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GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 65, Issue 11, Nov, 2024

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

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Next meeting, November 2nd at clubhouse at 10 AM! Semi annual auction!

2024 Upcoming events

- 10/25-10/27 Fossilmania, Glen Rose Expo Center
- 11/15-11/17 Waco Cultural Arts Fest, Indian Springs Park
- 11/23-11/24 Dallas Gem and Mineral Show, Mesquite Convention 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 www.wacogemandmineral.org Club email wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com |

Waco Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for October 5th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 am.

John Hillman moved to accept minutes of previous meeting as published in Gritty Greetings. Motion passed by acclamation.

TREASURERS REPORT was given by John Hillman

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

The November 2 meeting will be the in-house auction for the club and attendees. We could use some help labeling before the auction.

Possibly a class (5-hour) in the future on "Using Agate slabs in 'Stained Glass' work"

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE: we will wait for cooler weather.

Possibly a Pyrite hunt in Waco in November?

SHOW COMMITTEE: nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Need work day for clubhouse:
 - 1. 18" saw is unusable due to "mud" buildup.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

2. 14" saw needs to be reassembled and readied for use.
3. Toilet is old and the guts or even the whole unit needs replacing.
John Hillman moved with Jan seconding to replace the entire unit. Motion passed. It was recommended that because Scott was not here that he be volunteered for this project. No one disagreed.
4. The faucet assembly in the bathroom drips and needs to be replaced.
5. Ideas needed to increase attendance:
 - a. Use Facebook, Web, Neighborly, Neighborhood
 - b. Sign(s) on or beside clubhouse building
Signage on both sides of building

Signage near clubhouse and pointing to clubhouse

Signage with reflective tape to be seen at night
 - c. Flyers in monthly water bill
 - d. West Kawanis Club promote WGM Club during their meetings
 - e. Maybe noon pot luck
 - f. Snacks per meeting did not seem to make a difference
 - g. Add single-click "map" to website
 - h. Add signage

ANY OTHER NEW OR OLD BUSINESS

Membership dues are due first of month in January.

Those members paying in the fall (Sep-Dec) before January are good for the following year.

ADJOURN: at 11:09 am.

PROGRAM: encore presentation of "Checking Out the Czech Republic Rocks" by John Hillman.

November Birthstones

Topaz and Citrine



Topaz Color: More Than Just Yellow

Throughout 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.

Production & Durability of Topaz Jewelry

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.

Citrine

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.

One of this gemstone's most impressive traits is its ability to become electrically charged through heat (pyroelectricity) and through pressure (piezoelectricity). When charged, tourmaline can act as a magnet by oscillating and by attracting or repelling particles of dust.

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

Brad's Tips

WINDING JUMP RINGS



If you need a few jump rings the same size, it's easy to grab a round rod and wind as many as you need. But when you need a lot of them, some form of winder saves a lot of time. A variable speed screw gun makes quick work of winding the coils. Screw guns are quite inexpensive at discount stores and are remarkably handy for odd jobs in the shop and around the house.

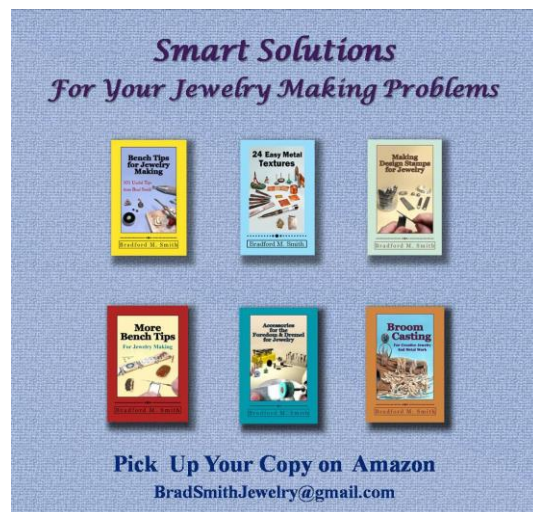
To wind a coil, just bend a right angle on the end of the wire about a half inch long and insert this into the screw gun chuck. Then wind slowly, keeping a tight coil. I like to rest the end of the mandrel on the edge of the table or bench pin. Finally, one note of caution. If you are winding an entire length of wire, be careful as you get near the end of the wire. If the end passes under your thumb, it can cause a nasty scratch or cut.

TOUCHING UP A BEZEL

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you've set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be real careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, howlite, etc.

If you're unsure about the hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 ½ on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

My preference is the one inch diameter ones such as those shown at riogrande.com/Product/AdvantEdge-Pumice-Wheels-Medium/332722?pos=2



David Attenborough Fans

October 14 at 1:21 PM ·

These enigmatic stones, known as "trovants" in Romania, grow, move, and even reproduce. They take in the minerals from the rain after each heavy downpour, which combine with the chemicals already existing in the rock to produce a reaction and pressure within that eventually causes the stone to grow and reproduce.

More info/photos: <http://bit.ly/3jV8Lho>

Follow **David Attenborough Fans** for more.

Thanks, Stephanie!



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.

