

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

Member of
SCFMS



Affiliated with
AFMS



February 2016

Vol. 50, Issue 2

1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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, particularly 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.

February's Birthstone, Amethyst

By Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Amethyst, or more technically correct, quartz variety amethyst (purple quartz, is the birthstone for February. As a member of the quartz family, it is composed of Silicon and Oxygen (SiO_2). The purple color is due to the presence of trace amounts of Iron in the +3 valence state (Fe^{3+}) replacing a silicon atom in the crystal lattice. The stone must also have been subjected to radiation. An amethyst can lose some of its color if exposed to strong light, and the purple color can be enhanced to exposure to radiation. Amethyst has a hardness of about 7 on Mohs scale. It is generally just slightly less hard than quartz due to the impurities in its crystal lattice.

The color of amethyst can vary from almost pink to deep purple. It may also have a hint of deep blue or red coloration. Amethyst found in Siberia is the most favored color. Choice crystals also come from Brazil and Sri Lanka. Deep purple amethyst



geodes are found in Uruguay – they are generally more intensely colored than the amethyst geodes found in Brazil,

The name amethyst comes from the Greek word “amethystos” which means not intoxicated. In ancient Greek cultures amethyst was believed to prevent one from becoming intoxicated. For that reason, wine goblets were often carved from amethyst. Medieval European soldiers wore amulets or amethyst stones in the belief that it would help the body to heal and would keep one thinking straight.

Photo by Don Shurtz of quartz variety amethyst specimen displayed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Ref:
American Gem Society,
<https://www.americangemsociety.com>
Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

A Word from the <AMFS> President

By Matt Charsky, President – from the February 2016 AFMS Newsletter

Resolutions

As you read this article, the holidays and all the trimmings are behind us. So how are we pledging to better ourselves and our lives though our hobby in the New Year? Here are some New Year's resolutions for you and your hobby. In the spirit of David Letterman, this is our top ten:

- I resolve to attend more club, Regional, and American Federation Meetings
- I resolve to volunteer for a position (e.g., Officer, Committee Chair, Judge, etc.) in either a Regional or American Federation
- I resolve to put together a showcase for either a competitive or non-competitive exhibit
- I resolve to write an article for either a club, Regional, or American Federation newsletter*
- I resolve visit the <www.amfed.org> website to better understand the American or my Regional Federation
- I resolve to attend a field trip (either in the good old outdoors or a special indoor exhibit).
- I resolve to make a donation to the American Federation Endowment Fund or my local Regional Federation Endowment Fund, or any type of Educational Fund.
- I resolve to write up an individual(w) for Club Rockhound of the Year, or submit an article to the Bulletin Editor' Advisory Committee, or Web Site Contest
- I resolve to contact an Officer or Committee Chair at either the American or Regional Federation and see if they need some help.
- I resolve to try a new activity in the hobby – take a class at one of the sessions offered at the Federation or Regional level, visit a new club show, go to a symposium, or talk to an expert in the hobby.

Well there you have it – make a change and get involved in the New Year

I would like to thank both the Austin Fem and Mineral Society (South Central) for hosting the 2015 American Federation Meeting held in Austin, Texas and the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society (Northwest) for hosting the 2016 American Federation Meeting to be held in Albany, Oregon in July

Finally, in November I had the opportunity to attend the Southeast Federation Annual Meeting in Melbourne, FL sponsored by the Canaveral Gem and Mineral Society. My wife Jean and I were shown “Southern Hospitality” and it was evident that the Southeast Federation is in good hands for 2016.

Till next month Matt

** Editor: Keep the fourth resolution in mind when you get to the Editor's Corner*

Newsletters on the Web

The AFMS President's Message (above) and the SCFMS Message (ROCK TALK) on the next page are from the AFMS and SCFMS Newsletters respectively. You do not have to wait for me to find and read articles from these newsletters, you can Do-It-Yourself! The AFMS and SCFMS newsletters are posted on the web, the AFMS Newsletter at www.amfed.org and the SCFMS newsletter at www.scfms.net. Our club's newsletters are also on the web, issues back to December 2006. Find our newsletter at www.pogmc.org. However, you don't need to stop there. Other club's also post their newsletters on the web. You can go to other club's page from our web site – just go to our Link page and you will find all links to all the SCFMS clubs with web sites. They may not all have newsletters, but you can have some fun poking around and seeing all the things they do have.

Visit an Area Club

- [Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
- [Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
- [Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
- [Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
- [Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
- [Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth,
- [Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
- [Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, rock hounding in Lubbock is a bit of a challenge. We have caliche and dirt. One of our club members presented a program recently where we learned that some caliche will take a polish, but dirt on the other hand, is a lost cause.

While I love to rock hound in locations that have more selection, I can't do it as often as I would like. This is one reason the local club is such a big deal. Being a member of the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society provides me with the opportunity to meet regularly with other folks that share my interest and while we swap stories, we all learn from one another.

The SCFMS is an extension of the local club, giving us more opportunities to meet with and learn from others in a broader setting. In a similar circumstance to my putting off joining the LGMS and getting involved, I did not make myself aware of all that the South Central Federation offered for several years after joining my local club. This newsletter is a good way to learn about the SCFMS, as is the website; www.scfms.net but there is really no better way to learn than to interact with others that are involved.

I think we could all do a better job of getting new folks involved, at both the local club and in the SCFMS if we just educate new members so they can see the value in our collaboration.

As a rock hound stacking up rocks in my back yard, I had very little knowledge to share, or so I thought. Once I joined the local club, I found that I had plenty of things to share, and I learned so much more from club members than I ever would have on my own.

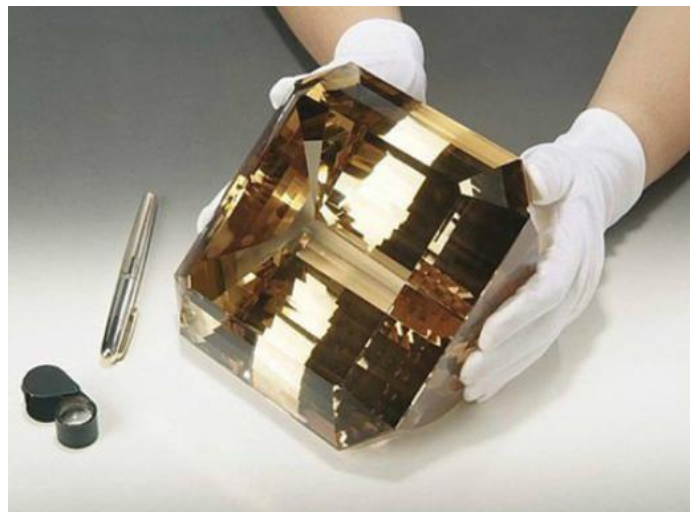
The SCFMS has also proven to be a vast storehouse of knowledge, and I learn new things every day. I urge you to get involved, every club needs someone to step up and try something new. Within the SCFMS there are several committees that need members, so if you are willing to learn and grow with us, please contact me about a position. The following committees are in need of a volunteer to step up and serve, please consider what you can do to help out! Auditing, Boundaries, Budget, Commemorative Stamps, Educational & All American Awards, Historian, Juniors Program, Program Library & Competition, Public Relations, Rock Hound of The Year, Safety, Uniform Rules, and Ways & Means.

Wishing all of you a Great New Year, Walter Beneze, SCFMS President.

**BenchTips by Brad Smith shared a Facebook photo
From César Aleandri with Earnest Gems and Julia Lorenzi.
From the February Fredericksburg Rockhounds Newsletter**

The “El-Dorado Topaz” is the largest faceted topaz and the largest faceted gemstone in the world, weighing a whopping 31,000 carats equivalent 6.2 kg. It exceeds the weight of the faceted “American Golden Topaz” by about 8,100 carats. Like the “American Golden Topaz,” the “El-Dorado Topaz” also originated in the mineral-rich southeastern state of Brazil, Minas Gerais, the premier source of enormous topaz crystals in the world. The El-Dorado Topaz was discovered in 1984.

Editor: Check out Bench Tips on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BenchTips/> for lots of other tips and hints



Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Jan 30 – Feb 14, Tucson, AZ, numerous shows in Tucson area.

Feb 21 - 22, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, Community Center – San Gabriel Park, wcgms.org

Feb 27, Llano, TX, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano Community Cntr,

frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com

Mar 5 – 6, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M. Borchard Fairgrounds, www.gcgms.org

Mar 10 – 13, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SW NM Fairgrounds, thedgms@gmail.com, www.thedgms.com

Mar 18 – 20, Albuquerque, NM, Alb. G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, paulhlava@q.com, www.agmc.info

Apr 1 – 2, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, Pontotoc Cnty Agri-Plex, okieed42@windstream.net,

Apr 22 - 24, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, www.intergem.com/

Apr 30 – May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Event Center, www.wacogemandmineral.org

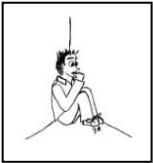
May 7 – 8, **Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS and the SCFMS Show and Convention,**

<http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/57th-annual-show>

Ref:

