

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



August 2013
Vol. 47, Issue 8

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

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.

Monthly Meeting

Out next meeting will be August 1st at the Garland Women’s Activities Build, 213 Austin Rd, Garland, TX. The meeting will start at 7:30. The presentation will be a DVD, “THE NEW CRYSTAL HUNTERS – PALA” about a kids collecting trip for Tourmaline in California.

Club Officers for 2013

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

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR

Check our website, www.pogmc.org for prior month issues of the **Chips and Chatter**

July 2013 Minutes

The July meeting was our annual get together at Spring Creek Barbeque for fun, food, and meeting with friends. No club business was transacted and no minutes were maintained.



Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for August and September

- AUG 9-11, Fort Smith, AR, Fort Smith Convention Center, egi168@hotmail.com, www.egishows.com
AUG 10-11, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Baton Rouge Marriott, Cajunladi@cox.net, www.Brgemandmineral.org
AUG 16-17, Tahlequah, OK, Tahlequah R&MS, Tahlequah Community Building, rouckhoundsally@aol.com
AUG 17-18, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, larockclub@gmail.com, www.larockclub.com
SCFMS Convention and Show
AUG 24-25, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, Jasper Event Center, earthscache3@yahoo.com, www.pinecountrygms.org
AUG 24-25, Mountain Home, AR, Ozark Earth Science G&FC, Van Matre Senior Cntr, Cooper Park, edscamp3@yahoo.com,
www.ozarkearthscience.org
AUG 31-SEP 2, Silver City, NM, Grant County Rolling Stones, Business and Conference Cntr, rollingstonesgmsshow@gmail.com
www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com
SEP 7, Tulsa, OK, Indian Nations Artifact & Fossil Show, Willard Elsing Museum, Mabee Center, Oral Roberts University,
harvesims@hotmail.com
SEP 14-15, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, show@agemclub.org, www.agemclub.org/events.php
SEP 18-22, Jacksonville, FL, Jacksonville G&MS, Morocco Temple - **AFMS Convention and Show**
SEP 21-22, Austin, TX, Austin Bead Society, Travis Cnty Expo Center, austinbeadsociety@yahoo.com, <http://austingbeadsociety.org>
SEP 21-22, Dennison, TX, Texoma Rockhounds, Denison Senior Center
SEP 28-29, Dallas, TX, Dallas G&MS, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, Mesquite, TX, bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net,
www.dallagemandmineral.org
OCT 4-6, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Fairgrounds Creative Arts Cntr, amypenn246@gmail.com, www.agmc.info
OCT 5-6, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas G&MS, community Center, thom61847@yahoo.com, www.centralarrockhound.org
OCT 11-13, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, www.intergem.com
OCT 11-13, Metairie, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, Best Western Landmark Hotel, gemshow2013@gmail.com
OCT 11-13, Mount Ida, AR, Annual Quartz, Quiltz, & Craftz Show, Montgomery Cnty Fairgrounds, www.mtidachamber.com
OCT 12-13, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Center, ddunn2199@yahoo.com, www.tricitygemmineral.org
OCT 12-13, Fort Worth, TX, Lockheed Martin Stone Steppers, LMRA Picnic Area, steve.l.shearin@lmco.com
OCT 18-20, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, www.austingemandmineral.org
OCT 18-20, Victoria, TX, Victoria G&MS, Community Center, <http://www.victoriagemandmineral.com/annual%20show.htm>
OCT 19-20, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Center, finfran@midplains.coop

Ref:

July / August SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

Editor's Corner

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



No soap box lectures for today. How about just doing whatever rockhound thing you enjoy, and do it frequently. Then share it with the rest of us – we would all like to hear about and even try new things.

Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

Birthstones for August – Peridot and Sardonyx

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The August birthstones are Peridot and Sardonyx.



Peridot is the mineral form of olivine. Peridot has the chemical formula of $(\text{MgFe})_2\text{SiO}_4$ which is magnesium iron silicate. It has a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7, thus is quite suitable for jewelry. The color of peridot spans the range of yellow to olive green with the most treasure color being the darker olive green. The only raging dispute associate with peridot is the pronunciation and etymology (derivation of the word “peridot”). Most dictionaries call for the pronunciation as pear-a-dot or pear-i-dot. However, most jewelers and mineral experts pronounce it pear-a-doe or pear-i-doe. So is it a “doe” or a “dot”. The debate has gone on for centuries, and I certainly am not going to solve it. The etymology of the word peridot is also

unclear. The Oxford English Dictionary indicates the word is derived from the Anglo-Norman word pedoretés which is a type of opal or it may be derived from the Arabic word faridat which means gem. However, the online Merriam Webster indicates it is from the Old French word peritot. The Middle English Dictionary indicates the word is from the Old French, in turn from the Medieval Latin peridotus. This issue is definitely one for the language scholars to fight over – it really doesn’t make a whole lot of difference to me. What I need to know is that it is a nice, green stone that is generally faceted rather than made as a cabochon for jewelry.



In the United States peridot is found in Arizona and Hawaii. The “Green Beach” (Papakolea Beach) of the main island of Hawaii derives its color from concentration of olivine with some peridot in the sand. However, any peridot in the sand would be about the same size of the grains of sand on the beach – not particularly useful except to put in a small jar as a specimen. Most gemstone quality peridot is mined in Pakistan with significant material coming from Myanmar and Vietnam. It is also found in Australia, Brazil, China, Mexico, South Africa and many other locations.



Onyx is banded chalcedony. Sardonyx is onyx that has reddish bands. Chemically sardonyx is SiO_2 – silicon dioxide. It has a Mohs hardness of 7, thus is suitable for use in jewelry. Sardonyx is translucent and is generally cut into cabochons or carved into figurines rather than being faceted. Because of its banding, sardonyx is used for carving cameos (raised figures) and intaglios (recessed figures). One needs to be careful with carved onyx and sardonyx figurines and cameos as many (most?) are banded calcite rather than banded chalcedony. Calcite is considerably softer, so

identification of “faked” sardonyx figurines should be easy.

Sardonyx is believed to be the 11th stone in the Biblical “Aaron’s Breastplate.” It represents the 11th tribe, or the tribe of Joseph.

The best sardonyx specimens are mined in India. It is also mined in Czechoslovakia, South America, Germany, and the United States is mined in Arizona, Florida, and tiny Rhode Island.

Ref:

American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/august-birthstones>

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

Onyx, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Onyx>

Sardonyx, <http://www.mindat.org/min-7604.html>

Pictures:

Green Peridot: picture by Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com, from <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/licensed> under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

Yellow Peridot and Banded Chalcedony from <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>, pictures released to the public domain



SAFETY REPORT

By: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator
Safety note: Keep Benadryl in your...



Ok, first as a disclaimer I am not solely endorsing Benadryl - any similar generic or pharmacy brands with the same active ingredient (Diphenhydramine) are helpful.

But as to the point of the discussion.... As many of you know I work as a safety manager for an oil field services company. Over the last few weeks we were lucky enough to have a good bit of rain at one of our facilities in south Texas, an area that is usually really dry this time of year. The result was the flowering of many types of plants that are typically in some state of dormancy during the dry times. And along with the flowers came the BEES! They weren't exactly swarming, but they still seemed to be everywhere.

To that point, over the past week we've had three employees stung

by bees at the facility. Luckily none of these employees had strong allergic reactions to the stings, but it did make us reevaluate how we respond to such situations.

We do have an employee at the site who is allergic to bees and as a result has an Epi pen in case he is stung; however Epi pens require a doctor's prescription so I can't stock up any in our First Aid kits.

So as an alternative we stock Benadryl in our kits and offer it to employees if they are stung. Keep in mind that Diphenhydramine will not prevent or stop anaphylaxis (allergic shock) like an Epi pen however it can delay the onset or otherwise mitigate symptoms of a bee sting. By delaying the onset of anaphylaxis First Responders can be afforded more time to react to

any shock symptoms. This extra time can save lives!

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. It typically causes a number of symptoms including an itchy rash, throat swelling, and low blood pressure. Common causes include insect bites/stings, foods, and medications.

My recommendation is that you all consider stocking liquid Diphenhydramine in you medicine cabinets and First Aid kits. This is especially important for those of us who like to spend a lot of time in the field.

Be safe!

INSTANT WEATHER

From AFMS Newsletter, 5/97 via Jul/Aug 13SCFMS Newsletter

Place a string around a smooth polished rock and hang it on three sticks and exposed it to the elements.

Follow guidelines below for an instant weather report.

If Rock is Wet, it's Raining.

If Rock is Swaying, it's Windy.

If Rock is Hot, it's Sunny.

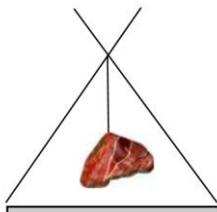
If Rock is Cool, it's Overcast.

If Rock is White, it's Snowing.

If Rock is Blue, it's Cold.

If Rock is Shaking, it's an Earthquake!

If Rock is Gone, there's been a Tornado!



I MET AN ANGEL

A REAL STORY FOR TODAY

By Paul Good

From the July / August 2013 SCFMS Newsletter

Margaret and I went walking one day at the hospital. We try to walk four or five days a week. Margaret had stopped to talk to one person and I just kept walking. I met a man, who is an x-ray technician, and I ask him "how he was" and he said, "I'm Good". Jokingly I said "Oh, your name is Good, so is mine, and I have been Good for 76 years". He said, "Well, you have me beat, I haven't been Good very long, but I have been an Angel for 28 years". You guessed it. His last name was Angel.

