

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter

February 2013  
Vol. 47, Issue 2

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

### 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

Next meeting will be Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the Garland Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. The program will be a DVD featuring Tasmania, an island state of Australia that is the location of the Adelaide Mine. Crocoite of unbelievable quality is mined there, come and see this exciting DVD.

### Club Officers for 2013

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

**Reminder: 2013 dues are now due**

**Check our website, [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org)  
for prior month issues of the  
Chips and Chatter**



## President's Message

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Come to the February meeting and help us start integrating the changes we discussed at the January meeting. **REMEMBER:** our club is only as strong as the support of our members.



## The Vice President Speaks

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Tasmania is an island state of Australia that is the location of the Adelaide Mine. Crocoite of unbelievable quality is mined there, come and see this exciting DVD.

## December 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Del Grady.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

There was nothing to report for the Sunshine report so I guess everybody is starting off the New Year in a healthy way. Let's stay healthy and not get the flu.

We discussed the minutes of the November meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter and voted unanimously to approve them. There were no minutes for the December meeting because that was our Christmas party.

Don Shurtz our Treasurer gave us the report for November and December and we voted unanimously to accept them.

For old business we discussed our Christmas party and what a good time everybody had. The food was really good and plentiful. Thank you Don and Ling for bringing the ham and brisket. The Christmas gift exchange was a lot of fun and I think everyone enjoyed the gift they ended up with.

New Business:

The Regional Science Fair is at Fair Park again on February 23rd, and they are looking for volunteers to judge the participants. If you do want to judge, you need to be down there by 8am. They provide a light breakfast, and a box lunch.

The Earth Science Fair will be at Brookhaven College on February 23rd and 24th. Butch and Patti Hall will be there doing some demonstrations of polishing stones and making necklaces.

Field Trips: Check the newsletter for a list of the local shows. This month is Tyler and then Fredricksburg.

We discussed the possibility of having a field trip to the Perot museum sometime this year.

Visitors: An old member Mike Kuhn came to visit our meeting tonight. Mike submitted an application for membership which was unanimously approved

2013 Dues are due!!!

For our program tonight we had kind of a "round table discussion of what we would like to learn and do at our meetings. Some people said they would like to have some "hands on" demos so we can learn what really interests us. Rosella Dobson suggested that we put our club information out on Facebook. She said she would be willing to set it up for us. Thank you, Rosella.

After our discussions, we had our raffle, and some members went home with some really nice specimens. Thanks to everybody who contribute to the raffle table. We always enjoy the treasures you share with us.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee Elms, Secretary

*Chips and Chatter*  
Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX



## February's Birthstone: Amethyst

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Amethyst is the official birthstone for February as adopted by the American National Association of Jewelers in 1912. It is also the birth stone for the Zodiac sign of Pisces. Amethyst is the purple variety of quartz and the most valued member of the quartz family. It must be purple to be amethyst, but it can display a range of shades including deep purple, light lilac, lavender and mauve. Top quality amethyst is a deep medium purple with rose-colored flashes. Its purple color made it a stone of royalty for many thousands of years. Amethyst can occur as crystals that are six sided on either end. It also forms as drusy which are crystalline crusts covering the host rock. It is found inside geodes and in alluvial deposits all around the world and occurs in both crystalline and massive forms. The amount of iron contained in the specimen accounts for the depth of purple. Throughout history amethyst has been used to guard against drunkenness and is thought to be helpful in overcoming addiction. It has been used for hearing disorders, insomnia, headaches and other pain. Some sources suggest it is used to stabilize mental disorders.



Amethyst is worn to make the wearer gentle and amiable. Other powers attributed to amethyst include: dreams, healing, peace, love, spiritual upliftment, courage, psychism, protection against thieves, and happiness.



