

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



March 2007
Vol. 41 Issue 3

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Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our web site for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop: Each Monday - 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and each Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon
- Ladies night at the shop on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursday, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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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: March 1st at 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Doug Wallace will give a presentation on Collection Evaluation and Appraisal for Estate Planning.

Show & Tell

As always, we are interested in what shows up on the table and you are always welcome to bring items to share with us at any meeting for Show and Tell.

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

Minutes – February, 2007 General Meeting

Minutes as compiled by Don Shurtz & Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club meeting held February 1st, 2007 at the Garland Women=s Activity Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Don Shurtz. Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Don McCully.

The January 2007 minutes were printed in the February 2007 *Chips & Chatter*. A motion was made and second to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Del Grady presented the treasurer’s report. A motion was made and second to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed.

Mark Carter advised that for the March meeting, Doug Wallace would give a presentation on Collection Evaluation and Appraisal for Estate Planning. Brenda Dowell, Jim Senseman, and Dave Greenburg will also give a short “Colorado Field Trip” presentation. Mark also wanted member input on the type of presentations desired for future meetings.

Brenda Dowell was not present due to the weather conditions. She forwarded her report by email:

1. The spring Rock Swap at the shop will be in April, either 14th or 21st. Final date will be determined later.
2. There will be a Shop Supervisor’s meeting on February 10th at 9 am.
3. The Thursday Lady’s Night will now be on the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Thursday of each month from 6 – 9 pm. Brenda will be the supervisor. Genies and trim saws may be utilized, but no big saws. There will also be “mini-classes”-\$2/hour for whatever is being discussed. Brenda will keep us advised of the subject of the “mini-classes”.
4. Contact Brenda if you have any questions.

Anita Dresner called attention to the article submitted by David Dobson and suggested that more of these articles by club members would be gratefully appreciated. Anita also suggested that people providing the refreshments at the meeting be published in the *Chips and Chatter*.

Old Business

1. Donna Mallory has volunteered to serve as Secretary if needed. Anita indicated she had spoke with Renee Jones and that she would also be willing to continue. Due to the poor weather conditions and low attendance, the subject was table until March.
2. Science Fair will be March 24th & 25th. Volunteers for judges are Ling & Don Shurtz, Carolyn & Del Grady, Nell & Charles Black, and Anita Dresner. Paperwork for award has been submitted and the \$30 for awards banquet for our winner (and teacher) has been submitted by Don Shurtz. Also, the tumbler kit has been purchased by the treasurer.
3. The mini show at Brookhaven will be March 3rd and 4th. Clubs will be allowed space to promote their club and the hobby. Nick Theis is in charge of the show. The following have volunteered to attend a club booth at the show: Don & Ling Shurtz and Anita Dresner. Donna indicated she would print up flyers as a master is available so we can pass them out at the show. Don has the electronic files for the 2006 flyers and will prepare a 2007 version when the show dates are finalized.
4. IGEM show schedule for May 4th to 6th. There was discussion on whether a club member in name only would be allowed to vend from the club booth at IGEM. Participation in club meetings, the club’s show, and the shop were items discussed as proving one’s self as an active member. Discussion was tabled due to the few people attending due to inclement weather. Mark Carter suggested a club case at the IGEM to show off what the club has to offer. After discussion, a motion was made and approved that we have a display case at the IGEM show. We will require any club members who are selling from the club table will take equal turns at standing by the case and promoting the club and its membership.
5. Del Grady will be preparing a proposal for the *Beginner’s Faceting Class*.

New Business

1. The dates for the club show were tentatively set as Saturday, September 29th and Sunday, September 30th, with Friday, September 28th as show set-up. These dates would be after the Denver and Houston shows which are scheduled for 14-16th of September in Denver and 21st-22nd of September for Houston. Ling Shurtz will talk with EMGI to determine if the dates are suitable. Don Shurtz will update the flyer for the new dates.

A short break was called at 8:05 and the meeting re-convened at 8:15.

Mark Carter introduced our own Donnette Wagner who gave a presentation on close up photography (gems, wild flowers, etc) Donnette talked briefly about cameras, lenses, focus, field of depth, and lighting aspects for close up photograph. It is obvious that there was a lot more material than could be described in a short presentation and that another photography class at the shop would be highly desirable.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 pm.



Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings! Please remember, if you have a subject or article to submit to the *Chips and Chatter* feel free to let me hear from you. I would love to have pictures of Rock Hounding trips and/or articles, or experiences to share. Check out the "Feature Articles" this month that David Dobson sent. To be in the coming month's *Chips and Chatter*, I need it by the 3rd Thursday of the month before it is due to appear in the newsletter.

President's Message

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

I hope everyone made it through the ice and cold. We probably haven't seen the last of the cold; but, I hope we have seen the worst of it.

Despite the marginal weather conditions for the February meeting we had a fair showing. Those of us who did attend got to here a great presentation by Donnette Wagner on close-up photography. There was a lot more to close-up photography than I thought, and her brief overview makes me want to explore it more. Perhaps we can twist Donnette's arm and get her to lead another class at the shop.

By now, we hopefully have had a successful endeavor at the "mini-show" and are well on our way to success at the IGEM show. By this, I mean getting out there and promoting our hobby and club.

We seem to be rapidly approaching the time of year for field trips. There are several trips planned for March. I hope everyone has a chance to go on at least one. Actual rockhounding is one of the most enjoyable aspects of our great hobby. By the way, if you have a favorite collecting spot how about leading a trip there.

See you at the March meeting. ----Don

Treasurer Message

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Nothing for March

1st Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Doug Wallace of *Mineral Search* will give a presentation on Collection Evaluation and Appraisal for Estate Planning. Brenda Dowell will also give a short "Colorado Field Trip" presentation.

Shop Report

Brenda Dowell, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The Shop supervisor meeting was time well spent. We are working on establishing new rules for both the supervisors and the members. We want to achieve better working relationships between everyone working in the shop and to try to get better usage of our machines and equipment. Everyone should be more aware of the supervisors that are on duty and make the supervisors more aware of whom all is in the shop and what they are working on.

On another note, we have several saws down at this time and John has had a very hectic work schedule. There are others that have generously been helping to get them back up and running. John and Brenda are working to add "Short Mini Classes" on Thursday evenings. They would be taught by members that want to share their talents with other members. The fee would be \$2/hour as a shop donation. More information will be coming as soon as we have these lined up and ready. You can contact Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM

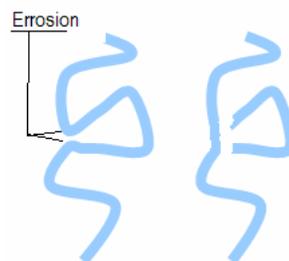
Question of the Month: What is an Oxbow Lake?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Society



An Oxbow Lake, as defined in *The Roadside Geology of Texas*, is “the abandoned, water-filled loop of a stream meander that looks like a U-shaped ox yoke. If you have ever flown over the Mississippi River you have probably seen dozens of oxbow lakes. If you have never seen an oxbow lake, you should check out Google Earth (you can download a free version of Google Earth form <http://earth.google.com/>), zoom in on an area of the Mississippi or any large meandering river and you can’t miss finding one. The meandering river aspect is an important factor. A fast flowing river flowing through mountainous areas is not likely to form an oxbow lake. A slow river wandering over relatively flat terrain will likely form oxbow lakes.

An oxbow lake is formed by the natural meandering phenomena of a river. As the river turns, the outside of a turn is eroded while the lit is deposited on the inside of the river bend. As indicated in the drawing, the erosion is about to cut through the narrow section of land remaining in the left hand figure. In the right hand figure, the river has cut through to form a new channel, and silt has filled in the area between the river and the cut off section forming an oxbow lake. As the river floods during the rainy season, silt is slowly deposited in the oxbow lake, gradually filling it. Eventually, the oxbow lake will be completely filled in, but is often still recognizable as being the remains of an oxbow lake.



As a rockhound, would you care about an oxbow lake? If you were looking for stones or minerals, you would normally look on the inside of a river bend. I suppose the same would apply to an oxbow lake, look on what had been the inside of the river bend. I have never tried this, just speculating. I do know, however, that I found some interesting pieces of Jasper and Agate on the inside of the Green River in Utah. The Green River, where I was looking, was flowing through rather mountainous territory and was a fast flowing river, but even the Mississippi must have a good current during the flood season.

References:

Spearing, Darwin; *The Roadside Geology of Texas*, Mountain Press Publishing, Missoula, MT, copyright © 1991
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxbow_lake

Question of the Month for April: What is Calcite & Where Can You Find It?

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. Ctr., 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.

Update on Shop Needs

Mike Russell, Dallas Gem & Mineral Society

If you have a shop vac you could 'donate' to the shop, it would be most appreciated! It needs to suction water as well as be used in cleaning the saws. Please contact John Woodard or Mike Russell at the shop, or just drop it off at the shop Wednesday evening or Saturday morning while shop is open. Thank you for any attention given this request.

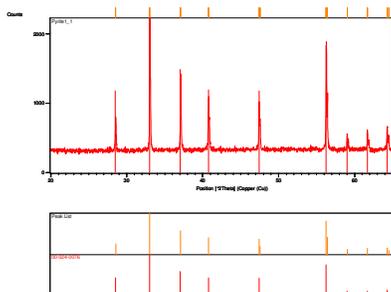
Midlothian Texas Pyrite Identification and Trivia

David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Many people have referred to the Midlothian, TX Pyrite Crystals as Pyrite, Marcasite or a combination of both. I thought that it would be interesting to see what the crystals were really made of. The chart below is an X-ray Diffraction (XRD) scan of a Midlothian Pyrite Crystal. The scan shows the sample to be pure pyrite. The error of this test is + or - 1%; so, the pyrite is at least 99% pure pyrite with possible minor traces of other compounds.

The possibility of a trace of marcasite would be an explanation as to why the pyrite is not shiny or is tarnished. Pyrite and marcasite are chemically identical both are made of iron disulfide (FeS_2). The crystal formation is different. This is why XRD is a powerful tool for crystal identification. The density of each is also different. Pyrite is heavier with a specific gravity of 5.0-5.2. Marcasite is lighter with a specific gravity of 4.8 - 4.9.

The layer that they are found in also contains teeth and marine fossilized. This layer has been dated and is between 65 and 135 million years old.



Field Trips

Report by Brenda Dowell

March 15th - 18th - Arkansas Crystal Dig, Hot Springs, AR. If you are interested, please contact Brenda, (972) 771-9502 or Howard (469) 363-6411.

March 24th - 28th - Texas Plume Agate, Alpine, TX. If you are interested, contact Brad Tanas at DGMSEDITOR@AOL.COM, subject "Field Trip".

August 3rd - 12th - Colorado Summer Field Trip. The trip takes in the Creede G&M Show the 1st weekend and the Buena Vista Rock Show the 2nd weekend. Brenda Dowell, Jim Senseman and Dave Greenburg will guide you to the digging sites around the area for this field trip. If you are interested, please contact Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM or (972) 771-9502.

Events

Reported by Brenda Dowell

The Rock Swap will take place in the shop parking lot on April 14th at 8 am - until.