What Would a Pre-Historic Rock Hound Be?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

What would a pre-historic rock hound be? Perhaps the best starting off point would be trying to describe the present day rock hound. Let's guess that the average height is 5'10" to 6', past middle age, probably grey or soon to have grey hair, and a distinct forward kink in the neck so that the head is positioned to look downward for that rock treasurer, even if it means looking at the fill material in the flower and shrubbery beds along the edge of the sidewalk or the neighbor's gravel driveway. He would be a craftsman or even a master craftsman with a diamond bladed saw and with wheels, and laps to work the rocks. He would also have access to silver wire and sheets to decorate his finished rocks with, either as wrapped or with bezel settings. He would never have enough time in the day to work with the stones, his all encompassing passion. Does that sound about right?

So now let's turn our thoughts to the rock hounds of pre-history. He would be of the Homo genus, which means he may be a Neanderthal, Homo Erectus, Homo Sapiens, or similar. He would likely be a member of a tribe or larger family group. Of all the members of his group, he would be the master craftsman in shaping important items from rock. He would, like his modern counter-part, probably have a kink in his neck from looking down at the rocks, trying to find that perfect size piece of flint, obsidian, or other rocks with a good conchoidal fracture. He would be the master with his hammer stones and antler presses, and he became the master by a lot (and I mean years) of practice – the odds are he is one of the elder members of the tribe. In his hand, a nice size piece of flint will become a pile of tips for arrows, axe heads, blades, needles and scrapers. He would also be the teacher of the craft to almost all members of his tribe so that everyone could at least shatter a stone and pick up the shards as tools. In fact, the very first rock hound probably found out about making stone tools in just that fashion. He probably stubbed his foot on the same small bolder for the twenty-first time in two weeks, so he dug the rock up and threw it to the side where a lucky landing on another hard stone caused it to break into a bunch of small piece that became the first useful tools. For many generations this was probably the way of forming tools, by smashing a piece of flint or similar material into a bolder. Then someone figured out that if you hit the lump of flint with a hard stone, it COULD break in a desirable manner. Trial and probably a lot of error eventually led to his skills in hitting the rock so that it WOULD break in a predictable manner. Somewhere along the line he probably had one of his pieces of flint used as a heating stone for cooking, and it fell into the fire. It stayed there until the fire was extinguished and cooled. He then tried to fashion it and found that it was much easier to work. Then one day he had this beautiful piece of flint but did not have his hammer stones close by. However, there was an antler or animal bone right next to him, so he tried that. It probably didn't work all that well until he tried pressing at the side really hard, and off came the thinnest, longest sliver that he had ever intentionally made. Again with a lot of trial and even more error he perfected the pressing technique.

Of course, the pre-historic rock hound and his methods are all figments of my imagination, but somehow pre-historic men learned that certain rocks could be worked into useful tools. They were the first rock hounds.

Have Your Rock and Eat It Too?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

At some point and time we all have probably seen the Rock Table by Bill and Lois Pattillo. That table is filled with food galore, except the food is really rock that just looks like food. About the only thing that is edible on the table is the Rock Candy. For a simple recipe for Rock Candy try <http://allrecipes.com/recipe/rock-candy/>. So what other Rocks, beside Rock Candy are there that are edible? How about Rock Fish? Try Grilled Alaskan Rockfish at <http://www.askchefdennis.com/2013/04/grilled-alaskan-rockfish/>. Then there is always Rock Cookies. For Lava Rock Cookies, try http://www.eatingwell.com/recipes/lava_rocks.html. If the cookies got your attention, how about Rock Cakes, also known as Rock Buns or Rock Rolls. For a fool-proof Rock Cake recipe, try <http://britishfood.about.com/od/recipeindex/r/rockckaes.htm>. I think everyone has, at one time or another, been told about Rock Soup. Does it really exist? Here is an answer and a recipe for Rock SOUP: <http://answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20091005133143AAStF>. And finally, but perhaps not quite within the topic, how about Rock Ice Cream, or more common, Rocky Road Ice cream. I don't have a recipe, just some advice – visit your nearest grocery store. Trust me; they will have all you want!

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

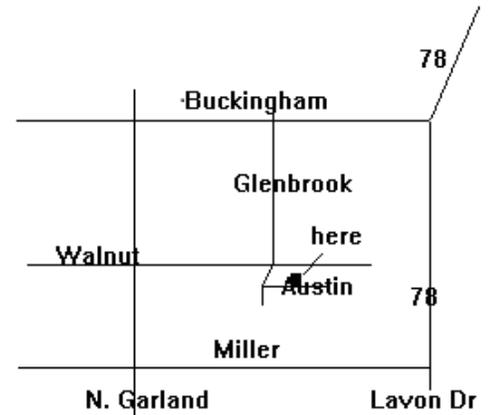


Meetings

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: \$16.00,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)



CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 831934

Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

Coming Up

Our next meeting will be August 1st at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 213 Austin Rd, Garland, TX. The meeting will start at 7:30. The presentation will be a DVD, "THE NEW CRYSTAL HUNTERS – PALA" about a kids collecting trip for Tourmaline in California.

The September 5th meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building.