

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



February 3, 2011
Vol. 45, Issue 2

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Check our website www.pogmc.org
for past months issue of the
Chips and Chatter

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

POGM meet the First Thursday each month at 7:30 pm at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX, (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook).

Club Officers for 2011

President: Del Grady
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Lee Elms
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Anita Dresner
 E-mail: anitadresner@rocketmail.com

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

January 2011 Minutes from the Secretary

POGM Secretary: Lee Elms

The January 6th, 2011 meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm by President Del Grady.

The pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

Secretary Report: We discussed the minutes of the October meeting and accepted them as read.

SunShine Report: We are sad to say that Don Shurtz's mother passed away. She had been in very ill health for the past year. Paul Goode has had heart surgery.

Treasurer Report: Don Shurtz gave us the Treasurers' report. The report was accepted as read and passed unanimously.

Old Business: The dues for 2011 are now due. Del thanked everybody responsible for making the Christmas meeting a success.

New Business: Report on our board meeting, we need to find out what our new members want to learn or expect to learn from our club.

Next month is our Science Fair at Fair Park.

Field Trips: Tyler, TX in late January. EGMI at Brookhaven College in Dallas.

Program: Our program tonight was a DVD that Mark Carter got when he was up in Victoria with his wife. It was about the Jade Mine up in British Columbia. The weather is so bad up there the mining operations are only open for a month. The jade is just breathtakingly beautiful. It was amazing to see the massive boulders of jade that were lifted by huge forklifts into cargo boxes, to be shipped over to China to be cut and polished. The video showed us some of the beautiful objects that had been carved and one was an enormous Buddha. They also made jade wall tiles. Wow! I'd like that in my house if I could afford it. British Columbia gets a lot of snow and in the spring when the snow melts there is a lot of flooding. Due to this flooding the company can't move any of its' heavy machinery up there till the ground is more stable. When Mark was up there he bought a pretty little jade bear figurine with a pink fish in its mouth which he brought to the meeting to show us.

Raffle: After the presentation we had our raffle. Butch and Patti donated a very pretty faceted garnet along with a raw garnet for the raffle. Every month members donate really interesting and beautiful rocks and gems and minerals for the raffle table, and we really appreciate these donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Editor's Pen

C&C Editor, Anita Dresner

We have some great articles in this issue of the Chips and Chatter. These were submitted by various members and organizations from around the greater Dallas area. They are most interesting and I am looking forward to more material to publish from you. You may submit your article/s by sending them through email me at: anitadresner@rocketmail.com or snail mail to: 3809 Skyline Drive, Rowlett, TX 75088

November Hounding Trip to Share and Remember

Field Trip November 13m 2010 Report

Submitted by David Dobson

We had a great field trip Saturday November 13th, 2010. Our destination; the TXI Cement Plant Quarry in Midlothian, TX.

Initially this field trip was to be scheduled from 9am (I didn't want to get up to early) to 11am for 25 people. This trip was full almost on the first day, when I had another 25 people on the waiting list I scheduled a second trip for the same day and changed the times. The first group will explore from 8 am – 10 am and the second group from 10am - noon. There were a couple of last minute cancellations; but, we had a great turn out.

I kept an eye on the weather for this trip as the weather forecast for the 12th was rainy, 13th sunny, and the 14th rainy. Somehow we scheduled our trip perfectly in that window.

Leaving at 6:45 for our 7:45 meeting time the clouds were low, thick, and dark. If I didn't trust the weather person I would have bet a pretty penny it was going to rain that day. By time we reached Midlothian, TX it was sunny with only a couple of clouds in the sky. Wow meteorologists are perfect!

At 7:45, we met outside the TXI office to make sure our paper work was in order. Then at 8:00 am sharp, we entered the main gate to hand in our paper work, get hard hats and glasses, and a pit stop if needed. When we were ready, we all drove our vehicles to the quarry floor. At the beginning of our outing, the rules were explained and then I shared my rules. Rule #1 is Safety. Rule #2 is to respect people and property. And rule #3 is to have some fun. Next, I explained what we were looking for and how to find it. Then, it is off to the races or people can follow me and I would show them where to find our little beauties.

When we broke to start our collecting, the temperature was in the high 40s and windy. It was a little chilly. By mid morning and with all the moving around, it warmed up quite nicely.

With the rain the previous day and the amount of phosphate pebbles exposed, I would have expected an abundants of teeth to be found. Many wonderful specimens were found. Even the find of the decade was found on this trip.



Fish Scale Fossil



Here are some of the wonderful specimens found (The fossils are about 90 Million Years Old):



Clam Hinge

Vertebra

Sharks Teeth

The find of the decade was found by a 9 year old of the Nolan Family. 24 Ptychodus teeth were exposed. Many more could still be hiding in this slab.

Thank you for coming! I had fun! Hope to see you again in 6 months.

Article of Interest
Brookhaven Earth, Science Fair

Submitted by Editor

Please remember to support Diane Brownlee and Dr. Theise in their tireless efforts to bring this fair to the community; also, for allowing us the opportunity to expose the gorgeous wonders of mother-nature through our club and rock hounding opportunities.

Free Admission



FOSSILS



You Are Invited!
NORTH TEXAS

Free Parking



CRYSTALS

EARTH SCIENCE FAIR
February 26-27, 2011

GeoCaching/
High Tech
Treasure
Hunting

Flint
Knapping



10:00AM to 5:00PM Both Day

PRESENTED BY
Elison Miles Geotechnology
Institute, (Building H)
Brookhaven College Campus
3939 Valley View Lane
Farmers Branch, Dallas, Texas 75244

Scouts in Uniform Welcomed!
Teachers and Students Wanted!
Fun for All Ages!!!!

Dallas Zoo
Dealers and Vendors
Demos, Local Clubs, DPS

Web Site with map: <http://earthsciencefair.org/>
More Information: m2brown@gmail.com

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Videos

Door Prizes

Educational
Programs

Free Arrowhead
To Scouts
In Uniform

The Heard
Museum

Ask an Expert!

Upcoming Events of Interest

Editor: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Science Fair @ Fair Park: If you have never attended the fair you should go out and take in what our youth of today are putting their minds into and coming up with. E has so many talented youth. It is a shame they are not the ones in the headlines of the news paper, server news stories and our community papers and magazines. Better yet, why not volunteer to be a judge from your club? Really get up close and personal; with the talents of our youth of today.

EMGI @ Brookhaven: You have seen the flyer regarding the Earth Science Fair. Check it out and volunteer an hour of your time to promote your club and then take in an hour or so of the various natural work of mother-nature throughout the Fair.

February Birthstone: Amethyst

Editor: Chips and Chatter

The Greeks and Romans believed Amethyst would ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. Today, while Brazil is the primary source of this gemstone, fine material can be found elsewhere, especially in Zambia.

A variety of quartz, Amethyst is violet in color and its chemical formula is SiO₂. The color of amethyst can be due to the presence of manganese. It is able to be altered by heat. The suggestion of Ferric thiocyanate was present and it was also said sulfur was found in the mineral. Newer work reveals amethyst's coloring can be from ferric iron impurities and maybe even a mixture of iron and aluminum. It is composed of an irregular superposition of alternate lamellae of right-handed and left-handed quartz, which may be due to mechanical stresses. Amethyst is suitable for use in jewelry due to its hardness of seven on the Mohs scale.



Quartz variety Amethyst from South Africa, Eric Hunt

There are many locations to find amethyst in the United States. Among these: Amethyst Mountain, Texas; the Mazatzal Mountain region in Gila and Maricopa Counties, Arizona; Yellowstone National Park; Delaware County, Pennsylvania; Haywood County, North Carolina; Deer Hill and Stow, Maine and in the Lake Superior region.

Ref: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amethyst>

Area Clubs

Arlington G&M Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thur. 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 Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tue. of each month at 7 pm
Dallas Bead Society meets 3rd Thur. each month at 7:30 pm Address pending
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc, **South Hampton Community Hospital**, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dls, TX, 4th Tue. each month at 7 pm
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244), 2nd Wed. ea. month at 7:30 pm

AFMS Omnibus Land Management Bill

by John Martin, Chair AFMS Newsletter

Conservation & Legislation News

by John Martin, Chair

By now, the 112th Congress has been seated and has been in session for about a month. Even though the 111th congress failed to pass the second “Omnibus Land Management Act”, S.303 “America’s Great Outdoors Act of 2010” and as S.2921 “California Desert Protection Act of 2010” died in committee the battle for public land access is not over.

We did not accomplish any “Wins” this year, rather the legislation restricting the use of public lands was put on the back burner only to be reintroduced under a different title or attached to other legislative actions in this new congressional year. The environmental activist lobby has vowed to start their efforts anew with more vigor and determination than was exerted last year.

If the Rockhound Community just sits by as the environmental lobby takes action, we will eventually discover that all of our collecting sites have been added to more wilderness and our access roads and trails have been closed to travel except by foot traffic. The restrictive legislation is not only affecting the western states, but it is now being proposed in several legislative acts on the eastern seaboard and some Midwestern states as well. As the new congressional year marches forward, the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee will be doing their best to keep on top of the issues and trying to keep the Rockhounding Community advised of the changing conditions.

As the new legislation becomes public and our collecting areas become at risk once again, it will take the combined effort of the Rockhounding Community as a whole to make a difference and let our voices be heard in Washington and your state capital. This will be the only way to keep our Public Lands and our collecting areas open to all public users now and for future generations of Rockhounds.

We cannot do it alone, we need your help, so when it becomes time to contact your elected officials please consider taking a little time and send that email, fax or make that phone call. To find your elected legislator and to see what the latest legislative activities are, the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) Website is a good starting point (www.amlands.org).

For more information or advice on Conservation and Legislation please contact the Committee Chair. My contact information may be found on the AFMS Website (www.amfed.org).

Ref: AFMS Newsletter, Volume 64, Number 3 – February, 2011, Page 8, www.amfed.org

Refreshment Volunteers for January

Won't you volunteer?

Paper products are provided. For less than the cost of a burger w/fries & a cola please elect to bring;

***Beverage: Two or Three 2-liter Colas (assorted & a diet) and a bag of ice
or***

Snacks/treats: Finger Foods like Cookies or Veggie/Fruit tray.



Now which month did I hear you say you would like to sign up for?

Feb. Snacks Anita D Feb. Beverage/Ice Anita D

March Snacks ? ? ? ? ? March Beverage/Ice ? ? ? ? ?

2011 Shows

March 2011

5-6 BIG SPRING, TX: 42nd Annual Show Big Spring Prospectors Club; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5; free admission; gems, minerals, jewelry, dealers, demonstrations, displays, spinning wheel, hourly prizes, jewelry repair, stone setting; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662, or Lola Lamb, (432) 263-3340

12 BATON ROUGE, LA: "Rockin' at the Swamp" 2nd Annual Show; Baton Rouge Recreation Commission; Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, 10503 N Oak Hills Parkway; Sat 9-4; adults \$5, children \$4; activities, displays, rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, vendors, exhibits, rough and polished mineral specimens, fossils, geode-busting station; contact Claire Coco, 10503 N Oak Hills Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 757-8905; email: ccoco@brec.org

18-20 ALBUQUERQUE, NM: 42nd Annual Show "Treasures of the Earth"; Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; Creative Arts Center Building, State Fair Grounds, EXPO NM (San Pedro entrance); Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$1 Fri, \$3 Sat & Sun, kids 12 & under free; more than 40 dealers, displays, door prizes, silent auctions, mineral & gem identification, juniors' booth, live wolf, geode cracking, faceting demo, gold panning; contact Paul Hlava, (505) 255-5478; email: paulhlava@q.com

19-20 LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TX: 50th Annual Show "Fiesta of Gems"; San Antonio G&M Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Road; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, child \$.50; 25 dealers; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, games, hourly door prizes; contact Robert Bowie, 1324 Kings Point Drive, Canyon Lake, TX 78133; or: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web: www.swgemandmineral.org

25-27 ADA, OK: "A Festival of Gems, Minerals & Fossils 2011" Show; Ada G M & Fossil Club; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, Main Building #1, NE corner Route 99/US 377 & Richardson Bypass/S Hwy 1/3E; Fri & Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; free admission; demons, displays, fluorescent rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, jewelry, silent auctions, raffle Sun, kids fossil dig & petting zoo, dealers; contact Ed Vermillion, PO Box 782, Purcell, OK 73080, (405) 527-6431; email: okieed42@windstream.net; Website: www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.html

April 2011

2-3 SILOAM SPRINGS, AR: Northwest Arkansas GM Society Spring Show; Community Building, Mt Olive Road; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; adults \$3, students \$1, child free; contact Charlotte Leininger, (479) 721-3882; email: TheSwankyStone@aol.com; Website: www.nwarockhounds.org

15-17 ALPINE, TX: "Alpine Agate Festival" Show; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Alpine Civic Center, Hwy 90W and 13th Street N; Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5; free admission; South Central Federation convention, grand prize, door prizes, silent auctions, field trips, kids' corner, demo dealers; contact Mary Brogan, PO Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 386-2340; email: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Website: www.cdgm.com

16-17 WACO, TX: Waco Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show; Texas State Technical College, Industrial Tech Building Crest Drive, off I-35, north of Waco; Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5; adults \$5 (both days); contact Karen Wood, 2315 Colcord, Waco, TX 76707, (254) 755-7274; email: kwood@hot.rr.com; Website: www.wacogemandmineral.org

23-24 JACKSON, MS: "Greater Southern Event" Show & Sale; Mobile Rock & Mineral Society, Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Nature's Society of Majestic Arts; Trademart Building, Mississippi Fairgrounds; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; dealers, gemstones, minerals, fossils, beads, crystals, rare coins, rough & cut stones, finished jewelry, tools, lapidary supplies, stone carvings, loose precious stones, pearls, gem & gold mining, knapping, faceting, opals, jewelry repairs, demos; contact Sharon McClanhan/Stann Bennett, (601) 898-0407; email: stan@tompkinsdesign.com

June 2011

3-5 TULSA, OK: Gem Faire Inc Show; Expo Square/Central Park Hall, 4145 E 21st Street; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; \$7 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: www.gemfaire.com

September 2011

10-11 SILOAM SPRINGS, AR: Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society Fall Swap; clubhouse parking area, Hwy 43N; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5; admission free; gem wash, auction Sat.; contact David Leininger, (479) 263-1424; email: hulagrub@aol.com; Website: www.nwarockhounds.org

October 2011

14-16 MOUNT IDA, AR: "Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Festival" Show; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu, Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4; free admission; dealers, minerals, jewelry, quartz crystals, quilts, crafts, children's digging contest Sat.; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; email: director@mountidachamber.com; Website: www.mountidachamber.com

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 3, 2011; 7:30 PM ++++++
Garland Women's Activities Building 713 Austin, Garland, TX

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB

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)

Program Presentation

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies