

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



February 5, 2009
Vol. 43 Issue 2

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- Check out our website for a color version of the Chips and Chatter

February issue 2009 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: Thursday, February 5, at 7:30 pm
 Garland Women's Activities Building
 713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Diane Brownlee will be our speaker this month. She will be speaking on the Benevolent Fund

Club Officers for 2009

President: Donnette Wagner
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Donna Mallory
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
 E-mail: andresner@hotmail.com

Minutes – January 15, 2009 General Meeting

As recalled by Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Meeting called to order by President Donnette Wagner.

Motion was made to accept Minutes as printed in Chips and Chatter by Mark Carter, seconded by Scott Wagner. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report was given. Motion made to accept the report and the Motion passed.

Sunshine Report –

Old business – Ling contacted EMGI in regards to the Science Fair. It is reported to be February 28 and March 1, 2009 from 10:00 am to 5:00pm.

New business – Discussion of the annual donation to EMGI brought forth a motion to donate \$500. The motion was passed.

There was a discussion of what the club members do for set-up at the Inter-Gem show. Warner will be POGM representative again this year and he described what each one does and if you want space in POGM booth you must help with the Inter-Gem set up.

Ways to do fundraising at Inter-Gem were discussed and this discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Meeting break.

Program for the evening was presented with hands on activity

Raffle was held.

Meeting adjourned.

Refreshment Duties

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Ice & Drinks</u> | <u>Snacks</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| <i>February</i> | | |
| <i>March</i> | | |

This subject really needs to be addressed. If anyone has any idea how to handle this subject, please offer your thoughts to either the president or one of the officers. You may even mail or email them to the editor. Most everyone enjoys a drink or snack at the break. Please help us come up with a solution. Some clubs have a pot luck while others have a host where by the members donate \$\$ for the next months treats the host takes care of. Any solution idea would be greatly entertained.

February Birthstone: Amethyst

Amethyst is lilac, purple, or mauve. Top quality amethyst is transparent. Amethyst has a hardness of 7.

Clean your Amethyst with a soft bristle brush and soapy, warm water. Amethyst often fades if left out in the sun for long periods of time.

Amethyst is occasionally heat treated to create Citrine.

Amethyst is mined in Brazil, Canada, United States, India, Madagascar, Namibia, Russia, and Sri Lanka.

Amethyst is the [February Modern and Traditional Birthstone](#).

For the 4th and 6th year of marriage, Amethyst is the [anniversary gemstone](#).

Amethyst is used to increase spiritually.

Often amethyst is used in presents to represent security, sincerity, and peace of mind.

Legends proclaim that wearing amethyst jewelry or drinking from a chalice made from amethyst will prevent intoxication from alcohol. What a wonderful gem indeed!

Amethyst is the Canadian State Gemstone of Ontario, Canada and the [US State Gemstone](#) of South Carolina.

Amethyst is February's birthstone. It is a dazzling violet gem stone. It is fabulous in necklaces, rings, bracelets, earrings, and pendants. Often, Amethyst is thought to be a symbol of security, sincerity, and peace of mind.

Acknowledgement: <http://www.geminfo.com/amethyst.html>



Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Greetings club members,

What is your name? What is it about rocks that interest you? Do you like to go on field trips just to collect rocks? Or do you also like to slice slabs? Or maybe make your own cabochons or maybe just purchase them and then set them into jewelry? Do you like to do faceting or wire wrap stones, or even take classes to become a silver smith?

Maybe it is just the one on one with nature, walking along and spying something odd or different peeking from the soil. Maybe taking that item or specimen home and begin the process of identifying it. Just what is it that piques your interest in rocks, gems and minerals?

It is a great thing when we share our talents with each other and make new friends in the process. Please let us hear your story of why you like rocks, gems and minerals.

Mail your article to Anita Dresner @ 3809 Skyline Dr, Rowlett, TX 75088 or email them to andresner@hotmail.com. Thank you for sharing, especially the youth.

Question of the Month – What is Lake Ralph Hall?

Don Schurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

What is Lake Ralph Hall? Why is it a lake named after Congressman Ralph Hall.

Where is Lake Ralph Hall? Ok, now we're getting to the heart of the matter. Lake Ralph Hall doesn't exist today; but, it could start being filled in the next 10 years. So if a lake doesn't exist, but it will in the near future then you can bet it is a man-made lake. Many of us have been to Lake Ralph Hall, but we just didn't know it was going to be a lake. Lake Ralph Hall is now the North Sulphur River just to the north of Ladonia. Have you been there lately? Many rock hounds have visited there on a regular basis, and if you are into paleontology, you have probably been there several times in the last year.

Lake Ralph Hall, once it becomes a lake, will fill to a capacity of 160,235 acre feet of water. The lake will cover approximately 7,600 acres, about the same size as Grapevine Lake, at an average depth of approximately 21 ft and provide up to 30 million gallon of water per day. The project comes under the authority of the Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD). The lake would be an obvious benefit to the people of Fannin County and the rest of the UTRWD by providing water projected to be needed by 2020. It would also provide recreational activities and thus would draw people to Ladonia and surrounding areas. One of the primary purposes of the Lake is to stop, or at least limit, erosion. In the 1920s, the Army Corp of Engineers took the meandering North Sulphur River and by channelization and straightening made a new bed for the river that was about 20 feet wide and 10 feet deep to help control flooding of farm lands around Ladonia. It was quite successful for the primary purpose; but, the new path of the river allowed the water to run much faster and has eroded the bed until it is now up to 60 feet deep and 200 or more feet wide. In the process, the river has exposed the Cretaceous limestone (Austin group or Austin Chalk) that underlies the river. It has also exposed areas of the Ozan shale formation (Taylor group). Both of these groups yield magnificent fossils. Ammonites and other members of the nautiloid family are choice specimens. Bi-valve fossils and petrified wood are quite common. Shark teeth, vertebrae, mosasaur jaw bones (some with teeth intact) can be found if you are lucky. Additionally, several nearly complete mosasaur fossils have been found in the eroded river walls and walls of tributaries. But, like other sites of interest to rock hounds, this area is going to disappear.



The North Sulphur River is considered to be a navigable waterway, and thus is open to the public. This includes being open to the public for fossil hunting. When I think of the North Sulphur River, I almost always think of Ladonia. I have tried hunting fossils near the 904 bridge between Ladonia and Pecan Gap and I have also looked at entry points north of Cooper, but entering the river where FM 2990 or TX 34 cross the river has always proved to be most productive. But, Lake Ralph Hall will take care of that.

References:

Lake Ralph Hall, <http://www.lakeralphhallinfo.com/lakefacts.htm>

KVII article Lake Ralph Hall, <http://www.kxii.com/home/headlines/16642451.html>

Predicted Sediment Rates at proposed Lake Ralph Hall,

<http://www.tawwa.org/TW07Proceedings/070413/Watershed%20Mgmt/North%20Sulphur%20Sedimentation%20paper%202-14-07.pdf>

Federal Register, October 17, 2008, <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-24818.htm>

Local paleontologist says Lake Ralph Hall site "significant", <http://www.dentoncountywater.com/articles/FMLeader-3-31-05.html>

Feature Article – Before You Buy Handheld Magnifiers

Submitted by Anita Dresner – as written by Andrew Alden, About.com

After you get a Rock Hammer, you'll need a magnifier. The big Sherlock Holmes type lens is a cliché; instead you want a lightweight, powerful magnifier (also called a loupe) that has impeccable optics and is easy to use. Get the best for demanding jobs like inspecting gems; in the field, for quick looks at minerals, buy magnifiers you can afford to lose.

Using a Magnifier: hold the lens up next to your eye, then bring your specimen close to it, only a few centimeters from your face. The point is to focus your attention through the lens, the same way you look through eyeglasses. If you normally wear glasses, keep them on. A magnifier won't correct for astigmatism. How Many X? The X factor of a magnifier refers to how much it magnifies. Sherlock's magnifying glass makes things look 2 or 3 times bigger; that is, it's 2x or 3x. Geologists like to have 5x to 10x, but more than that is hard to use in the field because the lenses are very small. 5x or 7x lenses offer a wider field of vision, while 10x gives you the closest look at tiny crystals, trace minerals, grain surfaces, and microfossils.

Flaws to Watch For: Check the lens for scratches. Set the magnifier on a piece of white paper and see if the lens add color of its own. Now pick it up and examine several objects, including one with a fine pattern like a halftone picture.

The view through the lens should be clear as air with no internal reflections. Highlights should be crisp and brilliant, with no colored fringes (that is, the lens should be achromatic). A flat object should not look warped or buckled—move it to and fro to be sure. A magnifier should not be loosely put together.

Bonuses: Given the same X factor, a larger lens is better. A ring or loop to attach a lanyard is a good thing; so is a leather or plastic case. A lens held with a removable retaining ring can be taken out for cleaning. And a brand name on the magnifier, while not always a guarantee of quality, means you can contact the manufacturer.

Doublet, Triplet, Coddington Good lens makers combine two or three pieces of glass to correct for chromatic aberration— that's what gives an image blurred, colored fringes. Doublets can be quite satisfactory, but the triplet is the gold standard. Coddington lenses employ a deep cut inside the solid glass, using an air gap to create the same effect as a triplet.

BEFORE YOU BUY HANDHELD MAGNIFIERS By Andrew Alden, About.com
Article for newsletters; magnifiers THE ROCKHOUNDER Page 7 November 2008

Just a Thought

C&C Editor

“Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.” Albert Schweitzer

Sunshine Report

C&C Editor

Birthdays: Greg Gosnell & Warner Ragan.
Happy Birthday rock hounds!

| February 2009 | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| Groundhog Day  2 | 3 | 4 | 5 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | Valentine's Day  14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | |

Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club

1408 Gibbons, Arlington, meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers

3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Dallas Paleontological Society

Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

Ridgewood Rec. Center, 6818 Fisher Road, Dallas, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

Dallas Bead Society

Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society

Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday each month at 7 pm

Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club

3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Show Dates

Feb. 12-15 - Tucson, AZ: Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, "Tucson Gem & Mineral Show"; Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave.; Thu. & Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$9, children 14 & under free w/ paying adult; displays of "Mineral Oddities," 250 dealers, jewelry, minerals, fossils, door prizes, free lectures, symposiums, children's event Fri.-Sun.; contact Tucson Gem & Mineral Soc, P.O. Box 42588, Tucson, AZ 85733, (520) 322-5773; e-mail: tgms@tgms.org; Website: www.tgms.org

Feb. 21-22 - Pasadena, TX: Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society Show; Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Pkwy; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$5, students \$1, children free; contact Al Pennington, (281) 481-1591; e-mail: clgms2009@hotmail.com; Website: www.hawkwindnovels.com/page2.html

Feb. 21-22 - Plainview, TX: Hi Plains Gem & Mineral Society 47th Annual Show; Ollie Liner Center, south I-27; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1; dealers, demonstrators, door prizes, silent auction, kids' wheel; contact Mildred Matlock, 701 Zephyr, Plainview, TX 79072, (806) 293-3476, (806) 293-3476; e-mail: jimmatlock@suddenlink.net

Mar 7-8 - Big Spring, TX: Big Spring Prospectors Club 40th Annual Show; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5; dealers, demonstrators; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662

Mar 21-22 - The Southwest Gem and Mineral Society 40th Fiesta of Gems Show; San Antonio, TX; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Rd.; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; \$4 Adults, \$3 Seniors & Military, \$2 Students; Parking free, Website WWW.SWGEMANDMINERAL.ORG

April 4-5 - Siloam Springs, AR: Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society; Siloam Springs Community Center, 110 N. Mt. Olive Street; Sat & Sun 9-5; contact Thomas Morrow, (479) 936-0394; e-mail: info@nwarockhounds.org

April 11-12 - Abilene, TX: Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Show; Abilene Civic Center, N. 6th and Pine Street; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$3, ages 6-12 \$1.50, children under 6 free with adult; gems, jewels, slabs, rough, lapidary tools and supplies, demonstrations, fluorescent display, silent auction, wheel of fortune, sand art, door prizes, grand prize drawing; contact Sallie Lightfoot, (325) 692-4642; e-mail: slightfoot@aol.com; Website: www.txol.net/rockclub

April 17-19 - Kenner, LA: Show, "New Orleans Gem, Jewelry, Bead, & Jazz Fest"; Louisiana Gem & Mineral Society; Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd.; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; adults \$5, classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabillion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Website: www.aksshow.com

April 25-26 - Jackson, MS: "Greater Southern Gem, Jewelry, Fossil and Antique Show"; Stan Bennett and Sharon McClanahan; Trade Mart, Jackson Fair Grounds; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; contact Stan Bennett or Sharon McClanahan, (601) 898-0407; e-mail: stan@tompkinsbarron.com

April 25-26 - Waco, TX: Waco Gem & Mineral Club Show; Heart of Texas Fairgrounds, Bosque Ave.; Sat 10-5:30, Sun 10-5; adults \$4, students and children \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Road 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311; e-mail: rkcole8@peoplepc.com

May 16-17 - Lubbock, TX: 51st Annual Show Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, special exhibit "The Rock Food Table"; contact Archie Scott, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: asscott3@windstream.net

June 5-7 - Tulsa, OK: Gem Faire Inc.; Expo Square/Exchange Center 1, 4145 E. 21st Street; Fri 12-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Website: www.gemfaire.com

June 26-28 - Grapevine, TX: AKS Gem Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main Str; Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabillion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Website: www.aksshow.com

November 13-15 - Houston Gem & Mineral Society presents 56th Annual HGMS Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5 Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, TX 5 miles east of Bush International Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59

A witty saying proves nothing



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
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

February 5, 2009 7:30 PM, Garland Women's Activities Building

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

MEETINGS

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

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

