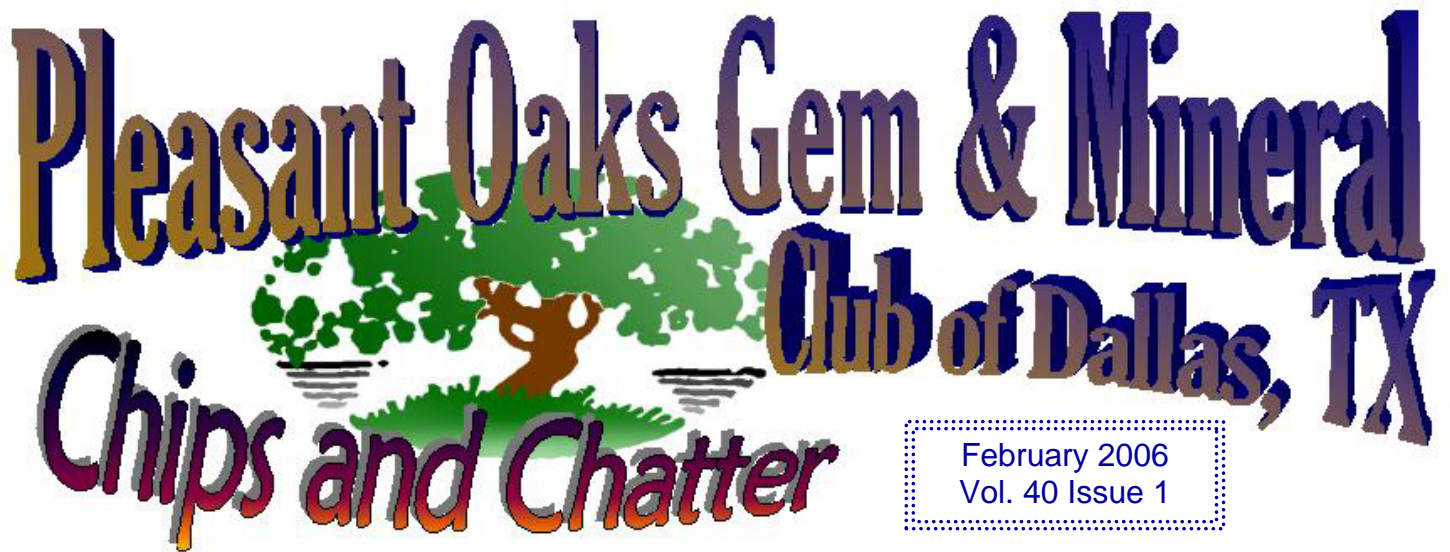


Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



February 2006
Vol. 40 Issue 1

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Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our web site for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop on Monday evening and Saturday morning
- Silversmithing Classes 28 Feb. & 7 Mar.
- Alpine Field Trip 8 - 15 April
- **If you have an email account, see page 4**
- **Dues for '06 are now due!**

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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

Monthly Meeting: February 2nd at 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Dr. Carter from
University of Texas, Dallas (UTD)

Show & Tell

Your favorite stone, gem, or mineral
See page 2

Club Officers for 2006

President: Beth Hollingsworth, 972-226-1543
1st VP: Charles Black, 940-381-6913
2nd VP: Brenda Dowell, 972-771-9502
Treasurers: Delbert Grady, 972-235-6575
Secretary:
Editor: Don Shurtz 972-509-2821
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com
4004 Dublin Road
Parker, TX 75002-6526

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club Minutes

January 5, 2005, 7:00 PM Location: Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin St., Garland, TX

Due to a variety of circumstances, the minutes from the January meeting were not available. We will need to attempt to reconstruct the minutes at the next meeting.

President's Message

Beth Hollingsworth, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

- Dr. Carter from UTD will be our guest speaker at the February show.
- If you wish to participate in the IGEM show, you need to sign up by the March meeting. You need to help with the set up if you expect to utilize the club's booth.
- We are all looking forward to reports from our new committees.
- Our current secretary, Marilyn Rodriguez, has resigned. We need a volunteer to be the club's secretary.

Executive Committee Notes

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

A meeting of the executive board was held on Monday, 16 January at the joint shop. The primary topic for the board meeting was the club's show for 2006. After a lot of discussion, it was decided that we did not have time to hold a proper show in the spring of 2006. One of the primary factors was that most dealers have probably set their own schedule and would be unable to participate in a spring show in Dallas in 2006. After further discussion, it was determined that we should press ahead with a fall show for 2006 and then change the dates to the spring for 2007. The tentative dates set for the 2006 show were 30 September and 1 October with 29 September for show set up. The tentative dates set for the 2007 show were 31 March and 1 April 2007 with show set up on 30 March 2007. Mark Carter will discuss the dates with Brookhaven College to determine if the dates are acceptable. There was also considerable discussion as to why we had a poor turnout at our 2005 show. One of the glaring factors was advertising. A variety of advertising means were addressed and will be further discussed at a future meeting.

Show and Tell Table

Wanda Fitzgerald, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

Please bring your favorite gem, stone, rock, or mineral specimen to display on the Show and Tell table. Also be prepared to relate your story as to why it is your favorite. Let's have some nice displays and stories this year. We will vote on the display items and have a nice prize for the winner at the end of the year.

Alpine Field Trip

On page 3 you read about a great Field Trip to Alpine. Brad Tanas is organizing another trip to the Alpine area for week of 8 to 15 April. The trip will include the Alpine Gem and Mineral club show. A tentative schedule for the field trip is as follows:

- 8th leave Dallas
- 9-12th Walker Ranch (fee dig)
- 13th at petrified wood location? 1 day trip - several options (fee dig)
- 14th at Marfa Show and a local show field trip
- 15th 1/2 day at Marfa Show and/or field trip (play it by ear), drive home
- 16th relax and clean up on Sunday 16th (Easter Sunday)

For more details on the trip, contact Brad at a club meeting

World Record Meteorite

(From the Jan 06 "The Hound's Howl" via *Rockhounder*, 12/2005)

A 1,400-pound stony-iron pallasite meteorite found in Kiowa County (Editor: Kiowa County, Kansas) is the largest of its type ever recovered in the United States, and the third largest in history. Steve Arnold, 39, a professional meteorite hunter from Arkansas has found and excavated a meteorite weighing almost three quarters of a ton from a farmer's field near Haviiland, Kansas. The discovery was made in late October using sophisticated metal detecting equipment. It is one of the most valuable meteorite finds ever made in the United States and is of historic and scientific importance.

Meteorites, rocks that have fallen to Earth from outer space, are of considerable value to both scientists and private collectors. Meteorite collecting is a growing hobby, with thousands of enthusiasts worldwide willing to pay high prices for these rare sky rocks. Brenham meteorites, named after the Kiowa Country township in Kansas, were first found in the area during the 1890s, when frontier farmers sold a number of them to universities and mineral dealers. Brenham specimens are today on display in the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Field Museum in Chicago, and other prominent institutions.

They are of a rare type, known as pallasites, which account for only 1% of all known meteorites. Pallasites consist of a nickel-iron matrix full of colorful olivine crystals (the semi-precious gemstone peridot) and are very beautiful when cut and polished. Well-prepared pallasite specimens often sell for between twenty and forty dollars per gram. Arnold's discovery is the largest pallasite ever found in America, and the largest oriented pallasite meteorite ever found anywhere in the world. An oriented meteorite is one which has traveled through Earth's atmosphere without spinning and formed a conical or bullet shape as its surface melted. Oriented pallasites are extremely rare and highly prized by museums and private collectors.

Steve Arnold was born in Kansas, and has been thinking about Brenham meteorites for more than a decade. "I traveled all over the world hunting for meteorites, but came home to make my most important discovery. I was just sure there were more of them out there waiting to be found," he said. Mr. Arnold and his partner, Phil Mani, a geologist and oil and gas attorney from San Antonio, Texas, made arrangements with local landowners, which allowed them to search for the deeply buried meteorites. The 1,400-pound specimen was recovered at considerable depth, and a backhoe was needed to lift it. Dr. Art Ehlmann, Curator of the Oscar E. Monnig Meteorite Gallery at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth visited the site last week, and described Mr. Arnold's discovery as "the most significant American meteorite find in decades."

(From the Nov. 9, 2005 Press Release.)

See <<http://www.worldrecordmeteorite.com/>>. <<http://www.worldslargestthings.com/kansas/pallasitemeteorite.htm>> for the former largest pallasite at 1000 pounds.

< Editor's Note: For some great pictures, see <http://www.worldrecordmeteorite.com/photos.htm> >

Upcoming Shows

Jan 28-Feb 11	Tucson, AZ	Arizona Mineral & Fossil show, www.mzexpos.com
Feb 18-19	Plainview, TX	Hi Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center, jmatlock@texasonline.net
Feb 25-26	Pasadena, TX	Clear Lake G&MS, Pasadena Conv. Cntr, 281-481-1591 or gpenning@ghg.net
Feb 25-26	Live Oak, TX	Bead Market, Live Oak Civic Center, rebekah@thebeadmarket.net
Mar 4-5	Big Spring, TX	Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard County Fair Barn, 432-263-4552
Mar 4-5	Corpus Christi, TX	Gulf Coast G&MS, Al Amin Shrine Center, 361-851-8788
Mar 4-5	Farmers Branch, TX	Mineral. Assoc. of Dallas, Brookhaven College, 972-437-9980
Mar 10-12	Dallas, TX	IGEM Dallas, Dallas Market Center, 301-294-1640
Mar 9-12	Deming, NM	Deming G&MS, Southwestern NM Fairgrounds, 505-544-8231
Mar 14	Dallas, TX	Rings & Things, Wyndham Garden Hotel, 300-366-2156
Mar 17-19	San Antonio, TX	IGEM San Antonio, Henry B. Gonzalez Conv. Center, 301-294-1640
Mar 18-19	Fort Worth, TX	Bead Market, Amon Carter Exhibit Hall, rebekah@thebeadmarket.net
Mar 24-26	San Antonio, TX	Southwest G&MS, Morris Activity Center, Freeman Coliseum, 210-337-8908

The Unsolved Mystery of Blue Amber

Hermann Dittrich, <http://www.ambarazul.com>, hdittrich@ambarazul.com
From Calgary Lapidary Journal, March 2005 via Shin-Skinners News, June 2005

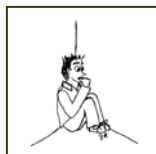
Blue amber is only found in one country: in the Caribbean, in the Dominican Republic.

There are several theories about the origin of the color and it is not fully understood what causes the blue color in amber. We know that it is a result of fluorescence and no solid color. Ultra-violet or violet light is re-emitted as blue green light attributed to the presence of poly-nuclear aromatic molecules. (Gemology, Cornelius S. Hurlbut, Jr., Robert C. Kammerling)

This makes a lot of sense, because the best way to test blue amber is holding it under a ultra-violet lamp where even the darkest space blue amber changes its color to a radiant cobalt-blue. And, we have noticed that blue amber can be recognized by a very agreeable smell, which is different from regular amber when it is being cut and polished.

One theory links the color in Dominican blue amber to the occurrence of volcanic ash or dust which was present when the resin was first pressed out from *hymenaea protera* millions of years ago. Another suggests that due to volcanic activity hot lava must have flown over those areas where regular amber was buried under ground. Due to the extreme heat, the amber changed its color first to green and then to blue. Experiments have shown that changes of color occur when normal amber is heated up. Another detail seems to fit this theory: There are virtually no animal or plant fossil inclusions to be found in blue amber.

Dr. G. Bechly of the Naturkunde museum in Tübingen, Germany writes: "The large absence of inclusions could very well fit into the hypothesis, that the blue amber was secondarily warmed up and melted, since this way such inclusions were destroyed (cooked) (as it is also in the case with the Sarawak amber)." [G. Bechly bechly.smns@naturkundemuseum-bw.de] While the mystery around the origin of its color has not been cleared, one thing is sure: Blue Amber is beautiful and it is extremely rare. Check out the web site for more information and pictures on the unique material. —



Editor's Corner - Chips & Chatter Distribution

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Each month I mail about 90 copies of the Chips and Chatter by U.S. mail, more recently referred to as snail-mail. About 67% are going to club and honorary members, the remainder are sent to exchange news bulletin editors, officers of the SCFMS and AFMS, and to a few select businesses. I also email the Chips and Chatter to about 130 addresses, about evenly distributed between club members, exchange news bulletin editors, SCFMS officers, and AFMS officers. There is a significant overlap in the snail-mail and email distribution to club members - if I have a valid email address then a club member receives a snail-mail and an email version. There is only a minor overlap in the email and snail-mail lists of exchange editors, and SCFMS and AFMS officers. The biggest problem with email addresses is that they frequently get changed. You change your ISP provider to get a better price or a higher speed service; you get a new email account. You start getting too many junk emails; you change your email account. You think of a flashy new email name; you change your email account. A few years ago, as a cost savings step, we asked club members if they would accept receiving their Chips and Chatter by email. About 20 people responded in the affirmative. However, over the year that number dwindled until it finally reached only 4 members - I gave up on trying to keep track. The other part of the story is that the number of copies of the Chips and Chatter to be printed fell off to the magical point where they cost more per copy and the total price of printing actually went up. It was cheaper to print 100 copies than 80 copies!

So where is this all leading. The club would like to have a valid email address list for as many of the club members as possible. We are therefore asking all club members with email to send an email to the President (bethhollingsworth@sbcglobal.net), the editor (don.shurtz@gmail.com) and the treasurer (dgrady19@comcast.net). With a valid email address, the club can let people know of changes in class schedules, last minute field trip plans, and maybe even get back to sending some Chips and Chatter by email.

Question of the Month - Rivière

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

From the December issue: What is a RIVIÈRE (Rivière)?

Before we examine a rivière, I have often been asked where I get the ideas for the “Question of the Month”. The answer is reading. A lot of the items start in Spearing’s Roadside Geology of Texas or from websites where I am examining potential answers for a Question of the Month. This month’s term was just something that caught my



Diamond Rivière Necklace, picture with permission of Bijoux Extraordinaire, Ltd, Manchester, New Hampshire
<http://www.jewelryexpert.com>

eye while looking up a definition for a word while at work. One of my associates has used the word “riverine” and my word processor had flagged the word as incorrectly spelled. I just wanted to check and see if it really was a valid word and was spelled correctly. It was, but in the process, I noted an entry six words below that included the word “diamonds”. There it was - the next month’s Question of the Month, rivière.

Quite simply, a rivière is a necklace of precious stones such as diamonds. A rivière is generally set as a single strand. There are sometimes other diamonds or set stone pendants hanging from the basic loop. The word rivière comes from the French language and means a river of diamonds. According to “Professional Jeweler” Diamond Information Center, the most popular diamond items at spring 2005 fashion shows in New York were a right hand diamond ring and diamond rivière necklaces.

In recent years, rather than implying exclusively a necklace of precious stones, some jewelers are using the terminology of “a river of diamonds” as applied to bracelets. Thus, if you look on-line you can find diamond rivière bracelets. These are more commonly referred to, in the United States, as tennis bracelets.

The “tennis bracelet” name came into vogue when Chris Evert had a diamond bracelet break during a match at the 1987 U.S. Open tennis tournament. The match was temporarily halted to allow her to pick up the diamonds.

Interestingly, if you do an Internet search on “riviere and diamond”, it is surprising the number of people with the last name Riviere who are associated with word “diamond” (chemical research, land developers, etc.) and the number of places with Riviere and Diamond in the name.

1. Spearing, Roadside Geology of Texas, copyright 1991, Mountain Press Publishing Co., Missoula, MT
2. Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary, H. Woolf editor, copyright 1979, G. & C. Merriam Co., Springfield, MA
3. The Jewelry Experts® Bijoux Extraordinaire, Ltd, <http://www.jewelryexpert.com/>
4. Ask Yahoo, <http://ask.yahoo.com/20030509.html>

Question - of - the - Month for February: What is a DIADEM? See last month’s cartoon clue for a hint.

Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs

Texas School of Earth Science (Arlington G&M Club) meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 1408 Gibbins, Arlington
Pleasant Oaks G&M Club meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at Garland Women’s Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland.
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers , 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, TX
Dallas Paleontological Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 at Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park.
Dallas G&M Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Ridgewood Rec. Cntr, 6818 Fisher Rd, Dallas.
Dallas Bead Society meets the 3rd Thur. of each month at 7:30 at Walnut Hill Rec. Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas
Oak Cliff G&MS meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM, Ice House Arts Plaza, 1011 Brooklyn, Dallas
Fort Worth G&M Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.



Truth & Some Consequences

by Jon Spunaugle, Conservation & Legislation
From the Feb 2006 AFMS Newsletter

During the last few weeks of the year 2005, Congress was trying to pass a Budget Bill entitled Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (HR 4241) before adjourning for the year end holiday. Contained in a version of the U.S. House of Representatives Bill were two sections (Sections 6201 and 6202) that would make changes to the Mining Law. One section increased the annual fees paid on mining claims and increased, slightly, the size of a mining claim. A second section would have removed the prohibition on patenting a mining claim. This prohibition on patents was put into law in the mid '90s. The patenting of a mining claim transfers, for a fee, the surface rights on public land to the claim owner and thus is, in fact, selling of public lands to private parties. Perhaps you read about all of this in the news reports last December.

Because several sections of this Budget Bill were controversial (including this mining bill change and a provision to open a small part of the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve (ANWAR), to oil drilling and other provisions, this version of the Budget Bill failed to get enough votes to pass and was withdrawn to be modified to remove the controversial provisions. However, Congress is still working on this Budget Bill so stay tuned. It is hard to predict what will happen when Congress reconvenes in late January, 2006. The "sister" legislation to this House Bill is found under Senate Bill S-1932.

When I reviewed the House Bill HR 4241, I did not see any major threat to hobby collectors in either section of the proposed mining law provisions. Those inclined to oppose the patenting of mining claims would feel otherwise. However, I always deplore these "hidden" sections in what is a Bill that should normally contain budget or appropriations language only. It just seems to me that if these things need to be changed then it should be done, in this case, in a separate Bill to change the mining law. Hiding these provisions in these gigantic last minute Bills that are put together hurriedly by staff members and voted on with little debate and even less knowledge of what all they contain is not what most people I talk to think Congress should be doing. A recent example I am reminded of is a Bill passed a year ago that contained a section creating the new "America the Beautiful Pass", Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004. This Act was added as a section of the general appropriations Bill (HR 4818) late in 2004. It was passed as Congress was adjourning a year ago in November. We did not realize what had happened until January, 2005 when it was already the law of the land.

Speaking of the "America the Beautiful Pass" I expect that there will be public input opportunities on the development, use, and cost of this national pass in 2006 in preparation for implementation in 2007. These opportunities will be published in the Federal Register. We'll be watching for them and trying to keep you informed. There is nothing new to report on the Fossil Bill which seems to be bottled up in the U.S. House of Representatives, Natural Resource Committee for now.

Lastly, if you are aware of any hobby problems in the area of my Committee's responsibility that I have not written about, I would appreciate an e-mail at < jonspe@juno.com > or a phone call at (360) 835-9313 to alert me. This is big country to cover and your concerns are important. I am very grateful for all the feed back that I have received as well as tips on what is going on.

Be Safe — Be Well

A message from your Safety Committee - Don Monroe, Chair
MSDS – What is it?

MSDS is an acronym standing for Material Safety Data Sheet which can be very important to us and involves, in some cases, our personal safety. There are laws, rules and regulations governing MSDS and few, if any of us, have much real knowledge about all of the requirements. We do know that many products we come in contact with such as our medications, our chemicals and the equipment and materials we use in our lapidary work have data sheets that we need to take the time to read and try to understand.

Our experienced students seem to take things for granted but many of the new students ask some very good questions. They often want to know which soldering fluxes are the safest and what smoke or fumes can cause health problems. I always answer these questions to the best of my knowledge but often wonder if my knowledge is as complete as it should be. There is cadmium in some solders and cadmium can be quite deadly so some of the fumes from these solders should be avoided. There is definitely a difference in some of the most commonly used fluxes and we need to know more about them.




I do not have all of the answers and that bothers me. I do, however, have a New Year's Resolution that I intend to follow in my workshop and in the various classes I will be teaching and it involves the following points:

1. I will read and distribute to my students all of the brochures that are included with tools, equipment and products that we are using.
2. I will copy and distribute to the students all of the articles and advertisements dealing with potential hazards.
3. When I have doubt about a product, process or tool, I will contact the manufacturer and request a MSDS or other safety information.
4. Although I always cover safety issues at the beginning of each class session, I will go much further with my coverage of these issues.
5. At the risk of irritating some of my fellow instructors, I will judiciously meddle in their business and at least share any of my findings regarding MSDS, hazards and better, safer ways to do the work that we enjoy.

We all need to realize that each of us functions as an instructor or mentor to the "new" players in the game and we have an obligation to foster good work habits and safe attitudes. Will any of you join me in incorporating safety in your new year's resolutions?



Joint Workshop Calendar

February 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club Christmas Dinner, 7:00 PM see map inside	3	4 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM 1st Sat. Trading Day
5	6 Open Shop 6-9 PM	7	8	10	11 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM	
12  Abraham Lincoln's Brithday	13 Open Shop 6-9 PM	14  Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
19	20 Open Shop 6-9 PM President's Day	21 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Meeting 7:00 PM	22  George Washington's Birthday	23	24	25 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
26	27 Open Shop 6-9 PM	28 Silversmithing Class at Shop				

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

March 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club Christmas Dinner, 7:00 PM see map inside	3	4 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM 1st Sat. Trading Day
5	6 Open Shop 6-9 PM	7 Silversmithing Class at Shop	Ash Wednesday	8	10	11 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
12	13 Open Shop 6-9 PM	14	15	16	17  St Patricks Day	18 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
19  First day of Spring	20 Open Shop 6-9 PM	21 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Meeting 7:00 PM	22	23	24	25 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
26	27 Open Shop 6-9 PM	28	29	30	31	Coming up Alpine Field Trip April 8 - 15

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

Membership Renewal

As of the middle of January less than half of our 2005 members have renewed their membership for 2006. If you have not yet renewed your membership, you need to see the club treasurer at the next meeting, or send your membership renewal to POGMC, c/o Del Grady, P.O. Box 831934, Richardson, TX 75083-1934. Don't let your membership privileges end! Renew TODAY!

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

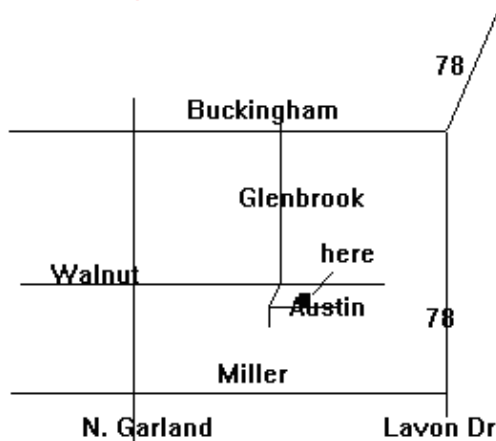
3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins
9th place AFMS 2002 small bulletins
2nd place SCFMS 2002 small bulletins

Dues for 2006 are now due

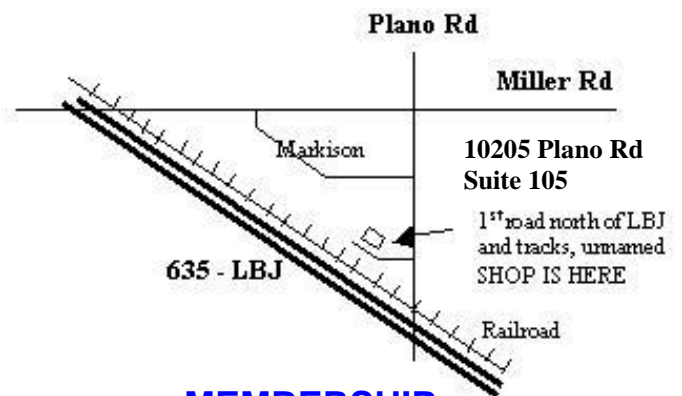
If you have an email account, see the special note at the bottom of page 4

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

Meeting Map



Joint Club Shop Map



MEETINGS

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

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
Affiliated with
American Federation of Mineral Societies