



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



March 2017
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1st Place, 2016 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



Azurite

Azurite is a beautiful, deep blue copper based mineral, copper carbonate hydroxide ($\text{Cu}_3(\text{CO}_3)_2(\text{OH})_2$). Its Mohs hardness is a rather soft 3.5 to 4.0 (your fingernail is about 3.5 on the Mohs scale). Despite being very soft, jewelry made from azurite can be found. It would be better as a pendent or earrings rather than as a ring.

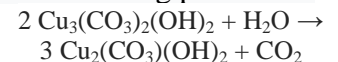
Azurite has been known for many millennia. It is mentioned in Piney the Elder's "Natural History" where it is referred to by its Greek name "kuanos" and its Latin name "caeruleum". The name "Azurite" is derived from Persian "lazward" an area known for lapis lazuli. Interestingly, lapis lazuli in Persian would be "stone of azure" or "blue stone".

Azurite is found as crystalline specimens, in massive and nodular form, and sometimes found in stalagmites and stalagmites. In addition to being used in jewelry azurite was used as a pigment in paints. Azurite was used as a blue pigment for paint as early as 2613 BCE. It was also used by many medieval painters. The fundamental problem with using azurite as a pigment is that it will slowly

weather into green malachite. Thus, if you were to look at Raphael's *Madonna and Child Enthroned with Saints*

you would note that sky background now has a distinctive greenish tint.

The chemical reaction for the weathering process is:



Heat and moist conditions accelerate the weathering process. Ancient paintings and mineral specimens need be kept in a cool, dry environment to greatly slow down the weathering process.

Azurite is found in many localities; virtually any location where copper is found can be a source for azurite. Some locations for the best mineral specimens include France, Namibia, Morocco, United States (Arizona) with more recent finds include Morocco, China, and Mexico. Early pigments derived from azurite were mined in Egypt and Israel.



References:

- GIA, <https://www.gia.edu/>
- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Picture:

- Don Shurtz, photo of specimen on display at Perot Museum on Nature and Science

Seeking Lapidary & Jewelry-Making Articles for Rock & Gem Magazine

By Jim Brace-Thompson, R&G Contributing Author
From the January – February 2017 SCFMS Newsletter



Lynn Varon, Managing Editor of Rock & Gem, needs your assistance! Rock & Gem is the officially endorsed hobby magazine of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. That means it's our magazine! In order to better serve their lapidary readers, Rock & Gem intends to increase the number of articles devoted to the lapidary arts and jewelry making.

Members of AFMS-affiliated clubs may wish to share their expertise in cabochon cutting and polishing, gemstone carving, soapstone carving, rock sculpture in general, beading of all kinds, intarsia, inlay and mosaics, sphere making, bead making and drilling, flat-lapping, scrimshaw, wire wrapping, chainmaille, fused glass, polymer clay and PMC, silver and gold-smithing, lost wax casting, faceting, and other techniques that are of interest to today's lapidary hobbyist. Lynn would value article submissions and/or recommendations of experts whom she could approach to contribute articles. To read Rock & Gem's writers' guidelines, visit: www.rockngem.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/2017-RG-guidelines.pdf.

For further info about contributing, contact Lynn directly at editor@rockngem.com.

Editor's Comment: If you ever wanted to be a writer, or maybe just get a few bucks for describing what you do well in our hobby, now is your chance! At least take a look at the RG Guidelines – they can give you some insight into how a magazine article is put together.

Show Calendar – Upcoming Show Dates

Mar 4 – 5, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Count Fair Barn, lolabellelamb@yahoo.com
Mar 4 – 5, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Regional Fairgrounds, rockcamp_speaker@outlook.com, www.gcms.org
Mar 11 – 12, San Antonio, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center, krbotx@gvtc.com, www.swgemandmineral.org
Mar 17 – 19, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MS, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, paulhlava@q.com, <http://agmc.info>

Apr 8 – 9, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center, kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net,
Apr 8 – 9, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Building, hulagrub@aol.com,
Apr 14 – 16, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MS, Alpine Civic Center, paulgraybeal@moonlightgemstones.com
Apr 29 – 30, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Events Center, bennettje70@gmail.com, www.wacogemandmineral.org

Nov 10 – 12, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS and SCFMS Convention, Humble Civic Center

Ref:

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

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 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

Lost and Found Archives

by Dave Hennessey from Mineral Minutes 09/2016 via Backbender's Gazette 10/2016

Lost (September, 1792): One large deep blue diamond, known as the “French Blue.” Original uncut stone weighed 112 carats and was acquired in India by French merchant traveler, Jean Baptiste Tavernier. Sold to King Louis XIV of France in 1668 and recut to a 67-carat stone. Lost during the French Revolution from the French Royal Treasury during the looting of the crown jewels. If you have information on this missing diamond, please contact the French government immediately. Reward offered. Finding the stone is urgent since Napoleon's government has issued a law providing for a 20-year statute of limitations on crimes committed during the revolution. Criminal liability for the theft will end in 1812.

