



# GRITTY GREETINGS

## **Waco Gem and Mineral Club**

Volume 67, Issue 1, January, 2026

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## Upcoming Events

January 17-18      Fredricksburg Rockhounds Show

May 2-3 Waco Gem and Mineral Show

Gritty Greetings: Waco Gem and Mineral Club Newsletter

## Contacts

<b>President</b> Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 <a href="mailto:coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com">coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com</a>	<b>Treasurer</b> John Hillman <a href="mailto:hillmanjohn316@gmail.com">hillmanjohn316@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice-President</b> Scott Halvorson  254-424-8829  <a href="mailto:Baylordad312@gmail.com">Baylordad312@gmail.com</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Stephanie Robert <a href="mailto:stephanierr61@gmail.com">stephanierr61@gmail.com</a>
<b>Newsletter</b> John Langston  <a href="mailto:johnjkbear@aol.com">johnjkbear@aol.com</a>	<b>Website</b> <a href="http://www.wacogemandmineral.org">www.wacogemandmineral.org</a> <b>Club email</b> <a href="mailto:wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com">wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com</a>

**No minutes were taken, no business conducted for  
December 6, 2025 Christmas party photos pages 6 - 9.**

### **January birthstone: Garnet**



The word “garnet” comes from the 14th century Middle English word *gernet*, meaning “dark red.”

The word is derived from Latin *granatum*, which means “seed,” and is called so because of the gemstone’s resemblance to the red seeds of the pomegranate. -

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

## Brad's Bench Tips for January

### FOREDOM MAINTENANCE



If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of instructions on how to do everything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. You can access it at <https://www.foedom.net/product-category/maintenance-and-replacementparts/>. Any repair parts needed are available from the Foredom site or from many jewelry supply catalogs. If you have any question about their products, a phone call or an email will get quick answers.

## JUST A DROP



Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.

**See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at**

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

## Notes

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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 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](http://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.

## Waco Gem and Mineral Club Annual Christmas Party

December 6, 2025



Because Bob brought the sausage and brisket, and the rest was pot luck, there were no calories. Our members...First Table



L-R: Roy and Nelda Cooper; Charlotte and Scott Halvorson; John Hillman; Stephanie Robert; Kathy Aydt

## Second Table



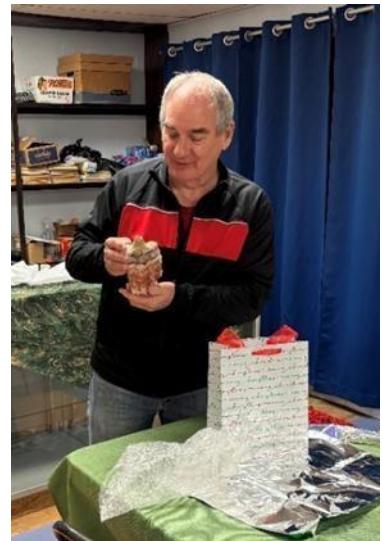
L-R: Bob and Pam Boyd; Harry Senn; John Langston; John West

After eating, everyone focused on the many gifts that were brought.

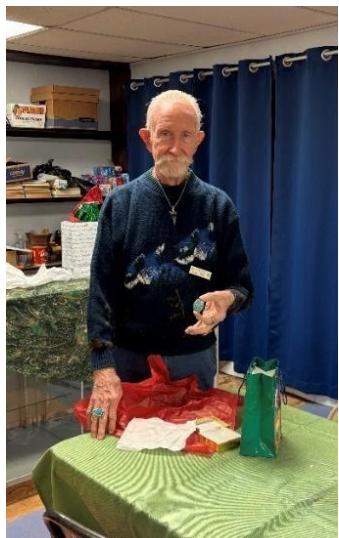


These following photos were taken during the gift exchange. And because of the “exchange” process several got their gift “extracted” and, thus got to select another gift.

**Let the Christmas Gift Exchange begin!**



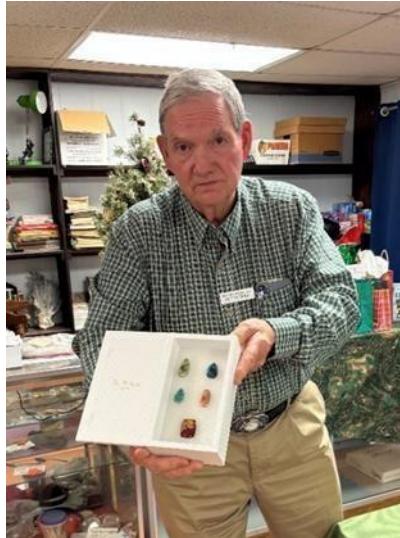
(L-R) John Langston; Nelda Cooper; John Hillman



(Left) John Langston (had to select again);

(Middle) John Hillman: Some fell victim to the thievery and had to choose again.

(Right) Pam Boyd (petrified wood gift, but BEAUTIFUL gift decoration)



(Left) Roy Cooper is closely examining Pam's petrified wood; A bit of thievery was contemplated. But Roy decided to select another gift (Center).

(Right) Bob's gift was a bag of "Irresistibly Smooth Dark Chocolate Truffles" wrapped with an "Irresistibly Cool" wrapping paper that had the printed portrait of Alexander Hamilton on it.



(Left) Charlotte Halvorson

(Right) Stephanie Robert

**Gift exchange was a lot of fun**

