

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

December 3 2009
Vol. 43 Issue 12

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Check our website www.pogmc.org
 for past months issue of the
Chips and Chatter

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

POGM meet the First Thursday each month. 7:30 pm at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX, (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

Presentation

December's will be our Christmas Party and Pot Luck. No meeting this month, just fun, fun, fun!

Club Officers for 2009

President: Del Grady
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Lee Elms
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
 E-mail: andresner@verizon.net
 & anitadresner@rocketmail.com

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
14 days before the next month's meeting

November 2009 Minutes

Lee Elms, Secretary POGM Club

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Donnette Wagner, who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurers' Report: Don Shurtz gave the report, Mark Carter motioned to accept report, and it was seconded and accepted.

Sunshine Report: None for this month.

Visitors: Maxine Ethridge and her son Scott English, and Matt West.

1st VP: Mark Carter reminded us that next month is the Christmas party. We will have a gift exchange, something hobby-related, nothing over \$15. Wanda will be coordinating the party. The club will serve the meat, and members are encouraged to bring side dishes.

Old Business: Dallas Regional & Engineering Fair. Last year we gave a gift certificate for \$100. This year the science fair will be Feb. 28th, and we will need to have some judges for the special awards. Mark Carter made a motion to set up a committee and have a gift certificate of \$100.00 to be given to the winner. The motion was seconded and accepted by all. Please contact Don Shurtz if you would like to be a judge. It takes about 1/2 day to judge all the entries. They do feed you breakfast and lunch.

The South Central Editors' Breakfast for newsletters was held in Temple, Texas. Our very own Anita Dresner won 3rd place for small bulletins. The club website won 2nd place.

New Business: Don Shurtz made a motion and it was seconded by Mark Carter that the club joins the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies and it will cost the club \$84.00 a year. The club voted unanimously to accept this motion. Club memberships are now due for the year of 2010.

Break

Program: Mark Carter gave a slide presentation on Bingham Mining District in New Mexico where they mine fluorite. Mark passed around a sample of fluorite that he got from the mine.

Raffle: Be it rock, mineral, or a wonderful book, everyone left with a treasure.

Meeting adjourned.

Welcome Aboard to 2010 Officers

We want to welcome our new Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Board with open arms. Along with this welcome please know that we are all here to help make your job easier. Anything you need of us, please ask and we will certainly and eagerly do our best to assist you in any way we can.

Our new Board of Officers are:

Del Grady – President;
Mark Carter – 1st Vice President;
Kirby Manley – Field Trip Co-ordinator, 2nd to 1st Vice President
Don Shurtz – Treasurer;
Lee Elms – Secretary; Lee (Leanda) Elms

The members of Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral are so lucky to have volunteers that are eager to serve. Again, we thank you for your volunteering and taking your time to serve in these respective offices. Congratulations and one more time, welcome aboard.

The Tasty Corner

Editor POGM Club

Phillips Crab Ceviche

This is great as a salad before an entree or even a luncheon salad.
It is also colorful, cheerful and bright for Christmas dining.

Ingredients:

8 oz	Phillips Claw Crab Meat	8 oz	Phillips Special Crab Meat
1½ cups	Fresh Cilantro, chopped	½	White Onion, chopped
2	Tomatoes, diced	1	Seedless Cucumber, diced
3	Limes	½ cup	Clamato, Kermato, or V8 juice
1 tblsp	Ketchup		
3	Serrano Peppers, finely chopped (optional)		



Directions:

In a large bowl, blend the crab meat without breaking it up excessively. Add the juice of two limes, onion, cilantro, tomatoes, cucumber and Serrano peppers. Add salt. Combine the ketchup, Clamato and the juice of the third lime. Add more salt if necessary.

Serves 4-6: Serve with tostadas or crackers.

Recipe courtesy of Alexa Boshardt, Culinary Nutritionist for Phillips Foods

Editor's Corner

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings and Merry Christmas to one and all;

It is hard to believe I have gone through another year so fast. I do not know what it is, but over the last few years it seems as though there are fewer days to a year, like maybe only 252 days, not the full year. Does your year fly by also? Well I am going to prop my feet up and watch out the window all night on December 24th just to get another glimpse of Santa and those sprightly, bell clanging reindeer and sleigh. With the eggnog in hand and eyes wide alert, I will reflect upon Christmases past and have a frightfully grand time while watching for Santa. Memories are one of the, if not the most important, immeasurable, and mind boggling we can share with family and friends. I so hope you slow down and build precious memories with your loved ones this Christmas season.

