

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



December 2006
Vol. 40 Issue 12

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Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our web site for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop: Monday - 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon
- Ladies night at the shop on 2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:00PM to 9:00PM
- December Meeting – Christmas Dinner & Party – **starts at 7:00 pm**

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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.

Monthly Meeting

Monthly Meeting: December 7th at 7:00 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

The Christmas Party will be our event this month. Note the starting time and please be sure to bring a dish, yes a full dish.

Show & Tell

The showing off of exchanged gifts will be our Show and Tell. Come and have FUN!

Club Officers for 2007

President: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
2nd VP: Brenda Dowell, (972) 771-9502
Treasurers: Delbert Grady, (972) 235-6575
Secretary: Renee Wofford
Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
E-mail: andresner@verizon.net
3809 Skyline Drive
Rowlett, TX 75088

Minutes – November, 2006 General Meeting

Renee Wofford, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

No minutes received to publish.

Upcoming Shows

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

I apologize for not having this information for you. I will have it ready and updated in the January Newsletter. Editor



Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings to each and every POG&MC member. I really am trying to succeed at this Editor thingy. Please bear with me as I learn the In's and Out's of it. You may learn some new words for Rock Hounding as you read along with me. Though, I suppose worse things have happened to you along life's walk.

I would ask for anyone that would like to have a subject or article addressed in the Chips and Chatter to please feel free to let me hear from you and I will do my best to see it through. I hope to make you proud of my work and input; but, I need your support with questions of the month, pictures of Rock Hounding trips and/or articles, or experiences to share. One thing I do request is that you get anything you want to see for the coming month in the Chips and Chatter sent to me no later than the 3rd Thursday of the month before it is due to appear in the Newsletter. I am a bit slower at typing and manipulating the format at this time than Don. I need the time to get it together for you.

Thanks to each and all of you for your present and continued support of the Club. May Christmas and the New Year be everything that you desire with an added helping of blessings and rock dust.

President's Message

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

I would like to thank the club's executive board for appointing me as President for the upcoming year. I would especially like to thank Mark Carter, our 1st vice president who indicated a willingness to fill in for me when travel puts me out-of-town.

And now, off to an auspicious start, December will be my first meeting as the club's president, and I am currently scheduled to be out-of-town (just figures, doesn't it). There is a remote possibility that my business meeting will end early enough to fly back to Dallas in time for our club meeting, but most likely the Los Angeles business meeting will run late and I will return on Friday.

The December meeting, as I hope all are aware, is the annual Christmas Dinner and Party. For the dinner, everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. The club will provide the meat dish for the dinner. There will also be a gift exchange. It is asked that the gifts be in the \$10-\$15 range with a maximum value of \$15. I am sure there will be some twist in the gift exchange – there always is. The party is always a fun time, and I would encourage everyone to attend. Last year, we imposed a "fine" for gift "stealing", \$2.00 for the first time a gift was stolen, and \$5.00 for the second time it was stolen. The "fines" were all contributed to the SCFMS scholarship fund. We sent \$96.00 towards the scholarship from this activity. We hope to continue this for 2006 party. We often get to see some of our long time members who can not regularly attend our monthly meetings. It is always great to renew acquaintances. Hope you can make it.

Treasurer Message

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Please remember that annual dues are now due for renewal. The fees are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

1st Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Tis' the season,

As we rush up on December meeting for Pleasant Oaks, I can't help but remember Christmas Parties of the past. Special times and friends helped to make the season bright.

In one of our first gift exchanges, after all the taking and stealing of gifts, my wife and I left with one of Jesse Davis' much sought after trees. It still adorns a place of distinction in one of our display cases. I also have one of Sadie Humble' paintings on an agate slab. Some of the gifts I bought also give me moments to grin. Such was the book I gave "Jewelry Design" which was picked by Mack White! Those of you who knew Mack understand that he was "jewelry design" and probably could have written the book! I also remember a small box of tiny Laguna agates Del Grady picked. I think he really liked those.

