



Member: South Central  
Federation of Mineral  
Societies



Affiliated: American  
Federation of  
Mineralogical Societies



January 2018

Vol. 52, Issue 1

1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2017 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

## January Birthstone – Garnet

Margaret Good

Garnets come in all colors, except blue.  
Mostly shades of red are the desired hue.  
The birthstone for the first month of the year  
May be any color, so have no fear.



All over the world, Garnets can be found  
Right in New York State, these beauties abound  
In Gore Mountain there's the very old mine  
That has produced garnets for a long, long time.

Very useful, keeps industry alive.  
In powdered form it's a prized abrasive.  
Its use on New York highways is massive.

Legend surrounds this most beautiful gem.  
Suggests magic, romance, guidance for him  
Who need protections from nightmares.  
At night it guides the wayfarer and gives him light.



Some fashion bullets, instead of from lead.  
From garnets, magical powers, it's said.  
Once used to cure snakebite, long, long ago.  
Dreams of garnets solved mysteries, you know.

Gemologists, geologists, rockhounds  
See garnets with beauty each time they're found.  
They are hunted, cut, and polished to shine.  
Each who owns one proudly says "this one's mine".

Good, Margaret; "Baker's Dozen of Birthstone Poems". Poems originally published in the Austin G&MS newsletter, "Stone Chipper" in 2002 – 2003. **All rights reserved by author.** Permission is granted for use of these poems for non-commercial purposes, provided full credit is given. Distributed by the author, Margaret Good, 150 Nel Court, Kyle, TX 78640, Fifth printing – June 2007

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## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Jan 12 – 14, Dallas, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Dallas Market Hall, <https://www.intergem.com>

Jan 20 -21, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Park, [www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org/](http://www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org/)

Jan 26 – 27, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS show, Tyler Rose Garden Center, [www.etgms.com/](http://www.etgms.com/)

Feb 17, Llano, TX, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano County Community Center, [prospectingtexas.com](http://prospectingtexas.com)

Feb 24 – 25, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center, [bobcat22@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobcat22@suddenlink.net)

Apr 4 – 8, Raleigh, NC, AFMS Convention/Capital Area G&M Show, Tar Heel G&MC, Kerr Scott Bldg., NC Fairgrounds

May 5-6, Lubbock, TX, SCFMS Convention/Lubbock G&MC Show, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

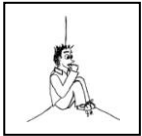
### Don't Forget:

Quartzite – Jan 1 through Feb 28 – numerous shows

Tucson – Jan 19 through Feb 12. Tucson G&MS (main show) is Feb 8 - 11

Ref:

- September - October 2017 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>



### Editor's Corner – Aimless Meandering

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

While rummaging through some old magazines I ran across a March 1997 issue of the Chips and Chatter. It was not folded, so it did not come by mail. I was wondering why I had such a pristine copy. March 1997 was just 4 months after we joined Pleasant Oaks. I had volunteered to assist with the Chips and Chatter and had written an article about Glaciers for the February 1997 issue in support of the February meeting program, the video “The Story of Glaciers.” However, the most significant event mentioned in the March Chips and Chatter was that Cheri Rogers, the newsletter editor, was stepping down effective immediately. The newsletter had another assistant who provided the artwork for the cover page and the mailing list, but she did not want to be the editor. That left me as the last one helping out, so I became the editor for the April and subsequent editions.

The lead item for the March issue was about Broken Bow, OK. Cephis Hall was leading a field trip in April, so the March Chips and Chatter had a full-page map of Hochatown and Beavers Bend state parks (both near Broken Bow Reservoir, Oklahoma) plus a map for activities and museums near Broken Bow. Broken Bow is on my wish list for places to visit. The area is known for fossils and quartz crystals. If anyone has been there, I would really like to know more about the area. If you know about the area and could lead a field trip that would be even better. Even if you are not up for leading a field trip, you could contact David Dobson or me and perhaps we could arrange a trip.

### Hints and Tips

Unknown Authors, from the March 1997 Chips and Chatter plus sources noted below

#### Finishing Soapstone

There is another way of finishing soapstone that we have heard of that the Chinese use or used. Heat the finished article in an oven for one hour at 200° - remove from oven and apply a coat of past wax. A jade effect results from this method.

From Rockhound Ramblings, via others, via Rok Tok 6/93

#### Great Use for Chert

Next time you find a deposit of chert, bring home a solid piece and slice it, and you will have the finest whetstone for sharpening knives and gravers that you could possibly ask for – try it.

From Bulletin of Pow Wow Club of America, via others, via Stoney Statements 3/94

#### Sawing Thunder Eggs

To saw Thunder Eggs, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the concretion was formed. Saw through this dome and it likely you will expose the best picture. If the specimen is elongated or egg shaped, saw lengthwise for the best results.

From Osage Hills Gems, via others, via Chips and Chatter 9/96

## AFMS Code Of Ethics

From the December 2017 AFMS Newsletter

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

## A Word from the President

by Sandy Fuller, President

From the December 2017 AFMS Newsletter



As a child I grew up often hearing the "Good, Better, Best" adage to encourage me to pursue excellence. As a rockhound, this adage holds special meaning when I look at the AFMS awards programs.

Across the nation, groups of people have come together to study, learn, collect, exchange and support each other around our common love of geology, with a special emphasis on rocks, minerals and fossils. As a group we are able to help each other and grow together into a club that others want to join and enjoy. This is good!

Our club quickly learns the local resources and identifies opportunities to reach out beyond the local community. A successful club starts working with similar clubs from nearby communities, across the state and eventually across the region. Our regional federations provide a forum to help local clubs access resources and strengthen their services. This is even better than the lone club struggling to meet the varied interests of its members.

Within the American Federation, we have established a variety of programs that are administered at both the regional and national level to help clubs and

individual members achieve excellence. Using nationwide criteria, local clubs earn scores at the regional level. The best entries from each region are re-evaluated by a panel of national judges. The winners are then recognizes as the best of the best from across the nation.

The purpose of the national awards programs, including the All American, Bulletin Editors, Website and Competitive Exhibits, is to help clubs strive toward excellence. There is enough flexibility within these programs to allow and recognize creativity while also rewarding the tried and true methods for making good the BEST.

In 2018, our National Convention will be in April, which means that our regional and national judges hopefully have a lot of entries to evaluate in a relative short period of time. I encourage all clubs to begin now to prepare your entries and get them submitted at the earliest possible time to your regional chairperson. We are counting on you to pursue excellence for your club!

"Good, better, best.

Never let it rest

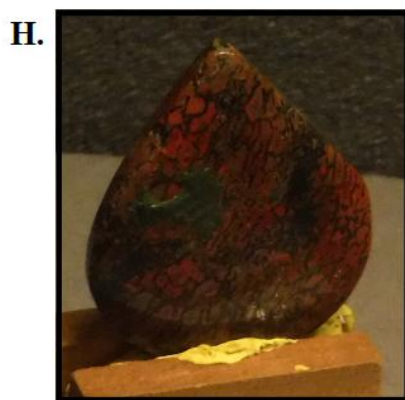
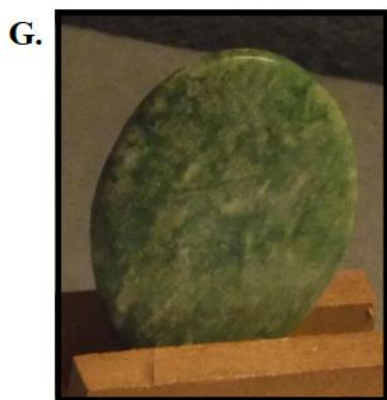
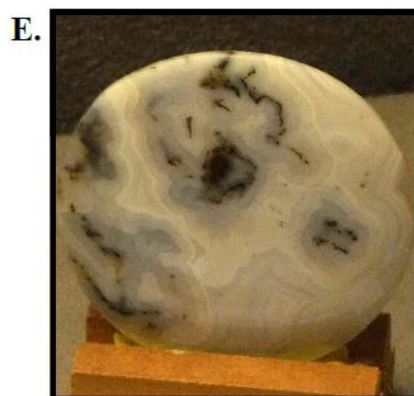
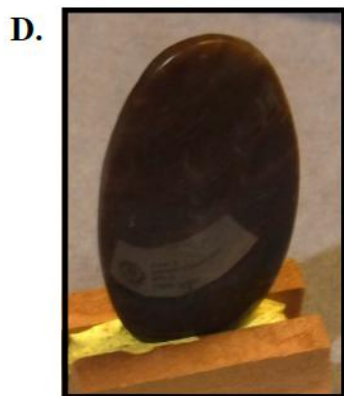
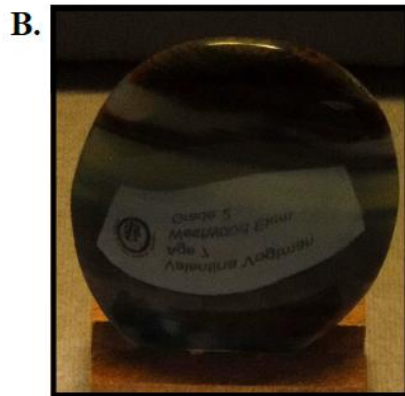
Until the good is better

And the better best." -- St. Jerome



# BEAUTIFUL CABOCHONS

Susan Burch, from the November December 2017 SCFMS Newsletter



At the SCFMS Annual Convention in conjunction with the Houston Gem and Mineral Society's show, I noticed some outstanding cabochons on display. The photos included here do not do them justice in any way. However, I thought it was important to point them out due to who the lapidarists are. They are all part of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society Youth Group. A. Daniel Williams, Age 10, home school; B. Valentina Vogtman, Age 7, Westwood Elem. Grade 2; C. Victoria Baxter, Age 10, Barrington Place, Grade 5; D. Luke Brock, Age 8, Thomas Elem., Grade 3; E. Ethan Lowenthal, Age 13, Brisco Junior High, Grade 7; F. Naomi Vogtman, Age 12, Friendswood Jr. High, Grade 7; G. Brook Carr, Age 14, McMeans Jr. High, Grade 8; H. Joshua Lowenthal, Age 9, McNiell Elem., Grade 4; I. Sufia Rahman, Age 10, The Imani School, Grade 5. Hopefully, you have enjoyed looking at them, if all clubs had a youth group like this, the future of the hobby would be secure. Susan Burch

## 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. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

### President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Ever wonder about Pakistani minerals. Our guest speaker for January, Dr. Lamuel G Salik, would be the right person to ask. Dr. Salik will talk about the Gems and Minerals of Pakistan.

The next International Gem and Jewelry Show (IGEM) will be January 12 – 14, 2018 with set up planned for Wednesday, January 10.

If you still need help with your Emu Egg project, we will try to finish them at our next meeting, January 4, 2018. Just come early at 7:00 and we will do what we can before the meeting starts.

### Minutes of the December 7<sup>th</sup> 2017 Meeting

The December meeting was a Christmas Dinner at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson, TX. Not club business was conducted; no minutes were recorded.

### Meeting

The January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin Rd in downtown Garland. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Lamuel G. Salik, a friend of Warner. Dr. Salik will talk about the Gems and Minerals of Pakistan. Dr. Salik and Warner will have many minerals for display.

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

### Club Officers for 2018

President: Ling Shurtz  
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Field Trips: David Dobson  
Secretary: Lee Elms  
Treasurer: Del Grady  
Editor: Don Shurtz  
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,  
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

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### Visit an Area Club

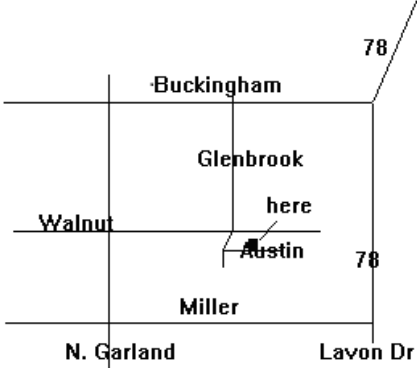
[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm  
[Cowtown G. M. & Glass Club](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth  
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 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 College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, 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, Garland,

**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)



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

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**Next Meeting: January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 7:30 PM at the Garland Women’s Activities Building**

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