There is not any mischievousness any child can do during these fantastic days, but that you can hold back the “don’t do that” or worth giving time outs. All you need do is smile and share those hugs and let the memories build on all the warmth, fun, and giddy laughter, and you too will have memories to share in Christmas Seasons to come. I pray for safe travel and glorious memories for each and every one of you. Be safe over New Years Eve; and may, we all have a prosperous and memory filled 2010.



As I keep Christ in Christmas, I also celebrate with you, your Holy and High Holidays of your religion, and I pray for peace on earth and good will to all peoples, Amen

Refreshment Volunteers

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

<u>Month</u>	<u>Ice & Drinks</u>	<u>Snacks</u>
<i>December</i>	<i>Pot Luck</i>	<i>Check with Wanda</i>
<i>January</i>		<i>Lee Elms</i>

Question of the Month: What are Road-Runners

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

What are Road Runners? Surely you know the cartoon – it’s a not-to-small, fast moving bird that does bad things to that poor coyote. I have seen a number of road runners when I have been working out in the field in West Texas, and they do look an awful lot like the cartoon character.

However, this is supposed to be about rocks, so there must be yet another answer. I was looking for some information about Texas Agates on the Internet the other day and stumbled onto a really neat web site – The Texas Road Runners which can be found at:

<http://www.txroadrunners.com/RockHoundPages/TexasRockHuntingSites/TexasRockAndFossilSites.htm>

I thought I would like to share some information about this site with the club members. First off, this is a commercial web site. The site is sponsored by “The Lone Star Mine Shaft” and “The iMall of Texas”. For the record, I am in no way associated with either of the sponsoring sites or any of the other sites with advertising on the page. With that disclaimer out of the way, you need to take a look at this site if you are interested in rock finding field trips. The web site breaks the state down into eight geographical areas (West Texas, Panhandle Plains, North Texas, Southwest Texas, Central/Texas Hill Country/Brazos Republic, East Texas, and Texas Gulf Coast) and for each geographical area it lists a number of potential field trips. For the North Texas area it lists field trips for Alvord Pyrite Crystals, Bridgeport Fossils, Cisco Fossils, and North Sulfur River Rocks and Fossils. For each field trip it lists the type of material to be found, a reference (often Gem Trails of Texas), directions to the site, GPS coordinates for the hunting locality, a map of the site, photos of the site, and photos of the material that was found. It may also list other notes related to the site, and a list of other area attractions just in case you get tired of hunting rocks (is that possible?). The bottom line – just about anything you want to know about the potential field trip is right there!

If you are not interested in hunting rocks, this could still be the site for you. Look on the left side of the page and follow the links for Texas roadside attractions (for example, the giant giraffe in Dallas), Texas jokes from the Internet, funny pictures from the Internet, and many other links. Lots of fun stuff can be found.

This is a worthwhile site to visit. If you like field trips it is a “must visit”. If you are just looking for a good site to browse, this is still it. Next time, you have a few minutes to browse the Internet, give this site a try.

Decembers Birthstone: Blue Topaz

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

The name Topaz; thought to be from Indian Sanskrit word tapos, meaning fire, or from an Island named Topazos, in the Red Sea. "Topaz is known as a "stone of true love and success in all endeavors", promoting individuality and creativity, while providing confidence in trusting ones decisions, releases tension and known as a spiritual rejuvenation gemstone and was given credit for healing and holding death at bay in medieval times. The early lapidaries cite topaz as a stone capable of cooling boiling water, curing eye disease and gall, dispelling night terrors, lessening anger and lechery.



Topaz can hold an electric charge. It is thought to be charged by rubbing it with your fingers or by holding the ends of the crystal between your fingertips. Heating the gem then allowing it to cool slowly builds an electric charge greater than any other stone. It will retain that energy for more than a day after cooling down.

Topaz is an aluminum fluorite silicate containing fluorine and has a chemical formula of $Al_2F_2SiO_4$. It can, under certain conditions, grow into enormous crystals. They typically are found in cavities in rhyolites and granite, and sometimes found in high-temperature veins with cassiterite and [tourmaline](#). Usually clear with a vitreous luster, modern mineralogists think Topaz of today was not known to the ancients and the stone called topazos was the mineral chrysolite or [peridot](#).

Most pure topaz is colorless, but can be found in a broad range of colors: yellow, blue, pink, peach, gold, green, red, and brown, some of the yellow being heat treated to turn pink. As topaz has a hardness of 8, it may scratch your other gems so store them separately. Remember color change in topaz is done through heat, so avoid exposing them to large temperature changes. In 1750, a Parisian jeweler discovered that yellow Brazilian topaz becomes pink on exposure to a moderate heat.

