

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



August 2012
Vol. 46, Issue 8

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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, in particular 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.

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Monthly Meeting

Next meeting will be August 2nd at the Garland Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. Mark Hall will give a presentation and demonstration of mineral identification using modern electronic equipment.

Notice

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Club Officers for 2012

President: Del Grady
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Lee Elms
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Anita Dresner & Don Shurtz
 E-mail: anitadresner@rocketmail.com
 don.shurtz@gmail.com

Check our website www.pogmc.org
 for past months issue of the
[Chips and Chatter](#)

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

From the Secretary: July 2012 Minutes

Lee Elms: POGM Secretary

The July meeting was our annual “Indoor Picnic at Spring Creek Barbeque. No business was conducted; only good food and friends to share with.

Possible Field Trip?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

The new Perot Museum of Nature and Science is coming, but it doesn't open until January 2013. In the mean time, the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science in Fair Park is still open, but for how long. I believe the answer is 16 September 2012. At some point in time the exhibits are going to move to their new home in the Perot Museum, and I can well imagine it taking 3+ months for that move to occur. The reason I believe that the closing date of the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science is 16 September is that if you buy a membership at the Perot Museum, you will also be give a membership in the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science that is valid through 16 September. The other reason is that the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science web site does not list any events beyond Sunday, 16 September. In any event, during the hot days of August and early September, you own personal Field Trip to the Dallas Museum of Nature and Science would be a magnificent choice. There are currently two traveling exhibits at the Fair Park museum, “The Magic School Bus™ Kicks Up A Storm” and “Planet Shark Predator or Prey”. There are also two IMAX® films, “Whales” and “Flying Monsters”. The traveling exhibits and films are just the gravy – the permanent exhibits are worth a final look before they move to their new home (and who knows how many of them will be part of the permanent exhibits at the Perot museum. I would give the museum on final visit. And, obtw, I would also plan for an early visit to the Perot museum.



Ref

Photo: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Museum_of_Nature_%26_Science_\(Fair_Park\).JPG](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Museum_of_Nature_%26_Science_(Fair_Park).JPG), licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0.

Perot Museum of Nature and Science, <http://www.perotmuseum.org/>

Dallas Museum of Nature and Science, <http://natureandscience.org/>

Richardson's Rock Ranch (Friday Agate)

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Way back in 1969, my family's summer vacation was a trip to the Pacific Northwest. On the trip we stopped by Friday agate ranch and dug “thunder eggs” for several hours and came away with a nice assortment of “eggs”. This past summer I returned with my son and revisited the site. We were staying in Bend, Oregon during a hot summer so we timed our departure to arrive at the ranch which is now Richardson's Rock Ranch, which has the old Friday agate beds,

at opening time to avoid the mid day heat. The current owners have had the property about 35 years and were very cordial. Andrew and I went out with borrowed tools and collected 42 pounds of nice thunder eggs in a couple of hours. We still dig the volcanic eggs out of the mud layer after caterpillars had cut down the overburden. The trip and site were vaguely familiar and I think back to a time when life was much simpler and collecting sites were plentiful. Hopefully this site will be available 40 years from now for collectors of tomorrow.

Book Review

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Southwestern Indian Jewelry by Dexter Cirillo

If you have more than a passing interest in Southwestern Indian Jewelry, and who doesn't, then this is the book for you. It is not a "how to" book, rather it is a history of the jewelry with a lot of emphasis on the people who developed and continue the development the designs and techniques. Did you know that Crazy Horse was at one time an excellent silversmith?

The book is 10 inches high by 11 inches wide and has 240 pages. About a third of the book dealing with silversmithing, a third of the book discussing lapidary, and a third of the book sculpture, all as they apply to southwest Indian jewelry. As I mentioned, the emphasis is on the people, but not the techniques. However, the book is loaded with stunning pictures – mostly of the jewelry. The pictures are close up showing a fine details. From the detailed photography you should be able to understand a lot about the techniques, should you choose to craft some pieces of you own.

This is a really nice book. I found this book in new condition at Half Price Books for considerably less than the suggested \$55.00 shown with the UPC code on the back cover.

Ref: Cirillo, Dexter; Southwestern Indian Jewelry, Crafting New Traditions, Rizzoli International Publications, Inc, New York; copyright © 2008 by Dexter Cirillo;

August Birthstone: Peridot

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Peridot is a chemical composition of magnesium, iron and the silicate radical $(Mg,Fe)_2SiO_4$. Peridot is olive green in color, with shades varying from yellowish-green to brownish-green, but the dark olive green color is the most desirable. The shades of green depend on the amount of iron in the chemical makeup. Because of its color, peridot is sometimes confused with emerald.

Gem quality peridot is mined in the United States in North Carolina, Arizona, Hawaii (now we're talking), New Mexico, and some finds in Wyoming. Green Beach on the Big Island of Hawaii derives its color from peridot (olivine crystals) in the sand. Worldwide, peridot is also found in locations including Mexico, Brazil, China, South Africa, and other locations.



Ref:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peridot>

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Peridot_jewellery, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Peridot>, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0.

Area Clubs

Arlington G&M Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tue. of each month at 7 pm
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dls, TX, 4th Tue. of each month at 7 pm
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm



President's Message

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



At the August meeting we will be electing a nominating committee. The committee members will be charged with coming up with a slate of new people to fill the various positions that are required to run the club during the next year. If you would like to hold a club position or nominate someone, please contact a member of this committee. If you are approached for a position, please be open minded and consider serving your club.

November starts a new year for the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club (POGMC). With it begins a new chance to volunteer some of your time to your club. As a minimum this should include attending as many monthly meetings as you can. Next attend club functions, such as field trips, classes, rock swaps, and any other club-sponsored activity. Lastly volunteer for a club position.

Club positions fall into the following categories:

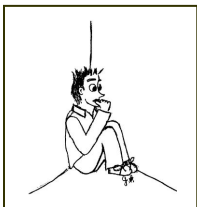
1. ELECTED OFFICERS – elected in October for one year.
2. MEETING RELATED – welcome/raffle table, show and tell table, set-up/clean-up, break/kitchen duty.
3. CHIPS & CHATTER - editor, assistant editor, submit an article.
4. FIELD TRIPS – field trip chairperson, trip leader, trip organizer, participant.
5. LIBRARY – librarian, book/tape reviewer, assistant.

Remember all positions are voluntary and help determine the quality of the club. If you are new to the hobby and not sure of what to do, volunteer to assist in a position that you are interested in. If you are well experienced in the workings of the club, volunteer to assist a new member in one of the positions. The more volunteers we have, the less each volunteer has to do. VOLUNTEER and make POGMC yours.

Del

What is our Club's Future?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



What is the future of Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club? I think our next elections will help tell the tale (see the President's Message above). From the prospective of the Treasurer, the future of the club is about 12 years. Then the treasury will all be gone. Our major expense is our meeting room. Our major source of income is – well – we don't have a major source of income. Probably membership is our top source, but our membership is about half of what it was 5 years ago. From a personal perspective, we have become somewhat static. We have the same little core of people who are the officers year after year. The same core people are the contributors to our newsletter. What is going on with the rest of the membership? We need (1) a lot of new members, hopefully with a slightly younger average age, (2) larger core group who get things done (which hopefully will come with the new members, (3) more outreach into the community. We participate in the Earth Science Fair at Brookhaven and we participate provide an award at the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair. But we need to do more. More exposure should help gain new members. It is a lot of work, but we should investigate re-starting our annual show. It will take the work of the club, not just the small core. A show would increase our exposure, and if we do it right, it should help provide an addition to our income base. The SCFMS is looking for a host for future shows – does that seem like a possibility? What else can we do? Let me ask you – what else can we do?

2012 Show Dates

August 2012:

11 – 12 August, Austin, TX Austin Bead Society annual Show, Palmer Events Center, 900 Bartons Springs Rd, email mchesak@gmail.com, web site: <http://austinbeadsociety.org>

11-12 August, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS annual show, Marriott Hotel, 5500 Hilton Ave, email cajunladi@cox.net

17-18 August, Tahlequah, OK, Tahlequah R&MS annual show, Tahlequah Community Building, 300 W. First St, email rockhoundsally@aol.com

18-19 August, Bossier City, LA, Ark-La-Tex G&MS annual show, Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd, email: cwsejohns@bellsouth.net, web site www.larockclub.com

25-26 August, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS annual show and SCFMS annual convention., The Event Center, 6258 Hwy. 190 W, (5 miles west of Jasper, contact Lonnie Stalsby, (409) 382-5314

25-26 August, Mountain Home, AR, Ozark Earth Science GM&FC, Van Matre Senior Center (Cooper Park), 1101 Spring St, Mountain Home, AR, email: edscamp3@yahoo.com

September 2012:

8-9 September, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest AGMS, NWAGMS Clubhouse show, Hwy. 43 North, email: hulagrub@aol.com, web site: www.nwarockhounds.org

29-30 September, MESQUITE, TEXAS: Annual show, Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, Mesquite Exhibition Hall, 1818 Rodeo Dr., email: bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net, Web site: dallasgemandmineral.org

29-30 September, MURFREESBORO, ARKANSAS, Crater of Diamonds State Park, Diamond Discovery Center, 209 State Park Rd, e-mail: margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov, web site: www.craterofdiamondstatepark.com

October 2012:

6-7 October, Arlington, TX: Arlington Gem and Mineral Club 55th annual show, shopping center behind Walgreens, 1010 N. Collins, e-mail: jlspinks@sbcglobal.net, Web site: www.agemclub.com

11-13 October, Mount Ida, AR, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, 26th Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd., e-mail: director@mtidachamber.com, Web site: www.mtidachamber.com

12-14 October, Mount Ida, AR: Mount Ida Area C of C, Montgomery County Fairgrounds annual show, Fairgrounds Rd., e-mail: director@mtidachamber.com, Web site: www.mtidachamber.com

19-21 October, Austin, TX: Austin Gem and Mineral Society annual show, Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Spr Rd., e-mail: showchariman@austingemandmineral.org, Web site: www.gemcapers.com

20-21 October, Denison, TX: Texoma Rockhounds annual show, Senior Center, 531 W. Chestnut, e-mail: ramblingrosetoo@yahoo.com

Sunshine Report

Cataract surgery seems to be going around these days. Both Wanda Fitzgerald and Anita Dresner had Cataract Surgery in July. Hopefully all went well

How to Become a Rockhound

Author unknown, from the SCFMS Newsletter, July-August 2012

First, you must have a basic curiosity.
Second, buy yourself a sack of marbles
Then, every time you pick up a rock, drop a marble
When you have lost all your marbles....

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 831934

Richardson, TX 75083-1934

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

August 2nd, 2012 Meeting Notice

Mark Hall, a member of Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club, will talk about mineral identification and demonstrate a number of instruments to help in the identification. Some of the instruments he plans to bring include a refractometer, a dicroscope, a polariscope, a spectroscope, and a set of hardness picks,

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

MEETINGS

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin St.
Garland, TX
(Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

MEMBERSHIP

Single Adult: \$16.50,
Junior: \$5.00; Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)

MEETING MAP

