

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



1st Place, 2013 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
2nd Place, 2013 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

December 2013
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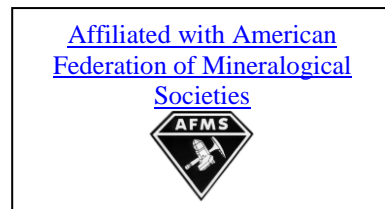
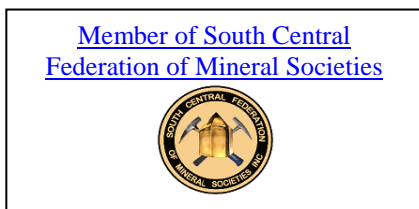
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Purpose

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

Our next meeting will be December 2nd starting at 7:00 PM (NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME) and will be our annual Club Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Party

Club Officers for 20

President: } A new nominating committee is ready to
1st VP: } present a new slate of officers at our
Secretary: } next business meeting
Treasurer }
Editor (acting):..... Don Shurtz
Asst. editor (acting): Ling Shurtz
E-mail:don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

**Membership Dues for 2014 are now due,
see web site for form**

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

Minutes of the November 7, 2013 Meeting

The November meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Del Grady.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Don Shurtz.

We were glad to see Bob and Jerrye Parker at our meeting tonight. It was really nice to see them again.

We discussed the minutes of the October meeting in the Chips and Chatter and unanimously approved them as written.

Don Shurtz gave us the Treasurers' report and we unanimously approved them as presented to us.

Old business; We discussed that Don Shurtz won an award for web site, newsletter article, and editor at the American Federation Show, and he won an intarsia pendant in the Endowment Fund Raffle.

New business: We need a new nominating committee, and Carol Tipp, Warner Ragan, and Ling Shurtz volunteered. They will help find a new slate of officers for the club for 2014.

Our Christmas dinner will be our next months' meeting and as usual the club will provide the meat and we will each bring a side dish. There will be a gift exchange (\$10 to \$15 in value, hobby related). The meeting will start at 7:00 PM (30 minutes earlier than normal).

The Science Fair will be at Fair Park in the February and we will donate \$50 for 1st prize.

Field Trips:

- This coming Saturday will be the Dallas Club rock swap at their shop on Plano Road.
- The TXI field trip will be next weekend 11/16/13.
-

We had been given a donation by Lynn Guerra, a previous club member from the late 1990s, of 2 rock hammers, a hat, and a tool belt.

After our refreshment break we watched a DVD about the Bisbee, Arizona: Queen of Arizona Copper Camps and King of Arizona's mineral localities. The speaker of this presentation in the DVD was Les Presmyk.

We had a discussion about the pros and cons of trying to have our own show again. We need to figure out how to get our club growing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

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,

December Meeting - Christmas Party and Pot Luck Dinner

Our December meeting will be our annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck Dinner. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM – 30 minutes earlier than normal.



First we will start with a Pot Luck Dinner. The club will provide the meat course, Barbequed Beef Brisket and Ham. Each person or family should bring a dish to share. You can bring an appetizer, a salad, a vegetable dish, a dessert, or whatever else tickles your fancy.



Then we will have a gift exchange. Each person should bring a hobby related gift with a value of \$10 to \$15. Each gift should be wrapped and placed under the tree. We will then have some form of gift stealing or gift passing which should almost guarantee that you will not end up with the gift you started with.



If you are stuck for a gift idea, you may want to try Half Price Books – they always seem to have a nice book, often new, in the correct price range. You can also find items at The Rock Barrel or Natures Gallery. Mineral specimens or slabbed rocks are also favorites.

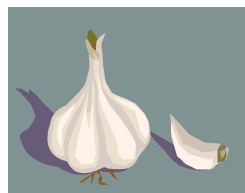


Roasted Garlic and Smoked Gouda Dip

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Ingredients:

- 16 oz of sour cream
- 1/4 lb of Smoke Gouda cheese, shredded
- 1 Fresh garlic bulb (head)
- 1 pinch of pepper



Another plus – the wonderful aroma of roasting garlic will last for several hours, whetting your appetite for the dip

Directions:

- Break garlic into cloves, roast in an open pan in your oven or toaster oven at 350° until light brown (about 25 minutes)
- Remove outer layer of roasted garlic bulb and chop in a food processor. Retain the garlic juice
- Mix garlic, garlic juice, Gouda cheese, and sour cream
- Fold in the pepper
- Chill for 1 hour to 4 hours.

Results:

- This is great dip with cracker
- Add chicken breast (chopped) and you have a great sandwich spread too



Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for December 2013 – February 2014

NOV 2-3, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Midland Ctr.

NOV 2-3, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, Oklahoma State Fair Park, halffull101-omgs2@yahoo.com

NOV 8-10, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, show@hgms.org, www.hgms.org

DEC 7-8, Round Rock, TX, Paleo Society of Austin, Old Settler Park

DEC 6-8, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Auditorium, gemcenter@aol.com

DEC 14-15, DeRidder, LA, DeRidder G&MS, Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds, <http://www.lutheransonline.com/gems>

Ref:

October / November SCFMS Newsletter

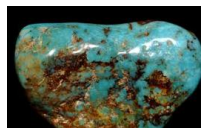
Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

Birthstones for December – Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

December has 3 birthstones, tanzanite, zircon, and turquoise. Of these, turquoise is considered the “traditional” birthstone for December. Although we think of turquoise in conjunction with jewelry from the Southwest Indian tribes (and well we should, for the styling is classic and the work are beautiful), turquoise used for jewelry goes much further back into history. In the Americas, turquoise jewelry dates back to at least the era of the Aztec civilization (900 AD) and possibly even to earlier times with the Olmec (2000 BC) and Maya (200 AD) civilizations. The history of turquoise jewelry also reaches deep on the other side of the Atlantic and Pacific, with turquoise jewelry found in Ancient Egypt (3000 BC) and in Asia to the Shang Dynasty (1600 BC). Mystics attribute turquoise with being the Master Healer, healing any and all physical and mental ailments. Other mystical properties attributed to turquoise include the ability to reduce sadness and as a general good luck and success token.

The name “turquoise has been used since the 16th century. The name comes from the Old French language and means Turkish. This is because the jewel was introduced to France from Turkey. The chemical name for turquoise is hydrous (containing water) Copper Aluminum Phosphate Hydroxide. The chemical formula is $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$. Turquoise is generally a blue or greenish stone, although some white turquoise has been identified. Turquoise is found in the United



States, China, the Middle East, and South America. In the United States turquoise is found in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, California, Utah, and Nevada. Turquoise has been found in Texas near Van Horn, but is not actively mined. Turquoise is almost always found in massive form. The first known crystal of turquoise was found in



Virginia, and until the 1980's it was the only site where turquoise crystals were found. However, more sites with turquoise crystals have been identified, but it is still the massive form that is used for jewelry. Turquoise has a Mohs' hardness of 5 to 7; those stones which are harder are most favored for jewelry making. The softer turquoise has often become chalky due to losing some of the entrapped water. These stones can sometimes be infused with oils or wax to enhance their appearance. The chalky turquoise material may also be “stabilized” by injection of plastic, epoxy and similar resins, or water glass. Many turquoise are also dyed to enhance their color. Turquoise imitations have been used for many years; they are primarily dyed howlite and magnesite.

As previously mentioned, turquoise has been used for thousands of years. In ancient Egypt, turquoise was the stone of the common man as well as the rulers; turquoise jewelry has been found in the grave sites of both. The turquoise used in Egypt was mined in the Sinai Peninsula, and some of these mines are believed



to be the oldest mines ever found. In Persia (now Iran), turquoise was used not only for jewelry but to adorn buildings. The Aztec developed a technique of inlay with turquoise, coral, gold, and other gems. The inlay was used for jewelry and also in shields, masks, and ceremonial knives. In Asia, turquoise cabochons were found in Tibet and Mongolia. In those regions, the greener shade of turquoise is preferred. In the United States, turquoise jewelry was used by Native American people living in the southwest. The tradition of turquoise jewelry from this area regained popularity in modern times. In the southwest, the blue shades of turquoise are preferred, with Robin Egg Turquoise being the most prized. I think most of us think of turquoise jewelry as jewelry fashioned with silver from this area.



Ref:

Southwest Turquoise, <http://www.theturquoisechick.com/healingproperties.htm>

Texas State Historical Association, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/gpm01>

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

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2014 AFMS Endowment Fund

The kickoff for the 2014 AFMS Endowment Fund drawing has been announced in the December issue of the AFMS Newsletter. Donna Moore (mwfsecretary@gmail.com) chairs the fund raising this year. In the SCFMS, tickets can be purchased from Catherine Rouchon, 5845 Winchester Ln, Clinton, LA 70722 (rouchonc@starband.net). The drawing will be held at the AFMS Banquet, July 14th in Tulsa, OK but you do not have to be present to win. Some of the items to be won include a framed fossil fish, a Mosasaur tooth, a page of mineral stamps, a Montana agate petrified limb cast, a calcite cluster, and two 2 lb copper floats. If you would like to donate a prize or want to purchase tickets, contact Catherine Rouchon. Tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.

TXI Field Trip November 16th

By: David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

We had a great field trip Saturday November 16th, 2013. Our destination was the TXI Cement Plant Quarry in Midlothian, TX. Initially this field trip was to be scheduled for 25 people. This trip was full almost on the first day the notice went out. Within a couple of weeks we had another 50 people on the waiting list. At that time I scheduled a second trip for the same day. The first group met at 8am to 10am and the second group met from 10am to noon. We had a couple of last minute cancellations and I did my best to get all of the slots full. We had a great turn out. Still, there few too many late and no show no calls. The latter is unfortunate as these spots could have been filled by others. Well it is rocks under the bridge now.

I kept an eye on the weather for this trip. The weather forecast for the 16th was rainy, but I kept my fingers crossed. Somehow I scheduled our trip perfectly as no rain foiled our plans. I take full credit for that.

At 7:45 we met outside the TXI office to make sure our paper work was in order. Then at 7:55am sharp we entered the main gate to hand in our paper work, get hard hats and glasses, and a pit stop if needed. I have learned that we should enter as early as possible and allowable as there are many who need bathroom breaks. There have been times where we didn't get going for 20 minutes after. We made good time on this day. When we were ready we all drove our vehicles to the quarry floor. At the beginning of our outing the rules were explained and then I share my rules. Rule #1 is Safety. Rule #2 is to respect people and property. And Rule #3 is to have some fun. Next I tried my best to explain what we were looking for and how to find it. Then it is off to the races for people to follow me and I would show them where to find our little beauties.

When we broke to start our collecting the clouds were low and did not allow for much light to come through. This only makes it a little harder to find the pyrite, but not that much harder.

The wonderful specimens found are about 90 Million Years old.

Thank you for coming! I had fun! Hope to see you again in 6 months.
David

Comments and Pictures from our attendants

Our visit to TXI's Midlothian cement plant on November 16th marked the occasion of our first rock-hunting field trip.

Organizer David Dobson led us as part of a convoy to a location that was said to be rich in pyrite. Since we already are familiar with the beautiful gold crystals of iron pyrite that are offered at auction routinely on eBay, we began to hunt for gold rocks in much the same spirit that novices are led through a salted gold mine. When we mentioned a scarcity of gold rocks on site to David, he casually kicked a grayish stone over to us, indicating that after cleaning we would find the lovely gold crystals that we had been expecting to find.

So, chalk it all up to a learning experience.

The first of two photos (attached) displays a small basket of crude, "as found" pyrite samples. The second photo shows off the shell fossil that Nancy stumbled upon while searching for more pyrite.

Our thanks not only to David D., but also to the management of TXI, who clearly recognize the scientific, instructional, and recreational value of the naturally-occurring materials on their property and their value to those of us who are fortunate enough to be permitted access to these wonders.

Nancy & Alan Marchand

Here is someone's truck load of pyrite

A pyrite in limestone matrix



Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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December 2013

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

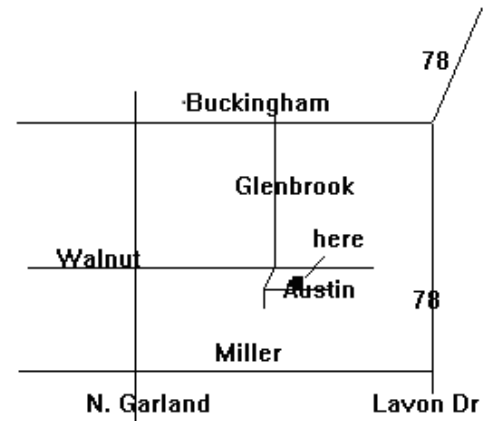


Meetings

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

The December 2nd meeting will be our annual Christmas Party (with gift exchange) and Pot Luck Dinner (the club will provide the meat dish). Festivities will start at **7:00 PM** at the Garland Women's Activities Building. **Note that the time is 30 minutes earlier than normal.** See page 3 and page 1

The January 6th meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building