One of the largest Topaz ever found was a 600 pound specimen in Brazil. You can see it today at the Museum of Natural History in New York. A rare, perfect blue gemstone was discovered in the Ural Mountains of Russia in 1965. It weighed 100 kilograms. In Norway, a 137 pound crystal was found in 1901 that was two feet long. Notable sources of topaz are in Russia, Siberia, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Africa and China, Japan, Pakistan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Australia, Mexico, and in the United States (in Maine, New Hampshire, California, Colorado, and Utah). In the United States the best topaz has been worked near Pikes Peak, Colorado, and in San Diego county, California.

Among the many powers attributed to topaz was its ability to create its own light. St. Hildegarde claimed to read prayers in a darkened chapel by the light emanating from a topaz. In a 1907 compendium of mineral lore, The Occult and Curative Powers of Precious Stones, William T. Fernie, M.D. wrote: "[The topaz] possesses a gift of inner radiance which can dispel darkness... Once it was eagerly desired by mariners, if they had no daylight, or moon, to direct their course." I was charmed by the idea of its inner radiance, and so Vita wears both golden and light blue topazes, which are indeed radiant.



Rough brown topaz crystal sections.
Picture: <http://geology.com/minerals/topaz.shtml>

References:

<http://www.kacha-stones.com/topaz.htm>
<http://www.all-that-gifts.com/se/topaz.html>
<http://www.ellensteiber.com/thestones.htm>
<http://www.jjkent.com/articles/history-properties-topaz.htm>

In researching Blue Topaz, I mostly found folk lore and its decorative uses. Identification information was very scarce.



Blue faceted topaz. 1.40 carats, 9x6 mm, from Brazil. <http://geology.com/minerals/topaz.shtml>

Decembers Christmas Pot-Luck

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Our December meeting of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club is different and exciting in many ways:

- (1) First major difference is the meeting starts at 7:00 PM – 30 minutes earlier than usual, and you do not want to be late!
- (2) The next thing you want to know is; there is not a meeting as such, it is our annual Christmas Party and Pot-Luck Dinner. **Wanda Fitzgerald**, will be hosting the party, not our usual cast of officers! Wanda has been the hostess of our Christmas Party since forever. She did miss last year, but we are very glad to have her back.
- (3) Mrs. Clause (the club) will provide the meat and the great elves of POGM (each member) will bring a covered dish to share. So bring a salad, appetizer, vegetable, bread, dessert, or prepare your favorite recipe for us try.
- (4) And then there is the party part. We will do a gift exchange, but Wanda will have some sort of twist to the whole process. Bring one wrapped gift per person. The gift should be hobby related and not exceed \$15.00 in value. If you are stuck for an idea, try the Rock Barrel or Nature's Gallery for an inexpensive item (book, rock, slabs, mineral specimen, or), or try you local Half Price Books for a new or used book or maybe even a video, or maybe just rummage through you mineral or slab collection or finished items and pick out something nice.
- (5) Then stand b, I can almost guarantee you that the item you pick up under the tree will not be the item you bring home – Wanda's devious plans will take care of that.
- (6) And, by the way, it will be fun, fun, fun!

So come on out to the December meeting / dinner / party (pick your choice). No club business, just good food, friends, and fun. See you there!

What is a Rock Hound?

Wikipedia: Rockhounding is the recreational collecting of rocks and/or mineral specimens from their natural environment.

Alright, I agree with Wikipedia about what a rockhound is except it should also be noted that not only do people hunt for the beauty of rocks, another reason people hunt themselves is that it is sheer fun to do the collecting yourself. That is one reason I have not bought rocks. Because I remember where I picked up most of my rocks; whether with friends or alone, which vacation, etc. I think those recollections are some of the "treasures".

Pam

Reference: <http://cash-and-treasures-wiki.travelchannel.com/thread/1566102/What%27s+A+Rockhound%3F>

Posted Jun 13 2008, 5:54 PM EDT

Area Clubs

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thursday 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 Paleontological Society, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, Plano, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm
Dallas Bead Society, Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3rd Thursday each month at 7:30 pm
Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets 4th Tuesday 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

Show Dates

December 2009

4-6--KENNER, LOUISIANA: Show; AKS Gem Shows; Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabilion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Web site: www.aksshow.com

4-6--EL PASO, TEXAS: Show; El Maida Auditorium, 6331 Alabama; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; gems, minerals, fossils, beads, silver jewelry, geode cutting, silent auction, demonstrations, door prizes; contact Gem Center USA, (877) 533-7153 or (915) 533 7153

5-6--ROUND ROCK, TEXAS: Show, "Fossil Fest"; Paleontological Society of Austin; Old Settler's Heritage Association, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$2, children \$1; grand door prize, fossil dealers, specimens from around the world, fossil exhibits, demonstrations, special youth group presentation, "Wheel of Fossils", fossil identification; contact Linda McCall, 29617 Evans Ln., Highland, CA 92346, (512) 422-2322; e-mail: Indmccall02@yahoo.com; Web site: www.texaspaleo.com/psa/fest.html

12-13--DERIDDER, LOUISIANA: Show; DeRidder Gem & Mineral Society; Beauregard Parish Fair Exhibit Hall, 610 West Dr.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, military free with current ID Sun., children under 12 free; door prizes, jewelry, gems, cabs, wire wrapping, Louisiana opal, silent auction, hands-on instructions in flint knapping, cab making, gem faceting; contact Adam Valin, (337) 585-3693; e-mail: avalin1@bellsouth.net

2010

JANUARY 2010

1--GLOBE, ARIZONA: 53rd annual show; Gila County Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fair Grounds, 3 miles north of Junction US 60-70; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$3, students with ID and children with adults free; live demonstrations, door prizes, displays, minerals, jewelry; contact Jim Mills, P.O. Box 487, Miami, AZ 85539, (928) 701-1712; e-mail: oldulking57@hotmail.com

1-10--QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Show, "Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show"; Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.; Tyson Wells Show Grounds, 100 W. Kuehn St.; 9-5 all days; free admission; contact Kym Scott, P.O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6364; e-mail: tysonwells@tds.net; Web site: www.tysonwells.com

16-17--FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS: Show, "Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show"; Fredericksburg Rockhounds; Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, 1606 S. Hwy. 16, south of downtown Fredericksburg; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; Rollin' Rock meeting Sun., hourly door prizes; contact Jeff Smith, 208 Castle Pines Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 895-9630; e-mail: jeffbrenda@windstream.net; Web site: www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org

22-24--TYLER, TEXAS: Show, "Gemstone and Jewelry Showcase"; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Rose Garden Center, 420 Rose Park Dr.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students \$1; exhibits, demonstrations, fluorescent mineral display, geode cracking, dealers, rocks, minerals, jewelry, fossils, supplies, Wheel of Fortune, silent auction; contact Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068; e-mail: kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net

FEBRUARY 2010

1-28--OUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Wholesale and retail show, "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn Rd., south side of I-10, along frontage road; 9-6 daily; free admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry; contact Sharon or Sandy, Desert Gardens RV Park, 1055 Kuehn St., P.O. Box 2818, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

20-21--PLAINVIEW, TEXAS: 48th annual show; Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society; Ollie Liner Center, south I-27; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1; dealers, demonstrators, grand prizes, silent auction, kids' wheel; contact Mildred Matlock, 701 Zephyr, Plainview, TX 79072, (806) 293-3476; e-mail: jmmatlock@suddenlink.net

MARCH 2010:

6-7--BIG SPRING, TEXAS: 41st annual show; Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5; dealers, demonstrators; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662 or (432) 263-3340

12--HOUSTON, TEXAS: Show, "Rings & Things BeadTour"; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn Southwest, 11160 Southwest Fwy.; Fri. 12-4, ; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, P.O. Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Web site: www.rings-things.com>Show/city.php?city=Houston

APRIL 2010:

9-11--ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO: 41st annual show, "Treasures of the Earth"; Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; Creative Arts Center, New Mexico State Fairgrounds (Expo NM), San Pedro entrance, across the street from the Lujan Bldg.; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$1 Fri., \$3 Sat. and Sun., children under 13 free; more than 40 dealers, displays, door prizes, kids' booth, silent auctions, faceting demonstrations, gold panning, gem setting, free mineral/gem identification; contact Paul Hlava, (505) 255-5478; e-mail: hpf5@qwest.net

16-18--ALPINE, TEXAS: Show, "Wonders from our desert and beyond"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Kokernot Lodge, Rte. 223 bypass; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; free admission; Kids' Corner, door prize, dealer demonstrations, video "What's Hot in Tucson"; contact Mary Brogan, P.O. Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 837-3824; e-mail: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Web site: www.agates123.com/cdgmcc/

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

December 3, 2009 7:00 PM, 713 Austin, Garland Women's Bldg, TX

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
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)

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
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

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies