

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



February, 2012
Vol. 46, 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

February 2012 Minutes from the Secretary

POGM Secretary: Lee Elms

President: The January 2012 meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Del Grady. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Mark Carter.

1st VP: Mark Carter said we will have a guest speaker for next month's meeting. His name is Russell Ferrell and he is all about fossils and Paeleontology. Bring as many guests as you can to this meeting.

Secretary Report: The minutes of the December 2011 meeting were published in the *Chips and Chatter* and we voted unanimously to approve the minutes as published.

Treasurer Report: The Treasurers report was unanimously accepted as reported by Don Shurtz, our treasurer.

Sunshine Report:

Old Business: There was not any old business discussed.

New Business: Dues are now due. Please get your dues in to our treasurer Don Shurtz. Thank you.

The Dallas Science Fair will be at the end of this February. We will again donate a \$100 gift certificate to the person we pick for the winner in the geology theme.

The Earth Science Fair will be at Brookhaven College the last weekend of February.

Field Trips: The InterGem show is in Ft. Worth next week at the Convention Center. Mark Carter talked about taking his son over to the Mineral Wells Fossil Park, and some of the collecting they did.

Visitors: Our visitor Mark Hall is from Garland and he joined our club tonight. He is taking some GIA courses and is interested in Faceting gems.

Refreshment Break: Many thanks to those who provided our refreshments this evening.

Program: Mark Carter brought a DVD for us to watch. It was an "Eyewitness" produced video titled Rocks and Minerals. It was about how the rocks keep a constantly changing record of our planets' fascinating history, and how minerals are at the core of our civilization.

After our video, we had our raffle and there were some very choice rocks and minerals to be won, plus Warner donated a set of jewelry making tools. Our meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

February's Birthstone of the Month Amethyst

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

| Amethyst | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Chemical Formula | SiO ₂ | Hardness | 7 |
| Specific Gravity | 2.6 - 2.7 | Refractive Index | 1.54 - 1.55 |

There is evidence in Egypt and anterior Asia, around 3,000 B.C., jewels were made of Amethyst. In its purest form Amethyst is colorless. It is the most valuable of all transparent and coarse-grained varieties of silica mineral quartz, valued as a semiprecious

gem. It contains more iron oxide Fe_2O_3 than any other variety of quartz, and is believed its color is from its iron content. Some think the color contains manganese or hydrocarbons. Amethyst is mined in Brazil, Uruguay, Sri Lanka, Siberia, Canada, India, Bolivia, and Argentina and some African countries; Zambia for one. It is also mined in Australia.

Article of the Month: Mineral Colors?

Don Shurtz: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

In a recent article, I discussed the various crystal forms / shapes, particularly a five sided quasi-crystal. Another big clue to identification of minerals is color. So what colors do minerals come in, and what causes the color?

First off, the color of a mineral is determined by spectrum of the light reflected or refracted back to the viewer. It is often the presence of trace elements (atoms in the crystalline structure which are foreign to the normal crystal composition) which causes the colors. As an example, quartz is composed of silicon dioxide (SiO₂) in its clear or white. However, amethyst is also silicon dioxide – the same as quartz, but has a few random iron (Fe) atoms floating around in the crystalline structure, and the excitation of the iron atoms causes the classic purple color of amethyst. Citrine is also silicon dioxide with the trace element iron. However, the iron in citrine is in a different valence state (the energy levels of the electrons is different) and it is yellow in color. Interestingly, if amethyst is properly heat treated, it turns into citrine with the classic yellow color. In fact, most of the citrine on the market today is derived from heat treated amethyst.

