

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



January 2007  
Vol. 41 Issue 1

### Features

Update on Shop Supervisors.....3

### Monthly Columns

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Message .....2  
 Editor's Corner .....2  
 Metroplex Clubs .....4  
 Minutes .....2  
 President's Message .....2  
 Question of the Month .....3  
 Shop Calendar .....  
 Shop Report.....3  
 Shows .....2  
 Treasurer Message.....2

### Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our web site for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop: Monday - 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon
- Ladies night at the shop on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 6:00PM to 9:00PM

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### 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: January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM  
 Garland Women's Activities Building  
 713 Austin, Garland, TX

### Presentation

I have not received word in regards to the presentation for this month. However, I am sure we will be entertained.

### Show & Tell

Please bring anything club related you may have received over the holidays and share it with us. For example your exchange gift here at the December meeting to good books or specimens.

### Club Officers for 2007

President: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821  
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223  
 2nd VP: Brenda Dowell, (972) 771-9502  
 Treasurers: Delbert Grady, (972) 235-6575  
 Secretary: Renee Wofford  
 Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828  
 E-mail: andresner@verizon.net  
 3809 Skyline Drive  
 Rowlett, TX 75088

## Minutes – November, 2006 General Meeting

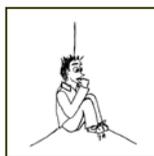
Renee Wofford, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

No minutes received to publish.

### Upcoming Shows

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Again, I apologize for not having this information for you. Please bear with me and I will get it updated as soon as possible.



### Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings to each and every POG&MC member. I really am trying to succeed at this Editor thingy. Please bear with me as I learn the In's and Out's of it. You may learn some new words for Rock Hounding as you read along with me. Though, I suppose worse things have happened to you along life's walk.

I would ask for anyone that would like to have a subject or article addressed in the Chips and Chatter to please feel free to let me hear from you and I will do my best to see it through. I hope to make you proud of my work and input; but, I need your support with questions of the month, pictures of Rock Hounding trips and/or articles, or experiences to share. One thing I do request is that you get anything you want to see for the coming month in the Chips and Chatter sent to me no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month before it is due to appear in the Newsletter. I am a bit slower at typing and manipulating the format at this time than Don. I need the time to get it together for you.

Thanks to each and all of you for your present and continued support of the Club. May the New Year be everything that you desire and the club can hope for, with an added helping of blessings and rock dust.

### President's Message

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings and Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday. As it is New Years, is it time for a few New Year Resolutions for the club? I have a few suggestions:

1. Let's increase our club membership by 40% this year.
2. Let's increase our presence at the Joint Workshop. Brenda is doing amazing things with her Ladies Night, and there are open shops on Saturday and Monday, and there are classes.
3. Let's have our best show ever. And speaking of the show, it is not too early to get the various show activities organized and kicked off.

If you have any other New Year Resolutions for the club, bring 'em on!

See you at the January meeting - Don

### Treasurer Message

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Please remember that annual dues are now due for renewal. The fees are listed on the last page of this newsletter.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

No input for January.

## Shop Report

Brenda Dowell, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The shop is doing well. John has been repairing the saws in need work and they are up and working great. We have Genie wheels on order and should be in soon. This will have 2 of the 3 older Genies with new wheels. The other one will be reworked soon.

“LADIES NIGHT” will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM.

Remember, if you have questions about the shop or want to be put on the mail out list for time changes (usually for my early arrival at shop) please contact me at: [SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM](mailto:SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM)

## Update on shop Supervisors

Mike Russell, Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

1st Saturday of each month: Steve Wheeler and \*Bob Yadon (to be confirmed)  
2nd Saturday of each month: John Woodward and Paul Floyd  
3rd Saturday of each month: Del Grady and Don Shurtz  
4th Saturday of each month: Mike Russell  
5th Saturday of each month: Not a fixed assignment at this time.  
Monday night open shop: Brenda Dowell and John Woodward

Substitutes who have said they could work on a limited basis: \*Bob Yadon on 1st Saturday after football season if that will work for him, Brad Tanas: Monday nights, Jack Sorrow; Saturdays, David Greenberg, Jeremy Horvath, Donna Mallory, Rick Ramsey.

This is a “work in progress” list so there will be updates. John Woodward will return soon and we will work on the list.

## Question of the Month: What is the State Rock of Texas?

The question of the month for January is “What is the State Rock of Texas?” Actually, the state of Texas does not have a “state rock”. However, Texas does have an official stone, approved by the state legislature in 1969, and it is Petrified Palmwood. Interestingly, Louisiana does have a state rock, and, wouldn’t you know, it is also Petrified Palmwood (some sources list agate). But just to make sure we knew, Louisiana also designated Petrified Palmwood as their state Fossil! For the record, Louisiana didn’t get around to designating its state fossil and stone until 1976.

The Texas state stone and gem were both made official by the state legislature in 1969. Do we have any idea



Palmwood Bola Tie by Ed Wheeler,  
picture by Jessica Shurtz

who requested that Petrified Palmwood and Blue Topaz be recognized? How often have you spent time just snooping around the joint workshop? Well, I was the shop supervisor on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, and as I was cleaning up near closing time, I noticed a paper covered with Plexiglas in the classroom. There it was, a copy of the official state proclamation of Palmwood and Blue Topaz as the state stone and gem, and it was based on a recommendation of the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society. We can thank our sister club for our state’s official stone and gem! Way to go, DGMS!

The petrified palmwood found today originated as palm trees of the genus *Palmoxylon* (now extinct) which grew along the ocean shoreline. Fossils of sponges, corals, and mollusks are often found in the same vicinity. The ocean shoreline has

moved further south over the millions of years. Palmwood is generally cut perpendicular to the tube-like structures prevalent in the stone. These structures are sclerenchyma bundles which moved water and nutrients to and from the roots and the leaves of the living trees. When cut perpendicular, the tubes look like dots. However, palmwood can be cut at any angle relative to the tubes; if cut parallel, the tubes look like lines.

Question of the Month for February: What is the state soil of Texas?

Ref:

About Texas; <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ref/abouttx/symbols.html>

Answers.com; <http://www.answers.com/topic/list-of-u-s-state-minerals-rocks-stones-and-gemstones>

Wikipedia List of U.S. state minerals, rocks, stones, and gemstones;

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_U.S.\\_state\\_minerals,\\_rocks,\\_stones\\_and\\_gemstones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_U.S._state_minerals,_rocks,_stones_and_gemstones)

Louisiana – Pelican State; <http://www.usstatereports.com/statesymbols.aspx?st=LA>

Question of the Month for February: What is the State Soil of Texas?

### [Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs](#)

Texas School of Earth Science (Arlington G&M Club) meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 1408 Gibbins, Arlington

Pleasant Oaks G&M Club meets the 1st Thursday of each month a 7:30 PM at Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland.

Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers , 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, TX

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

Dallas G&M Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Ridgewood Rec. Cntr, 6818 Fisher Rd, Dallas.

Dallas Bead Society meets the 3rd Thur. of each month at 7:30 at Walnut Hill Rec. Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas

Oak Cliff G&MS meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd., Dallas, TX., 75224

Fort Worth G&M Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

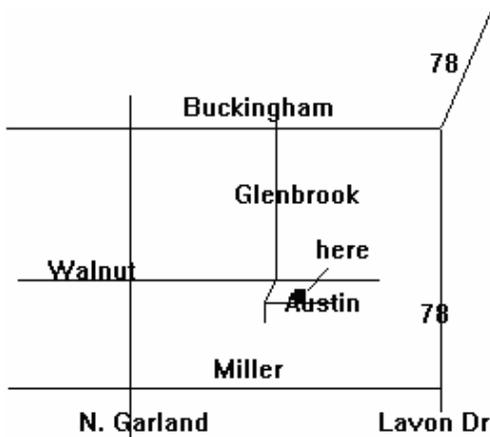
To:

1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins  
 9<sup>th</sup> place AFMS 2006 small bulletins  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place SCMS 2005 small bulletins  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins  
 1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins  
 HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

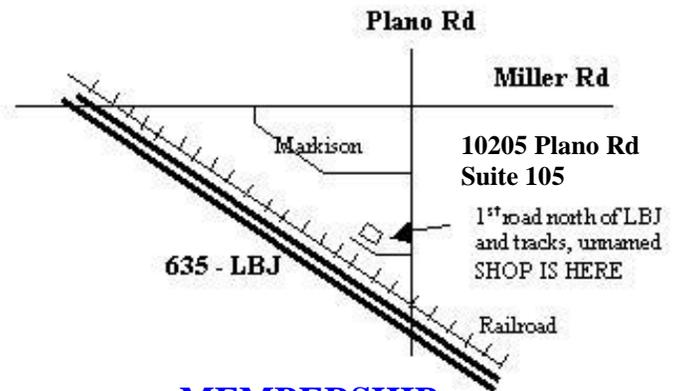
**Next Meeting: January 4, 2007 at Garland Women's Activity Building, 7:30 PM**

**PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS**

**Meeting Map**



**Joint Club Shop Map**



**MEETINGS**

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

**Member of**

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

**Affiliated with**

American Federation of Mineral Societies