



Member: South Central
Federation of Mineral
Societies



Affiliated: American
Federation of
Mineralogical Societies



November 2025
Vol. 59, Issue 11

1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Christmas Rocks and Minerals - Continued

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Most years since December 2018, I have written about minerals and rocks that remind me of Christmas. I try to find green and red minerals and rocks. In 2018, my choices were Watermelon Tourmaline and Bloodstone. In 2019, I nominated Willemite to the list. In 2021, I was amazed by a Mindat post titled "Minerals Reminiscent of Christmas." I added a link to the post, and here it is again: <https://www.mindat.org/mesg-278215.html>. The link is still active. In 2022, I looked at the dark (naughty) side of Christmas and nominated a "Lump of Coal" to the list. Did you ever get a lump of coal in your Christmas stocking? 2023 was the year for Unakite and Anyolite, also known as Ruby in Zoisite, Ruby Zoisite, and Tanganyika artstone. Both Anyolite and Unakite are rocks, not minerals. 2024 was when I nominated Franklinite. Franklinite and Willemite are both red and green minerals that were mined in Franklin, New Jersey.

Rocks and minerals that exhibit both green and red in the same stone are difficult to find. This year, I am going Green – the rocks and minerals I nominate are green in color. For the Mineral, I nominate Malachite. There is a picture of a Malachite Christmas Tree in the Mindat post shown in the first paragraph. Malachite is copper carbonate hydroxide; its chemical formula is $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3(\text{OH})_2$. About 62% of Malachite's mass is copper; it is easy to see why it would be a great ore for copper. Copper can be smelted using the heat of a charcoal fire. Copper was smelted from copper-bearing rocks, such as Malachite, as early as 5,000 BCE in southern Europe and the Middle East.



For the green rock, I nominate Jade. The general name Jade encompasses both Nephrite, a Calcium and Magnesium Silicate, and Jadeite, a Sodium and Aluminum Silicate. Both Nephrite and Jadeite are commonly green. However, Nephrite can be yellow, white, or black. Jadeite can be white, yellow, lavender, orange, brown, or black. Jade was used in eastern, southern, and southeast Asia for carvings and other works of art. Jade was being mined in China as early as 6,000 BCE. The Olmec, Maya, and Aztec cultures all used Jade for tools and weapons (ceremonial and for fighting) and carved it into various images. Jade mining in Guatemala began as early as 1,500 BCE.

Ref: Mindat.org, multiple topics, <https://www.mindat.org/>

Wikipedia, multiple topics, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Images from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>. Malachite used under CCA-SA 4.0. Nephrite used under CCA-SA 2.0.

FEDERATION NEWS

Safety Matters: Why Rock Safety?

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair



Why Rock Safety? It's not a long story, but it does take some background. Safety concerns abound in most everything we do. Take breakfast, for example - we want our foods to be safe. We are careful not to touch the hot cooking surfaces. We try to cook the foods the correct way. We use special caution when fishing the toast out of the uncooperative toaster. We carefully wash the eating utensils afterward. We may not think excessively about making sure breakfast is safe, but we do want it to be a safe and healthy activity.

All around us are activities that are in need of constant safety interaction. We get on an airplane, and we receive safety instructions. People who work in an automobile repair shop are reprimanded if their efforts do not follow safety protocols. Where would we be if no drivers followed the safety rules of the road? Many people who are employed in grocery stores are schooled in how to safely lift heavy loads. Even working in an office has its safety concerns - using scissors, office machinery safe operation, being careful of pinch points, break room health safety, and so on. A great many of the products we purchase come with a set of operating instructions, and those invariably begin with a set of safety guidelines. Yes, the manufacturers of those products want you to be safe and have a great user experience with their product. Safety matters abound.

People engage in an astoundingly diverse number of hobby interests and activities - every one of which has its own safety concerns. Being a race car driver, rock climber, quilter, bee keeper, oil painter, you name it, and there are, no doubt, safety concerns. Even stamp collectors have matters of safety in their activities. The rock, mineral, fossil, bead, lapidary, and jewelry activities are no exception to having safety matters of concern to us.

In the rock and mineral hobby, we engage in numerous and very different kinds of activities, each with its own safety concerns. Here is a short list of our major activities: driving to our events, collecting, working in rock quarries and mines, putting on shows, mineral cleaning, stone cutting, jewelry work, working with ultraviolet light, lapidary effort, rock trimming, and lots and lots of lifting.

All of these activities have a laundry list of safety concerns unique to the activity. Lest one be discouraged from participating in the mineral hobby due to too much concern with matters of safety, being safe can be as simple as:

- Try not to work on something while one is tired — take a break if tired
- Pay attention to what one is doing
- Have sufficient lighting
- Ask for help if a project needs an extra set of hands or opinions
- Read the directions for proper use of machinery and chemistry
- Think before acting

That's **TTPHART** for short! These and more are the essence of being safe in most any activity. Future safety articles are planned for fire safety, chemical safety, collecting safety, pet safety, show safety, meeting safety, mineral cleaning safety, vision safety, and more in our hobby-related activities. Ours is a great hobby with a rich variety of activities. Encouraging people to be safe in all we do within those hobby activities is the goal of these safety matters articles. Please make matters of safety your concern as well. Please take safety matters to heart because your safety matters.

VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets the 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, 7
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

DECEMBER

December 6-7, DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society, West LA Forestry Fair Grounds,

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064473110778>

Ref: Local Shows, https://www.scfms.net/local_shows.htm

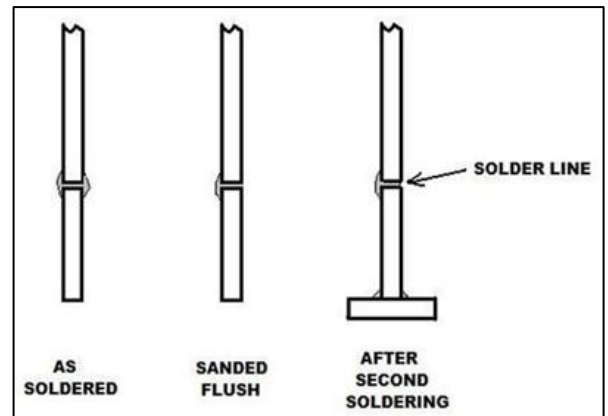
BENCH TIPS

By Brad Smith – received by email from Brad Smith

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on, say, a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature that solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all the soldering.



Of course, this isn't always possible, like when a soldering operation prevents you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit, but is not a complete solution.

LOOSE HEADS

Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammerhead. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammerhead is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple of drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates better. Packages of superglue are usually available at the 99-cent store.

Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammerhead that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.



See More of my Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making at

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

OUR DECEMBER MEETING POGMC CHRISTMAS PARTY AND POTLUCK DINNER

IT'S PARTY TIME

**Where: 3722 Cavalier
Drive, Garland, TX**

**When: Monday,
December 1, 6:00 PM**

**POTLUCK DINNER
Bring a dish to share,
Club will provide meat**

**Gift Exchange with
Gift Stealing
Bring a Hobby Related
Gift valued at
\$15 - \$20
Do not expect to bring
home the gift you
unwrap – stealing of
gifts allowed**



Ref: Christmas Tree: My Cute Graphics <https://www.mycutegraphics.com/>
Buffet Table: Dreamstime, <https://www.dreamstime.com/>

OFFICERS FOR 2025 – 2026

President:	Joe Vulk
1st VP, Programs:	Amy Vulk
2nd VP, Field Trips:	Julie Wilson
Secretary:	Johnny Rhodes
Treasurer	Ling Shurtz
Editor	Don Shurtz
Contact us by email: don.shurtz@gmail.com	

Minutes of the November 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: POGMC President Joe Vulk called the business meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Quorum: We have a quorum

Visitors: Scott Taylor attended our meeting. Later in the meeting, Scott completed a Membership application.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the October meeting, as published in the November Chips and Chatter, were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes as published was made by Ling and seconded by Cheryl. The motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ling presented the Treasurer's Report. Amy made a motion to accept the report, and Joe seconded it. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Don reviewed the SCFMS Annual Convention. Joe requested that Don amplify his lodging issues. Don explained that his original hotel canceled his reservation, claiming they never had it. Don showed them confirmation emails from Choice Hotels, including one from the day before his arrival. It turns out the hotel had cancelled all single-room reservations so they could rebook the rooms at a much higher rate. Choice Hotels found Don a room in a nearby hotel and provided award points to cover the cost for the first night. Don booked a room in Georgetown for the second night.
- Julie and Warner had a booth at the State Fair. Warner was in the hospital all but two days of the Fair, but Julie kept the booth manned.
- No one from POGMC attended the October 28 Auction hosted by the Waco Gem and Mineral Society.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The new officers were installed.
- A motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Amy to approve a \$78.00 payment for stamps to mail hard copies of the Chips and Chatter.
- Dues for 2025-2026 are now due. Checks were received from Joe and Brenda, Ling and Don, and Carolyn. Scott paid \$16.50 plus a \$3.50 cash donation.
- The Dallas G&MS Show is November 22 – 23.

PRESENTATION: We viewed several YouTube film clips about Halloween-themed rocks. For an unknown reason, the audio from the film clips was not reaching the projector. In a brilliant move, Amy projected the videos from her laptop and used the audio from her phone. She did a great job of syncing the video and audio!

EDITOR'S CORNER

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club
The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society held its annual show on November 22 and 23. The 23rd also included a Rollin Rock Club meeting. The bidding for the Treasure Chest (the right to have your name in the drawing to own the Treasure Chest) was furious. Diana Case from DGMS ended up in a bidding war with someone from POGMC and won the bid at \$350.00. This was the highest amount that anyone could remember – it beat out the high bid of \$300.00 at the Houston G&M show. Julie and Warner had a booth for the show, but Warner was having health issues (he was not in the hospital). Julie was doing all the work (OK, she had help with setup and teardown, but she was running the booth solo). Julie also indicated that they were still having problems getting Hatt into a nursing home. He will not be released from the hospital until a suitable home is found.

At the show, the Silent Auction was getting a lot of customer attention. Many, myself included, were stocking up on rocks and slabs for future cutting. There were also many vendors selling minerals, jewelry, finished stones, and rough rock. Next year, POGMC should consider a POGMC Field Trip to the show. While we are at it, we should also consider Field Trips to the other DFW local shows.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. See you at the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 1, 2025. It will be our annual Christmas Potluck Dinner – Bring a Plate (veggie, bread, dessert, etc.) to share. The club will be providing the meat dish (BBQ Brisket). We will also have a gift exchange (with stealing). Bring a hobby-related gift valued at \$15-\$20. Gift-stealing is allowed. The festivities will start at 6:00 PM and are expected to conclude by 8:00 PM. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX. Merry Christmas.

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Monday of each month, KofC Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, TX. Please check website, www.pogmc.org, for updates.

Membership

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

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. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 1, 2025, starting at 6:00 PM. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Council 6402 Hall located at 3722 Cavalier Drive in Garland.

This is our Annual Christmas Potluck and Dinner – see pages 4 and 5 for more information.

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Chips and Chatter

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

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Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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