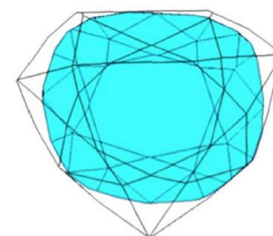


Found (in 1812, 20 years and 2 days after the French Blue was stolen): A large deep blue 45.5 carat diamond. Acquired from a London diamond merchant by King George IV of the United Kingdom. Sold at his death (1830) through private channels to Henry Phillip Hope, passing through many hands thereafter including Cartiers, Evelyn Walsh McLean (owner of the Washington Post), and Harry Winston Inc., which donated the stone in 1958 to the Smithsonian Institution where it remains a premier attraction to this day.



Speculation that the Hope Diamond is the French Blue, recut to hide its origins, began soon after the diamond made its first appearance. Drawings of the French Blue survive, and the Hope Diamond shape fits nicely (but tightly) within the shape of the French Blue.

In 2007, an inventory update of the mineral and gem collection of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris turned up a lead cast of the French Blue. The cast allowed precise calculation of the stone's shape and dimensions through laser scanning, and for the creation of three-dimensional computer models and replicas of the missing stone. The detailed geometric modeling and studies confirmed that the Hope Diamond could have been cut from the French Blue.



Confirming the validity of the analysis, the Smithsonian Institution Web site recounts the origins and history of this remarkable stone and affirms— Mineral Minutes, Vol. 75, no. 7, September 2016 Page 4—that the Hope Diamond is in fact the former French Blue that disappeared 324 years ago.

AFMS ENDOWMENT FUND RAFFLE UPDATE

Summarized from the January, February, and March 2017 AFMS Newsletters

The raffle supporting the AFMS Endowment Fund is well underway. All of the ticket sales proceeds go directly to the Endowment Fund. I am sure by now there are more items included in the raffle, but the first four items include a dinosaur fossil foot print, a 48 – 50 inch multi-colored fresh water pearl necklace, a block of red jasper for cabbing or carving, and a Wyoming fossil fish. By the time of the AFMS Convention there are typically more than 15 pieces in the raffle. The tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 tickets for \$20.00. Tickets can be purchased from our SCFMS Federation representative, Joyce Speed. Send your check (no cash by mail, please) to Joyce at 4580 Wisteria St., Dallas, TX 75211. If you have an item you would like to donate to the Endowment Fund raffle, contact Cheryl Neary, the AFMS Endowment Chair, by email at ciervo.neary@gmail.com or call her at 516-449-5341 and leave a message. You may be a winner, but the bottom line is that if you don't enter, your chance of winning is ZERO. The drawing for the winners will be at the AFMS Convention in Ventura, California. The convention is taking place June 9th to 11th.

A Blast from the Past **Dream Vacation**

From the **November 1980 Chips and Chatter**

By Wanda Fitzgerald, Life Time Member of Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Have you ever wanted to take a dream Vacation?

Robert and I left Friday the 19th of September and headed for the mountains of Colorado. We stopped the first night in West Texas and visited some of my relatives. The next night we stayed in Espanola, New Mexico (north of Santa Fe). Sunday morning we went to church in Espanola. Sunday night we went to church at Bayfield, Colo. Do you know at both places we ran into someone we knew? It's a small world!

While in Espanola we picked a bunch of vegetables, including a 15 lb. cabbage (which 16 of us ate later).

Late Sunday night we joined three more couples outside Durango. That was our first camp fire together. The next day some rode the train to Silverton while the rest of us rode there and met the train. Two other couples joined us in Silverton at the train station. From Silverton, we went to Eureka, an old ghost town and mining area. There we picked up some nice specimens of Rhodonite. We camped out that night. After eating a picnic supper, we build a bonfire (the second of many which became standard every night). The bonfire every night became a high-light of the day when everyone ate, and sat around, visited, told stories, san and joked. The night at Eureka was the coldest night while were there.

The next day we all drove over the Million Dollar Highway to Ouray. The gold and red aspen leaves and all the other color leaves together with the mountain scenery was the most beautiful we had ever seen. Only God know how to put color together!

In Ouray we had our own campground with a big camp fire in the center each night. Our days were full from the time we got up until we went to bed at night. Our leaders, Bob and Jerrye Parker kept us hopping. They are great to be with. We all owe the success of the trip to Bob and Jerrye.

One day we went to Utah and went rock hunting. Found some real nice rocks. Robert and I bummed a ride with Horace and Joan and the three dogs. The dogs also enjoyed the trip. Another day we went to Telluride to the International Hang Gliding Meet. It was beautiful and unbelievable to watch them fly their course of 22 miles and make a perfect landing. Mike and Faye enjoyed it so much, they went back to a second day with Hank and Faye.

Our 12 hour trip in a jeep was a dream in itself. We saw some Ptarmigan which you see just in the Arctic and high in the mountain tops. There was little snow left from the summer but the trees and mountains were beyond description. It was color week in Ouray and all the trees were yellow gold. Thanks for the safe and lovely drivers, Dick Whiteside, Selton Smith, and Bob Parker.

How long has it been since you sat around a campfire eating marshmallows and telling ghost stories? Mike Heryla told us a couple from his childhood that were handed down from Poland. Our trip wouldn't be complete without Vince and Joyce coming up for 3 days and going to Utah. Vince would like to bring back that petrified wood stump that is still in the ground! We broke camp Wednesday, all going different ways. We came home by way of Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Blue Mesa Lake, Monarch Pass and Royal Gorge. The last night was spent in Palo Duro Canyon. We enjoyed vacation, but it is great to be home. Thanks again to all of you who made our vacation so enjoyable

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.

President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

This was a busy month with the club supporting the STEM Fair at Brookhaven, the Science Fair at Fair Park, and a Field Trip to Midlothian. In April we will be back at IGEM. For our March meeting we will finish the chip inlay rings. We will start early at 7:00 with a St Patrick's pot luck dinner. I will bring the Corn Beef and cabbage. Everyone should bring a dish to share.

Club Officers for 2017

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,
l.shurtz@gmail.com

February Meeting Minutes

The February 2nd 2017 club meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Lee.

Sunshine report: Warner was here with us tonight after being hospitalized with issues with his legs again. It was good to see him up and walking again. Hat is still out with the pain in his back. Butch and Patti are still having health issues so they weren't here with us tonight.

Visitors: There were no visitors.

Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn and seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

Treasurer's report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the Treasure's report was made by Don and was seconded by Bob Parker. The motion passed..

Old Business:

- January IGEM is complete. The next IGEM will be April 28-30: set up will likely be Wednesday April 26.
- Revisions to the club's tri-fold were discussed. All changes must be submitted before meeting's end.
- Brookhaven STEM Fair is February 18th Ling, Don, Del, Carolyn, and Warner volunteered. Science Fair Certificate and Award banquet check have been sent. The Science Fair will be Friday, February 25. Judges will be Ling, Don, Del and Carolyn.

New Business:

- Appointed Positions:
 - Librarian – no one volunteered
 - Show and Tell Coordinator- Warner
 - All-American Club Lead (Scrap Book)- Cheryl: Rockhound-of-the-year lead- Don

Break: Carolyn brought fortune cookies for everybody to celebrate the Year of the Rooster. We discussed trying a potluck dinner for next month's meeting with corned beef to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We will start next month's meeting at 7pm so we can eat our potluck dinner and then finish working on our chip inlay.

Presentation: Del brought silver metal adjustable rings, turquoise chips, epoxy, and black and red "model" paint for us to learn how to do inlay work. It was a lot of fun and we managed to not glue our fingers together. The process of getting the turquoise chips to stand up above the rim of the ring so you could get the epoxy in among the chips was a real learning curve. We mixed our 2-step epoxy in a plastic spoon and, with a toothpick, added a tiny bit of the paint in the epoxy and mixed it up really well. You only need a little bit of the paint because too much paint will cause the epoxy to not setup and dry properly. At our next meeting we will grind the top of the chips down level with the top of the metal rim on the ring. The results will hopefully be a beautiful turquoise chip inlaid ring.

Raffle: We have been having a lot of really nice gem and mineral pieces on the raffle table to choose from.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Elms

Meetings

The March 2nd meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building starting at **7:00 PM**. We will have St. Patrick's day menu pot luck dinner to start things off – bring a dish to share. We will finish the Chip Inlay rings started in February

The April 6th meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Stand by for starting time.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

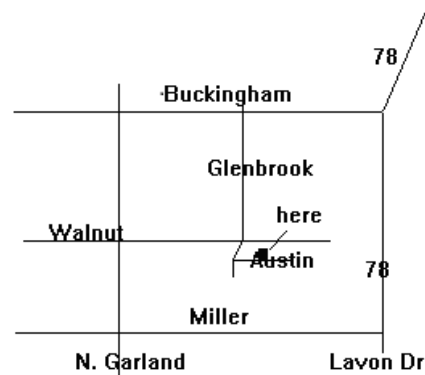
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SHOW AND TELL: bring a copper-based specimen (azurite, malachite, turquoise, chrysocolla, etc.).

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



<p>Meetings First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM Garland Women’s Activities Building 713 Austin St., Garland, TX (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)</p>
<p>Membership Single Adult: \$16.50, Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50 (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>



- The March 2nd meeting will be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building starting at **7:00 PM** – **Note the early start time!** We will have St. Patrick’s day menu pot luck dinner to start things off – bring a dish to share. For the program we will finish the Chip Inlay rings started in February
- The April 6th meeting will be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building – stand by for start time

CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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