

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter

December 2014  
Vol. 48, Issue 12



1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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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, particularly 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

December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 7:00 PM  
Spring Creek Barbeque  
270 N Central Expressway  
Richardson, TX  
(Just north of Belt Line on the east side of U.S. 7)

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

## Club Officers for 2015

President: .....Ling Shurtz  
1st VP, Programs:..... Mark Carter  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Field Trips: ..... David Dobson  
Secretary:..... Lee Elms  
Treasurer.....Del Grady  
Editor: ..... Don Shurtz  
E-mail: ...don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

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VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR.**

[www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org)

## Minutes of the November 6<sup>th</sup> 2014 Meeting

Treasurer's Report. The report for October was presented by the Treasurer Del Grady. A motion to accept the Treasurers' report was made by Carolyn Grady and seconded by Ling Shurtz. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: This month we installed our officers for 2015. We had voted last month to keep the same officers of this year for next year.

New Business: We will be a Special Awards Sponsor for the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair at SMU. We will donate \$100 to the award.

Dues are now due for 2015.

Del and Carolyn went to the auction last weekend for the estate of Mac Cridell. They said they bought a few things and enjoyed looking at all the high priced things being auctioned off.

We voted to go to Spring Creek Bar-B-Que in Richardson on December 4th for our annual Christmas dinner, instead of bringing pot luck to the Women's' Building like we usually do.

We didn't have a speaker this evening or a DVD to watch so we adjourned the meeting at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

### Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Dec 5 – 7, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Auditorium, [gemcenter@aol.com](mailto:gemcenter@aol.com), epmgs.com

Jan 5 – 25, Quartzite, AZ – numerous rock, craft, and RV shows in and around Quartzite

Jan 17 – 18, Fredericksburg TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, [fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org)

Jan 29 – Feb 15. Tucson shows – numerous shows in Tucson area,

Jan 23 – 25, Tyler Texas, East Texas G&MS, Rose Garden Center, [keithharmon19@yahoo.com](mailto:keithharmon19@yahoo.com)

Feb 14 – 15, Georgetown, TX, Williamson Co. G&MS, <http://www.wcgms.org/>

Feb 14 – 15, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center,

Mar 27 – 29, Eastern Federation, Hickory, NC

Apr 10 – 12, Northwest Federation, Ogden, UT

May 23 – 24, Midwest Federation, Wheaton, IL

Jun 12 – 15, California Federation, Lodi, CA

Jul 16 – 18, Cody, WY

### 23-25 Oct 2015 – Austin G&MS show, SCFMS Convention, and AFMS Convention

Ref:

November / December 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

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

### President's Message

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

We survived another year. Our new year started in November (DUES FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ARE NOW DUE). At our November meeting we installed our 2015 Officers – the same ones as 2014. Ling will continue as President, Mark and David as Vice Presidents, Lee as Secretary, Del as Treasurer, and Don as the Editor (now elected vice appointed).

Our next meeting will be December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Instead of our annual Pot Luck Dinner we will meet at the Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson for dinner. No gift exchange, just a good time with good friends. Hope everyone can make it. Please be on time – 7:00 which is 30 minutes earlier than normal.

**Chips and Chatter**

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## Holiday Safety 2014

By: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator  
From: SCFMS Newsletter, November – December



The Holidays are upon us! What are you doing to help keep yourself and your family safe?

Here are a few things to consider around the Holidays this year.

First - Decorations. Especially for those of us who are not quite spring chickens any more it can be hazardous to do things like crawl in and out of the attic getting decorations, or putting up Christmas lights. Using smaller boxes to store decorations can be very helpful as we maneuver through our attics, garages and basements. Hernias and slipped disks are NOT the kind of present you want to give yourself this year. Step ladders are MUCH safer than chairs when setting up decorations inside your home.

Considering that you can buy one for \$25 or less at most big box stores they are a great value for safety.

Hanging decorations outside can pose more serious risks.

Make sure you have a spotter whenever you are on a ladder. Over the years I've had several friends who have lost older family members from ladder falls this time of year. And then there are the electrical issues! How many of us are still using those Christmas lights from 1979??? Frayed wires, lack of fuses, overloaded plugs, all have the potential to cause fires or electrocutions! Consider upgrading your lights or going with a more modest presentation. There are also 3rd party services that will put lights up for you if you're willing to pay a little more.

Kitchen safety has a variety of elements to it so without going into too many details if you can make extra time to prepare what you will serve. Things will be a lot less chaotic and thus lessen the chance of things like cuts, burns and scalds.

With the above being said the most dangerous part of Holidays typically

revolves around travel. Lots of people on the roads. Every day I drive an hour each way in and out of downtown Houston for work. I'm used to it, but during the Holidays there are A LOT of people on the roads that are not used to the vagaries of heavy traffic, consequently driver confusion and fatigue spikes during Holiday travel. Planning your trips and giving yourself extra time to get where you are going will help you minimize your risks. Finally, although we are all aware of it, there will be a lot of folks on the roads who have been drinking alcoholic beverages. The concentration of drunk drivers on our roads peaks after midnight and goes until 4:00 AM. Avoid driving at these hours.

