

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



May 2007  
Vol. 41 Issue 5

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### Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our website 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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: May 3rd at 7:30 PM  
Garland Women's Activities Building  
713 Austin, Garland, TX

### Presentation

No information on this month's presentation.

### Show & Tell

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 – April, 2007 General Meeting

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Carter. The minutes of the March meeting were printed in the April 2007 *Chips and Chatter*. A motion to accept the minutes as written was made and second. Motion passed.

Del Grady presented the treasurer's report. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as written was made and second. Motion Passed.

Sunshine Report:

- Charles Black is having problems and will not be at the meeting. We hope Charles is feeling better soon.
- Three visitors were welcomed to the meeting, Carrah Gerow, Ida Rodriguez, and Sophia Chavez.

Mark Carter explained that Charles Black would be unable to demonstrate a wire wrap bracelet; but, Warner Ragan volunteered to lead the demonstration. He also discussed a TXI Field Trip will be held on April 28. Please contact David Dobson if you are on the list but can not attend. A field trip to Arkansas was held during March – a lot of fun was had by all. A field trip to West Texas was also held during March. No one at the meeting attended the trip, but lots of material from the trip is being worked at the shop. Mark also indicated that he recently tried a road cut in West Texas and found some agate material. IGEM will be May 4-6 at Market Hall. Tickets are available on the front table. The Dallas Fine Mineral Show will be April 5 – 6 at the Embassy Suites near the Galleria. The Travel and Wealth TV channels are running a series on *Stones of Fate and Fortune* on Wealth Channel. Check guide for day and time. *Cash and Treasures on Travel Channel*. Check guide for day and time. About every third show deals with finding rock or mineral specimens.

Brenda McDowell discussed a Rock Swap at the shop on April 14 from 8:00 am till about noon. Lunch will be pot luck. The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society has rented a storage space for per year use items such as show cases, show items, etc. to open up more space in the shop. The attic will remain available for storage. The shop is still experiencing problems with the saws. Another saw blade has been bent and the drop saw seems to be cutting slowly. Supervisors are going to be more pro-active in checking the shop at opening and closing and to verify all stones are secure in vices for sawing. There may be some changes forthcoming in the Thursday night shop activities. There may be a supervisor added and use of saws allowed; or, there may be an open faceting session set up. There is a Silversmithing class starting Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Anita Dresner discussed needing articles and ideas for the *Chips and Chatter*.

Ling Shurtz discussed six dealers returning signed contracts. We also need to put more effort into show advertising.

### Old Business

1. Don asked if anyone would volunteer for the duties of Secretary. No one responded.
2. The Science Fair was held March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Winners of the Pleasant Oaks Special Award: Illya Zavizion from Newman Smith High, Carrollton-Farmers Branch. His project investigated acid strength in processing gold ore. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club Honorable Mentions were awarded to Nabeel Lookmanjee of Plano East Senior High, Plano; Nathan Rodriguez of R S Kimbrough Middle, Mesquite, and Katelyn Douglas from North Mesquite High, Mesquite.

### New Business

1. New members: Ida Rodriguez, Sophia Chaves, and Greg Gosnell applied for club membership. A motion to accept the new members was made and seconded. The motion passed.
2. Donnette Wagner will be speaking at the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Her topic is "Opal Cutting". Visitors to the DGMS meeting are welcome.

A short break was called for at 8:15 and the meeting re-convened at 8:30.

Mark Carter introduced Warner Ragan. Warner demonstrated the making of a wire wrapped bracelet. We owe Warner a debt for stepping in and making the presentation.

Raffle: The door prize raffle was conducted by Wanda Fitzgerald.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.



## Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Hello Rockhounds;

My, this month has gone by fast. That happens when you are having fun you know. What with the Silversmithing classes that have been so much fun to take, not to mention a great teacher with patience of steel and nerves alike. If you have not taken a class from Bobby Thornton be sure to watch for his next listing and join him. You will learn a lot and have fun doing so.

Rock swaps at several local clubs have been a great find. We were happy to have 2 Arlington dealers with us for our rock swap. The food was great and the fellowship great. Be sure to attend the next rock swap we have if for no other reason than the fellowship. I still am looking forward to having articles from club members. If not, then you will have to endure reading about that which I enjoy learning about. That could prove to be rather boring in short time. Hope some of you were along on the TXI trip with me. Happy Rock Hounding!

*Anita*

## President's Message

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Nothing submitted at time of printing.

## Refreshment Duties

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

<u>Month</u>	<u>Ice &amp; Drinks</u>	<u>Snacks</u>
May	Beth	Wanda
June		

## 1st Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Nothing submitted at time of printing.

## Shop Report

Brenda Dowell, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

New supervisors are being trained and you are shop qualified and would like to put your name on the waiting list, please do so. Thursday nights is now open to any member not just ladies. The schedule is still 6 pm to 9 pm. If you would like to be notified when Brenda will be opening the shop earlier than 6 pm please give her your email address and she will contact you directly. Make note the shop will not be open on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month as it is Pleasant Oaks Meeting night. At the present there are not any classes scheduled. Silversmithing with Bobby Thompson ended this past Thursday evening. Watch for an announcement of Mineral logy 101 as it is in the planning stages. The Rock Swap was a huge success included two Arlington dealers. The fajitas and chili were hit the spot as chili as it was Saturday. Molly Cutting of the Dallas club will be covering for Brenda from mid-June to mid-August while she is away. So, keep up the Monday and Thursday attendance.

## Field Trips

Report by Brenda Dowell

August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> - Colorado Summer Field Trip. The trip takes in the Creede G&M Show the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend and the Buena Vista Rock Show the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM) or (972) 771-9502.

## *Pleasant Oaks Want Ads*

### For Sale

David Dobson

1. Petrified wood for sale \$0.50/lb. Pieces up to 200lbs.
2. Drill press with core cutting drill bits. Diamond core bits ½” to 4” in diameter. \$500
3. 12” Vibrating Flat Lap, brand new costs \$2,500. Now \$700 OBO.

### Wanted

Dirt bike will trade for petrified wood or other rocks.

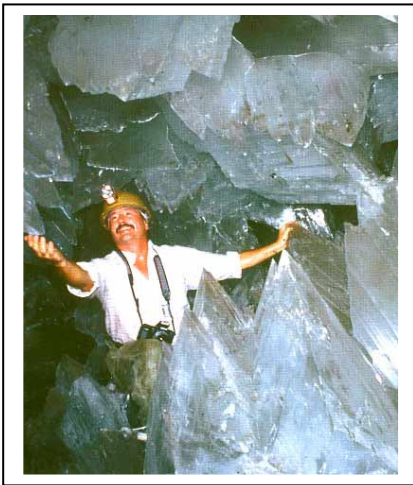
Ask for David, (214) 731-1288.

## *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.

## *“Crystal Cave of the Giants”*

Discovery of the Largest Crystals on Earth, known as the “Crystal Cave of the Giants” is located in a mine with a vertical drop of approximately 1000 feet in a natural cave in bedrock in southern Mexico. When discovered, the Peñoles company tried to prevent further damage to the giant by installing iron doors to the opening. This was done as work to document and preserve this historic find were taking place. The magnificent crystals of the primary cave and a secondary cavern, called Cave of Dreams, The “Crystal Cave of the Giants” was expected to open in the fall 2001.



It has been said it is “like walking into the Land of the Giants”. It is almost impossible to get any sense of scale of these unique natural structures. A geode full of spectacular crystals as tall as pine trees, and in some cases greater in circumference. Beautiful crystals, of translucent gold and silver, and of many incredible forms and shapes. Some columnar in shape, thirty to fifty feet high and three to four feet in diameter. Thousands of "sharks teeth" several feet high imbedded in them. Crystals at odd angles throughout the caverns with some attached to the ceiling, walls and floors of the cave, and others in great masses of spikes almost seem to float in air. Temperature is reported over 150 degrees Fahrenheit with 100% humidity. A human can only exist there for less than ten minutes and retain good mental function.

Naica mine was first discovered in 1794 south of Chihuahua City. Until about 1900, it mined silver and gold, later zinc and lead were mined. When the Revolutionary troops demanded money the mine shut down until 1922. But, not before a cave of crystals known as the Cave of Swords was discovered at 400 feet depth and so gorgeous they decided to try to preserve this cave. Even as many of the crystals have been collected from the cave, it is still fascinating to visit. While

drilling a new tunnel to the mine in April 2000, brothers Juan and Pedro Sanchez discovered a new cave and cavern known as “The Cave of Dreams”. A worker with the idea of taking some crystals, tried to take fresh air in plastic bags into the cave with him, he was later discovered fully baked. When entering the cave your group is issued helmets, lanterns, rubber boots, and gloves. Then driven through a tunnel named Rampa Sn. Francisco, and through a vertical drop approximately 1000 feet, almost a half mile long. Once inside the cave you forget the heat for a moment when the crystals named "Eye of the Queen" come into view. An impressive cathedral-like appearance.



Geologists say the crystals are incredibly complex, yet so simple. They have explained there is a magma chamber a few miles below the mountain where heat from compressed lava travels through the faults up into the area of the mine. Super heated fluids carry the minerals the miners are seeking as well as form the crystals. They say fluids travel along the Naica fault, enter voids in the bedrock; then, form entirely natural structures that are not easily explained by science. The mining company was afraid to drill the fault for fear of flooding the mine until 2000. Feeling the water table level had dropped, they drilled and two caverns filled with the Earth's largest crystals, Cave of Dreams and Crystal Cave of the Giants were revealed.



References:

[Crystal Cave of the Giants - Discovery of the Largest Crystals on Earth, Richard D. Fisher: Photographer/Explorer Crystal Cave of the Giants](#)

[Roberto Gonzales and Ing. Roberto Villasuso, of the Peroles Mining Company and Sonia Estrada and Carlos Lazcano for contributions to this text and photographs.](#)

<http://www.canyonsworldwide.com/crystals/mainframe3.html>

**May 2007**

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

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

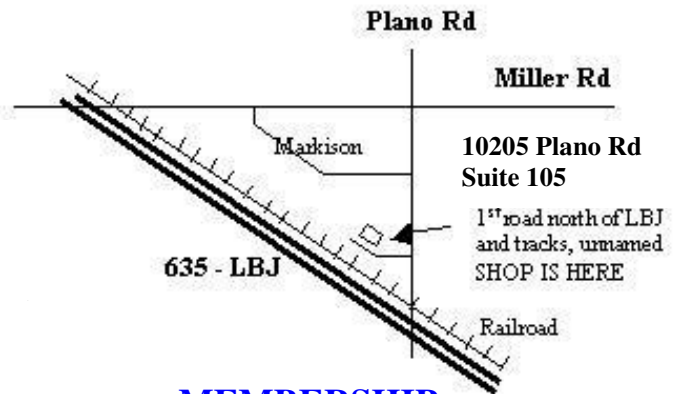
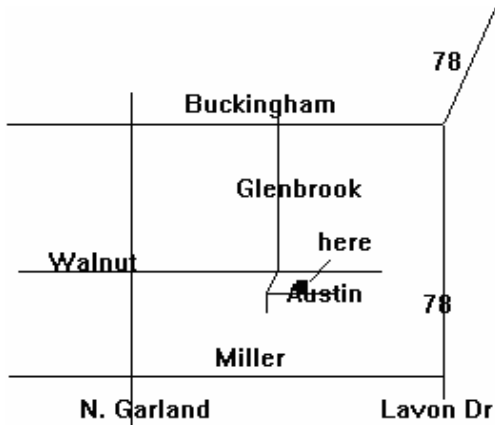
1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins  
 9<sup>th</sup> place AFMS 2006 small bulletins  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place SCMS 2005 small bulletins  
 3<sup>rd</sup> place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins  
 1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins  
 HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins  
 2<sup>nd</sup> place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

**Next Meeting: May 3, 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