September October 2015 SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>



Editor's Corner – On the Soap Box Again

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

I know I said that I would not get on the soap box, but sometime there is something that needs to be said. This last weekend, 22 – 25 January (love those 4 day weekends), I had the opportunity to review the past year's Chips and Chatter and articles in preparation for entry in the SCFMS Editor and Author contest and did I have a **BIG SURPRISE**. There was not one Article or Feature (field trip report, show report, etc.) contributed by any member of the Club except the Editor. There were regular contributions by the Secretary (Monthly Meeting Minutes) and the President (President's Message), but that was it. There could also have been monthly articles from the Treasurer if we published his report, but we decided a long time ago that the Treasurer's report did not have to be so public. Articles from the SCFMS newsletter, AFMS newsletter, other club's newsletters, **and the Editor** filled out the Chips and Chatter. I like writing articles, **but being the only contributor to the newsletter is going to come to an end**. This is our club and our newsletter, so everyone needs to contribute. There have been some amazing mineral specimens displayed at the club meetings lately – how about an article about one of the minerals? Everyone had a nice piece to show at our last meeting – how about some how-to articles? If you attend another club's show, how about a report? How about telling us what happened to you at the IGEM show? How about birthstone articles for your birth month? How about an article about your favorite mineral or rock? If you know a tidbit of history about the club that the rest of us likely don't know, – how about an article? Did you read an interesting book or magazine article that pertains to some aspect of our hobby, how about a review to inspire the rest of us to read it? If you read an interesting article in another club's newsletter, share it with us (make sure proper credit is given to the originator). The opportunities for writing something are there – just keep your eyes open and then put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard).

So how does one go about submitting an article? Typed on a word processor and sent as an electronic file (email attachment) would be the best (read that as easiest for the Editor to work with). Typed or hand-written and given to the Editor at a meeting or mailed (snail-mail) will also work. If none of that works, catch me after a meeting or call me and relate the story or article to me and I will put it to paper. **IT IS TIME FOR EVERYONE TO START CONTRIBUTING. If it doesn't happen, we are going to start having a 4 or 3 or 2 or even down to a single page Chips and Chatter. If all people want is a monthly meeting reminder, that would be a lot easier.**



President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

January IGEM is done. It was a small but good show. Ling and Don Shurtz, Del and Caroline Grady, Warner Ragan and David Dobson were at the IGEM show. Next month is the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering competition at Fair Park, a SMU project. POGMC is sponsor of Special Award. The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) show the EMGI is on our agenda too. Let's go!!!

Club Officers for 2016

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

Minutes of the January 2015 Meeting

The January 7th, 2016 club meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by President Ling Shurtz. We commented on the fact that this was the first time in two years that our January club meeting wasn't cancelled due to snow or ice.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Don.

Sunshine Report; Butch and Pattie are still under the weather, and Butch is looking at some more surgery on his spine.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the November meeting that were printed in the December Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn. The motion was seconded by Ling, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers' Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurers' Report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' Report was made by Don, and seconded by Ling. The motion passed unanimously.

The Science Fair is coming up in February and the club will donate a gift certificate from Natures' Gallery. The motion to accept this was made by Ling and seconded by Carolyn. It passed unanimously.

New Business: IGEM will be set up January 13th, and the show dates are January 15th-17th.

We took our break and then got back together for our show and tell of something each member had made.

- 1) Ling brought a kaleidoscope and a necklace made out pearls and black goldstone.
- 2) Del and Carolyn brought 3 necklaces, one is a double star inlay, and an inlaid bird, and one that is an epidote stone with copper and silver beads.
- 3) Don brought a presentation he composed on "Birthstones, an expose and history".
- 4) Hat brought a necklace of beads composed of obsidian, snowflake obsidian, and turquoise.
- 5) Lee brought 2 necklaces. One is white opal beads carved like a rattlesnakes' rattle and highlighted with silver beads. The other necklace was made from Swarwarski Crystals and pearls, all very shiny and glittery.
- 6) Warner brought a ring he made with a peach moonstone cabochon and smoky quartz set in sterling silver.

Don announced that Roberta Crippen, an old club member, has lapidary equipment for sale. Ling said she will call her to find out what type of equipment it is and the prices.

We had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary
Monthly Meeting

The February 4th 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Don Shurtz will give a presentation titled "Birthstones, a History and Expose"

The March 3rd 2016 meeting will be back at the Garland Women's Activities Building

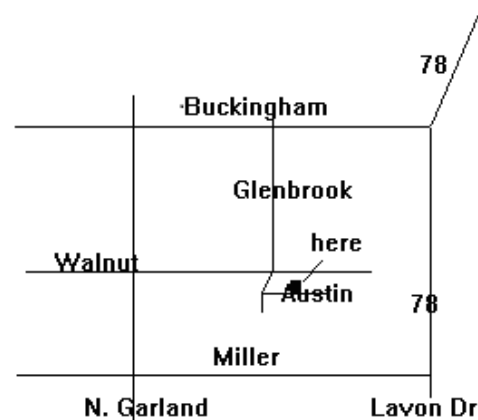
VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



<p>Meetings First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM Garland Women’s Activities Building 713 Austin St. Garland, TX (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)</p>
<p>Membership Single Adult: \$16.00, Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50 (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>



VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

The February 4th 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building. Don Shurtz will give a presentation titled “Birthstones, a History and Expose”
 The March 3rd meeting will also be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building.

CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

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