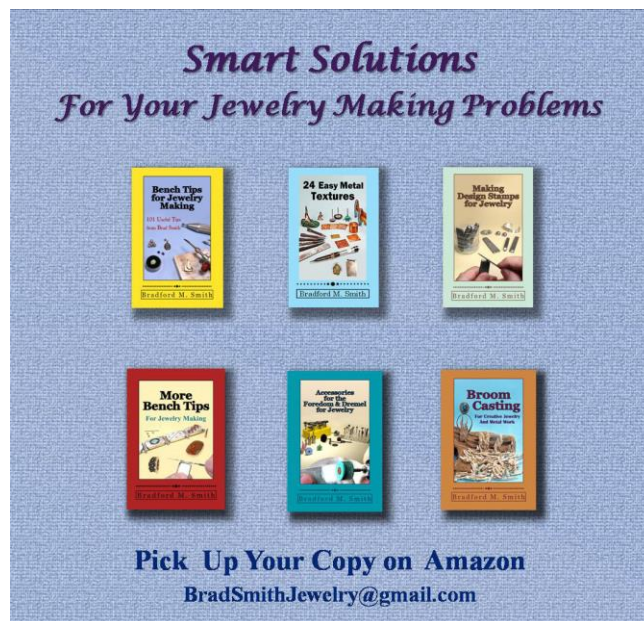
Ordinarily, you'd think of placing the disk on the mandrel with the grit side facing away from your hand, but notice that you end up with your elbow up in the air. Instead, try flipping the disk so that the grit side is towards your hand. It's a much more comfortable position because the elbow is down near your side, and it lets me hold the work up close where I have a better view of what I'm sanding.

I use these snap-on disks so frequently that I keep multiple mandrels with different grits already mounted in the bur stand. Some mandrels have the grit facing out and some facing in.

EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a shallow groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers with a slight groove on one jaw.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the quickest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a separating disc. Then do a rough polish on the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.



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!

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

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.



Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter