

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter

May 7, 2009  
Vol. 43 Issue 5

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### Meeting, etc.

Check our website for a color version of the Chips and Chatter.

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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: Thursday, May 7, at 7:30 pm  
Garland Women's Activities Building  
713 Austin, Garland, TX

### Presentation

Dianne Brownlee from EMGI (Elston Miles Geotechnology Institute) will be our speaker.

### Club Officers for 2009

President: Donnette Wagner  
1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223  
Secretary: Donna Mallory  
Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821  
Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828  
E-mail: [andresner@verizon.com](mailto:andresner@verizon.com)

## *Minutes – April 2, 2009 General Meeting*

Ling Shurtz for Donna Mallory, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

1. Bob Parker opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.
2. Sunshine report: Donna Mallory had a car accident; her car is total and gone.
3. Mark Carter read treasurer's report and it was approved.
4. Mark Carter did a Fine Art of Mineral cleaning workshop.
5. DGMS will have semi Annual Rock Swap at the shop on Plano Road.
6. Arlington Rock Swap is May.
7. IGEM is first weekend of May. If you want a space at the IGEM show, contact Warner Ragan @ (214) 535-4690.

### *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Mark Carter, Programs, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

This month's program will be Diane Brownlee speaking to us about the Earth Science Show, EMGI put on semi-annually at Brookhaven College. Please come and make her feel welcome and learn more about the Earth Sciences. Anyone not visiting the EMGI show is missing a learning experience in many areas. Not only are there Brookhaven minerals and rocks to take in, there are many dealers with educational facts, demonstrations, and items for sale.

There are also Dallas area clubs doing demonstrations and educating those that visit, in the many talents of rock hunting; but, they are there to educate anyone interested in learning more about gems, minerals and fossils, as well as what one can do with these once they have found them. Please support this Show and please come out and support Diane at the meeting this month.

If there are topics, or you know someone involved in our hobby you would like to have speak, please let Mark know about them.

## **Happy Birthday May Rock Hounds!**

**Birthdays:** Leanda Elms and Jerrye Parker

### **Others**

Donna Mallory: Car wreck, her car was **totaled but she is**

.....



## Refreshment Duties

C&C & Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

<u>Month</u>	<u>Ice &amp; Drinks</u>	<u>Snacks</u>
<i>May</i>	??????	<i>Anita Dresner</i>

## Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings club members,



First, I am glad to report our desire to go on field trips and or the ability to collect the treasures we admire is still alive. Did our calls and emails have anything to do with this? You know it did! I promise to stay abreast of this topic to keep you updated, for it will surely be back again, on the agenda, we just do not know when. So, settle back, enjoy the field trips for now but keep in mind we need to continuously stand up for our rights, less we lose them.



Another topic is the EMGI Show. This is one place we can grow our club. What better place than at an educational institute to catch the interest of someone wanting to learn about the treasures the earth holds for all of us? We need more participation in demonstrating what we can do with the treasures one finds. In addition, we get to let them know that a rock and gem club can be a learning place and if you cannot answer their questions, someone else will.

Field Trips. WOW, what a subject. There are so many different types of field trips. Trips to rock hunt or Dino dig, for the “fossil in us”, or museum trips to take in the wonder of places we may never have the opportunity to go. We do not need a trip co-coordinator to suggest a “trip”. We just need suggestion where you members would like to do a field trip.



If there are any topics you desire to have covered in the Chips and Chatter, please, let me know what they are. Mail your article or suggestions to Anita Dresner @ 3809 Skyline Dr, Rowlett, TX 75088 or email them to [andresner@verizon.com](mailto:andresner@verizon.com). Thank you for sharing; especially, you the youth.

## May Birthstone: Emeralds

Emerald, by definition, is a medium or darker green to blue green beryl, in which the green color is derived from impurities of Chromium, Vanadium, or a combination of both.



Before 1963, the definition was limited to Chromium containing stones, but the discovery of a large deposit of Vanadium colored stones in Brazil led to modification.

Value factors hinge largely on color with nuances of saturation and hue affecting price to a significant degree. The most desirable color is a slightly bluish green in a medium dark tone with strong to vivid saturation. Clarity is important, but inclusions are tolerated.

Emerald is the birthstone for May and for commemorating the 20th and 35th wedding anniversaries.

Reference: <http://www.gemsociety.org/info/gems/Emerald.htm>

**Emerald with host minerals**



Emerald is regarded as the traditional birthstone for May, the traditional gemstone for the astrological signs of Taurus, Cancer and sometimes Gemini. Under Cortez the Spanish brought back to Europe from Latin America, many emeralds. On most notable Cortez's emeralds was engraved, Inter Natos Mulierum non sur-rexit mayor (Among them borne of woman there hath not arisen a greater Man. XI, 11) which referred to John the Baptist.

In some cultures, the emerald is the traditional gift for the 55th wedding anniversary.

The Authorized King James Version of the Bible, in Exodus 28:18 and 39:11, lists "emerald" as one of the precious stones in the breastplate of the high priest of the Jews; but modern consensus is that this is probably a mistranslation. (See Hoshen.)

Reference: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerald>

## Show Dates

**May 16-17 - Lubbock, TX: 51st Annual Show Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society;** Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Ln; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; displays, dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, special exhibit "The Rock Food Table"; contact Archie Scott, (806) 894-1584; e-mail: [asscott3@windstream.net](mailto:asscott3@windstream.net)

**June 5-7 - Tulsa, OK: Gem Faire Inc.;** Expo Square/Exchange Center 1, 4145 E. 21st Street; Fri 12-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Website: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

**June 26-28 - Grapevine, TX: AKS Gem Shows;** Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main Str; Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabilion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: [info@aksshow.com](mailto:info@aksshow.com); Website: [www.aksshow.com](http://www.aksshow.com)

**November 13-15 - Houston Gem & Mineral Society presents 56th Annual HGMS Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show** Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5 Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, TX 5 miles east of Bush International Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59

## Question of the Month: Can You Find Flint in Texas?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC  
Pictures by Don Shurtz

Flint is a rock composed primarily of silicon dioxide ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ). But then quartz, chert, chalcedony, jasper, agate, obsidian, and on and on are all composed of silicon dioxide. I have tried, in numerous articles in the past, to define the differences (primarily between chert and flint), but that is not the purpose of this article. For our purposes, flint is a microcrystalline form of quartz that is generally found in nodules. Flint has a conchoidal fracture (when you break a piece off it leaves behind a smooth, curved surface). Obsidian also has a conchoidal fracture, and that is why flint and obsidian are often associated with Stone Age tools (arrowheads, axes, knives, etc). Flint is generally grey in color, but can also be found in a variety of colors.

One of the most intriguing forms of flint is the alibates flint. Alibates flint has a number of colors. Arrowheads made from alibates flint were traded and have been found as far away as the state of Washington. Alibates flint comes from Texas near Amarillo. The Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument is about 30 miles north of Amarillo on the shore of Lake Meredith National Recreation Area. In case you are wondering, all the National this and National that mean NO ROCK HOUNDING! But at least we know where the alibates flints came from. If you ever drive up 287 to Amarillo, right at the junction with Interstate 40 there is a Rest Area and Visitor Center that has some very nice boulders of alibates flint on display around the building.

Flint is found in a number of other spots in Texas. My Gem Trails of Texas lists a couple of spots around Lake McClellan which is about 55 miles east of Amarillo. It mentions that the flint is very colorful; it is my speculation that it is related to alibates flint. I have never hunted for flint in that area, so I cannot personally speak of the flint found there.



I have found flint on the beaches at Galveston, but that was before the latest hurricane basically destroyed the city. All of that flint and some chocolate colored agates were small pieces and may have eroded out of concrete blocks that were also still on the shore. One place where I can recommend searching for flint is along the side of Highway 16 coming north out of Fredericksburg. Start looking about 10 miles north of Fredericksburg. It is plentiful along the side of the road, just stop and look around. This flint is basically grey, but

some of it is banded with lighter and darker shades of grey. When you get tired of looking for the flint, take a short diversion and you will be at Enchanted Rock State Natural Area.

Another place to look for flint would be along the shoreline of Canyon Lake and along the shores of the Guadalupe River between Canyon Lake and New Braunfels. I have found grey and brown colored flint in this area. The flint is not as plentiful as along the side of Highway 16, but with a little perseverance, it can be found.



Reference:

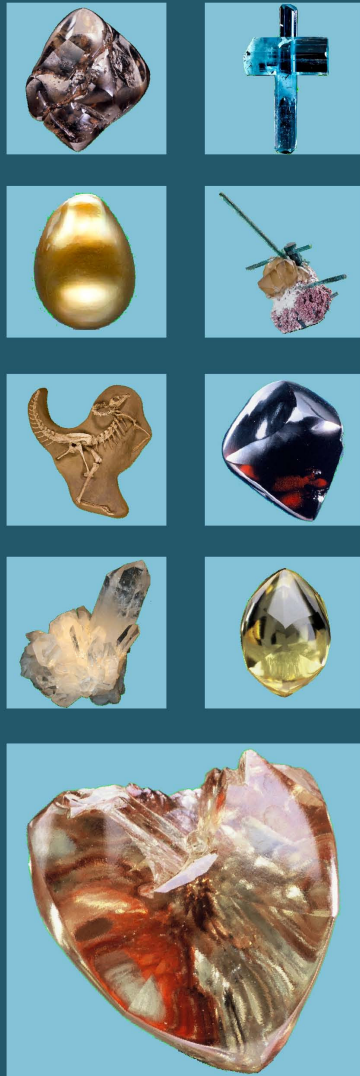
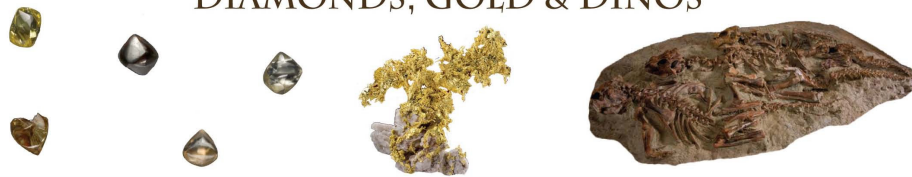
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint>

Mitchell, James R, Gem Trails of Texas, Gem Guides Book Co, Baldwin Park, CA



# TREASURES FROM THE EARTH

## DIAMONDS, GOLD & DINOS



### Opening April 3

A new exhibit featuring an exotic collection of diamonds, gems, precious metals, rare minerals, pearls and fossils.

#### *View*

Some of the  
largest uncut diamonds  
ever found in the United States

Treasures recovered from the Spanish galleon,  
Nuestra Señora de Atocha, which sunk  
off the Florida Keys in 1622

The newly renovated Heard indoor exhibit hall

#### *Experience*

Exciting and educational displays tailored for all ages

Children's Activity Area, which includes *Panning for Pyrite*  
and our new interactive *Observation Station*

Our popular walk-through Mosasaur

Collections provided by  
*The Arkenstone* and Jim & Michelle Houran



[www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org)  
1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75069  
972-562-5566

Opening date delayed, stay-tuned for a brand new, never-before-seen spring exhibit at  
the Heard—***Treasures from the Earth***.

This exhibit will feature gems, gold, and dinosaur fossils.

It may just make your eyes sparkle.

Keep checking at [www.heardmuseum.org](http://www.heardmuseum.org)

May 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1 INTERGEM 12 – 6 PM	2 INTERGEM 10 – 6 PM
3 INTERGEM 11 – 5 PM	4	5	6	7 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### *Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs*

#### **Arlington Gem & Mineral Club**

1408 Gibbons, Arlington, meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

#### **Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club**

Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

#### **Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers**

3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm

#### **Dallas Paleontological Society**

Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm

#### **Dallas Gem & Mineral Society**

Ridgewood Rec. Center, 6818 Fisher Road, Dallas, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

#### **Dallas Bead Society**

Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

#### **Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society**

Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday each month at 7 pm

#### **Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club**

3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

5<sup>th</sup> Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins  
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

**May 7, 2009 7:30 PM, Garland Women's Activities Building**

## **PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS MEETINGS**

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM  
Garland Women's Activities Building  
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)

### **Affiliated with**

American Federation of Mineral Societies

### **Member of**

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies