

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX



December 2016

Vol. 50, Issue 12

Member of  
SCFMS



Affiliated with  
AFMS



- 1st Place, 2016 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
- 1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
- 1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
- 1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

## 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.

## December Birthstone, Turquoise

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

There are three birthstones associated with December. They are zircon, tanzanite, and turquoise. Birthstones have their origins in Biblical times, but it wasn't until the 18<sup>th</sup> century when the people of Poland started the modern tradition of birthstones. The 18<sup>th</sup> century Polish list had turquoise as the December birthstone. The 1870 Tiffany and Company listed only turquoise, and the original version of the current birthstone list by the American Gem Society listed turquoise along with lapis lazuli. The latest American Gem Society list has dropped lapis lazuli and added zircon and tanzanite, but turquoise has remained the traditional December birthstone.

hardness is 5 to 6. Turquoise is almost always found as massive, cryptocrystalline nodules. A few single-crystal turquoise have been found, the first in Lynch Station, VA in 1912. The primary sources for turquoise are Iran

(Persia), Sinai (early Egyptian mines), and the United States (AZ, CA, CO, and NM).



Turquoise was one of the earliest stones used for adornment. It was used in Ancient Egypt (3100 – 322 BCE), China (1776 – 1122 BCE), and in the Americas by the Aztec (1300 to 1535 CE) and possibly earlier by Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican cultures (7000 BCE to 1300 CE)

Ref:

- The History of Jewelry, <http://www.sunbijoux.com>
- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- Birthstones, <https://www.americangemsociety.org/>
- Shurtz, Don, Birthstones, "An Exposé and History"

Picture:

- <https://commons.wikimedia.org>, released to Public Domain

Turquoise's is a phosphate mineral, its chemical composition is CuAl<sub>6</sub>(PO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>4</sub>(OH)<sub>8</sub>·4H<sub>2</sub>O. The Mohs

**Chips and Chatter**

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

December 2016

Visit us: [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org) "Like" us on Facebook

## Show Calendar – Upcoming Show Dates

Dec 2 – 4, El Paso, TX, El Paso G&MS, El Maida Shriners Hall, [www.epmgs.com](http://www.epmgs.com)

Dec 3 – 4, Leesville, LA, DeRidder G&MS, West LA Forestry Fair Grounds, [deridder.rockandgem@gmail.com](mailto:deridder.rockandgem@gmail.com)

Jan 13 – 15, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, <http://www.intergem.com/>

Jan 21 – 22, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, [gedeonjim1@gmail.com](mailto:gedeonjim1@gmail.com)

Jan 27 – 29, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Rose Garden Center, [Keithharmon19@yahoo.com](mailto:Keithharmon19@yahoo.com), etgms.com

Jan – FEB, Quartzsite, AZ, numerous shows, see <http://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>

Jan 20 – 13 Feb, Tucson, AZ, numerous gem and mineral shows, see <http://www.tucsonshows.net/coming.html>

Feb 18 – 19, Georgetown, TX, Williamson CO. G&MS, <http://www.wcgms.org/>

Feb 25 – 26, Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake G&MS, Pasadena Conv. Cntr, [temp3@mflan.com](mailto:temp3@mflan.com), [www.clgms.org](http://www.clgms.org)

Feb 25 – 26, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Cntr, [bobcat22@suddenlin.net](mailto:bobcat22@suddenlin.net)

Ref:

- November - December 2016 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

### Rock Talk

Walter Beneze, SCFMS President

From the November – December 2016 SCFMS Newsletter

Well, it has been a busy and interesting year, thanks to everyone that served a committee or had a hand in helping with the running of the SCFMS. As we start into the New Year I am hoping for a continued sense of well-being for the Federation and anticipate new opportunities for growth.

If someone asked you what the favorite thing about your club was, what would you tell them? When I joined the LGMS, the hook was the incredibly friendly people that were always willing to answer any question and share their experience. I think all of our clubs are similar in this way, it shows in the officers and committee members of the SCFMS.



One point of concern I have is that I am finding that we are losing the ability to quickly transition from one officer to another, partly due to the general lack of understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the office. This seems to be true at the local level as well as in the Federation. I encourage you to find someone to guide into your position, someone who you can 'show the ropes'. Getting new members involved with the leadership is vital to our survival.

One thing that I have committed to and have been doing at the local level in the last few months is a rewrite of the handbook for the Dealer Chair for our annual show. When I took the position several years ago, I was handed a briefcase with the last year contracts and little else to go on. At this point, I have plenty of tips to pass along to my successor when that day comes, but if I don't write them down, they might get lost. If you hold a position at any level, I encourage you to do something similar.

If you are ready to step up to a challenge, we have a few committees that need a fresh perspective and new members. Please contact me and I will find a place to plug you.

### Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

[Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth

[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX

[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)

[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244

[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth

[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,

[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,

## Introducing Myself

Ron Carman, AFMS President  
From December 2016 – January 2017 AFMS Newsletter



Some of you may have seen me at various shows and conventions around the country. For those who haven't, let me write a bit about myself and how I got involved with Federation activities.

When I was in elementary school, one of my first hobbies was collecting rocks, minerals and fossils, but since I lived with my parents in the middle of Tulsa, Oklahoma I didn't have much opportunity to go on field trips. My father really loved fishing and I would sometimes go with him, but if the fish weren't biting I would get bored and go poking around in the rocks around the lake or stream.

At school during recess some of the other kids showed me where to find crinoids fossils in the limestone gravel on the playground, and before long I had a box full of them. When I was in high school and college I had other interests, so didn't do much collecting. I did take a course in mineralogy in undergraduate college, since I had to have an earth science, and that is where I learned about crystallography and mineral identification. After I graduated I spent two years in the U.S. Navy – it's difficult to hunt minerals on a ship at sea!

In 1968 I decided to go into aviation as a career and in 1969 I moved from Oklahoma to Houston, Texas and live in the Houston area for 35 years, where I worked for the FAA in air traffic control from 1971 to 2003. In 1973 I chanced to visit a dealer in the Galveston area, who told me he was busy preparing for the Houston Gem and Mineral Show the coming weekend and invited me to go see it. I liked it and so I asked how to joining the hosting club. Their monthly meeting was the next week and I joined the HGMS at that time. That's when I began my serious interest in mineral collecting, as the club had several sub-sections and I made it a point to visit the mineral section meetings. One of the best things I learned there is about some good collecting locations. I like to collect my own minerals and my job enables me to travel, so I have been able to go on some very interesting field trips over the years.

Membership the HGMS also included membership in the South Central Federation (SCFMS) as well its affiliation with the American Federation, and I began to find out more about those organizations when the national show was in Austin in 1976 and when the HGMS hosted the SCFMS show in 1997. I also learned about the Rollin' Rock Club, which is a member of the SCFMS – more about that another time. After exhibiting competitively a few times I became more interested in the Uniform Rules and managed to get on the Uniform Rules Committee (URC) for the South Central Federation. It didn't take long to learn that if you think the rules need changing, you can submit suggested changes to the committee and they will consider your suggestion at the next URC meeting. Since the URC only meets once per year at the AFMS show, it may take a while for your changes to be considered and sometimes the process seems to be slow. The Rules Book has grown considerably over the years, mostly because of the many requests the URC has received for additional divisions, such as petrified wood, scrimshaw, beading, and others that weren't there originally. If you are interest in competitive exhibiting, don't let the book scare you, since you only need to read the rules that pertain to your division and class of exhibit.

In 2004 my wife and I both retired and moved to the Hill Country of central Texas. I continued to be a member of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society and the Rollin' Rock Club and have also joined the Austin Gem & mineral Society, all in the South Central Federation. However, I have found that most clubs welcome members from all over the country, no matter where you live.

Over the years I've discovered that getting involved in federation activities, either regional or AFMS, is a good way to make new friends and get acquainted with many fellow rockhounds from other clubs all over the country. We all may have our own interest, but we share a common hobby and like the other Oklahoman Will Rogers, "I never met a rockhound I didn't like". It's a great way to share information with other fellow hobbyists from all over. And I am proof that this hobby is one that can last a lifetime, and everyone, young or old, can enjoy it in some way.

I hope everyone has a happy holidays and I will see you next year!

Ron

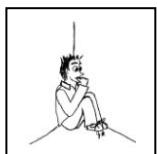
## Federation News Summary

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas

The next AFMS Convention is in Ventura, CA in June 2017. The drawing for winners of the raffle for the AFMS Endowment fund will be at the Convention. There are 3 nice prizes already donated. There is a Dinosaur Footprint, a Multi-colored fresh water pearl necklace, and a block of Red Jasper. There will be more prizes by the time the Convention rolls around. If you would care to donate a prize, please contact Cheryl Neary by email (email on AFMS web site). If you would like to buy tickets for the raffle, contact the SCFMS representative – Joyce Speed at [llispeed2@gmail.com](mailto:llispeed2@gmail.com).

There is an interesting discussion of Recreation Rockhounding on public lands in the December 2016 – January 2017 AFMS newsletter. I would highly recommend reading the article by John Martin, the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Chair. In fact, John writes interesting articles each month that are worth reading. The AMF newsletters can be found at [http://www.amfed.org/afms\\_news.htm](http://www.amfed.org/afms_news.htm).

While you are at it, the SCFMS newsletters can be found at <http://www.scfms.net/newsletter.htm>.



## Editor's Corner - Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Don Shurtz, Editor

There are Federation programs that our club could and should be participating in. We participate in the Editor and Author contest. We used to participate in the Web Site contest, but yours truly is the SCFMS Web Contest coordinator, a contest judge, and the POGMC web master, so it would not be appropriate to enter the contest. (If there is anyone who wants to take on our web site, please let me know and we will start the turnover immediately!)

An easy program which we could participate in is the Club Rockhound of the Year. This is not a competitive program, just AFMS recognition of an individual or couple selected by the club. Is there any one up for heading a committee?

Are there any scrap bookers out there? There is an All-American Club "Yearbook" program offered by the AFMS. The club scrapbooks or yearbooks are judged using a pre-defined judging scorecard. If you score high enough, you win an award at the appropriate level.

Our club has a fairly extensive, although somewhat old, library of books and VHS tapes. We used to bring the library to each meeting where a book or video could be checked out for a month. Although not required, it would be nice to convert the VHS tapes to DVDs. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to take on being the club librarian or in charge of video production? It would be nice to start the library up again.

## YOU KNOW YOU'RE A ROCKHOUND IF:

From November – December 2016 SCFMS Newsletter



- You prefer barite roses to real ones.
- Your dream holiday destination is Coober Pedy or Far North Queensland.
- Your garage is so full of rocks that the car won't fit in.
- You collect interesting specimens, including the brown unknown ones, just in case they might turn out to be something special.
- You've ever sorted through a mullock heap.
- You've ever dumpster dived at a marble warehouse.
- You color-coordinate your clothes and shoes to match your gemstone pendants.
- The sign on the side of the road says "Falling Rock" and you pull over to wait.
- You like to examine the rocks in your driveway.
- You treasure ancient, fossilized animal dung.
- You spend hours searching the ground while everyone else around you gets bored.



Credit:

- Lapidary Jokes For The Discerning Rockhound, <https://owlcation.com/stem/Lapidary-Jokes-For-The-Discerning-Rockhound>
- November – December SCFMS Newsletter, [http://www.scfms.net/Newsletters/2016\\_NOV\\_DEC\\_SCFMS\\_NEWSLETTER.pdf](http://www.scfms.net/Newsletters/2016_NOV_DEC_SCFMS_NEWSLETTER.pdf)



## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

It was an eventful November field trip. Remember – be safe at all times. Our next meeting will be December 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:00 PM) at Spring Creek Barbeque. Plan to join us for our Christmas dinner. A door prized will be awarded. Don't forget that there will be an IGEM show in January – 13, 14, and 15<sup>th</sup>. Stand by for information on show set up.

## Club Officers for 2017

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

## Minutes of the November 2016 Meeting

The November 3rd 2016 club meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Don Shurtz.

Sunshine report: Pattie is in the hospital again. Carolyn is home sick with a tooth extraction. We haven't heard from Hat. He had a spinal injection last month to treat the pain in his back.

Minutes: We discussed the Minutes of the October meeting as printed in the November 2016 Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lee. The motion was seconded by Casey, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Cheryl. The motion was seconded by Ling. The motion passed.

### Old Business:

Our new Officers were installed. See list of 2017 Officers above.

### New Business:

## December 15 Meeting / Spring Creek Barbeque

The next meeting will be the THIRD THRUSDAY, 15 December at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson. There will be food, fun, friends, and even a door prize. Directions: From northbound US 75 take the Main Street / Belt Line exit, follow the service road through the stoplight, and it will be on the right. From southbound 75 take the Main Street / Belt Line Exit, stay left for the U turn lane, and once northbound it will be on the right. Come hungry and ready for some good barbeque, talk, and general good times. See you there.



We discussed the IGEM Show. It will be brought up and discussed at another time.

Dues are now due. Dues are \$16.50 for single membership and \$27.00 for family membership.

The Christmas party will be at Spring Creek Barbeque on December 15th, at 7pm. Spring Creek Barbeque is located on 75 just north of Beltline, next to the Chase bank.

Our Presentation was a video about the Formation of Minerals. Professor John J. Renton explained the identification of minerals. Remember that dreaded "Periodic Table" we all had to memorize back in High School, all those atoms and protons and neutrons, and electrons and ions? I can remember how my eyes would just glaze over and I would wish that they would just jump ahead and tell us what they would make when they were mixed together. Well, tonight, it all made sense. I could understand what the professor was talking about when he was discussing the carbon bonding structures and why diamonds were hard and graphite was soft. It was a very interesting presentation and we will continue with this video series in January.

We had our raffle and then the meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

## Meetings

The December meeting will be the THIRD THURSDAY, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson.

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

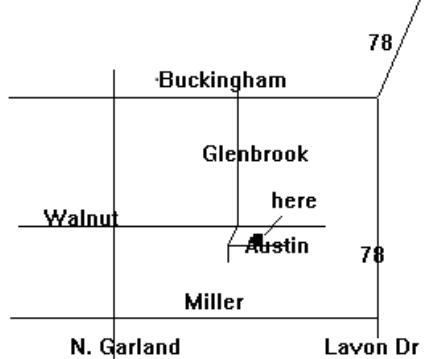
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



**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: \$16.50,  
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50  
(Plus badge fee for new members)



The December meeting will be the THIRD THURSDAY, December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Spring Creek Barbeque starting at 7:00 PM in Richardson.

The January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting be at the Garland Women's Activities Building

**CHIPS AND CHATTER**

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

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**Feature Items**

- December Birthstone, Turquoise.....1
- You Know You're a Rockhound If: .....4
- December 15 Meeting / Spring Creek Barbeque..5

**Federation Information**

- Rock Talk (SCFMS President).....2
- Introducing Myself (AFMS President).....3
- Federation News Summary .....4

**Monthly Columns**

- Club Information .....1, 5, 6
- Editor's Corner – POGMC .....4
- Minutes of the November Meeting .....5
- President's Message .....5

**Notices**

- Meeting Info .....5, 6
- Show Calendar .....2
- Visit an Area Club .....2