It seems, however, that I have diverged from my original intent which was to find out what colors minerals come in. So here is a try:

| | |
|--------|--|
| White | Calcite, quartz, halite (aka – salt), borax, barite, cassiterite (tin dioxide) |
| Pink | Sapphires, rose quartz, opal, tourmaline, chalcedony, rhodonite, calcite |
| Red | Sapphire, ruby, rhodochrosite, chalcedony, cinnabar, zircon, spinel |
| Purple | Amethyst, sapphire, chalcedony, spinel, garnet, fluorite, sodalite |
| Blue | Turquoise, microcline, topaz, aquamarine, azurite (beryl), opal, fluorite |
| Green | Malachite, chalcedony, emerald (beryl), jade, chrysocolla, turquoise, calcite |
| Yellow | Sapphire, chalcedony, citrine, fluorite, heliodor, topaz, sapphire, diamond |
| Orange | Cinnabar, topaz, sapphire, barite, chalcedony, aventurine, orthoclase, amber |
| Brown | Chalcedony, rust, goethite, siderite, anhydrite, barite, diamond, obsidian |
| Grey | Chalcedony, garnet (andradite), galena, stibnite, diamond |
| Black | Chalcedony, diamond, obsidian, jet, graphite, tourmaline (schorl) |

I believe that if you can name a color, you can find a mineral that exhibits that color. So, how did I come up with this list? Some of it was off the top of my head, most by just thumbing through Ronald Bonewitz book “Rock and Gem” – it is just filled with colored pictures, and only picking relatively common minerals. If I had used just any of the crystals, the list above would have been orders of magnitude larger. My thumbing was random, and the list above is not even close to being complete in either colors or in minerals of the colors listed or not listed. Now are you ready for the quiz of the day? What “minerals” listed above are not truly minerals? I found opal (not crystalline) and jet and amber (organic). Can you find others?

Here is yet another quiz of the day. How many colors are named for minerals? In the list above, I can easily spot amber, ruby, aquamarine, azurite, and turquoise. Can you find others? How about other colors named for minerals that are not in the list above?

Ref:

Bonewitz, Ronald Louis; *rock and Gem*; DK Publishing, Inc, New York, NY; copyright 2005 – Dorling Kindersley Limited

Salt Anyone?

Submitted by David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

If you live in Texas, and if you put salt on your food, there is a very good chance your salt came from Grand Saline, TX.

On 12/29/11, we went to Grand Saline, TX to lick some salt. We took highway 80 east about 2 hours, you can't miss it.

The Grand Saline Business Development Center was our first stop, the building was made of salt chunks mined in Grand Saline and processed at the Morton Salt Co. The salt was blasted, ground up, transported to the surface, washed and reconstituted to make it into chunks.

We all got our 100% daily value salt intake.



"The Salt Palace", made of chunks of salt



Should you decide to sample the salt house, make sure that you don't lick the lower yellow chunks, as a dog may have walked there, so I went as high up as possible so as to not lick where someone else had licked. Our next stop, after getting our fill of salt, was just two miles south on highway 110 at the Morton Salt mine.

The mine was very interesting. I learned the land over the salt was first acquired from the Cherokee Indians around 1840; I am sure in a fair white man way. At that time, salt was collected from the water in the marsh by evaporation. The first manufacturing of salt started in 1845. The salt water (brine) was boiled down in steel pots. The actual mining for the salt started in 1859. By time of the civil war, output at the mine was about 10,000 pounds a day. The city of Grand Saline was named in 1895 after the Pacific Railroad built a train station there and named it Grand Saline. The salt formed 250,000 year ago during the Permian age. The mine is currently at 750 below ground. The yearly production is 120,000 tons. The salt reserves go to 4 miles below the surface which should last only another 20,000 years.



A little interesting note of trivia; the salt mine is very dry. Some equipment in the mine is over 60 years old. With no moisture, the equipment doesn't rust. The second picture shows the layers of salt as it formed. The mine is no longer allowing tours.

The Tasty Corner

Editor POGM Club

Orange Yeast Muffins

Ingredients:

Muffins:

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 2 ¼ to 2 ¾ c | Flour | ½ c | Butter or Margarine |
| ⅓ c | Sugar | 1 | Egg |
| ½ t | Salt | | |
| 1 t | Orange Peel (grated) | | |
| 1 pkg | Dry Yeast | | |
| ½ c | Milk | 1 t | Orange Peel (grated) |
| ¼ c | Water | 1-2 t | Orange Juice |
| | | 1 c | Powdered Sugar |

Glaze:

| | |
|-------|----------------------|
| 1 t | Orange Peel (grated) |
| 1-2 t | Orange Juice |
| 1 c | Powdered Sugar |



Directions:

In a bowl, combine 1 c flour, sugar, salt, peel and yeast thoroughly.

In saucepan combine milk, water and butter over low heat until very warm about 120 degrees. Butter does not need to melt.

Gradually, add liquid to flour mixture and beat 2 minutes at medium speed of electric mixer, scraping bowl occasionally.

Add egg and ¾ c flour. Beat at high speed 2 minutes, scraping bowl occasionally. Stir in enough additional flour to make a stiff batter.

Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour. Stir dough down. Spoon batter into room temperature greased muffin tins. Cover and let rise in warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

Bake at 375 degrees about 20 minutes. Remove from pans and cool on wire rack.

If desired drizzle with glaze.

Combining sugar, peel and enough juice to make a thick glaze and drizzle over each muffin.

Ref: <http://www.justapinch.com/print/lawanda-d/orange-yeast-muffins/muffins>

Refreshment Volunteers for March

Snacks-----Your Name????

Beverage/Ice-----Their Name????

*****April Volunteer/s*****

Snacks Who's name????

Beverage & Ice Somebodies Name ??????

2012 Show Dates

FEBRUARY 2012

1-29 QUARTZSITE, AZ: Desert Gardens RV Park Wholesale & Retail Show; 1064 Kuehn Street; I-10 Exit 17; Wed 9-6; FREE; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry, lapidary equipment; contact Sharon or Sandy, 1064 Kuehn Street, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; email: info@desertgardensrvpark.net ; Website: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

18-19 GEORGETOWN, TX: Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show; Community Center; San Gaberial Park; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$2, students \$1, children (under 6) free; Rollin' Rock Club meeting Sun; contact Wanda Reynolds, 2100 Magazine Street, Austin, TX 78727, (512) 461-0084; email: dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com; Website: www.wcgms.org

25-26 JACKSON, MS: Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show; Trade Mart; High Street; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$5, students \$3; contact Janie Hand, (601) 706-4629; email: rockNGranny49@aol.com; Website: Missgem.org

25 -26 PASADENA, TX: Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society 36th Annual Feb 25 & 26: Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX: Sat 10 to 6 pm, Sun 10-5 pm. Donations: Adults \$5, 6th - 12th grades \$1, under 12 free, students, boy & girl scouts in uniform free. FREE parking. Ten RV parking spots utilities \$10/night. More info on club's web site at www.clgms.org; or Co-chair Ben Duggar, CLGMS Show Publicity Committee sailduggar@verizon.net

MARCH 2012

3-4 ROBSTOWN, TX: Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society 50th Annual Show; Richard Borchard Regional Fairgrounds; 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd, US 77 & Hwy 44; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$5 (2-day pass), 12 & under FREE, Scouts in uniform free; kids' wheel, silent auction, beads, findings, jewelry, minerals, fossils, meteorites, displays, Rock Food Table, hourly door prizes, grand prize; contact Jerrold Simpson, PO Box 7786, Corpus Christi, TX 78467-7786, (361) 877-3073; email: jsimpson1@stx.rr.com; Website: www.gcgms.org

8-11 DEMING, NM: Deming Gem & Mineral Society 47th Annual Show & Sale; SWNM Fairgrounds; Raymond Reed Blvd; Thur-Sun 9-5; FREE; more than 100 dealers, displays, geode cutting, gold panning, spinning wheel, silent and live auctions, door prizes, raffle, guided field trip; contact Maurice Crawford, 713 W Spruce PMB 726, Deming, NM 88031, (575) 546-0056; email: mauryjudy@yahoo.com; Website: dgms.bravehost.com

10 BATON ROUGE, LA: Baton Rouge Rec. Comm Show; Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center; 10503 N Oak Hills Pkwy; Sat 9-4; adults \$5, children \$4; activities, displays, rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, hiking trails, gemstone ID card, pyrite "gold" mine, exhibits, dealers, rough and polished mineral specimens, fossils, stone crafts, rock climbing wall, flint-knapping demonstration, geode-cutting station; contact Claire Coco, (225) 413-5355; email: ccoco@brec.org ; Website: www.brec.org/swamp

17-18 LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TX: San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show; Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Booker Road; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; adults \$5, seniors and military \$3, students (with ID) \$2, children (5-12) \$1, under 5 free; 25 dealers, minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, children's games, hourly door prizes; contact Robert Bowie; email: krbotx@gvtc.com; Website: swgemandmineral.org

29-1 ADA, OK: Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club Annual Show; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex; Main Bldg #1, NE corner of Rte 99 (US 377) & Richardson Bypass (state Rte 1 & 3); Fri 8-5, Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; FREE; demos, fluorescent rock display, minerals, fossils, lapidary, jewelry, silent auctions, raffle, kids' Fossil Dig, Petting Zoo, fluorescent demo; contact Ed Vermillion, PO Box 782, Purcell, OK 73080, (405) 527-6431; email: okieed42@windstream.net; Website: www.freewebs.com/agmfc

APRIL 2012

6-8 LIVE OAK, TX: Gem Faire Inc Wholesale & Retail Show; Live Oak Civic Center; 8101 Pat Booker Road; Fri 12-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$7, 11 & under FREE; jewelry, gems, beads, crystals, silver, rocks, minerals, exhibitors from all over the world; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; email: info@gemfaire.com; Website: www.gemfaire.com

14-15 ABILENE, TX: Central TX Gem & Mineral Society Show; Abilene Civic Center; N 6th & Pine Street; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$3, children (6-12) \$1.50, under 6 free with adult; gems, jewels, slabs, rough, lapidary tools and supplies, demonstrations, fluorescent display, silent auction, Wheel of Fortune, sand art, hourly door prizes, grand prize drawing; contact Linda Hollowell, (325) 721-4477; Website: www.txol.net/rockclub

14-15 SILOAM SPRINGS, AR: NW Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society Show; Siloam Springs Community Bldg; 100 N Mt Olive Street; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$4, students and children \$2; dealers, rough, finished and faceted stones, fossils, jewelry, educational exhibits, lapidary demonstrations, children's area; contact DeLane Cox, 8152 Spanker Ridge Drive, Bentonville, AR 72712, (479) 254-0894; email: delanec3@earthlink.net ; Website: www.nwarockhounds.org

20-22 ALPINE, TX: Alpine Agate Festival Annual Show; Chihuahuah Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Alpine Civic Center; Hwy 90 West; Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; FREE; agates from the Big Bend, dealers, demonstrations, grand prize, silent auction, door prizes, Kids' Corner, special exhibits, Kids' Day Fri; contact Mary Brogan, PO Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 386-2340; email: marybrogan@rocketmail.com

28-29 LUBBOCK, TX: LGMS Annual Show; Lubbock Civic Center; 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat & Sun 10-5; adults \$4, seniors \$3, students (6-12) \$2, under 6 & Scouts in uniform FREE; contact Archie Scott, 2709 Belvedere Road, Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 894-1584; email: sarchie32@yahoo.com; Website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

28-29 MEMPHIS, TN: Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society Annual Show; Memphis International Agricenter; 7777 Walnut Grove Road; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$5, children \$2, Scouts free; more than 50 dealers and exhibitors, speakers, programs, kids' area, gem dig, Rocks around the Clock, Geode Bowling; contact WC McDaniel, (901) 274-7706; email: w.c.mcd@att.net; Website: www.TheEarthWideOpen.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

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
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

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

**It is always a great time at our POGM meeting.
Please come join in the fun and learning about
Rocks, Gems and Minerals and Fossils.**

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies