

# GRITTY GREETINGS



## Waco Gem and Mineral Club Monthly Newsletter

Volume 60, Issue 9, SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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## W.G.M.C. August Meeting Minutes

Call to order by Roy Cooper

Jackie Dodson presented the treasurers report for August!

**New business:** a motion was made and seconded that a Voice recorder be purchased to record the minutes of each meeting so a more accurate record can be made. The vote was unanimous for the recorder. The recorder was purchased by Jim and Alison Redding and will be available for the September Meeting.

**Other news:**

Dinner/movie night is discontinued until further notice!

Refreshment sign-up sheet is at the back of the meeting room along with the class sign-up sheets.

There will be a Wire-wrapping class held after the meeting in November. The class will depend on participation but even one who wants to learn is a start. Get involved, join in and let's do something. Please sign up early so supplies can be acquired and ready.

There will be a Cabochon making class after the November meeting. This class will teach you how to turn a rock into a nice cabochon and set it into a piece of jewelry. Sign up early so we know what piece of jewelry you want to make!

Jim Redding is available at his home to teach on a one to one basis if you will contact him through the Club email and set up an appointment. He will take on more than one at a time if that is more convenient!

We need to get more activities going. But we can't do it without people teaching and taking the classes and going on the field trips.

**Field trips-**

Our Field Trip Committee Chairperson, Beth Walrath and Scott Cordova assistant chair have a field trip scheduled for September!

**The September Field Trip** is on Sept. 21 for TOPAZ in Mason County which is about 3 hours from Elm Mott. The trip takes you to The Bar M Ranch, 5309 Old Junction Road in Mason, Texas. The fee is \$15.00 each and is open until dark. We are to meet at the ranch at 08:30 (check in between 08:30 and 11:00) Bring Shovel, Trowel, screens, bucket, or you may rent. Bring plenty of drinking Water and lunch!

I know I plan on going so be there or be square! ;o)

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**From the editor**

Bob Boyd will be furnishing a Video for the program at our September Meeting. Bob has some very interesting Videos and I am sure this one will be super!

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## **Upcoming Shows and Events**

**Our next meeting is at 10:00 am on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

**at: 187 South McLennan Drive in Elm Mott, Texas**

Normally we don't have a meeting in September because it falls on or right around Labor Day weekend. Since it isn't connected to that holiday, we are having a meeting in September!

**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 field trip to Bar M ranch to dig for TOPAZ!**

### **60<sup>th</sup> Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show**

The 60th Annual Waco Gem and Mineral Show will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Our event this year was met with a huge response and we expect an even bigger turnout this coming year as the event will be moved to the convention center in Waco! We are already 2/3<sup>rds</sup> FULL!!!

Booth spaces are on a first come, first serve basis and we are expected to sell out quickly as we will only have a limited number of vendor spaces. Please take this opportunity to secure your booth space now.

If you have any questions, please contact 2020 Show chair Alison Redding or email: [wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com](mailto:wacogemandmineralclub@gmail.com). Visit our website for more information and to download your application. [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

# September Birthstone: Sapphire

September's birthstone is the sapphire—a precious gemstone of that, according to ancient lore, instilled wisdom, loyalty and nobility.

When people say “sapphire,” they're usually referring to the royal blue variety of this gem, although it can occur in all colors of the rainbow (except red, which is classified as ruby instead).

This lovely gemstone gives September-born babies a full spectrum of options when choosing the shade of birthstone that best represents them.



Although sapphire typically refers to the rich blue gemstone variety of the mineral corundum, this royal gemstone occurs in a rainbow of hues. Sapphires come in every color except red, which earn the classification of rubies instead.

Trace elements like iron, titanium, chromium, copper, and magnesium give naturally colorless corundum a tint of blue, yellow, purple, orange or green, respectively. Sapphires in any color but blue are called “fancies.”

Pink sapphires tow a fine line between ruby and sapphire. In the U.S., these gemstones must meet a minimum color saturation to be considered rubies. Pinkish orange sapphires called padparadscha (from the Sri Lankan word for “lotus flower”) can draw higher prices than some blue sapphires.

The name “sapphire” comes from the Latin sapphirus and Greek sappheiros, meaning “blue stone,” though those words may have originally referred to lapis lazuli. Some believe it originated from the Sanskrit word sanipriya which meant “dear to Saturn.”

Sapphires are found in India, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, China, Australia, Brazil, Africa, and North America (mainly Montana). Their origin can affect their value as much as color, cut, clarity, and carat size.

The remarkable hardness of sapphires, which measure 9 on the Mohs scale, is second only to diamond.

They aren't just valuable in jewelry, but also in industrial applications including scientific instruments, high-durability windows, watches, and electronics.

Sapphire gemstones symbolize loyalty, nobility, sincerity, and integrity. They are associated with focusing the mind, maintaining self-discipline, and channeling higher powers.

September's birthstone, the sapphire, has been popular since the Middle Ages. The celestial blue color of this gemstone symbolized heaven and attracted divine favor and wise judgment.

Greeks wore sapphire for guidance when seeking answers from the oracle. Buddhists believed it brought spiritual enlightenment, and Hindus used it during worship. Early Christian kings cherished sapphire's powers of protection by using it in ecclesiastical rings.

Ancient Hebrews believed that the Ten Commandments were engraved on tablets of sapphire, though historians now believe the blue gemstone referenced in the Bible may have been lapis lazuli.

Classical violet-blue sapphires traditionally came from the Kashmir region of India between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The world record price-per-carat for sapphire was set by a gemstone from Kashmir, which sold at auction for \$242,000 per carat (more than \$6.74 million total) in October 2015.

Famous star sapphires, like the 1404.49-carat Star of Adam, the 563.4-carat Star of India and the 182-carat Star of Bombay, came from Sri Lankan mines.

Australia was a significant source of sapphires until deposits were discovered in Madagascar during the 1990s. Madagascar now leads the world in sapphire production.

In 1902, French chemist Auguste Verneuil developed a process to make synthetic sapphire. The abundance of synthetic sapphire unlocked industrial applications spanning integrated circuits, satellite communication systems, high-durability windows, and scientific instruments.

Sapphire became a symbol of royal love in 1981 when Britain's Prince Charles gave Lady Diana a 12-carat blue sapphire engagement ring. Prince William later gave this ring to Catherine Middleton when he proposed in 2010. Today, top-quality blue sapphire remains one of Mother Nature's rare gemstones.

Thanks to the American Gem Society for this Article!

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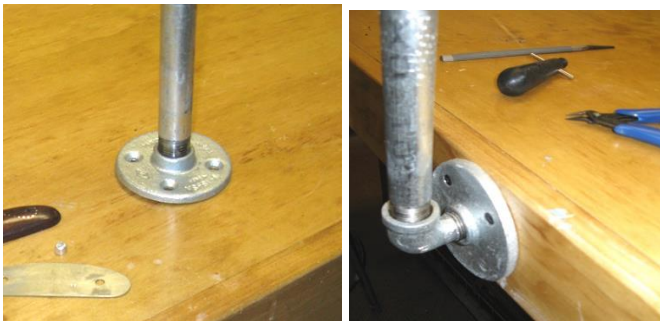
## From the bench of Bradford Smith

### FOREDOM STAND

A quick and easy way to suspend a flex shaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from the hardware store. You can buy it today, attaches with a couple screws, and only costs about \$10

I use 1/2-inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty-inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle".

Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.



### BROKEN DRILLS

Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, a quick fix is to dissolve the steel in a solution of alum or fresh pickle. The solution will not affect your silver or gold piece.

Alum is typically available from a food store. It's used to preserve some foods. Use about a tablespoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole.

Work Smarter with Brad's "How To" Jewelry Books  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



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**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 quartering the pig. The money from the pig goes toward our Scholarship program, and we really do appreciate every 2 bits, 4 bits, 6 bits or more. However, if you need a nametag 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 Jackie 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.

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## SEPTEMBER Calendar of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						WGMC Meeting 10:00 am
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
						Field Trip to Bar M Ranch in Mason.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					