Amethyst location and deposits: The most important deposits are in Brazil, namely the "Palmeira" amethysts of Rio Grande do Sul and the "Maraba" amethysts of Para. Other deposits are found in Bolivia, Canada, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar (Burma), Namibia, Russia, Sri Lanka, United States (Arizona), Uruguay and Zambia.

Amethyst is found in many collections of gem and mineral collectors. Many people really love the Brazilian "Cathedrals" and recent US workings are from Jackson

Crossroads in Georgia. Look at them, see the links below!!

[http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;\\_ylt=A0oGdSH9j\\_NQ\\_G4A2SxXNyoA?p=amethyst+jackson+crossroads&fr=yfp-t-701&fr2=piv-web](http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;_ylt=A0oGdSH9j_NQ_G4A2SxXNyoA?p=amethyst+jackson+crossroads&fr=yfp-t-701&fr2=piv-web)

[http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;\\_ylt=A2KJketakPNQBAUA.pOJzbkF?p=amethyst+brazilian+cathedral&fr=yfp-t-701&ei=utf-8&n=30&x=wrt&y=Search](http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;_ylt=A2KJketakPNQBAUA.pOJzbkF?p=amethyst+brazilian+cathedral&fr=yfp-t-701&ei=utf-8&n=30&x=wrt&y=Search)

Pictures:

Faceted Amethyst: Wela49 – CC-BY-SA-3.0

Amethyst Cathedral: Rob Lavinsky, [iRocks.com](http://iRocks.com) – CC-BY-SA-3.0

### Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm  
Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209  
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX  
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth  
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX  
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

## Tumbling “Oops”

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The vibrating tumbler instructions were quite clear. If the stones are wet, add 2 tablespoons of water, if the stones are dry, add 3 tablespoons of water. Then add the grit or polish, and let run for 24 to 48 hours, and do not let the tumbler run dry. I do not have a measuring spoon out by the tumbler, but never had a problem. I had a batch of stones ready for final polish, so I added the polishing compound and a “splash” of water. 24 hours later it was bitterly cold so I decided to let them run for another 24 hours. The following day I did not get home from work until 10:00 PM so I decided it was OK to let them run a day longer. At 72 hours it was still really cold with promises of being warmer on the following day. It was just polish, so I decided it was OK to let them run for another day. So there I was, about 96 hours later. I looked at the tumbler as it ran and saw that it looked dry, but it was just polish so it should be OK. I looked at the stones and I could

see the polish stuck to the stones, but as the next step was a couple of hours with very mild detergent I figured it would be OK. Obviously I had too many OK's – when they came out of the final detergent bath and were rinsed very well, ALL WAS NOT WELL! The tumbler polish had been hammered into all the little holes and cracks and also adhered to any rough areas. Gentle wiping did remove the polish. Scrubbing did not remove the polish. An alcohol wipe did not remove the polish. YES – YOU DO NOT WANT TO LET THE TUMBLER RUN DRY. These stones are back in the tumbler having just finished the rough grind. Lesson Learned.



NOTE THE DRY POLISH

## 2013 Show Dates

FEB 1-28, Quartzsite, AZ, [info@desertgardensrvpark.net](mailto:info@desertgardensrvpark.net), site [www.desertgardensrvpark.net](http://www.desertgardensrvpark.net)

FEB 2-17, Tucson, AZ Wholesale and Retail Shows, [rockshowtucson@gmail.com](mailto:rockshowtucson@gmail.com)

FEB 14-17, Tucson, AZ, Tucson G&MS, Tucson Convention Center, [tgms@tgms.org](mailto:tgms@tgms.org), [www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)

FEB 16-17, Georgetown, TX Williamson Co. G&MS San Gabriel Park, [dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com](mailto:dragon.reynolds@hotmail.com), [www.wcgms.org](http://www.wcgms.org)

FEB 16-17, Plainview, TX Hi-Plains G&MS Ollie Liner Ctr., [josefcmacha@aol.com](mailto:josefcmacha@aol.com)

FEB 23-24, Pasadena, TX Clear Lake G&MS Pasadena Convention Ctr.

MAR 2-3, Big Spring, TX Big Spring Prospectors Club Howard Co. Fair Barn

MAR 2-3, Robstown, TX Gulf Coast G&MS Regional Fairgrounds, [jsimpson1@stx.rr.com](mailto:jsimpson1@stx.rr.com), [www.gcgm.org](http://www.gcgm.org)

MAR 7-10, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWMN Fairgrounds, [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com), [dgms.bravehost.com](http://dgms.bravehost.com)

MAR 8-9, Ada, OK, Ada GM&F Club, Pontotoc Cnty. Agri-Plex, [okieed42@windstream.net](mailto:okieed42@windstream.net), [www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.com](http://www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.com)

MAR 9, Baton Rouge, LA, Rockin' at the Swamp Festival, Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Cntr, [ccoco@brec.org](mailto:ccoco@brec.org), [www.brec.org/swamp](http://www.brec.org/swamp)

MAR 15-17, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Albuquerque Stat Fairgrounds, [paulhlava@q.com](mailto:paulhlava@q.com), [www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info)

MAR 16-17, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS Live Oak Civic Ctr., [krbotx@gytc.com](mailto:krbotx@gytc.com), [www.lswgemandmineral.org](http://www.lswgemandmineral.org)

APR 13, North Little Rock, AK, Annual Swap Meet, Central Arkansas G&MS, [steelpony@aol.com](mailto:steelpony@aol.com), [www.centralarrockhound.org](http://www.centralarrockhound.org)

APR 13-14, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center, [linewalk@juno.com](mailto:linewalk@juno.com)

APR 13-14, Siloam Springs, AK, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, [delanec3@earthlink.net](mailto:delanec3@earthlink.net), [www.nwarockhounds.org](http://www.nwarockhounds.org)

APR 19-21, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MS, Alpine Civic Center

APR 20-21, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Civic Cntr, [walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org](mailto:walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org),

[www.lubbockgemandmineral.org](http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org)

Ref:

Nov-Dec SCFMS Newsletter

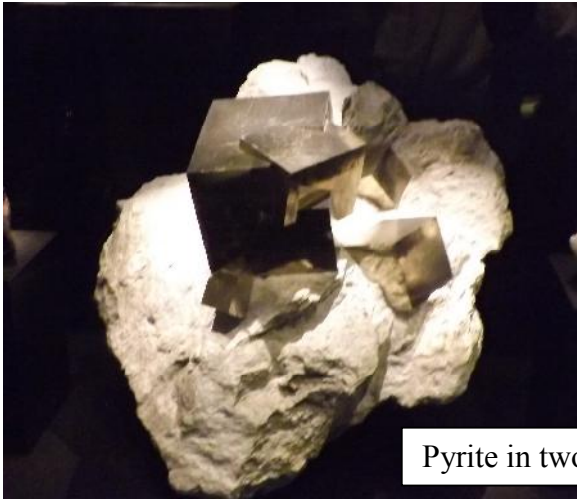
Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/>



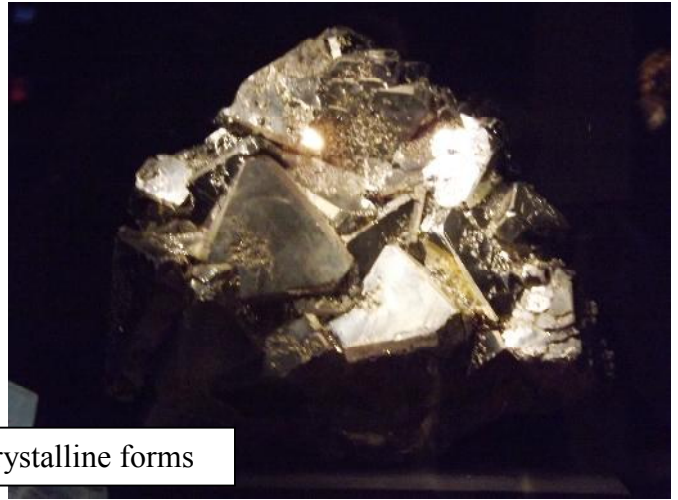
## Pictures from the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

If a picture is worth a thousand words, here are thirteen thousand words



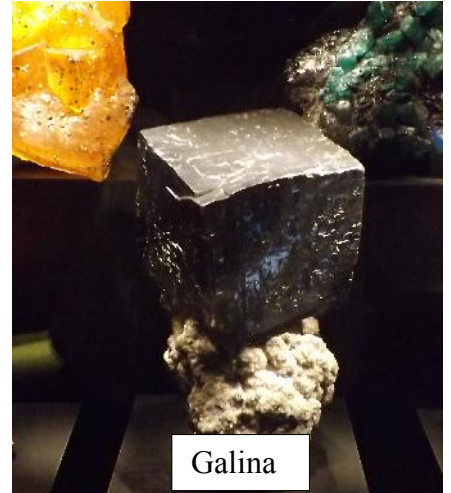
Pyrite in two crystalline forms



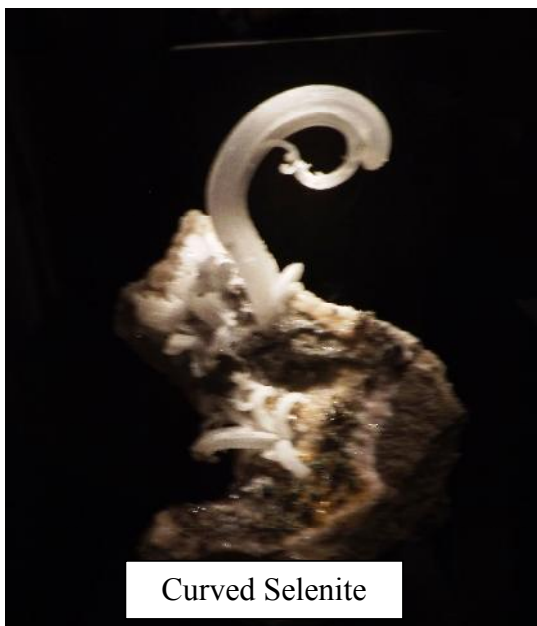
12 lb Crystalline Gold



51 lb Gold Nugget



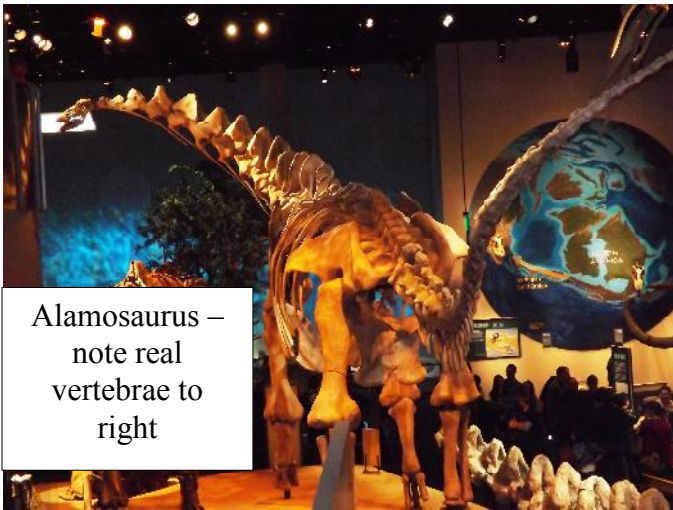
Galena



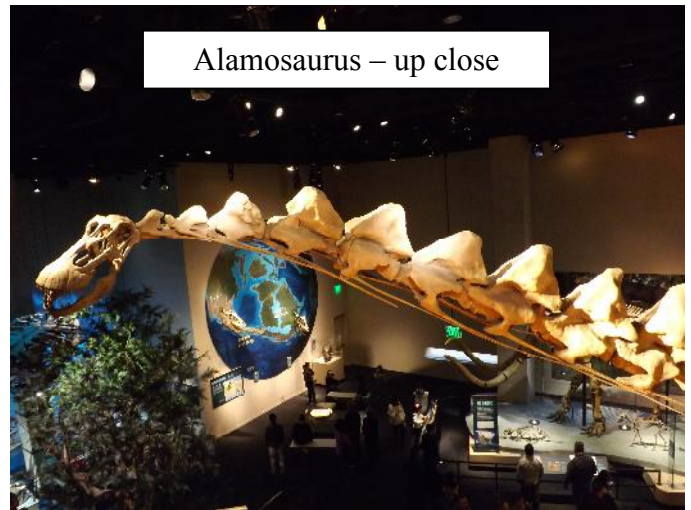
Curved Selenite



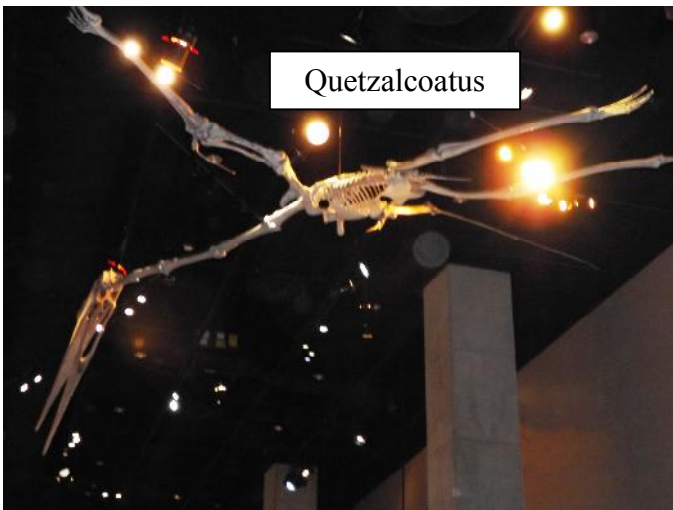
Sweet Home Mine Rhodochrosite



Alamosaurus –  
note real  
vertebrae to  
right



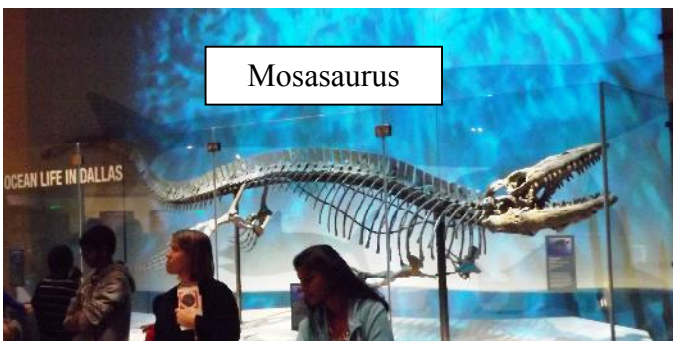
Alamosaurus – up close



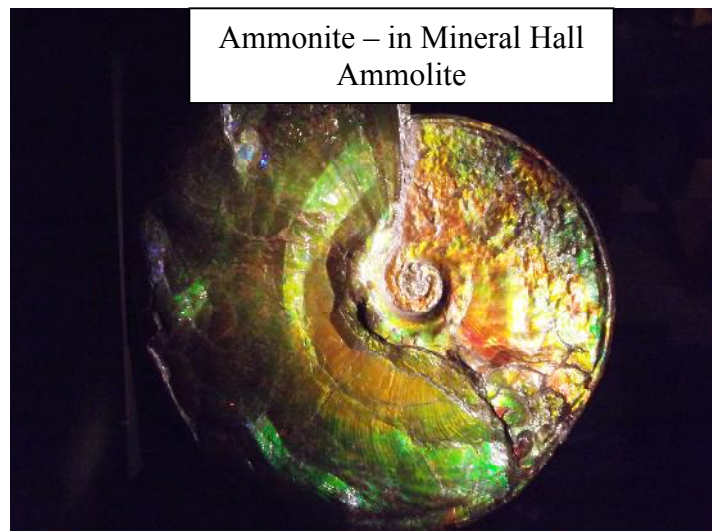
Quetzalcoatlus



Tyrannosaurus Rex  
(note real leg bones to right)



Mosasaurus



Ammonite – in Mineral Hall  
Ammolite





## Editor's Corner: What is Our Club's Future (again)?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Was anyone else somewhat disappointed with the discussions from the last meeting? I thought we were going to discuss the future of the club – what we needed to do to try to get new members, what we needed to do to engage our members who continue to be on the roster but are not at the meetings, whether we should have a show or not, whether we should have a shop and whether we need more activities like field trips. Obviously I missed the mark. Instead the discussions were what we would like for our meeting presentations. I grant you this is an important topic, but not the one I was prepared or hoping for.

I hope someone heard David Dobson's offer to get us a show. Quite frankly I think we need a show. Maybe it doesn't have to be as big as our last show, and maybe we can even have club members as vendors, or only club members as vendors. I say we should let David put together a plan and see if it is feasible. Anyone else care to opine?

What else can we do? I would recommend we get a field trip coordinator and get some field trips scheduled. While it is cold outside (Yes, winter) a museum tour seems reasonable. After it warms up there is always the North Sulphur River, and maybe we could get into some of the local gravel pits – in gravel that I have had delivered there is a small quantity of fossilized wood, a few siliceous rocks, and even an occasional fossil gastropod. I have this feeling that field trips could help with membership.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL FEDERATION CONVENTION NEWS ANNUAL SHOW**

The ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society, Bossier City, LA, will host the SCF Show in 2013, to be held on August 17-18, 2013. So, mark your calendar and plan to be there for that show. We will be having more information about the festivities as time goes on, which are being planned at this moment.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING:**

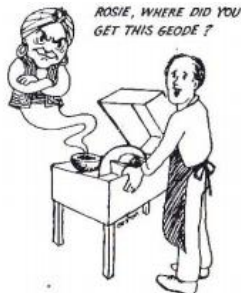
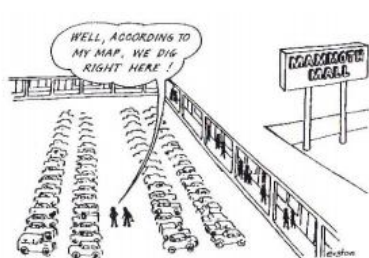
The Federation's next annual meeting will be held on August 17, 2013.

#### **ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION**

The annual silent auction will be held during the SCFMS Show and Convention, August 17-18, 2013. Donations are greatly welcomed and needed. Rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry and hobby related items are among the items needed. Bring or send these items to the show. Proceeds from the silent auction go into the South Central Federation Endowment Fund.

### **A Little Humor**

By Erson Barnhart, Rock Buster News, Central PA Rock & Mineral Club (with permission)



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

### **Coming Up**

The February 7th meeting will start at 7:30 PM. The program will be a DVD featuring Tasmania, an island state of Australia that is the location of the Adelaide Mine. Crocoite of unbelievable quality is mined there, come and see this exciting DVD.

The March 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at 7:30 at the Garland Women's Activities Building (normal location)

## **PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas**

### **MEETINGS**

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM  
Garland Women's Activities Building  
713 Austin St.  
Garland, TX  
(Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Single Adult: \$16.50,  
Junior: \$5.00; Family: \$27.50  
(Plus badge fee for new members)

### **MEETING MAP**