Upcoming Shows

From the Show Calendar of Lapidary Journal

| | |
|---|--|
| Mar 3 & 4 – Big Spring, TX Contact: Lola Lamb, (432) 263-4662 | Big Spring Prospectors Club: 38th Annual Gem & Mineral Show Howard County Fairbarn |
| Mar 3 & 4 - Corpus Christi, TX Contact: jtgrimes@mail.evl.net | Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society: 2007 Gem & Mineral Show 2001 Sundide Road |
| Mar 17 & 18 – Ft Worth, TX Contact: www.thebeadmarket.net | Bead Market Amon Carter Exhibit Hall Will Rogers Center, 3400 Burnett Tandy Drive |
| Mar 23 & 25 – San Antonio, TX Contact: swgms_sat@yahoo.com | Southwest Gem & Mineral Society: 47th Annual Gem & Mineral Show Freeman Coliseum, Morris Activity Ctr, SBC Center Pkwy, Gate "E" |
| Apr 6 & 8 – Austin, TX Contact: info@intergem.com or www.intergem.com | International Gem & Jewelry Show Lester Palmer Event Center |
| Apr 7 & 8 – Abilene, TX Contact: slightfoot@aol.com | Central Texas Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show Abilene Civic Center, N 6th & Pine |
| Apr 28 & 29 – Memphis, TN Contact: James Butchko, (901) 743-0058 rockclub@earthlink.net | Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society: 28th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show Midsouth Fairgrounds – Pipkin Building; East Parkway & Central Ave |
| Apr 28 & 29 – Waco, TX Contact: Kay Langston, (254) 863-0206 jdodson@aenbb.net | Waco Gem & Mineral Club: 47th Annual Show Heart of Texas Fair Complex – 4601 Bosque Blvd 28th – 10-5:30 PM; 29th – 10-5 PM |

Pleasant Oaks Want Ads

For Sale

David Dobson

Petrified wood **for sale** \$0.50/lb. Pieces up to 200lbs. **Wanted** small motor cycle or dirt bike will trade for petrified wood or other rocks. Ask for David, (214) 731-1288

March 2007

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|--|-----|--|-----|
| | | | 1 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop | 6 | 7 | 8 6:00 – 9:00 pm Ladies Night @ the Shop | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop | 13 | 14 | 15 6:00 – 9:00 pm Ladies Night @ the Shop | 16 | 17  St. Patrick's Day | 18 |
| 19 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop | 20 7:00 pm Dallas Gem Club Mtg | 21 | 22 6:00 – 9:00 pm Ladies Night @ the Shop | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 4:30-9:30 pm Open Shop | 27 | 28 | 29 6:00 – 9:00 pm Open Shop | 30 | 31 | |

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

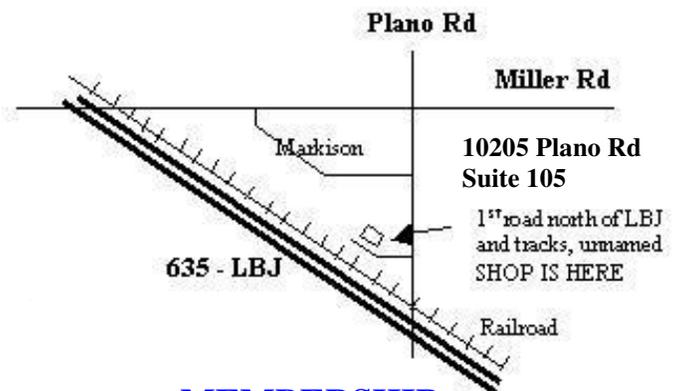
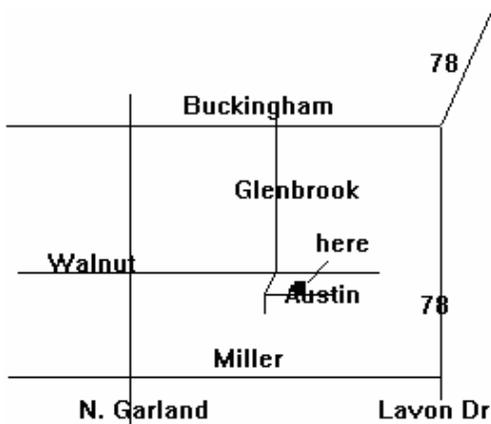
1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
 9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
 3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
 3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
 1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
 HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
 2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

Next Meeting: March 1, 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