I remember the fun associated with a party. It is an evening for socializing and sharing. We look forward to the same special get together December 7th. Hope to see you there.

PS: If you don't like Christmas Parties come for Pearl Harbor Day.

Shop Report

Brenda Dowell, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The shop is doing well. John has been repairing the saws in need work and they are up and working great. We have Genie wheels on order and should be in soon. This will have 2 of the 3 older Genies with new wheels. The other one will be reworked soon.

"LADIES NIGHT" is going great and I am happy to be able to offer the extra time for this. The turn out for Ladies Night is growing with each meeting night. The month of December, we will meet on the 2nd Thursday night only this month.

Remember, if you have questions about the shop or want to be put on the mail out list for time changes (usually for my early arrival at shop) please contact me at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM

Update on shop Supervisors

Mike Russell, Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

1st Saturday of each month: Steve Wheeler and *Bob Yadon (to be confirmed)

2nd Saturday of each month: John Woodward and Paul Floyd

3rd Saturday of each month: Del Grady and Don Shurtz

4th Saturday of each month: Mike Russell

5th Saturday of each month: Not a fixed assignment at this time.

Monday night open shop: Brenda Dowell and John Woodward

Substitutes who have said they could work on a limited basis: *Bob Yadon on 1st Saturday after football season if that will work for him, Brad Tanas: Monday nights, Jack Sorrow; Saturdays, David Greenberg, Jeremy Horvath, Donna Mallory, Rick Ramsey.

This is a "work in progress" list so there will be updates. John Woodward will return soon and we will work on the list.

Question of the Month: What is the State Gem of Texas?



The question of the month for December was “What is the State Gem of Texas?” The official gemstone of Texas, as approved by the state legislature in 1969, is Texas Blue Topaz. Note that not just any blue topaz will qualify. It has to be Texas Blue Topaz. This gemstone is found in the Llano Uplift, primarily in the area west and northwest of Mason, TX. Perhaps the prime spot (according to Gem Trails of Texas) for Texas Blue Topaz is the Wayne Hoffman Ranch located northwest of Mason.

The Hoffman Ranch for years has allowed fee digging for this fine stone. Another area (also identified by Gem Trails of Texas) is along the Katemcy Creek north of Mason and south of the San Saba River. Most of the land there is private property. You need permission of the owner before you can search.

Again, I would like to stress that for the Blue Topaz to be an official state gemstone, it has to be found in Texas. There is a lot of Blue Topaz to be found on the open market, but most of it is treated by irradiation and/or heat. Many otherwise worthless clear topaz specimens can be irradiated to numerous shades of blue. This is a common and accepted practice in the gem trade industry. Naturally, Blue Topaz is quite rare. The Blue Topaz from Mason County is considered some of the best in the world.

The official state gemstone cut, as approved in 1977 is the Texas Lone Star cut. When you look straight down on the table of this faceted stone, the five pointed star is displayed. The faceting instruction for this cut can be found at the SHG website in the reference.

References

Anchor Flay and Flagpole, <http://www.anchorflagandflagpole.com/Texas.htm>

Gem Gallery, <http://www.theimage.com/gemstone/topaz/topaz.html>

Mitchell, James, Gem Trails of Texas, Gem Guide Books Co, Baldwin Park, CA, copyright 1987

SHG Resources, <http://www.shgresources.com/tx/symbols/gemstonecut/>

Question of the Month for January: What is the State Rock of Texas?

Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs

Texas School of Earth Science (Arlington G&M Club) meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 1408 Gibbins, Arlington

Pleasant Oaks G&M Club meets the 1st Thursday of each month a 7:30 PM at Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland.

Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers , 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, TX

Dallas Paleontological Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 at Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park.

Dallas G&M Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Ridgewood Rec. Cntr, 6818 Fisher Rd, Dallas.

Dallas Bead Society meets the 3rd Thur. of each month at 7:30 at Walnut Hill Rec. Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas

Oak Cliff G&MS meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd., Dallas, TX., 75224

Fort Worth G&M Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.

Joint Workshop Calendar

November 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:30 PM		2 3 Open Shop 8AM - 12PM 1st Sat. Trading Day
	4 Open Shop 4:30-9 PM	5 Metal Etching Class		6 Ladies Night at the Shop 6 -9 PM		7 8 Open Shop 8AM - 12PM
	9 Open Shop 4:30-9 PM	10 Metal Etching Class		11 12 13 14	15 16 17 18 	19 20 Shop Closed DG&MS SHOW
21 22 23 24 DG&MS SHOW	25 Open Shop 4:30-9 PM	26 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Meeting 7:00 PM		27 Thanksgiving		28 29 Call for shop status
	30 Open Shop 4:30-9 PM	31 Meal Etching Class				

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

Joint Workshop Calendar

December 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 2 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
	3 Open Shop 4:30-9 PM	4	5 	6 PLEASANT OAKS Christmas Dinner and Party 7:00 PM	7 8 	9 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
	10 Open Shop 4:30-9 PM	11	12	13 Ladies Night at the Shop 6 -9 PM	14 15 Chanukah Begins	16 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
	17 Open Shop 4:30-9 PM	18 Dallas Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:00 PM	19	20 Check with Brenda about Ladies Night at the Shop		21 22 call for shop status
	23 Shop Closed CHRISTMAS	24 25 Kwanzaa begins	26	27	28	29 30 call for shop status
31 New Year's Eve	Please note the early start time for the December meeting. This is our annual Christmas Party and Dinner. Bring a dish to share - the club will provide the meat dishes. Also, each person should bring a gift for the gift exchange activity. Gifts should be in the \$10 - \$15 (maximum of \$15). Gifts should be wrapped.					

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

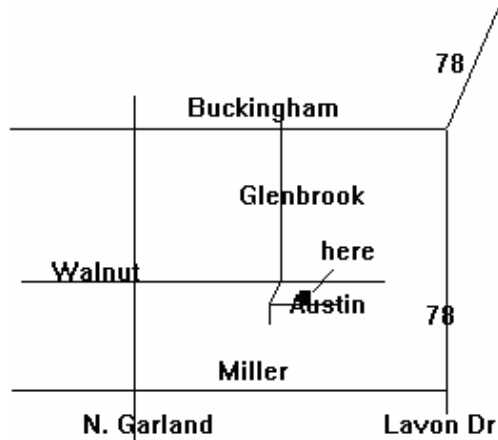
To:

1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
 9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
 3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
 3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
 1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
 HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
 2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

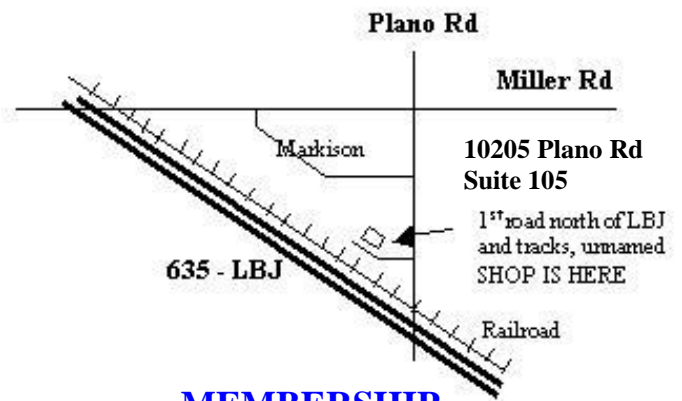
Next Meeting: December 7th 2006 at Garland Women's Activity Building, 7:00 PM
CHRISTMAS PARTY – Bring a gift (\$15.00 or less) for exchange

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

Meeting Map



Joint Club Shop Map



MEETINGS

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies