



GRITTY GREETINGS

Waco Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 66, Issue 12, December, 2025

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

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Upcoming Events

December 6 Club Christmas Party, 10 AM - Pot Luck; Bob Boyd will supply BBQ!

Volunteers needed to decorate for Christmas party

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 November 1, 2025

1. Registration
2. Call to order
3. Introduce and Welcome visitors and new members
4. Collect for scholarship fund _ \$1.00 for not wearing name tag

Name tags can be ordered at Print Mart 202 Deb, or

Award Specialties 431Lake Air Dr

5. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as printed in Gritty Greetings
6. Treasurers Report: bills are all paid, Dues are due- 12.00 individual, 20.00 family.

Rent is up to \$700.00, be on the lookout for potential club house for meetings and shop equipment.

7. Committee Reports:

Christmas party -December 6, pot luck, Bob Boyd will supply BBQ (Thanks Bob)

Field trip committee- Ideas? Volunteers?

Show Committee- It's time to get busy with Advertising.

A lot of the ads need to be in before December.

Fliers need to be printed, Healers that has been doing that is going out of business.

Kathy Aydt has been visiting schools and talking to admins and teachers, getting word out about our club and the show. She is doing a great job furthering the club's Education goals.

Midway ISD has been very receptive, as has Robinson ISD.

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Roy said he and Nelda gave out polished rocks along with candy for Halloween, and talked to a number of teachers. Got a lead on a STEM program that we could participate in.

There was discussion about other ways to get the word out about our club and Show. If you have ideas, please bring them to a meeting, or contact one of the officers.

8. Old business: it is time to elect officers, we need a new secretary, but if you are interested in any position, the floor is open for nominations.
9. New business: Volunteers needed to decorate for Christmas party
10. Other-
11. We took 15 minutes to examine auction items, then had the auction. There were some terrific items!

December birthstones: Tanzanite, Zircon and Turquoise



Tanzanite is the exquisite blue-purple variety of the mineral zoisite that is only found in one part of the world. Named for its limited geographic origin in Tanzania, tanzanite has quickly risen to popularity since its relatively recent discovery.

Zircon is an underrated gemstone that's often confused with synthetic cubic zirconia due to similar names and shared use as diamond simulants. Few people realize that zircon is a spectacular natural gemstone available in a variety of colors.

Admired since ancient times, **turquoise** is known for its distinct color, which ranges from powdery blue to greenish robin's egg blue. It's one of few minerals to lend its name to anything that resembles its striking color.

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

Bench Tips for December

OCHRE APPLICATOR



Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.

I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go .

TEMPLATES



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of a sheet metal component, I think of making a template. Templates let me easily draw the shape of an item to cut out.

Art stores or online sources like cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/ sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. but for nonstandard shapes, I make my own out of a scrap of sheet plastic or sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto a silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

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.

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter



