

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

February 2007
Vol. 41 Issue 2

Features

Update on Shop Supervisors.....	5
Article on Making Petrified Wood.....	5

Monthly Columns

Minutes	2
Editor's Corner.....	3
President's Message.....	3
Treasurer Report	3
1 st Vice President Message	3
Shop Report	3
Question of the Month	4
Metroplex Clubs.....	4
Field Trips.....	5
Junior Rockhound Corner	5
Upcoming Shows	6
Pleasant Oaks Want Ads.....	6
Shop Calendar	6

Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our web site for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop: Each Monday - 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and each Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon
- Ladies night at the shop on 2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:00PM to 9:00PM

February issue 2007 by Anita Dresner. Unless otherwise noted, permission granted for non-commercial reproduction of articles provided they remain essentially intact and credit is given to the author and original source. Where noted, the author retains the copyright and must be contacted for permission to reproduce the article. All articles may also be used as reference provided citation is given.

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 1st at 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Charles Black will be instructing us how to wire-wrap a beaded bracelet. Mini discussion by Donnette Wagnor on photography.

Show & Tell

As always, we are interested in what shows up on the table and you are always welcome to bring items to share with us at any meeting for Show and Tell.

Club Officers for 2007

President: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
2nd VP: Brenda Dowell, (972) 771-9502
Treasurers: Delbert Grady, (972) 235-6575
Secretary: Renee Wofford
Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
E-mail: andresner@verizon.net

Minutes – January, 2007 General Meeting

Minutes as compiled by Don Shurtz & Donna Mallory, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club meeting held January 4th, 2007 at the Garland Women's Activity Building. The meeting was called to order by Don Shurtz at 7:30 pm. The pledge was led by Scott Wagner.

There were no minutes required for December due to Christmas Party.

Del Grady presented the treasurer's report for November and December 2006. Mark Carter motioned to accept and was seconded by Robert Richter. Motion passed. The floor recognized Rick Ramsey the past president of the Dallas Gem & Mineral Society. Rick thanked the Pleasant Oaks Club for their participation and help at the Dallas club's show in November.

Mark Carter explained the evening's presentation would be a video about the Sweet Home mine in Colorado. Mark plans to have Doug Wallace to give a presentation in March on how to properly assess the value of your gems and specimens.

Brenda was absent due to illness. Rick Ramsey reported a Qualifying Class had started on Wednesday; there was still room and people could catch up at the next Wednesday Meeting.

Old Business

As per our policy in the past several years, the club has donated \$500 to Diane Brownlee, Director of the Ellison Miles GeoTechnical Institute at Brookhaven College for the Outreach Program. Don Shurtz asked that we pass a motion to approve the donation. A motion to approve was made by Donnette Wagner and seconded by Robert Richter. Motion passed.

1. Dues for membership renewal should have been paid by the November 2005 meeting. To date, only 8 groups (individuals or families) have paid their dues. **We will send out a reminder to all old members whose renewals are past due and include a postage paid envelope as part of the February issue Chips and Chatter.**

New Business

1. Don opened for discussion the SMU Regional Science and Engineer Fair sponsored by The Dallas Morning News and Beal Bank will be held on March 24th and 25th. This will be the 50th Annual Fair. A motion was made by Mark Carter and seconded by Robert Richter, that we again sponsor a special award with a prize of a rock tumbler kit (approximately \$100.00) and sponsoring the winner and his/her teacher at the Award Banquet (approximately \$50.00). The motion passed. Don Shurtz will submit the required paperwork to sponsor the award. Del Grady will procure the tumbler kit.
2. Don gave a report on the number of times the minutes had been published in the Chips and Chatter last year. Don pointed out that it was a violation of the club's bylaws to not publish the minutes. He appealed for anyone to volunteer for the Secretary position. As there were no volunteers, the subject will again be addressed at the next meeting. Mark Carter volunteered to write an article for the Chips and Chatter to discuss the matter.
3. Don discussed continuation of the hands-on concept for every other meeting. Members present were all pleased with the hands-on meetings. A motion was made by Donna Mallory and seconded by Robert Richter that we continue to have hands-on type project/discussion items every other meeting under the direction of the 1st Vice President.
4. Although not present, we believe Scott Wingo is planning to lead a group to the Llano Uplift area in the spring. We also believe that David Dobson is planning to lead a trip to the TXI plant in Midlothian in the near future.
5. The IGEM show is currently scheduled for May 4th. Don Shurtz indicated he would contact Warner Ragan to see if he would lead our club activities for IGEM.
6. Donnette Wagner indicated she had seen some emails talking about a mini-show at Brookhaven's EMGI in March. The exact scope of the mini-show was not available; but, it could present an opportunity for our club to host a table to promote interest in the club. The subject will be discussed further at the February Meeting.
7. Donna Mallory asked if there was anyone who would be willing to conduct a Beginner's Faceting Class at the shop. Both Donna and Ling Shurtz indicated they would like to learn. Del Grady agreed to write-up a proposal for a class and possibly be the instructor.

A break was called at 8 PM for 10 minutes. There were no raffle items or show and tell items; so, we all had some cookies and side discussions.

Mark Carter showed portions of a video dealing with the Sweet Home Mine's history and the production of rhodochrosite specimens. The video was very interesting and well received. Thank you, Mark.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.



Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings! I am getting a better grasp on this newsletter, but keep hanging with me for a while. Please remember, to have a subject or article addressed in the Chips and Chatter feel free to let me hear from you. I continue to need your support with questions of the month, pictures of Rock Hounding trips and/or articles, or experiences to share. Check out the "Feature Articles" this month that David Dobson sent. To be in the coming month's Chips and Chatter, I need it by the 3rd Thursday of the month before it is due to appear in the newsletter.

President's Message

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings and welcome to another Happy New Year, this time the lunar or Chinese New Year. The Chinese New Year officially starts on February 18th. So you have one more chance to make new years resolution. Given the chance, I have one more resolution for the club and members – it is time to renew you club membership. As of the January meeting, only eight "groups" (individual or families) had renewed their membership, which means most have not renewed.

It appears that we may have an opportunity to promote our club at a "mini-show" that will be held at the EMGI building at Brookhaven College on Saturday, March 3rd and Sunday, March 4th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days. We will have a chance to discuss our club's participation at the February meeting. If you would like to be a dealer at this show, you should contact Dr. Nick Theis at n2theis@comcast.net or 972-242-2634. Also, the International Gem & Jewelry Show (IGEM) will be coming to Dallas, May 4th thru 6th. If we can get enough club members to help with the set-up, we can have a booth to promote the club and for club members to sell their goods. More to follow later.

At this time, I am not sure if I will be in town for the next meeting (February 1st). I am waiting for some travel dates to firm up. But, I am going to try my best to be there. Hope you can make it. This will be our first "hands-on" activity meeting of the year. ----Don

Treasurer Message

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Please remember that annual dues are now past due! Those **members not current as of the February meeting are receiving their last Chips and Chatter with this issue.** The fees are listed on the last page of the newsletter. **If you have not yet paid your dues, a postage paid, self-addressed envelope is included for you to return your dues at this time.** Thank You

1st Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Charles Black will be doing a make and wire-wrap beaded bracelet. The supplies you will need to make a 7" to 7 1/2" bracelet are: SQUARE wire of your choice - 21 or 22 gauge gold filled or sterling silver. You will need (2) wires 18" long, (2) wires 8" long and 3ft of half round (all wire should be of same choice be it Gold Filled or Sterling Silver), 40 beads of your choice 4 millimeter or smaller. Bring your wire cutters, flat nose pliers and a pin vise. I know we are going to see some super looking bracelets! Donnette will also be talking to us for a few moments about photography.

Shop Report

Brenda Dowell, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

"LADIES NIGHT" has been well received! We would love to see more ladies now that the holidays are behind us. The Genies are available to those who qualify and space is available to work on chains, wire wrapping etc., if you would like to share. Some shop supervisor changes of the Dallas club are John Woodard, 1st and 3rd Monday nights; Rick, 2nd and 4th Monday nights. Brenda is there every Monday to open at 4:30PM. Saturday supervisors remain the same as before. A Spring Rock Swap is to be held in the shop parking lot one Saturday in March. Brenda is asking to please let her know of anything scheduled for any March Saturday; so, they can avoid any conflict of dates. You can contact Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM

Question of the Month: What is the State Soil of Texas?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Society

The question of the month for February is “What is the State Soil of Texas?” As a rockhound, do you give two hoots? Thought so, but here we go anyway. Before we answer the question, we should probably first know what soil is. According to Dictionary.com, soil is “the portion of the earth's surface consisting of disintegrated rock and humus”. Now there is the rockhound connection, soil is composed of disintegrated rocks. Ever wonder where the rock that came flying off the top went. In a few hundreds of million years, it will be soil! OK, now let's get serious.

Soil is made from decomposed rocks and humus, or organic matter. Soil is broken down into three basic types, those being clay, silt (or loam), or sand type soils. Clay soils are composed of the finest particles and is smooth when dry, sticky when wet. Sand soils are composed primarily of sand and feel rough. Silt is somewhere between clay and sand in particle size and feels smooth or powdery when dry and is not sticky when wet. Every state has a state soil, and twenty of the states (including Texas) have made the State Soil official by legislation. The State Soil for Texas is Houston Black. Houston Black is black, clay soil. Surprisingly, Houston Black soil is not found in the Houston area. Houston Black soil is found in a wedge from the Red River boarder near Bonham, through Dallas, Waco, Austin, and San Antonio with the thick portion of the web to the north. So now, we can put a name with the soil that, when wet, sticks to your boots and can add inches to your height as you try to dig in it. The Houston Black Soil covers about 2,000,000 (two million) acres. Some of the more important crops grown in the Houston Black soil are sorghum, cotton, and corn. It also supports a variety of native grasses for pasture land. Houston Black is noted for the degree of expansion and contraction as it varies from wet to dry. Here in Dallas we are all too aware of that expansion, it supports a thriving business in foundation repair.



**Cross section of
Houston Black soil**

A few other Texas State Symbols: Bird – Mockingbird, Large Mammal – Texas Longhorn, Small Mammal – Armadillo, Flying Mammal – Free-tailed Bat, Reptile – Texas Horned Lizard, Insect – Monarch Butterfly, Fish – Guadalupe Bass, Sea Shell – Lightning Whelp, Flower – Bluebonnet, Plant – Prickly Pear Cactus, Tree – Pecan, Grass – Sideoats grama, Shrub – Chinese Crepe Myrtle, Fruit – Red Grapefruit, Vegetable – Sweet Onion, Fiber – Cotton, Dinosaur – Pleurocoelus, Stone – Petrified Palmwood, Gem – Blue Topaz, Soil – Texas Black.

References:

Dictionary.com, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/soil>

Enchanted Learning, <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/usa/states/texas/>

The Great Plant Escape, <http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/gpe/case2/c2facts2.html>

Think Quest, <http://library.thinkquest.org/J003195F/newpage4.htm>

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, http://soils.usda.gov/gallery/state_soils/

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soil_type

Question of the Month for March: What is an Oxbow Lake?

Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs

Texas School of Earth Science (Arlington G&M Club) meets 1st Tuesday each month at 7:30 PM at 1408 Gibbins, Arlington
Pleasant Oaks G&M Club meets 1st Thursday each month at 7:30 PM at Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, meets 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, TX
Dallas Paleontological Society meets 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:30 at Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park
Dallas G&M Society meets 3rd Tuesday each month at 7:00 PM at Ridgewood Rec. Center, 6818 Fisher Road, Dallas
Dallas Bead Society meets 3rd Thursday each month at 7:30 at Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas
Oak Cliff G&MS meets 4th Tuesday each month at 7:00 PM, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, 75224
Fort Worth G&M Club meets 4th Tuesday each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX

Update on Shop Supervisors

Mike Russell, Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

1st Saturday of each month: Steve Wheeler and *Bob Yadon
2nd Saturday of each month: John Woodward and Paul Floyd
3rd Saturday of each month: Del Grady and Don Shurtz
4th Saturday of each month: Mike Russell
Monday night open shop: Brenda Dowell; 1st & 3rd - John Woodward; 2nd & 4th - Rick Ramsey

Making Petrified Wood

David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

How long do you think it takes for wood to petrify? Days, Decades, or Millions of years? If you said all of the above, you would be correct.

The two different kinds of Petrified wood are casts and permineralizations or pseudo morph. A cast is a mold of the wood after it has decomposed. A pseudo morph is the wood with a different chemical make-up. The wood underwent a mineral replacement. Pseudo morph means "false shape" in Latin.

The NSL (National Science Laboratory) in Yakima Washington has found a way to synthetically make petrified wood in days. They do this by placing a piece of pine wood in an acid bath for a couple of hours. The wood is then soaked in a silica solution for three days. The wood is then dried and placed in a furnace at 1,400°F under an argon atmosphere. The result is a piece of petrified wood with a silicon carbide composition. This is more of a chemical reaction than true petrification.

I have heard that wood has also been found to petrify within years when left exposed to the water from hot springs rich in minerals. The springs contained high concentrations of calcium ions that formed wood petrified with calcium oxide. Though, I don't know how creditable, the only two references that I could locate on the internet for short term natural petrification follow: "*The Petrifying Stream at Knaresborough, Yorkshire, England*" (www.johnpratt.com). From my observation, the specimens termed petrified seemed to be covered with a layer of onyx. The second was the "*Chapel of Santa Maria of Health (Santa Maria de Salute)*", built in 1650 in Venice, Italy, to celebrate the end of the plague. The chapel was constructed on 180,000 wooden pilings. Because Venice is built on water that is saturated with clay and sand, many of the pilings have been shown to be petrified." (www.answersingenesis.org) If you have other references, I would be very interested in reading them. (Ddobson268@aol.com).

The natural petrification process takes millions of years. The wood is first grown naturally and is comprised of the element carbon as a cellulose compound. The wood from the tree is buried under soil from a flood or other natural erosion. This cover prevents the wood from coming in contact with the oxygen in the air, keeping it from decomposing. Over time as a carbon element is forced from the wood it is replaced with a silicon element from the soil. This mineral replacement happens with other compounds as well.

Field Trips

Report by Brenda Dowell

A "COLORADO FIELD TRIP" is in the planning. Jim Senseman and Dave Greenburg of DG&M, and our Brenda are putting together a Colorado trip. They are trying to schedule it in connection with both/or one of the Gem and Mineral Shows near the field site. Please check to see if it will fit into your schedule of summer events. August 3 – 5 Creede, Colorado G&M Show, Field Trip August 6 – 9, Buena Vista G&M Show August 10 – 12. They are trying to solidify the plans by mid-March. If you are interested, please contact Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM.

Junior Rockhound Corner

Reported by Mark Carter

The rocks that we put in the tumblers are now ready for you to pick up at the February club meeting. Be sure to bring mom and dad so they can see the super job the tumbler did on the rocks. They are fantastic! And they are yours.

Upcoming Shows

From the Show Calendar of Lapidary Journal

<p>Feb 17 & 18 - Plainview, TX Contact: Mildred Matlock, jmatlock@texasonline.net</p> <p>Feb 24 & 25 - Pasadena, TX Contact: www.ghg.net/gpenning/annual.htm</p> <p>Mar 3 & 4 - Big Spring, TX Contact: Lola Lamb, (432) 263-4662</p> <p>Mar 3 & 4 - Corpus Christi, TX Contact: jtgrimes@mail.evl.net</p> <p>Mar 17 & 18 - Ft Worth, TX Contact: www.thebeadmarket.net</p> <p>Mar 23 & 25 - San Antonio, TX Contact: swgms_sat@yahoo.com</p> <p>Apr 6 & 8 - Austin, TX Contact: info@intergem.com or www.intergem.com</p> <p>Apr 7 & 8 - Abilene, TX Contact: slightfoot@aol.com</p> <p>Apr 28 & 29 - Memphis, TN Contact: James Butchko, (901) 743-0058 rockclub@earthlink.net</p> <p>Apr 28 & 29 - Waco, TX Contact: Kay Langston, (254) 863-0206 jdodson@aenbb.net</p>	<p>Hi Plains Gem & Mineral 45th Annual Show Ollie Liner Center</p> <p>Clearlake Gem & Mineral Society: 32nd Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show Pasadena Convention Ctr - 7902 Fairmont Pkwy</p> <p>Big Spring Prospectors Club: 38th Annual Gem & Mineral Show Howard County Fairbarn</p> <p>Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society: 2007 Gem & Mineral Show 2001 Suntide Road</p> <p>Bead Market Amon Carter Exhibit Hall Will Rogers Center, 3400 Burnett Tandy Drive</p> <p>Southwest Gem & Mineral Society: 47th Annual Gem & Mineral Show Freeman Coliseum, Morris Activity Ctr, SBC Center Pkwy, Gate "E"</p> <p>International Gem & Jewelry Show Lester Palmer Event Center</p> <p>Central Texas Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show Abilene Civic Center, N 6th & Pine</p> <p>Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society: 28th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show Midsouth Fairgrounds - Pipkin Building; East Parkway & Central Ave</p> <p>Waco Gem & Mineral Club: 47th Annual Show Heart of Texas Fair Complex - 4601 Bosque Blvd 28th - 10-5:30 PM; 29th - 10-5 PM</p>
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Pleasant Oaks Want Ads

For Sale

David Dobson

Petrified wood **for sale** \$0.50/lb. Pieces up to 200lbs.

Wanted small motor cycle or dirt bike will trade for petrified wood or other rocks.

Ask for David, (214) 731-1288

February 2007	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg	2	3	4
	5 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop	6	7	8 6:00 - 9:00 pm Ladies Night @ the Shop	9	10	11
	12 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&M: 45th Annual Show	18 Plainview, TX Hi-Plains Gem & Mineral Show
	19 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop	20 7:00 pm Dallas Gem Club Mtg	21	22 6:00 - 9:00 pm Ladies Night @ the Shop	23	24 Pasadena, TX Clearlake G&M Society: 32nd Annual G&M Jewelry Sho	25 Pasadena, TX Clearlake G&M Society: 32nd Annual G&M Jewelry Sho
	26 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop	27	28				

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

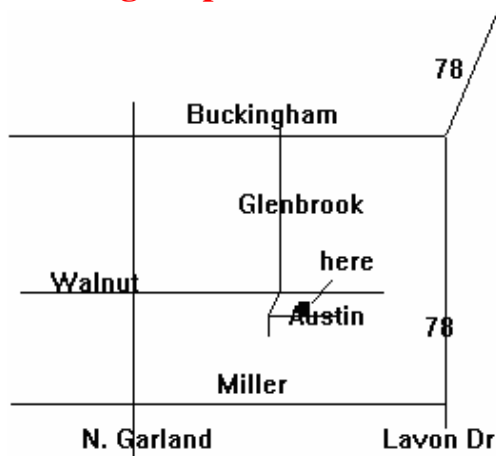
To:

1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
 9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
 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

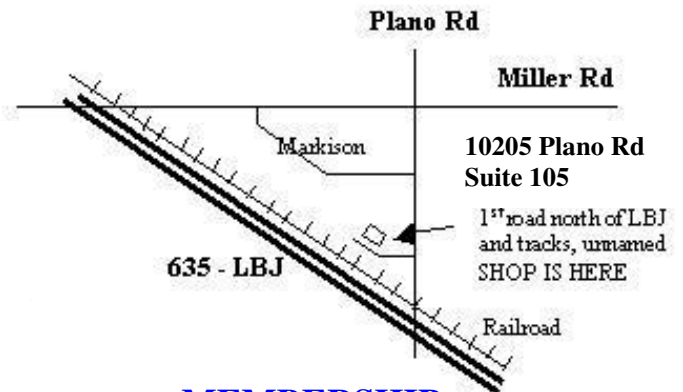
Next Meeting: February 1, 2007 at Garland Women's Activity Building, 7:30 PM

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