



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



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March 2018

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1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2017 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

## March Birthstone – Aquamarine

Anita Dresner, from the March 2010 Chips and Chatter

Aquamarine is closely related to the emerald, it is a gemstone, transparent, and of the beryl family. Mostly, we think of it in shades of aqua blue.

However, it is found to be more commonly in a delicate blue or turquoise, reminding one of the seas. It is also found in varying color shades of greenish, to yellow, even in a gorgeous rosy pink. This gemstone can range from \$120 to \$500 a carat or more at its most intense color.

Not every buried treasure has been discovered. Mother Earth still holds a vast quantity of quality treasures at Gem Mountain in North Carolina. Aquamarine can be found here as you are treasure hunting. At Gem Mountain you find it – you keep it. What great fun, to find a nice piece of aquamarine.

Rock hounding for aquamarine you will first need good eyes. Then you will find picks, brushes, small pneumatic drills, and shovels very useful. When rock hounding, you get to meet so many other hobbyist and share stories and locations to practice your hobby, in beautiful and gorgeous outdoor settings. Gem Mountain, for example, is located in the outdoors of beautiful Mitchell County, North Carolina. Admission is free and all tools are provided.

Being born in March makes you a fortunate person indeed, because this gemstone, aquamarine is your birthstone. The folk-lore has it that when wearing the aquamarine it gives you the ability to see into the future, have courage, and happiness; which in turn could make for you being smarter and have the appearance of being more youthful. The pale blues are said to be very calming and sooth ones anxiety.



Whatever you're reason for aquamarine treasure hunting, you are sure to have a fun time at North Carolina's Gem Mountain. They will also inspect all of your gem stones you unearth at no extra charge. Gem cutters are on hand to cut and polish your gemstones. Happy Treasure Hunting!

Aquamarine's color is caused by trace amounts of iron in the +2 valance state. The trace iron (one to two percent) replaces some of the aluminum atom. Aquamarine is suitable for use in jewelry due to its hardness of 7.5 to 8 on the Mohs scale.

Ref:

<http://knol.google.com/k/david-cowley/treasure-hunting-for-aquamarine/>

Picture:

Photograph by LesFacettes, from Wikimedia, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Editor's note: The picture with this article is not the same picture that appeared in the March 2010 Chips and Chatter

## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Mar 3 – 4, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, RMG Regional Fairgrounds, [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org), [president@gcgms.org](mailto:president@gcgms.org)

**Mar 8 – 10, Murphy, TX, D. Dobson. Gem Amethyst Rock Fossil Sale, 9 – 5 daily, 1409 Oak Hill Ln, [rock@rocktrading.org](mailto:rock@rocktrading.org)**

Mar 8-11, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM State Fairgrounds, [www.theDGMS.com](http://www.theDGMS.com), the [DGMS@gmail.com](mailto:DGMS@gmail.com)

Mar 10-11, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center, [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org), [krbotx@gvtc.com](mailto:krbotx@gvtc.com)

Mar 16-18, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MS, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, [www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info), [paulhava@q.com](mailto:paulhava@q.com)

Mar 30 – Apr 1, Alpine, TX, Chihuahuan Desert G&MC, Alpine Civic Cntr, [ocoent895@gmail.com](mailto:ocoent895@gmail.com)

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

**Apr 18, IGEM set-up at Market Hall, Dallas, TX**

**Apr 20-22, Dallas, TX, International Gem & Jewelry Show Inc. (IGEM), Market Hall, [www/InterGem.com](http://www/InterGem.com)**

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

**Jun 30 – Jul 1, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, [show@agemclub.org](mailto:show@agemclub.org)**

**Nov 17-18, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, [www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org)**

Ref:

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

## Texas Rock and Mineral Word Find

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

### Puzzle Grid

T	B	L	U	V	R	E	O	R	A	B	A	N	N	I	C	J
G	H	C	N	M	A	R	C	A	S	I	T	E	Z	K	O	A
G	R	A	N	I	T	E	U	Y	B	P	G	L	H	M	M	S
R	V	Z	Q	X	Y	R	T	Y	L	P	J	B	K	E	M	L
A	A	D	U	Q	Z	X	J	A	S	P	E	R	C	J	O	U
W	L	Y	A	S	Z	M	G	B	G	N	T	A	L	C	N	V
P	E	T	R	I	F	I	E	D	P	A	L	M	W	O	O	D
Y	L	R	T	V	R	T	O	S	B	I	Q	A	J	P	P	O
T	L	O	Z	E	W	L	K	H	M	M	N	R	A	J	A	O
I	A	U	R	V	O	V	B	E	B	E	Z	L	M	R	L	W
T	N	Y	S	M	B	U	S	S	L	I	I	K	M	L	Z	D
E	I	L	I	T	B	T	B	A	A	Z	R	F	O	N	N	E
J	T	T	L	L	O	E	G	N	E	I	N	E	N	G	H	Z
E	E	R	V	N	H	Y	N	D	O	H	A	L	I	T	E	I
R	T	P	E	R	P	R	W	S	D	I	P	M	T	R	T	T
X	N	T	R	S	U	O	U	T	H	A	U	Y	E	X	Y	A
C	I	E	U	H	O	S	F	O	S	S	I	L	S	P	S	G
Z	L	M	P	D	L	O	I	N	R	S	L	N	S	X	J	A
W	F	L	U	O	R	I	T	E	U	S	T	U	A	A	R	P
U	U	Z	X	R	A	D	R	N	P	A	M	U	I	S	O	W
S	E	P	T	A	R	I	A	N	N	O	D	U	L	E	T	O

### Word List

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| AGATE         | LIMESTONE           |
| AGATIZED WOOD | LLANITE             |
| AMMONITES     | MARBLE              |
| CINNABAR      | MARCASITE           |
| COMMON OPAL   | OPALIZED WOOD       |
| DOLOMITE      | PETRIFIED PALM WOOD |
| FLINT         | PYRITE              |
| FLUORITE      | QUARTZ              |
| FOSSILS       | SANDSTONE           |
| GALENA        | SEPTARIAN NODULE    |
| GRANITE       | SILVER              |
| GYPSUM        | SULPHUR             |
| HALITE        | TALC                |
| JASPER        |                     |

Find all the words from the Word List in the Puzzle Grid. The words can be horizontal, vertical or along a diagonal. Words can be forward or backwards.

The puzzle solution is on page 5

## A Word from the [AFMS] President

by Sandy Fuller, President, from the February 2018 AFMS Newsletter



Happy New Year! Once again, it is time to examine our successes and re-think those things that could be improved. Are we continuing to grow at a reasonable pace? Are a variety of people involved in leadership roles? Are we willing to try new ways of doing things, even if we “already tried that way back when.” Are we engaging families and children? Are we willing to try something different?

Not long ago, I received a communication from a club that had merged with another group just a few years ago. They expressed their disappointment in announcing the demise of their club. After fifty-three years, they could no longer find enough members to continue the group.

I wish they were alone in this unfortunate situation, but this story is repeated each and every year. Another club disbands, perhaps for lack of members or the inability to find someone to lead.

Are people no longer interested in minerals, fossils and lapidary arts? A recent Facebook search shows 37,912 members in the “Minerals and Gems for All” group, and 38,165 members participating in the “Rocks, Fossils & Minerals ID” group. Over 15,000 follow the Lapidary group and over 16,000 share their “Lake Superior Agate” finds. These are just a few of sites that do not allow sales or promote metaphysical properties and their membership numbers are growing rapidly. The interest is there, but how many of these enthusiasts are involved in local rockhound clubs.

One of the popular Facebook sites that I follow will often have requests for help from “newbies” to identify recent finds or strategies to prepare specimens for display. Based on the photographic evidence, numerous suggestions might be offered. Occasionally, readers might suggest places to contact for better information, perhaps including information on a local club meeting.

What would your club do if a few guests came to your next meeting, with specimens in hand, looking for information? Would you have time for their questions? Would you match them up to members who share their interests? Could you accommodate their children? Would they want to join your group?

Better yet, is your club on Facebook and other social media? Do members help direct potential new members to your activities and events? Are you extolling the virtues of joining a club as a way to learn and improve skills? Are you responding with positive information to counter misinformation or criticisms of local clubs? Are you supporting each other in these very public forums? Are you in the conversation and able to respond to comments about your local group?

In preparation for one recent event, several club members shared their club posted event on some popular rockhound focused Facebook groups and stayed involved to answer questions and provide information. As a result, over 16,000 Facebook users indicated interest in the event and over 1800 reported that they actually attended. Show attendance actually more than doubled in size and club members scrambled to make quick adjustment to better handle the crowd. What a good problem to have!

So, I hope your New Year resolutions include some actions to reach out to new potential members and find ways to make “newbies” welcome. With the surging interest in rockhounding, our clubs could be overflowing with new members.

Sandy

### 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,

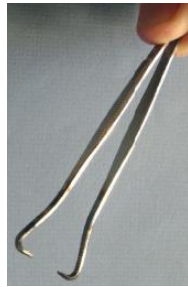
## BENCH TIPS by BRAD SMITH

From the September – October 2017 SCMFS Newsletter



**FIND THE BALANCE POINT—**With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to

make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.

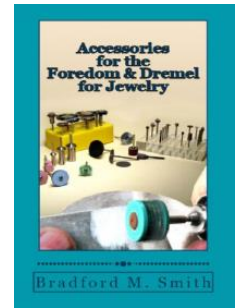


**DRILL BREAKAGE—**Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole. Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price. Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.



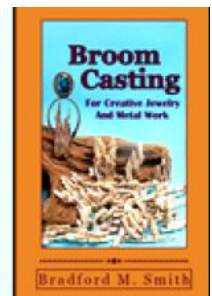
**JUST A DROP—**Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops. I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube let's you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.

**NEW BOOK ON FOREDOM TOOL BITS—**Confused by all the tool bits available for your flexible shaft or hand-held motor tool? "Accessories for the Foredom and Dremel" explains what each is good for, which ones save the most time, and the tool bits that best improve the quality of your work. Also included are bench tips for getting good results and cautions for safe use. The book is available on Amazon at [amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/](https://amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/)



**FOREDOM MAINTENANCE—**If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to do almost anything. The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and hand piece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. You can watch the videos at [www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx](http://www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx) particularly under "Foredom Basics" or the "Foredom Shafting..." categories. Any repair parts needed are available on the Foredom site or from most jewelry supply catalogs.

Please include the following attribution with each publication: "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making," "Making Design Stamps for Jewelry," and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon. [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/) and [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835) [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800) [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)



## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The STEM fair at Brookhaven College will be over before some of you receive this issue of the Chips and Chatter. I hope you stopped by. Our next major activity will be the IGEM show, April 20 – 22 with set-up on Wednesday, April 18. We really need all club members to help at the show. Get ready for a great program at our April meeting; Dinette Wagner will be talking about opals.

### 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](mailto:L.SHURTZ@gmail.com)

### Minutes of the February 1, 2018 Meeting

**Call to Order:** The February 1st 2018 club meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by Ling Shurtz.

**Pledge:** The Pledge to the flag was led by Ling.

**Quorum:** We have a quorum

**Sunshine Report:** Butch and Pattie's house was broken into and the thieves stole all of their gems and minerals.

**Visitors:** We didn't have any visitors this evening.

**Minutes:** We discussed the Minutes of the January 2018 meeting as printed in the January 2018 Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn. The motion was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

**Treasurers' Report:** Del Grady gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Carolyn. The motion was seconded by Cheryl. The motion passed.

**Old Business:** The January IGEM Show at Market Hall was a success.

#### New Business:

- The Brookhaven STEM fair will be Saturday, February 24th. Set-up will be Friday, February 23rd or that Saturday morning prior to opening. There will be no selling, only discussion and demonstrations.
- IGEM will be April 20-22 with the set-up on Wednesday, April 18th. The tickets from the January show will be good for the April show. We need maximum attendance,
- Shows: Feb. 17th, Llano, TX. Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano Cty Community Center, prospectingtexas.com
- Feb 24-25, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center, bobcat22@suddenlink.net

**New Business from the floor:** We had a silent auction the past four months for a lab created mineral specimen of silicon carbide, and this evening it was won by Don Shurtz.

**Presentation:** After our refreshment break we had our video presentation of Antarctica. This is from the video collection of "The Worlds' Greatest Geological Wonders " by Professor Michael E. Wyssession.

Antarctica is the coldest and driest continent on Earth and has the highest average elevation. Antarctica contains numerous volcanoes, the most famous is Mount Erebus. A study in 2017 has discovered 138 volcanoes, of which 91 were previously unknown. The continental shelf is a geological feature that underlies the Southern Ocean surrounding the continent of Antarctica. The shelf is generally narrow and unusually deep, it's edge lying at depths averaging 500 meters with troughs extending as far as 2000 meters deep. Antarctica is home to a thriving ecosystem of penguins.

After our video presentation we had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Elms, Secretary.

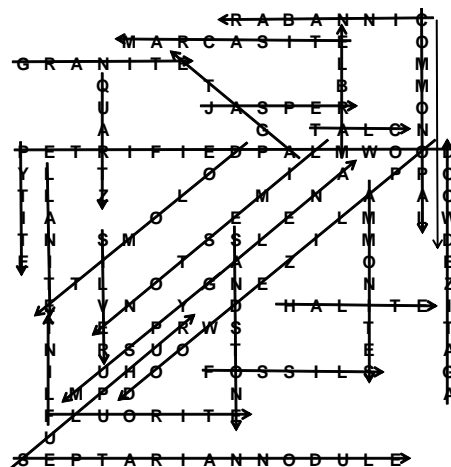
### MEETING

Our March 1, 2018 meeting **will start at 7:00. The early start is for Chili, Lentils & Black Beans, and Rice** (thanks to Carolyn and Ling). The Presentation will be the DVD: "Kinds of Rocks."

At our April 5, 2018 meeting our presentation will be by Dinette Wagner who will discuss cutting precious opal

### VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

#### Texas Rocks and Mineral Word Find Solution



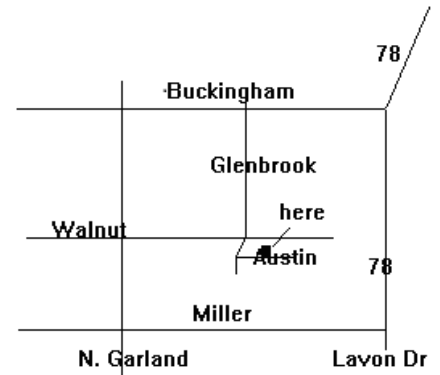
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**PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas**



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)



**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

**CHIPS AND CHATTER**

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

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**Next Meeting: March 1, 2018, at 7:00. Note the Early Start Time**

The early start is for **Chili, Lentils & Black Beans, and Rice** (thanks to Carolyn and Ling)

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