Be safe out there.  
Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!

Owen Martin  
SCFMS Safety

## A Word from the (AFMS) President

by Marion Roberts, AFMS President  
From the November 2014 AFMS Newsletter

Greetings! As the new AFMS President, allow me to introduce myself to you. I served as President of the California Federation in 2005, and have been director of the CFMS lapidary and jewelry "camps" for several years. I've also served as AFMS 4th and 1st Regional Vice President and last year, I was your President-elect.

I am very competitive with most everything that I do. My major competitor is myself and I'm always wanting to improve even if the result is only minutely better. My hobbies consist of all areas of lapidary, woodwork and wood turning, building replicas of old sailing ships and bowling.

I worked as a maintenance mechanic for most of my working years. I retired on doctors orders in 1992 and became busier than I was all my working years.

Now, down to the present. I have for a long time, felt that inter-communication is lacking in a large way. I know that this is a subject that has been emphasized many times before, but I am hoping that with different people and an approach that I have not seen used before -- or maybe it has, but before my time.

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First, I am asking all of our AFMS Regional VP's to initiate contact with their respective committees at least twice within their term in office. While in contact, I will ask them to encourage these chair people to contact the regional federation chairs of their committee to find out what's going on and to share information about the AFMS program that they are responsible for. If there is no other accomplishment, just familiarity can bring understanding and possible good useable information for either one of the committees. Much of this contact information needs to be relayed to myself and the President-elect. The incoming President will be able to use this to help compose his or her committees, which is a large project in that we are dealing clubs and individuals within the U.S. and with four time zones.

In closing for this month I want to commend the Tulsa Society and Richard Jaeger for an excellent show, great competitive area and meetings held in a very efficient manner.

Until next Month Marion

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## New SCFMS and AFMS Officers

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

### NEW SCFMS OFFICERS

President: ..... Dale Miller  
Executive Vice President: ..... Ann James  
Secretary: ..... Shiara Trumble  
Treasurer: ..... Don Shurtz  
Executive Secretary: ..... Ray Duplechain  
Past President: ..... John Nash  
District 1 (NE TX): ..... Steve Hilliard  
District 2 (SE TX): ..... Richard Geist  
District 3 (South TX): ..... Joe Grimes  
District 4 (Central TX): ..... Chip Burnette  
District 5 (West TX): ..... Herman W. Jones  
District 6 (RR Club): ..... Edith Guenther  
District 7 (Arkansas): ..... Raymond Lynch  
District 8 (Louisiana): ..... Jim Marler

### NEW AFMS OFFICERS

President: ..... Marion Roberts  
President Elect: ..... Matt Charsky  
Region 1 (SCFMS) Vice President: ..... Virginia Adian  
Region 2 (MWF) Vice President: ..... J. C. Moore  
Region 3 (NFMS) Vice President: ..... JonSpanaugle  
Region 4 (SFMS) Vice President: ..... Ann Monroe  
Region 5 (RMFMS) Vice President: ..... Judy Beck  
Secretary: ..... Ann Cook  
Treasurer: ..... Pat Larue  
Central Office: ..... Steve Winberger

Need more info (email, addresses, etc.) for SCFMS visit [www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net) and for AMFM visit [www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

## THE SCFMS IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

### SUE'S DIGS

*Sue Dale Miller, SCFMS President*

From the November / December 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

My name is Dale Miller. I have been a member of the Arlington Gem and Mineral Club since 1993. The first meeting was the Show Meeting. Wow! I was enthusiastic and signed up for set-up on Friday and every hour of the two day show. I was told the board meetings were open to members so I went and soon had a job. I have had a job doing something for the club every year since joining. The more you put into a club the more you get out of the club.

Although I have taken many classes my favorite is still rocks. Field trips to find rocks, sawing rocks and shaping rocks. 2015 was going to be the first year I did not have a position in the Arlington Club. Time to rest. But when I was asked to serve a SCFMS President I realized I had one more year of work in me.

I believe in the SCFMS. If the clubs in the SCFMS work together we will all be stronger.

The purpose of the SCFMS is to hold the member clubs together and help them grow. The district VPs are there to help the clubs communicate with the SCFMS. Who is your District VP? Call them. Let them know you want a visit. Maybe he or she can give a program to your members. Maybe the District VP and the presidents of the clubs in his or her district can share the expenses to travel to the next SCFMS meeting. There were not many clubs represented at the SCFMS meeting in Baton Rouge. I cut my expenses in half by sharing a room in Baton Rouge. And it was more fun to have someone to go to meeting and meals.

Hope to see you at field trip or show soon. Sue Dale Miller



### Editor's Corner - December Meeting

Our December Meeting may be the start of a new tradition. Instead of a Pot Luck Dinner at the GWAB we will have an indoor picnic at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson (just north of Belt Line Rd on the east side of US-75). There will not be a gift exchange, but someone will win a nice door prize. You will have to be there, but then all your club friends will be there, so come and enjoy a nice time. TALK – FOOD – FRIENDS. WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED?

## December's Birthstones: Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

December is one of two month's that has 3 birthstone, Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise. The first, Tanzanite is technically a zoisite and was originally named "blue zoisite". However, Tiffany and Company was concerned that the name could be morphed into blue suicide decided to call it Tanzanite to emphasize its rarity and the only location where it was found. The name tanzanite became the popular name for the stone. It is interesting to note that tanzanite was added to the birthstone list by the American Gem Trade Association in 2002, the first change to the list in 90 years. When mined, tanzanite is generally found as a reddish-brown crystal. In its natural state is trichroic appearing burgundy, violet, or blue depending on the orientation of the crystal. However, tanzanite is almost always heat treated (naturally or in furnaces) to enhance the blue and violet colors. After heat treatment, tanzanite is dichroic appearing blue or violet depending on the crystal orientation. Additionally, the stone appears blue when viewed under a fluorescent light and violet under incandescent lighting. Tanzanite is 6.5 on Mohs hardness scale – not as hard as quartz but still hard and durable enough for most jewelry.



Zircon is the second birthstone for December. Zircon is zirconium silicate ( $ZrSiO_4$ ) and should not be confused with cubic zirconia, a man-made zirconium oxide ( $ZrO_2$ ). Zircon is found in a variety of colors including black, brown, yellow, green (very rare), red, pink, and colorless. Generally the brown zircon crystals can be heat treated to become blue, golden-yellow, and colorless. However, the colors may not be stable; the color may fade or change when exposed to ultra-violet and sunlight. The yellow, red, and pink stones are rarely heat treated. Zircon has a Mohs hardness of 7.5 – slightly harder than quartz; it is suitable for virtually all jewelry applications. Zircon is the oldest known mineral – some specimens from Australia are dated to 4.4 billion years ago – almost as old as the earth. Zircon is mined in Myanmar, Australia, Brazil, Korea, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka.

The third birthstone for December is turquoise. Turquoise is opaque (does not show light through the stone) and is blue to green in color. Turquoise is hydrated copper-aluminum phosphate and has a Mohs hardness of 5 to 6. Although susceptible to being scratched, jewelry made from turquoise is extremely popular. Most turquoise is mined in China, the US, and China. In the US, mines in Arizona and Nevada are the major producers. When we think of turquoise, around here we normally think of Native American jewelry – brilliant blue turquoise sometimes with red petrified coral all adorned with silver settings. However, turquoise has a much richer history. In most modern translations of the Bible, turquoise is mentioned as one of the twelve stones on Aaron's Breastplate. So of the other names that turquoise is known by show its rich history, with names like "the favorite stone of the Orient", "the sacred stone of Tibet", "the royal stone of Egyptian pharaohs", "the sky stone of American Indians", "the Arabic stone", and "the Aztec Stone." Some of the earliest jewelry discovered was made from turquoise, including 6000 year old turquoise bracelets found in Egyptian mummy burial sites. In the South America, the Inca made jewelry from turquoise, as did the Aztec and Maya in Mesoamerica. Many Native American tribes from the southwestern United States, including the Anasazi, Navajo, Zuni, Hopi, Pueblo, and Apache have manufactured turquoise jewelry for centuries.



Ref:

- Gem Select, <http://www.gemselect.com>
- Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>
- American Gem Society, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>
- Dnachevskay, Oksana, 2010, Turquoise in the Life of American Indians, Proceedings of the Eight Native American Symposium, Edited by Spensar, Mark B., Durant, Oklahoma: Southeastern Oklahoma State University ([http://www.academia.edu/5786419/Turquoise\\_in\\_the\\_Life\\_of\\_American\\_Indians](http://www.academia.edu/5786419/Turquoise_in_the_Life_of_American_Indians))

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- Turquoise, picture by Lavinsky / iRocks.com, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution – Share Alike 3.0 Unported

# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

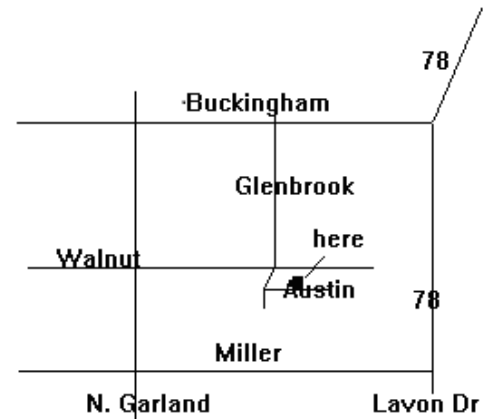


## Meetings

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:

**December Meeting: December 4<sup>th</sup> at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson starting at 7:00 PM**

January Meeting: Stand by for further information – we may move the meeting to the second Thursday (January 8<sup>th</sup>) to avoid having the meeting on New Year's Day

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, VFW Hall, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas TX (next to their shop)  
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX  
CERA (Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, 3024 Acme Brick Plaza, Ft. Worth (formerly LM Stone Steppers)  
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX  
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

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