

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

Member of
SCFMS



Affiliated with
AFMS



April 2016

Vol. 50, Issue 4

1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin



Purpose

The Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is organized for charitable and educational purposes to promote interest in the various earth sciences, particularly those hobbies dealing with the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals and metal crafts, as well as their related fields.

The April Birthstone is the Diamond

Lee Elms, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The origin of the birthstones is believed to date back to the breastplate of Aaron which contained twelve gemstones representing the twelve tribes of Israel. The April birthstone, diamond, symbolizes affection, strength, eternity and of course everlasting love. The diamond is the ultimate gemstone, having few weaknesses and many strengths. It is the hardest substance found in nature. (1)

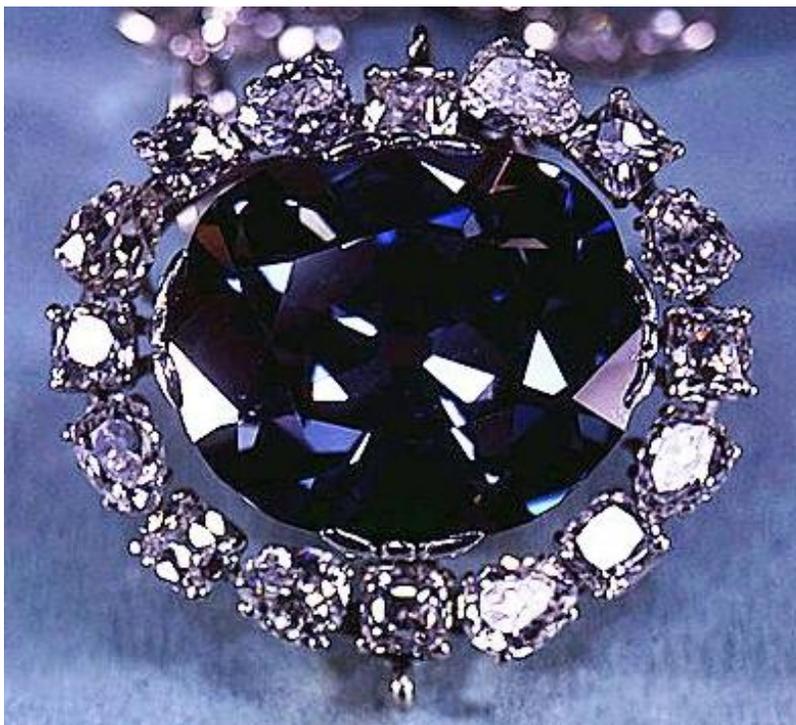
Diamonds have a long history as beautiful objects of desire. In the first century AD, the Roman naturalist Pliny stated that a diamond is the most valuable, not only of precious stones, but of all things in this world. (2)

The word diamond comes from the Greek "adamao"; "I tame" or "I subdue". The adjective "adamas" was used to describe the hardest substance known, and eventually became synonymous with diamond. The Greeks and Chips and Chatter Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Romans believed the diamonds were tears of the Gods and splinters from falling stars. (3)

The first diamonds were found over 4,000 years ago in the alluvium of the Godaravi, Krishna and Penner Rivers in India. The Hindus attributed so much power

to them that they placed them in the eyes of the statues of deities. (4)



Not only was it believed that diamonds could bring luck and success, but also that they could counter the effects of astrological events. Plato even wrote about diamonds as living beings, embodying celestial spirits. (4)

Their rarity, durability and beauty made them popular among medieval royalty. (4)

(Continued on page 2)

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The April Birthstone is the Diamond (continued)

Today diamonds continue to hold a deep fascination as the world's ultimate symbol of wealth. Modern diamond mining as we know it today began in South Africa in the late 19th Century. The top seven diamond producing countries, accounting for 80% of the world's rough diamond supply are Botswana, Russia, South Africa, Angola, Namibia, Australia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. (4)

What is a diamond's color? The color of the most popular diamonds is a transparent, silvery color. Diamonds also come in a variety of colors such as pink, red, blue, brown, black, and yellow. The colored diamonds are considered to be the rarest and most expensive types of diamonds. The largest diamond stone ever found was from Africa. It was 3106.75 carats (1.37 lbs or 621.35 grams) and is called the Cullinan diamond. (5)

Today there are so many ways to cut a diamond to show off the fire inside, and now they even have ways

to set them that they move and vibrate and constantly sparkle. Just walk into any jewelry store and be amazed at the beauty in those showcases. And we mere mortals can afford to own these precious objects, "The Tears of the Gods".

Oh, by the way, my birthday is in April, so yes, I do own a diamond or two.

(1) Birthstones- The American Gem Society, <https://www.americangemsociety.org/>

(2) Diamonds History and Lore GIA, <http://www.gia.edu/diamond-history-lore>

(3) Diamonds: A History- CBS News, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/diamonds-a-history/>

(4) History of Diamonds- Diamonds A to Z, <http://www.photius.com/diamonds/>

(5) Jewelry Information Place, <http://jewelryinfoplace.com/>

Picture: Hope Diamond, <https://commons.wikimedia.org>, from Smithsonian Institution Archives and is released to the Public Domain

Editor: What a great article by Lee. Next time you see her, let her know how much you enjoyed this informative birthstone article.

The Clock is Ticking...Tick...Tock...Tick...Tock By Chery Neary, Endowment Fund Chair

from the March-April 2016 SCFMS Newsletter,
originally from the March 2016 AMFS Newsletter

The 2016 AFMS Convention is being held in late July of 2016. So what does that mean to you? Hopefully, it means you will purchase your tickets (yes, you need to be in it to win it!) before July for the AFMS Endowment Fund drawing! Why the raffle? The money collected is for the AFMS Endowment Fund. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, to name a few. Before the clock runs out – why not Purchase tickets? You can also donate an item or two! Why not both options!

The tickets are \$5.00 a piece or \$20.00 for five! What a bargain!! Where can you purchase tickets? Great questions- you can always send me a request for the tickets at my email at ciervo.neary@gmail.com . I will send you an email version of the tickets and I will fill in all the details on the original ticket, once I receive the money for the tickets. Or better yet- you can purchase them from your Federation's representative! South Central Federation:

Joyce Speed
4680 Wisteria St
Dallas, TX 75211
ljispeed2@gmail.com



All pictures are on the website (amfed.org) for all of the donations to date.

Safety Matters: Give Yourself a Hand

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair
From the March 2016 AFMS Newsletter



Give yourself a hand, or at least a rousing round of applause if you are one of the many folks who makes a concerted effort to take care of one of your most important tools -- your hands.

There are many folks who earn their living through constant use of their hands. Even if you are not one of those fortunate folks it is likely that your hands are in constant use. If you think that you are one of the folks who does not use their hands all that much, try going even 1/2 an hour with one hand held behind your back, and then going on about your day. The hand behind ones back suggestion might clearly highlight how much we use our hands. If you are still unsure of the amount of your hand usage, try going even 10 minutes without use of either one. Our hands are important, give yourself some applause if you take care of your valuable asset --hands.

Using my trusted, well worn, and tattered, 15th edition of Gray's Anatomy I found the Metacarpus, Carpus, Scaphoid, Cuneiform, Ulna, Radius and 22 other bones of the forearm, wrist, palm and fingers. Counting the bones of the right and left hands that's 60 bones of the body's 200 or so bones. The hands have a high percentage of the body's total bone count and ancillary tissues. It behooves us to take good care of these assets. By being good I do not mean just use of an occasional hand lotion. Indeed, hands do not deserve just good care, they deserve great care.

Soon I will transition from winter's snow shoeing enjoyments to Spring's bicycle riding pleasures. During that transition I will move from using certain muscle/ bone groups to other muscle/bone groups. During that transition I will awaken muscles I have not used in a while. If I do not properly prepare for the transition I

will be sore in places. What that demonstrates to me is that I'm not exercising all of me sufficiently well. The same goes for hands. For the hand tasks we do frequently, we keep well exercised, for movements we seldom do, the muscles weaken.

We, on occasion, do bad things to our hands. I have had days when I'm using my rock hammer so much that, at the end of the day, my fingers have frozen in the curl of my hammer handle. When I pull the hammer from my hand my fingers stay frozen in the curl -- that is not a good sign. What I should have done would have been to change activity and hand I finger position frequently over the course of the day.

One other way we are bad to our hands is, and this is a really bad one that I have seen innumerable rockhounds do, hold a rock in one hand and, using the rock hammer held in the other hand, strike the rock. This activity sends shivers down my spine when I think of all the small bones in the wrist being whacked by a hammer. After all, just about all of the striking force goes through the rock and into the bones and connective tissues of the hand. Just ask any orthopedic surgeon what they think of such an activity and I'm sure you will get an earful of commentary about the un-wiseness of the act.

Next, for hand calamities, we see the all-too-common near misses of the hammer aiming for the end of the chisel. Ever seen one of those? They are not pretty -- and I'm not talking about the resultant air turning a bluish color. Hands do not have an easy life!

What is a hand to do? Yes, lotion for hands is good, but lotion will not help a missed hammer strike on a chisel (or thumb). There are (a ta-da moment) hammer guards available for chisels. A guard on the end of a chisel

really can help prevent hand damage during a misplaced hammer strike. There are also numerous chisel holding devices available. There is a plethora of styles, compositions, and sizes of gloves that can prevent the many scratches, scrapes, and cuts we receive on our hands. We have available to us dirt, and flat rocks, and really great holding devices that can support/hold a rock so that it is not held in ones hand to be struck by a hammer. There are many devices and programs that can help stretch, exercise, strengthen, and increase flexibility of our hands. Although I would mention here that some of the exercise devices I have seen for strengthening ones hand can sometimes do more harm than good if used improperly -- so if in doubt about any program or device please consider consulting with a professional. Oh and hand lotion is indeed good for hands to maintain sensitivity, grip, epidermal integrity and so on.

Other general hand maintenance guidelines include watching out for too many repetitive motions, avoiding shocks to the delicate hands and fingers, and taking a break from heavy hand usage tasks. I have even seen issues with too firm a grip for too long a time with hands holding on to dop sticks being used by those dedicated cabbers among us. When tackling a big job, ask for a hand. A helping hand to share a load, or relieve a stress sure can help keep our hands healthy.

With proper maintenance our hands can last a lifetime -- and that is good for the hobby as well as the individual. So, please keep up the good work and give yourself a hand for a job well done. Be safe, stay safe.

Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Apr 1 – 2, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, Pontotoc Cnty Agri-Plex, okieed42@windstream.net,
Apr 9-10, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Ark. G&MS, Community Building, www.nwarockhounds.org
Apr 9 – 10, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center, www.new.calichetimes.com
Apr 15 – 17, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MC, Alpine Civic Center
Apr 22 – 24, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, www.intergem.com/
Apr 22 – 24, Houston, TX, Fine Mineral Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, www.FineMineralShow.com
Apr 30 – May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Event Center, www.wacogemandmineral.org
May 7 – 8, **Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS and the SCFMS Show and Convention**,
<http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/57th-annual-show>
May 14, Arlington, Arlington G&MC Swap Meet, 1408 Gibbons Rd, www.agemclub.com
May 21 – 22, DeRidder, LA, DeRidder G&MS, Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds
May 28 – 29, Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Mem. Center, fortworthgemandmineralclub.org
Jun 17 – 19, Carlsbad, NM, Carlsbad G&MS, Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park, www.carlsbadgms.org
Jul 2 – 3, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, <http://www.agemclub.org/>
Jul 30 – 31, Farmers Branch, Cowtown GMGJA, Brookhaven Geotechnology Inst., steve.l.shearin@lmco.com

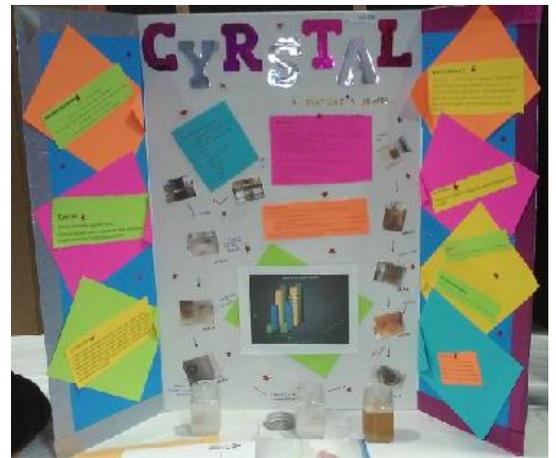
Ref:

March – April 2016 SCFMS Newsletter
Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

The Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Pleasant Oaks again sponsored a special award at the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair. For a change we actually found a project that more directly relates to our hobby. Our Special Award Winner was Mariam Joseph from Mesquite High School, Mesquite, TX for her project, Crystal, Nature's Jewel. Mariam tried to determine the factors that caused crystals to grow faster or slower. For her efforts, and because her project had a direct relation to our hobby, Marian won a \$100 gift certificate from Nature's Gallery. We also awarded a Special Award Honorable Mention to Shana Antommachi, from Bowman Middle School, in Plano ISD. Shana tried to determine if stalagmites and stalactites would grow better in purified or polluted water. She used petroleum products as the pollutant and found, surprisingly, that the crystals grew faster in the polluted solution.



Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
[Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,



President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Where did March go? Hope everyone survived the March Hail Storm. The club material stored in our barn-garage did not suffer any damage, but I wish I could say the same for the roofs, fences, and cars not in garages in our area. April's major activity will be the IGEM show. Set up will be on Wednesday, 20 April and the show will be Friday through Sunday, 22 – 24 April. See you there for set-up and the show

Club Officers for 2016

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

Minutes of the March 2016 Meeting

The March 3rd 2016 club meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Lee.

Sunshine Report: Butch is back in the hospital for spinal surgery. Linda Dallas is not able to attend the meeting tonight because she has the flu.

Visitors: Mark Carter was able to attend the meeting this evening. It's been a while since we have seen him. Also, Jerrye and Bob Parker were able to attend this evening. They have now moved to Wylie.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the February meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn. The motion was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Lee. The motion was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Science Fair: Judges were Carolyn Del. Ling, and Don. The winning project was titled "Crystal Natures' Jewel". and Mariam Joseph of the Mesquite High School in Mesquite was awarded the Pleasant Oaks Special Award. The Honorable Mention Award went to Shana Antommachi, from Bowman Middle School, in Plano ISD.

New Business:

IGEM setup will be April 20th starting around noon. The IGEM Show will be from Friday, April 22nd through Sunday April 24th.

Mark Carter brought 2 objects from Jessie Davis's Estate. One is a beautiful crystal cluster and the other is a "penny weight" scale. They will be auctioned off in a silent auction we will have from April thru June.

After our refreshment break we had our presentation. It was a presentation that Don had written up for the Perot Museum titled "Birthstone, an Expose and History." I never realized there was so many histories of birthstones. They go back to Bible and before that. Every culture has some reference to birthstones. And a lot of them matched throughout the years. The constant ones were Diamond, Ruby, Sapphire, Topaz and Emerald and Garnet.

After the presentation we had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

Meetings

The April 7th 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Carolyn Grady will show a video about cave exploration

The May 5th 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building.

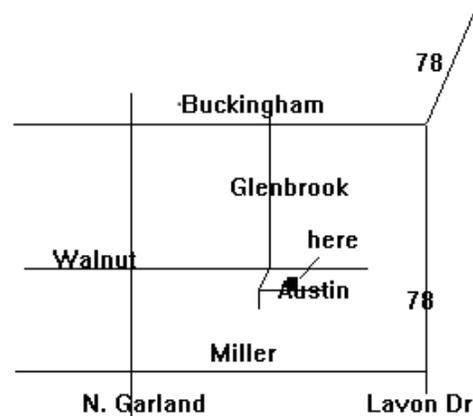
VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



<p>Meetings First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM Garland Women’s Activities Building 713 Austin St., Garland, TX (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)</p>
<p>Membership Single Adult: \$16.00, Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50 (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>



The April 7th meeting will be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We will have a video about cave exploration
 The May 5th meeting will also be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

CHIPS AND CHATTER
 Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
 PO Box 831934
 Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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