

GRITTY GREETINGS



Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

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

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Table of Contents

WGMC Contacts	1
Minutes	2
Upcoming Shows and Events	3
May Birthstones.....	4
Tips from Brad.....	5
Notes/Club Purpose.....	6,7
April Calendar of Events	8

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Contacts

President	Roy Cooper 254-749-9961 coopersfarmstore@yahoo.com	Treasurer	Jackie Dodson jackiedodson66@gmail.com
Vice-President	Scott Halverson 254-424-8829 Baylordad312@gmail.com	Secretary	Stephanie Robert stephanie.robert1@aol.com
Newsletter Staff	James Redding Jimredding48@outlook.com	Website	www.wacogemandmineral.org
		Webmaster	Joel Purl wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com

Our next meeting is at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 18th
at The Waco Gem and Mineral Club
187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas

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W.G.M.C. April Meeting Minutes

WG&MC MINUTES 4/6/19

Waco gem and Mineral club Minutes not received.

Field trips-

Meeting Program:

Pot Luck and a Movie – 5/16/19 at 6:00 pm!!!

☺There is a sign-up sheet for providing snacks for the meetings. It is on the glass case in the clubhouse. There is still room to sign up.

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From the editor

“May” here already and the show right around the corner! We have been doing everything we can to get ready for this event. Alison tells me that this show will be a great one so be sure to come out and join in representing Waco Gem and Mineral Club!

Post Script: I apologize for the late delivery of this month’s Gritty Greetings! I let it slip past me in the fog of daily activities and I’m just late getting it out! Thanks for your understanding.

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Alison Redding, our Show Chair, wants to encourage everyone to participate in the upcoming Show this coming May. If you want to volunteer to help with the show please contact Alison at the meeting or at the number listed for her under the Show Information.

Upcoming Shows and Events

THIS IS IT!!! This weekend is our show!! Tell your friends and bring your families.



The 59th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on Saturday May 4, 2019 and Sunday May 5, 2019. Our event last year was met with a huge response and we expect an even bigger turnout this year!

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MAY BIRTHSTONE: Emerald

May birthdays fall right in the heart of spring, and the emerald is the perfect gem to symbolize and celebrate this month. Prized for its brilliant and beautiful green color, the emerald is often favored by the rich and famous to wear as statement pieces for big events.

But this beautiful gem is just at home in an unassuming pendant as it is in an ornate tiara. Learn more about May's birthstone below!

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word "smaragdus," means, quite literally, "green" in Greek.

Like aquamarine, emerald is a variety of beryl, a mineral that grows with six sides and up to a foot in length. Emerald color can range from light green (though there is some argument whether these very light beryls are truly emeralds) to a deep, rich green. Emeralds are also like aquamarine in that the way the color is presents itself in jewelry depends on a good cut by a skilled gemologist.

The deeper or greener an emerald, the more valuable it is. The rarest emeralds will appear to be an intense green-blue.

Emeralds are found all over the world, including Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan and Zambia. The availability of high-quality emerald is limited; consequently, treatments to improve clarity are performed regularly.

The emerald was mined in Egypt as early as 330 BC, but some estimate that the oldest emeralds are 2.97 billion years old.

Cleopatra is perhaps the most famous historical figure to cherish emeralds. She even claimed ownership of all emerald mines in Egypt during her reign.

The Egyptians used emeralds both in jewelry, and in their elaborate burials, often burying emeralds with monarchs as symbols of protection.

On the other side of the world, the Muzo Indians of Colombia had well-hidden and prized emerald mines. These mines were so hidden, it took the Spanish conquistadors nearly twenty years to find them.

Like other gemstones, the emerald was believed to have many mystical powers that accompanied its beauty. There were those who thought the emerald could cure stomach problems, control epilepsy and stop bleeding. Maybe due to its soothing green color, it was also thought to be able to ward off panic and keep the wearer relaxed and serene.

Today, emerald is a symbol of loyalty, new beginnings, peace and security, making it not only a beautiful gem to wear, but also a meaningful gift to be treasured by the receiver. It is still widely prized by the rich and famous, with Elizabeth Taylor's famous emerald pendant selling for \$6.5 million in 2011.

Many thanks to the American Gem Society for this article on April's Gem Stone.

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 located in the clubhouse.

Our website is www.wacogemandmineral.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WacoGemAndMineralClub>

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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.

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