

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



July 2006  
Vol. 40 Issue 6

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### Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- **July Meeting - POTLUCK DINNER  
BRING A DISH TO SHARE**
- July Meeting - Hands On mini-workshops
- August Meeting - meet Bethany Carson, winner of the Pleasant Oaks Special Award at the Science Fair
- Check out our web site for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop on Monday evening and Saturday morning

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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: July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM  
Garland Women's Activities Building  
713 Austin, Garland, TX**

### Presentation

#### **"HANDS ON" Mini-Workshops**

**Mark Carter - Mineral Basics  
Beth Hollingsworth - Metal Coloring  
Ling Shurtz Pearl Knotting  
Don Shurtz - Bola Cord Braiding**

### Show & Tell

**Beads and Pearls**

### Club Officers for 2006

President: Beth Hollingsworth, 972-226-1543  
1st VP: Charles Black, 940-381-6913  
2nd VP: Brenda Dowell, 972-771-9502  
Treasurers: Delbert Grady, 972-235-6575  
Secretary: Renee Wofford  
Editor: Don Shurtz 972-509-2821  
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com  
4004 Dublin Road  
Parker, TX 75002-6526

## *Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club Minutes*

### Minutes - June 1, 2006 General Meeting

The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by President Beth Hollingsworth.

There was no Pledge of Allegiance as a flag could not be found

**Visitors:** BK Wagner (Dallas G&MS) was visiting. Jessica Shurtz (sill a club member) was on break from West Point and attended our meeting.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the May meeting, as printed in the Chips and Chatter, were approved

#### **Sunshine report:**

- Wanda lost both her mother and sister in the preceding month.
- James Cashell's (former member) Father died in the previous week.
- Donna Mallory in hospital for back surgery.
- Mike Russell (Dallas G&MS) has surgery last week.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Del Grady. The report was approved

#### **Shop report:**

- Some items previously on hold, but are now being ordered.
- New wheels were put on some machines & documented to determine how long they will last.
- One torch was cannibalized to repair another.
- Contact Brenda to be on the email for extra shop time on Mondays.
- Ladies Night will start in September.

**Show Report:** Please sign up for show positions (ticket sales, kid's area, etc). Last year was the first time attendance decreased. Talk up the show, don't be lackadaisical, don't assume anybody knows anything.

New Meeting Format: Every other month will be hands on craft session rather than a talk. At the next meeting Don Shurtz will show how to make bola strings and friendship bracelets, Ling Shurtz will demonstrate pearl knotting, Beth Hollingsworth teach how to color metal, and Mark Carter will lead a mineral identification session.

July meeting will be a potluck dinner. The meeting will be at the normal club meeting location, but will start at 7:00 P.M. Bring a dish to share

Scot Wingo

### *Field Trips*

- Colorado Field Trip for July being discussed.

### *Upcoming Shows*

Jul 1-3	Farmington, NM	San Juan County G&MS show, Civic Center, 505-325-3800
Aug 12-13	Baton Rouge, LA	Baton Rouge G&MS, Frat. Order of Police Lodge, 225-687-3864
Aug 12-13	Addison, TX	Bead Market, Addison Conf. Centre, <a href="mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net">rebekah@thebeadmarket.net</a>
Aug 19-20	Bossier City, LA	SCFMS Convention and Ark-LA-Tex G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, 318-746-8735
Sep 2-4	Arlington, TX	Arlington G&MC, Arlington Convention Center, 817-277-2286
Sep 2-4	Silver City, NM	Grant County G&MS, Silver City Rec. Center, 505-388-4054
Sep 22-24	Humble, TX	Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, 281-389-0377
Sep 30-Oct 1	Dennison, TX	Texoma Rockhounds, Dennison Sr. Citizen's Center, 903-891-9602
<b>Sep 30-1 Oct</b>	<b>Farmers Branch, TX</b>	<b>Pleasant Oaks G&amp;MC EMGI Building, Brookhaven College, 972-509-2821</b>

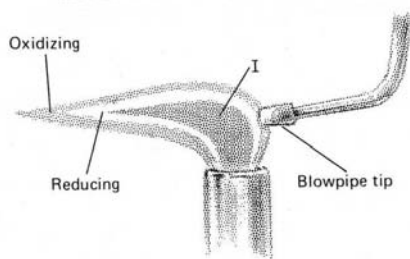
## Mineral Identification by Blowpipe

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas

Has anyone in the club used the blowpipe analysis technique for assistance in identification of minerals? I was thumbing through a copy of *The Rockhound's Manual* (Gordon Fay, copyright 1972, Harper and Row, New York) while visiting a library in Havelock, NC. The article sounded interesting, but in my years of rockhounding I have not come across this technique. During my first year college chemistry course we used a similar technique for chemical identification. We also used a more advance technique where a detector was used to precisely identify the color lines (frequency) so that a more accurate analysis could be undertaken. However, I have never thought of applying the technique to rockhounding and mineral identification.

The basic concept behind the blowpipe technique is to heat a mineral specimen with a very hot flame and to see what color is emitted by the sample. The article suggest using an alcohol lamp or a Bunsen burner as a heat source (a candle is not recommended as the yellow flame may mask the desired effect), and a glass rod for a blowpipe to add more oxygen to the flame. You blow into the blowpipe using your breath as the source of added oxygen. The only complicated part of the technique, as described in the article, is that you may need to blow for an extended period of time and thus must learn the technique of blowing through the mouth while continuing to breathe through the nose. The book suggests that this technique is easily learned. Although it sounds difficult, remember that we all had the ability to suck and swallow though the mouth while breathing through the nose when we were infants – it is called nursing.

The mineral specimen is held in a platinum wire loop and the



specimen introduced into the oxidizing part of the flame. The specimen will emit a characteristic color. With some minerals the color will only flash, for others it may be a

sustained emission. Sometimes the sample must be mixed with an acid in order to produce a characteristic color. In other test the sample is mixed with borax and the specimen is tested in both the oxidizing and the reducing part of the flame.

### Flame Colorations

<u>Color</u>	<u>Element</u>
scarlet	strontium
bright red	lithium
yellow red	calcium
yellow	sodium
yellow green	barium
green	boron
emerald green	copper
bluish green	phosphates
greenish blue	antimony
light blue	arsenic
violet	potassium

I would be interested to know if anyone in the club is currently proficient in this technique. As we move into the new “hands-on” meeting format, this would certainly be an interesting technique to demonstrate and learn.

### *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 7:30 PM, Ice House Arts Plaza, 1011 Brooklyn, Dallas  
Fort Worth G&M Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.



## Question of the Month - Glass

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

**From the June issue:** What is OBSIDIAN?

As with last month, the answer to this question ought to be easy, particularly since the basic answer was in last month's article. OBSIDIAN is natural glass.



Obsidian is usually high in rhyolite. Most obsidian is formed when rhyolitic lava flows cool very rapidly preventing crystallization. The primary mineral component of rhyolite is Silicon Dioxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), although oxides of sodium and potassium can also be present in concentrations of up to 5 per cent. Most obsidian is dark in color, the coloring agent being iron oxide. Dark colored obsidian's color is generally caused by magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ ). If the iron is more highly oxidized, it becomes red or brown in color, the color being caused by hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ ).

Gas cavities are often formed near the surface of lava flows that form obsidian. Sometimes the gas cavities are numerous as to become the predominate feature of the rock. If the cavities are small, rock has the appearance of froth or foam and is called pumice. If the cavities are larger, the rock is referred to as scoria. If the cavities are subsequently filled with minerals (quartz, calcite, etc.) the rock is referred to as amygdoloid.

One of the most common uses of obsidian results because it fractures easily in a conchoidal (concentric ridges or cone shaped) pattern. That use has been around for a long time – the formation of hand tools and arrow points by flaking. Obsidian is often recommended for those learning how to flake stones due to the ease with which the fractures can be formed.

Snowflake obsidian is dark obsidian with white inclusions. One myth is that the white inclusions are volcanic ash trapped in the obsidian. In fact, the white inclusions are chistobalite, a form of quartz. The white inclusions, being of the same basic chemical composition ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), it grinds and polished at the same rate, thus a polished piece of snowflake obsidian is easily formed.



Obsidian is found in many localities, especially near recent (geologically speaking) volcanoes. The Obsidian Cliffs in Yellowstone National Park is a classic example. Other locations include California, Oregon, Arizona, Utah, and Wyoming

Ref:

Fay, Gordon S., The Rockhound's Manual, copyright 1972, Harper and Row, New York  
Loomis, Frederick B., Field Book of Common Rocks and Minerals, copyright 1923, 1948, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York  
Obsidian is Hot Stuff, [http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/vw\\_hyperexchange/obsidian.html](http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/vw_hyperexchange/obsidian.html)  
Snowflake Obsidian, <http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/vwlessons/lessons/Slideshow/Igrock/Igrock7.html>  
USGS, <http://volcanoes.usgs.gov/Products/Pglossary/obsidian.html>  
Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

**Question - of - the - Month for August:** What are APACHE TEARS?



## ARK-LA-TEX GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

P. O. BOX 6633

BOSSIER CITY, LA 71171-6633

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds!  
From the May-June SCFMS Newsletter

On behalf of the Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the delegates, officers, fellow club members and guests of the South Central Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies to Bossier City/Shreveport and our annual show. We hope that your stay will be a pleasant one and you will enjoy the modern facilities of the Bossier Convention Center. The other meetings rooms in the center have been reserved for our use so there will be no need to visit multiple venues for the various functions. The Editor's Breakfast and Awards Banquet are being catered by our culinary school so it is important that you make reservations as soon as possible. The food is always outstanding so don't miss out!

Hopefully, you will have time to visit some of the other attractions in our area, such as the outstanding Louisiana boardwalk, an open air shopping center adjacent to the Red River with lovely landscaping and views of the city. Often there are top name entertainers that visit the area. Check > <http://www.shreveport.netifun/> < for some ideas.

For plant lovers, the Barnwell Center and the American Rose Center are close by. The R W Norton art gallery is the home of the largest collection of Remington paintings in the United States. And of course, the cuisine is legendary. There's just so much to do here you may want to extend your stay either before or after the show to enjoy.

Our club is not a large one, but our members are always glad to help. If you have questions or need assistance, we're only a phone call away. Feel free to contact Bill Hart, our show chairman (318-746-8735), or myself, Edna House (318-949-9765), or any member of our club in the SCFMS Directory. If we don't know the answer to your question, we'll do our best to find out. To find more about our club, please visit our web page at: >[www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)< . Once again, welcome!  
Edna House  
President, Ark-La-Tex Gem and Mineral Society

## SCFMS/ARK-LA-TEX GEM & MINERAL SHOW

From the May-June SCFMS Newsletter

**AUGUST 19 - 20, 2006**

**BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA**

Below is a schedule of events for this Show and Convention.

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2006**

8:00am Show set up-all exhibits

Must be set up by 8:00pm

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 2006**

8:00am Editor's Awards Breakfast

10:00am Gem & Mineral Show opens

1:00pm SCFMS Annual Meeting

6:00pm Show closes

7:00pm SCFMS Awards Banquet

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2006**

9:00am Rolling Rock Club Meeting

10:00am Gem & Mineral Show opens

5:00pm Show closes

5:00-8:00pm Remove display cases &  
Dealer move out

## **“WORDS FROM WILLIAM”**

**William Medford, SCFMS President**

From the May-June SCMS Newsletter

For many of you it is too far back to remember when our annual club shows were mostly show and tell and not much buy and sell. The early day shows were conducted so that the public could see and develop an interest in the Earth Sciences. There were exhibits, displays, demonstrations and activities for the children. In those days there was no admission charge and many shows were conducted outside.

Club shows have come a long ways from those early days and now the shows are held in community centers or event centers with thousands of people attending the event. People must now pay to see the show and the primary purpose is now buying and selling. The number of individual exhibits and demonstrators has been declining for several years. Yet in previous years all the Federations have strongly pressed for the main theme of the show to be one of showing the public about Earth Sciences. We even went so far as to create competition in exhibiting so as to keep up the interest in exhibiting at the shows. For the average collector there continued to be space at the shows for them to show their items with out the pressure of being competitive.

It is the competition part of exhibiting at shows that clubs are now having to deal with. Why is it a problem, because someone must judge the items and these persons must be qualified to be a judge. The American Federation of Mineral Societies has gone to great lengths to develop guidelines, criteria, rules and even a school to train judges. Our Federation can send one person each year to a one week school on judging with room and board paid by the AFMS. Sounds so good that every one would want to go. Not so, we were not able to find any one who wanted to attend the summer session for this year.

Maybe our approach to finding and training more judges has not been the way to go. This in part comes from us wanting to send people to the week long AFMS Wild Acres training school and not offering any short term alternatives. Maybe we should be using our Wild Acres graduates as teachers for our Federation and do our training in weekend sessions throughout the state. In this way we can rapidly increase our list of trained and qualified judges.

To this end, I am asking that each club find members who would be interested in taking the training and becoming a judge. For those clubs that have members who are interested in taking the training please send their names to Bill Pattillo, Chairperson of the Uniform Rules Committee. As we are able to develop a list then we can determine the best method of training. In the meantime our Federation will seek to determine if other Federations are having the same problems and how they have elected to solve them.

Keith Harmon, former SCFMS president once wrote “Volunteerism is what made this Federation what it is today and is what will continue to make it greater”. So to get this Federation’s judging staff to an acceptable level we need for people to volunteer to take the training needed to become a judge. This may seem like a small part of club shows and not worth the effort, but, let me assure you that we can not allow our club shows to become an “only sales” event where the club becomes only a sponsor.

Remember, our forthcoming annual Federation show will be in August and this year will be held in Bossier City, LA. It is not too early to start making your plans to attend. The convention packets will soon be arriving at each

club and they need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. The show has been well planned and there is plenty to see and do. You will not want to miss this event.

**William Medford SCFMS President**

## **SAFETY REPORT**

**George Browne, SCFMS Safety Chair**

**Sunburns and Skin Cancer**

From the May-June SCMS Newsletter

Summer is a great time for outdoor activities, but with summer we also get heat and sunshine, which can be both wonderful and dangerous. In our geographical area we get an excess of both. However for this article I want to concentrate on sunshine or more specially our exposure or overexposure to this danger.

It may take less time to get sunburn than you realize. Some TV stations report a Sun Intensity Index with the weather. That index is the number of minutes it takes for fair unprotected skin to redden. It is true fair skin will burn quicker than dark skin, but not by much. Usually skin damage will occur within 20 minutes of constant exposure and even a shorter time in higher elevations. Sunburns are miserable and can and do lead to skin cancer. Skin cancer is one of the fastest growing forms of cancer encountered today and some forms are deadly.

How do you avoid this potential killer? By avoiding direct sun exposure to the skin. Wear long sleeve shirts and pants, (not shorts), and a hat. Use sunscreen with at least a SPF of 15. The SPF is the Skin Protection Factor. How do you use these numbers? You start with the Sun Intensity Index or the time it takes you to burn. If you burn in 20 minutes then that times the SPF of the sunscreen to determine the maximum time the sunscreen will give protection. Example: If you burn in 20 minutes, your SPF 15 sunscreen will protect you for 300 minutes or 5 hours provided the sunscreen is not washed or rubbed off. The best advice is reapplying the sunscreen often.

Let me add something about the proper hat to wear. Skin cancer on the top of the ears is much, much more likely to occur on men than it is on women. Why? Because men often wear baseball or “give me” hats that leave the top of the ears exposed to the sun. Women’s ears are more likely to be protected by their hair or they wear wide brim hats. So, men loose those billed caps when you are rockhounding and wear wide brimmed hats and use screen on you ears, especially on the left ear. Why? Because men will often drive with the window down looking for rocks and exposing their left ear to direct sunlight.

Enjoy summer, but protect yourself from excessive heat and exposure to the sun. For more detailed information on these subjects, go to the AFMS web site: [HYPERLINK >www.amfed.org<](http://www.amfed.org) and click on the Safety link and look for sun related articles. Unprotected sun exposure over time can cause cancer, which could result in death.

So be aware, take precautions and be safe.

**George Browne**

# Joint Workshop Calendar

*July 2006*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
2	3 Open Shop 6-9 PM	4  Independence Day		5	6 <b>PLEASANT OAKS</b> Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:30 PM	7
8						8 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
9	10 Open Shop 6-9 PM	11	12	13	14	15 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
16	17 Open Shop 6-9 PM	18 <b>Dallas Gem &amp; Mineral Society Meeting 7:00 PM</b>	19	20	21	22 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
23	24 Open Shop 6-9 PM	25	26	27	28	29 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
30	31	<p><b>July Meeting - POTLUCK DINNER - Bring a Dish to Share</b>  <b>"Hands On" Meeting - Learn Pearl Knotting,                      Metal Coloring, Mineral Basics, and Bola Cord                      (&amp; Friendship Bracelet) Braiding</b></p>				

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

*August 2006*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 <b>PLEASANT OAKS</b> Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:30 PM	3	4 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
5	6 Open Shop 6-9 PM	7	8	9	10	11
12						12 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
13	14 Open Shop 6-9 PM	15 <b>Dallas Gem &amp; Mineral Club Meeting 7:00 PM SHOP CLOSED</b>	16	17	18	19 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
20	21 Open Shop 6-9 PM	22	23	24	25	26 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
27	28 Open Shop 6-9 PM	29	30	31	<p>Current plans are for Bethany                      Carson, the Science Fair Winner of                      the Pleasant Oaks Special Award, to                      attend our August meeting and to                      bring here project on Fossils of North                      Texas</p>	

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

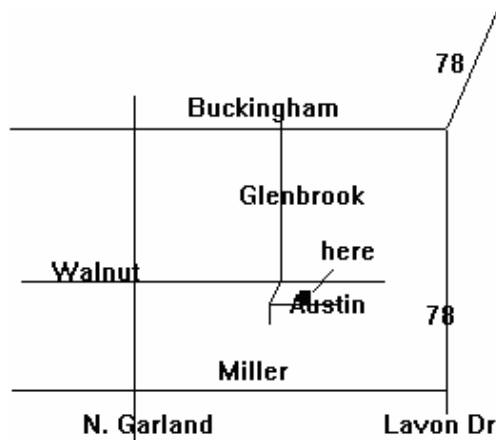
To:

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  
 9<sup>th</sup> place AFMS 2002 small bulletins  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place SCFMS 2002 small bulletins

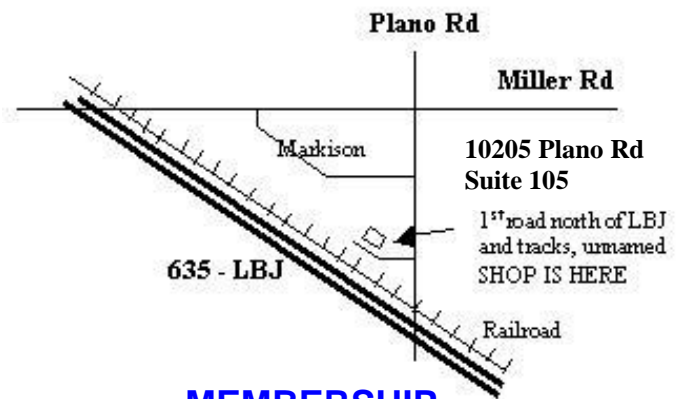
**July 6th Meeting - :POTLUCK DINNER - Bring a dish to share - Starts at 7:30 PM**  
**"Hands On" Meeting, learn Pearl Knotting, Metal Coloring,**  
**Mineral Basics, and Bola Cord braiding**

**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