

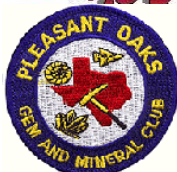
# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter

Member of  
SCFMS



Affiliated with  
AFMS



January 2016  
Vol. 50, Issue 1

1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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.

## January Birthstone, Garnet

By Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The birthstone for January is Garnet. But the real question is which variety of Garnet? Garnet refers to a family of minerals which includes the more common varieties Almandine, Pyrope, Spessartine, Andradite, Grossular, and Uvarovite and the less common varieties Goldmanite, Kimzeyite, Morimotoite, Schorlomite, Hydrogrossular, Knorrinite, Majorite, and Calderite. Garnets are neosilicates and have the chemical composition of  $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$  where the X position is generally Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Iron (Fe) or Manganese (Mn) and the Y is generally Aluminum (Al), Iron (Fe), or Chromium (Cr) grouped with a silicate radical ( $SiO_4$ ). The exact variety of garnet as a birthstone is not specified, so the bottom line - take your pick.

The birthstone for January is Garnet. But the real question is which color of Garnet? The origins of the "garnet" is Latin "granum" meaning seed and possibly related to "granatum" meaning pomegranate. The seed of the pomegranate is a bright red – much like some crystals of garnet. Almandine was also known in ancient times as "Carbuncle" which means "live coal"; again a reference to a deep red to orange color. But orange and red are not the only colors for garnets. They are also found as deep purple, violet, blue, green, yellow,

brown, black and sometimes even blue. Pick a color in a rainbow's spectrum and you can find a garnet to match it. Most garnet gemstones are red, orange or purple with a

smattering of green Uvarovite stones tossed in. Bottom line, take your pick.

If you want your birthstone to have mystical properties, garnet certainly would qualify. Garnet is said to represent the primordial fire, the creation of the world, purification, and love. It promotes strong feelings and has curative and protective powers. One reference indicates it was the only source of light on Noah's ark. Known as carbuncle it was one of the stones of the high priests' breastplate. Due to its power it was used as a sacred stone by the Aztec, Mayan, Native American, and South American people. Other mystical properties abound.

Picture:



Public Domain from USGS

### References:

American Gem Society,  
<https://www.americangemsociety.org>  
Crystal Vaults, <http://www.crystalvaults.com/crystal-encyclopedia/garnet>  
Dictionary.com, <http://dictionary.reference.com/>  
Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

*Chips and Chatter*

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

January 2016

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# A Blast from the Past

## Conularids: the Mystery Fossil

By Wanda Fitzgerald, from the **November 2009** Chips and Chatter

Conularids are a group of enigmatic fossils that have no known living analogue. They were once in existence as can be substantiated by their remaining fossils, but have been extinct for millions of years. It has been estimated their existence lasted from the late Cambrian era through the Paleozoic era, and ending in the Permian period, or through to the end of "Old Life" era, referencing the geologic time scale.

They have been described as an inverted, four-sided pyramid. From their fossils, it has been estimated they at one time had a single strand protruding from the pointed end of their conical/pyramidal shape, which attached to the substrate. On the top of the inverted pyramid were tentacles that splayed outward, from which to gather nourishment. Although, very little is known as to how they gathered sustenance from which to survive. The main body was evenly spaced with cross-ribbed ornamentation. Several divisions or lines run the length of the body. It is estimated their surface may have a tooth-enamel like texture because of the remaining fossil composition being mainly chitinophosphate. Specimens found ranged from 2" to 4" in length. The internals of the Conularid may have had thickenings or septa developed, but even this statement cannot be definite. It is also speculated that they were able to bend along the mid-line that ran lengthwise down the specimen.

Although they are thought to have thin skeletons composed of chitin, some have classified them in their own phylum in the scyphozoan coelenterates. Little is known of their mode of transportation. Some say they attached themselves and were carried along, and some would even go so far to say that they had the capacity of self-propulsion or swimming. It may also be said that they were filter feeders and often lived in groups. The process of their reproduction is not known.

Generally speaking, these organisms have been classed among the Cnidarians, then sub classed into their own phylum. Some believe because of the remains of some of the softer parts of the organism, they should in fact be classified as part of the coelomates. William G Sinclair is world renowned for his knowledge on the Conularids. It is quite amazing; one who was credited with one dinosaur discovery was also the world's authority on the very elusive, enigmatic, extinct life form of the Conularids. Only nature can know the true fit in the ecological chain of events, but for now the mystery fossil will continue to be a mystery to man.

### **Glossary of Terms:**

**Coelenterates:** A class of jelly fish and Coral Sea anemones

**Chitin:** A horny polysaccharide which forms part of the hard outer integument, especially of insects, arachnids and crustaceans.

**Substrate:** The base on which an organism lives.

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**A Field Guide to Fossils of Texas.** Charles E Finsley, Gulf Pbl Co Bk Div.1996;

**Simon & Schuster Guide to Fossils.** Simon & Schuster/Fireside Books. Simon & Schuster Inc. Rockefeller Cntr New York, NY **Fossils, the Evolution and Extinction of Species.** Harry M Abrams. Harry N Abrams, Inc, Publishers. New York, NY 1991

**The Field Guide to Prehistoric Life.** David Lambert & The Diagram Group. Diagram Visual Information LTD 1994

**orifera & Cnidaria** <http://www.geo.arizona.edu/geo3xx/308/por.cnid.html>

**Animal Fossils** , <http://www.earthsea.org/remnants/r-2-3-2-0.html>.

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**Order, Class, or Phylum Condulariida** , <http://www.kheper.auz.com/.roblematica/conulariida/Conulariida.html>

**Miscellaneous Fossil Groups** , <http://www.paleo.cortland.edu/tutorial/misc%20fossils/miscfossils.html>

**S Dinosaur Hunters** , <http://www.stfx.ca/people/paleodiv/Hunters/Hunters.html>

**Miscellaneous Invertebrate Fossils-Conularia perglabra & pristeroceras timidum.**  
<http://hanmansfossils.com/catalogs/fossils/invertebrates/invert5.shtml>



Editor: A great article by Wanda Fitzgerald, published in 2009 in the November Chips and Chatter. Has anyone talked to Wanda lately?

by Kimberly J. Brannon  
From the Nov-Dec 2015 SCFMS Newsletter

The “Slice of Recognition” Cheesecake Queen, in the form of a certificate, began as an inside joke at the SCFMS convention in 2014. The tale of the cheesecake and laughter has been greatly exaggerated, at least the cheesecake portion of the story! What’s true is that a vast quantity of cheesecake migrated to our table. Paul Good mailed a certificate dubbing me the first Cheesecake Queen.

That lighthearted gesture defined an important quality I hope is NEVER lost in any of our clubs. Conventions can be stressful, but when we remember to laugh and appreciate one another in all our quirky glory, that joy is INFECTIOUS! The Cheesecake Award seeks to recognize a banquet attendee that may or may not be very active in the Federation, but was observed thoroughly enjoying themselves. Please join us again next year! What I hope resonates in the work we do, but a reminder to never neglect a little “Goodhearted” fun. Pun very much intended.

This year’s recipient was Mrs. Lynn Young, Advertising Chair of the Austin Gem & Mineral Society. Lynn has been a member of the Austin club for over ten years and has received recognition from both the SCFMS and AFMS for her competitive displays, co-designed with her husband, and in special publications for her adult and junior show guides. Lynn credits her husband, Stretch, for being a constant source of amusement. Congratulations, Lynn, your laughter captivated the banquet hall and snagged one more award for your trophy wall!

## Turritella Agate The Name Is False!

from *Gem Cutters News* 2/2003, via *Rock Buster News* 11/2014, via *Rock Collector* 5/2015,  
via *Stoney Statements* 5/2015, via *Gritty Greetings* 6/2015, via *Backbender’s Gazette* 12/2015

Turritella agate is found in Sweetwater County, Wyoming and around Superior and Wamsutter, Wyoming, too. The little snail that inhabited the shell lived in the Eocene about 40 million years ago. These fossils were not laid down in a sea, but in a fresh-water lake. The shell is highly silicified, more so than the brown matrix from which they can be etched. Whoever named this agate only knew that the sea snail *Turritella* had a high spiral shell. He jumped right in with this name without bothering to check the species out. The name has stuck, causing many people to be misled. These fossils are not even in the *Turritella* family; the true name is ***Oxyterma genera***. A few years ago, this species was known as *Goniobasis genera*, but further research caused the additional name change. You better check your collection right now and perhaps bring your identification up-to-date with the correct name on the beautiful little gastropod.



**NOT SO FAST** - When I did a little research on the *Turritella*, there was agreement that *Turritella* was incorrect. However, the Paleological Research Institute (<http://www.priweb.org/>) indicated the correct classification was ***Elimia tenera***. A search for *Oxyterma genera* at Animal Diversity Web (<http://animaldiversity.org/>) and Encyclopedia of Life (<http://eol.org/>) yielded null results. Looking further I found *Elimia Tenera* is in the family *Pleuroceridae*, and another member (Genus) of that family was *Goniobasis* which is referred to in the article above. I wonder if the “Science Community” has changed their mind again! Editor

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm  
[Cowtown G. M. & Glass Club](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth  
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX  
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)  
[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,  
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,  
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,



# My Initial View

by Matt Charsky, President  
From the December 2015 AFMS Newsletter

On my way up the Presidential ladder, I learned a lot about how the AFMS functions. As I performed my duties in each position, I see three primary areas of importance: membership, contact, and participation.

*Membership:* AFMS and Regional Federations rely heavily on the funds generated from membership dues. Recent years, except for 2015, have shown a slight decrease in the portion of membership dues that comes to AFMS, but the decrease does not represent a significant change. In fact in 2015, most Regional Federations increased membership – is this a one year blip? I hope not and so I would like to reward the Regional Federation that increases membership the most from one year to the next. Let's call it a "friendly competition" that gives one Federation bragging rights for one year. All that has to be done is to compare membership numbers for two consecutive years (2014 and 2015) and the highest difference is the winner. I volunteer to do it for the first year and share the results in early 2016.

*Contact:* AFMS is set up to encourage contact among all the Regional Federations. The AFMS Officers and Committee Chairs may initially take the lead, but the Regional Representatives need to be players also. So let's have some contact throughout 2016 by all Committees but especially on those that have a combined AFMS/Regional Federation focus. Each AFMS officer has tasks and duties that might be accomplished a little easier with some contact. As President, I will start the ball rolling by contacting the AFMS Regional Vice-Presidents, AFMS Committee Chairs, and the Presidents of each of the Federations throughout 2016. I would like the AFMS Regional Vice-Presidents who have responsibilities with several AFMS Committee Chairs to contact these chairs and find out how that particular Committee is functioning during 2016 – good and bad. You do not have to wait until the 2016 AFMS Convention in July to contact the Committee Chairs.

*Participation:* AFMS has numerous programs and competitions for the benefit of Regional Federations. For example, we have Informational Programs like American Lands Access Association (ALAA), Legislation and Conservation, Judges Training Seminar, Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editor (SCRIBE), and Safety. We also have rewarding programs like Club Rockhounds of the Year, Junior Activity Badge Program, Program Competition, and Inter-Regional Field Trips. In addition, we have Competitive Programs like Bulletin Editors Advisory Contest (BEAC), Web Site Contest, and All American Club. Hopefully, none of these programs is a surprise to any of you. My point is that AFMS spends resources on these programs (i.e., people, time, and money), so let's continue to support all of them. These programs are part of who we are, so please participate.

If you can do one activity this year, please try to contribute to our Endowment Fund. With our next convention scheduled for July, the time-frame for donations will be limited. We have a new Endowment Fund Chair for 2016, Cheryl Neary, and she is a real gem.

Finally, there is nothing like having face to face contacts between AFMS and Regional Federations, so try to attend AFMS and Regional conventions and Regional Board meetings if you can. If you cannot be there in person, email your ideas and suggestions to the existing officers. We need to hear from the membership.

So as I travel to each Regional Convention in 2016, show me what you do to further the hobby and maybe it will be part of one of my monthly messages. As the holidays approach, be thankful for your hobby and for the people in the hobby that make it fun and educational. Till next issue.

Matt



Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

2016 is here, and so are we! Don't forget the January 15-17 International Gem and Jewelry Show. Set up will be Wednesday, January 13 in the afternoon. Our January meeting will be an extended show-and-tell – bring in a piece that you have made. See you at the meeting and for IGEM set up.

## Club Officers for 2016

President:	Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs:	Carolyn Grady
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 December 2015 Meeting

The December meeting was our Christmas dinner at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson. We conducted no club business, but we did have a good time and had some good food.

## Monthly Meeting

The January 7<sup>th</sup> 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. We will have an extended Show-and-Tell. Bring an item you have made.

The February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting will be back at the Garland Women's Activities Building

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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Jan 15 – 17, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, [www.intergem.com/](http://www.intergem.com/)  
Jan 16 – 17, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, [gedeonjim1@gmail.com](mailto:gedeonjim1@gmail.com)  
Jan 20 – 24, QIA POW Wow, Quartzite, AZ. Many other shows in area from Jan 1 – Feb 14  
Jan 22 - 24, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MC, Tyler Rose Center, [whizgnat@netzero.net](mailto:whizgnat@netzero.net), [www.etgms.com](http://www.etgms.com)  
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](http://wcgms.org)  
Feb 27, Llano, TX, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano Community Cntr, [frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com](mailto:frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com)

Mar 5 – 6, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M. Borchard Fairgrounds, [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)  
Mar 10 – 13, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM Fairgrounds, [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com), [www.thedgms.com](http://www.thedgms.com)  
Mar 18 – 20, Albuquerque, NM, Alb. G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, [paulhlava@q.com](mailto:paulhlava@q.com), [www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info)

Apr 1 – 2, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, Pontotoc Cnty Agri-Plex, [okieed42@windstream.net](mailto:okieed42@windstream.net),  
Apr 22 - 24, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, [www.intergem.com/](http://www.intergem.com/)  
Apr 30 – May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Event Center, [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://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:

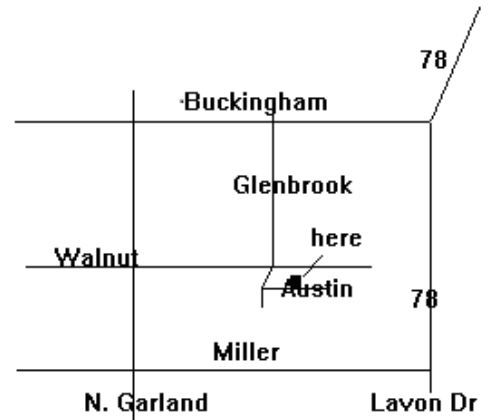
September October 2015 SCFMS Newsletter  
Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

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: \$16.00,  
 Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50  
 (Plus badge fee for new members)



VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

The January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. We will have an extended Show-and-Tell – bring an item you have made.  
 The February 4<sup>th</sup> 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

To:

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