



March 2019

Vol. 53, Issue e

1st Place, 2019 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2018 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Dolomite

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Dolomite is Calcium Magnesium Carbonate, $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$. Dolomite forms in the trigonal crystal system generally forming rhombohedral shaped crystals. It has a Mohs hardness of 3.5 to 4.0. The color of dolomite is white, tan, gray, and pink. From the chemical composition and physical properties, one can see that dolomite is similar to Calcite. Calcite is Calcium Carbonate, CaCO_3 forms in the trigonal crystal system, can form rhombohedral crystals, and is clear or white in color. One major difference is that calcite will fizz and dissolve in cold hydrochloric acid, but dolomite, unless ground into a fine powder, will not fizz and only slowly dissolves in cold hydrochloric acid.

Dolomite is also one of the names used for rock beds containing a high concentration of dolomite mineral; they are also known as dolostone. The corresponding rock bed with high concentrates of calcite is limestone. Dolostone and limestone are often interchangeable in commercial applications, but dolostone is preferred for some applications as dolostone generally has

fewer impurities than limestone. Dolomite is used as a construction material, aggregate for cement and road beds, as a buffering agent for conditioning soil, as a flux material in manufacturing glass and bricks, and as a source of magnesia (magnesium oxide) and magnesium. Dolomite crystals are also a favorite for mineral collectors. I was fortunate to have one of our dolomite specimens displayed in the staff and volunteer case in the Lyda Hill Mineral Hall at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

Crystalline dolomite is found throughout the world. Some of the best specimens come from Europe (Spain and Italy), Africa (Namibia), and North America (Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania).



Dolomite Quarry, Black Rock, Lawrence County Zinc District, Lawrence County, Arkansas

References:

Dolomite, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

Dolomite, Geology.com, <https://geology.com>

The Mineral Dolomite, Mineral.Net, <https://www.minerals.net>

Picture:

Dolomite specimen photographed by Don Shurtz

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- Mar 2-3, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Cty Fair Grounds, lolabellelamb@yahoo.com
- Mar 2-3, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M Borchard Fairgrounds, www.gcgms.org
- Mar 7 - 10, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM State Fairgrounds in Deming, thedgmsclub.com
- Mar 9-10, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center, swgms.org
- Mar 15-17, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, jaypenn246@gmail.com
- Mar 23-24, Cedar Rapids, IA, Cedar Valley MWF & AFMS CONVENTION, Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, cedarvalleyrockclub.org
- Mar 29-30, Ada, OK, Ada G&MC, Pontotoc County Agriplex, bfreeman.1966@yahoo.com
- Apr 13-14, Abilene, TX, Central TX G&MS, Abilene Convention Center, kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net
- Apr 19-21, Alpine, TX, Chihuahuan Desert G&MC, Alpine Civic Center, ocoent895@gmial.com
- Apr 19–21, Dallas, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Market Hall, www.intergem.com/
- Apr 26-28, Conroe, TX, RMGM Promotions, Lone Star Conv. & Expo Cntr, <https://www.rmgmpromotions.com>

Ref:

- January-February 2019 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Simple Mineral ID Tool – Specific Gravity

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Some of the easy tools for mineral, and to some extent, rock identification are cleavage, fracture, hardness, luster, streak, and diaphaneity. Diaphaneity is a way of saying that when you look through the specimen, it is transparent, translucent, or opaque. Two slightly harder to use tools are refractive index and specific gravity. Refractive index is easy, but requires a costly tool, a refractometer. Specific gravity (sometimes called particle density) is relatively easy and only requires a means of weighing the specimen.

For years the accepted practice was, with a beam balance, weigh the specimen (grams), then weigh the amount of water displaced by the specimen (again, grams). With the older balance beam scale, you first weighed the specimen, then weighed a beaker of water, and then weighed the beaker of water with the specimen suspended in it. You subtracted the weight of the beaker and water from the beaker and water with the suspended specimen to determine the weight of the water displaced. The definition of a gram (at least until recent times), was the weight of a cubic centimeter of water at 4° Centigrade. Thus, the weight of the water displaced is equal to the volume of the specimen, or at least a very good approximation (there would be a very slight difference if the measurement was made using room temperature water, but the error is small, less than 2%). You would then divide the weight of the specimen by the weight of the displaced water to find specific gravity. However, modern digital scales can make finding the specific gravity easier. Most of these scales have the capability to measure weight in ounces or grams, and have a way to reset the zero weight of the scale. So to measure the specific gravity of a specimen, first put a beaker of water on the scale and then set the scale so it reads 0.0 (zero) grams. Next, secure a string around the specimen and lower the specimen so it is covered by the water. Record the scale reading – the amount of water displaced by the specimen (i.e., volume of the specimen). Then lower the specimen until it rests on the bottom of the beaker. The scale reading will now show the weight of the specimen. With a calculator, divide the weight of the specimen by the weight of the displaced water and you have the specific gravity. Of course, there may be some errors due to the temperature of the water (previously mentioned) and any air bubbles stuck to the stone. The temperature effect can be ignored and you can try to knock the specimen against the side of the beaker or tapping with a rod to dislodge any air bubbles. Happy measuring!

Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am 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](#), meets 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 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
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

A Blast from the Past - 1980

New Mexico – a Rockhound Paradise

Marvin and Louise Calhoun, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
From the August 1980 Chips and Chatter

With Truth or Consequences, New Mexico as our planned final destination on vacation, we covered many miles of New Mexico before arriving.

Our first two days were spent in Palo Duro Canyon, Texas, hiking and viewing the beautiful canyon, and attending the nightly drama “Texas”.

We traveled across New Mexico from Tucumcari to San Jose, where people and towns were few and far between. We spent two days on the Pecos River at a trailer camp in San Jose. Rock hunting was allowed on many acres of the park, and the owner even tells you what to find and where to hunt. We found many nice specimens of pink and green rock called Unakite, green serpentine, agates and some petrified wood.

The next day was spent in the Pecos National Monument and the Santa Fe National Forest. The Pecos Monument is an Indian ruin and Spanish church dating back to 1590. The tour was beautiful with some snow-capped peaks in the background. We ate lunch in the Santa Fe forest deep in the pines.

We went to Santa Fe for a half a day of shopping, and bought Indian jewelry and moccasins for the children and friends. We left Santa Fe for Bandelier National Park. We stayed at Bandelier for almost three days touring the Indian ruins and hiking (straight up!!). We were traveling with friends (the Pruitts) who also have a Starcraft camper. Marvin had gone for a walk when he had a wonderful surprise!! He bumped into fellow club members and friends, the Matrons . There were on a rock hunting vacation also.

The Calhouns, Pruitts, and Martons then traveled on to Truth or Consequences for our final destination and great rock hunting. Many good days of rock hunting were spent, with two local families who share our love of rock hunting. They had four-wheel drive vehicles and took us to areas we could have never found.

The first day out was in a rough and rugged canyon with an outcropping of the most beautiful jasper, in many colors. We also found Endlichite crystals and pseudomorphs of Goethite after Pyrite. The hike into the canyon was not too bad, but the hike out with 200 lbs. of Jasper was really rough. The next few days were spent hunting Chalcedony, agate, and arrowheads. A local friend and cowboy took us out to one of the large cattle ranches near Eagle where we found some specimens of Carnelian agate and many good pieces of agate and jasper. Near our campground was Caballo Lake we found good specimens of agate and wonderstone. A friend who is a Geologist took us for a tour of his working gold mine, with samples of gold ore. We finally left for home on Tuesday with lots of beautiful samples of rocks and minerals (including some nice Rhyolite found at Kingston). We stopped at El Paso for half-day trips to Juarez, Mexico, and spent two days in West Texas at Big Lake. We found some nice white and blue chert that looks almost like agate.

We got home with lots of cutting material and tumbling size rocks. New Mexico is truly a rockhound paradise.

A Word from the President

Doug True, AFMS President

From the December 2018 –January 2019 AFMS Newsletter

Welcome from Montana. By now summer is waning, fall is here and winter is showing her ugly head in some places around the country. We are now getting ready to make our way down to Quartzsite, Arizona for the winter months. You should visit some time, as thousands of collectors come to see the beautiful things that are found on this great land of ours, Quartzsite grows from 3000 to well over 150,000 in January every year., Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry and many other unrelated items are for sale. Come take a field trip into the desert, see the uniqueness of the Southwest. When New Years gets here and it is time to make that New Year's resolution, why not reach out and ask someone to attend your next gem club meeting. Statistics show that for every member in the US there are at least 20 others out there who collect rocks, minerals, fossils, artifacts, items related to the earth sciences. That means we have a lot of work to do. Also, I would like to ask everyone to look at what they have made or collected, purchased or traded and enter it into your next local or federation show. Happy Holidays
Doug



DID YOU KNOW THAT SCFMS TURNED 75 IN DECEMBER 2018?

The SCFMS has a long history dating back to 1943 and has experienced a number of name changes. For an interesting read, check out our History.
[http://www.scfms .ne t/about_scfms.htm](http://www.scfms.ne/t/about_scfms.htm)

From the January/February 2019 SCFMS Newsletter

A ROCKHOUND'S TREASURE

BY: FRED MAHAFFEY

I WENT ON A SEARCH
I TRAVELED HERE, I TRAVELED THERE, I TRAVELED EVERYWHERE,
I TOOK A WALK, I TOOK A BIKE, I EVEN TOOK A HIKE,
AND THEN I SAW IT LYING ON THE GROUND,
I PICKED IT UP AND TURNED IT AROUND,
WAS IT BRIGHT, OR WAS IT SHINY
OR WAS IT GREEN, OR WAS IT BLUE?
I WISH I REALLY KNEW!
AS IT CHANGED COLOR IN THE LIGHT,
TURNED OUT IT WAS ONLY CHALCOPYRITE.
A COPPER ORE IT MAY BE,
BUT FOR ME IT WAS A TREASURE FOR ALL TO SEE.

Editors Note: This poem is from the March 2018 Issue of the ROCK-N-Rose, newsletter of the East Texas Gem and Mineral Society. The poem won 2nd place in the 2019 Editor and Author Contest, Adult Poetry Category

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

We participated in the STEM Fair at Brookhaven February 23. Based on the number of tumbled rocks we gave away, our booth was quite successful. Most everyone also wanted to try out the All-In-One to "polish a stone". Our March meeting will start at 7:00 and will be a pot-luck St. Patrick's Dinner. Carolyn is cooking the corn beef and cabbage, everyone else should bring a dish to share. Remember IGEM is coming up again April 19 – 21, plan for set up on Wednesday, April 17.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

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

MEETING MINTUES

Call to Order: The February 7, 2019 club meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Ling Shurtz. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by all of us.

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Sunshine Report: Pattie is still sick and Butch is scheduled for more surgery.

Visitors: Our visitor is our guest speaker Tom Dill.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 2019 meeting that were printed in the February 2019 Chips and Chatter were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn and seconded by Ling. We voted and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Don. The motion was seconded by Ling and the motion passed.

Old Business:

- The Brookhaven College STEM Fair is February 23rd, from 10:00am to 6:00pm. Volunteers are needed for the Fair. So far, Warner, Cheryl, Ling and Don said they will be there.

New Business:

- Area Shows:

- February 16th, Llano, TX, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano City Community Center,.
- February 16-17, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, Georgetown Community Center, February 23, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center.

- Our next meeting , March 7th, will start at 7pm and will be a potluck dinner.

Break: We took our refreshment break and then were ready for our presentation.

Presentation: The presentation was titled Geology of Texas, a slide presentation that our speaker Tom Dill of the Dallas Paleo Society had put together. Tom is a consulting Geologist for oil/gas exploration and development, Data management, and application support. Tom made this slide presentation that he titled " Waltz Across Texas". It is a series of topographical maps, in color, showing all the layers of rock formations. It was very interesting to see how many salt domes are in the state of Texas. The only one I had ever heard about is the one in Grande Saline. On the topographical map, they looked like clusters of circles, especially down around the Gulf of Mexico.

Adjourn: after the presentation, we had our raffle. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Elms, Secretary

MEETING

Our next meeting will be March 7, 2019 an will start 30 minutes earlier than normal at 7:00 PM. We will have a pot-luck dinner with Carolyn bringing Corned Beef and Cabbage. Everyone should bring a dish to share. The program will be a Sit-Down-Show & Tell, bring a favorite mineral specimen, rock, gem, or anything else hobby related.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

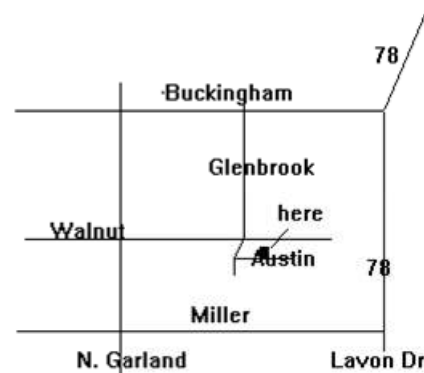
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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

Our next meeting will be March 7, 2018 starting at 7:00 PM (Note the early start). We will have a pot-luck dinner (bring a dish to share) and an informal Show and Tell (bring a rock, mineral, tool, etc.)

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