

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



May 2020
Vol. 54, Issue 5

1st Place, 2019 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



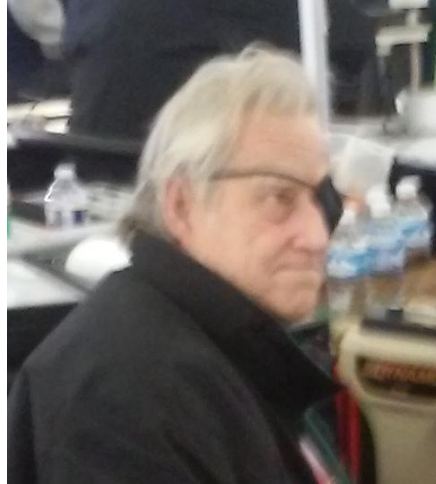
May 7th Meeting Canceled

The City of Garland has closed the Garland Activities Building for April and May. It doesn't make any sense to try to meet elsewhere – the risk would be low, but will be lower if you just stay home. Make sure you are washing your hands frequently and using disinfectants on frequently touched surfaces. Avoid crowds; remain at least 6 feet away from others if possible. If you feel sick (cold or flu like symptoms), develop a dry cough, shortness of breath, or a fever, contact your doctor for advice and instruction. Comply with the instruction from local law enforcement and health officials. Be safe and we will be able to continue a normal routine when the threat of the COVID-19 has diminished.

IGEM has scheduled a new show for August 7 - 9 at Market Hall.

In Memoriam

We lost two long time members in March



Butch Mitchell

Butch passed away March 6, 2020

Butch passed from complications from a heart attack

Butch was one of the early members of Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club



Jerrye Parker

Jerrye passed away March 25, 2020

Jerrye passed from complications of an automobile collision in February

Jerrye was one of the founding members of Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Crocoite

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Crocoite is a rare, orange to reddish mineral. It was originally discovered in the Ural Mountains near the Russian city of Ekaterinburg (also spelled Yekaterinburg). The mineral was discovered in 1766 but remained unnamed until 1832 when French geologist Francois Beudant labeled it “crocoise” from the Greek *krokos* meaning saffron. Over the years, the name was altered to “crocoisite” and then “crocoite.”



Chemically, Crocoite is lead chromate, $PbCrO_4$. The element chromium was first identified in Crocoite. It leaves a yellowish orange streak and comes in on the Mohs scale at a soft 2.5 – 3.0. It is found in Russia, Tasmania (an island Australian state), northern Australia, Brazil, China, the Philippine Island of Luzon, and South Africa. Although only a

minor source, Crocoite can also be found in the Vulture mining district, Maricopa County, Arizona and in Inyo and Riverside Counties in California. It typically comes from lead mines but in the Type Locality (Russia), Crocoite was found in gold bearing gold veins in granite and gneiss. About the only commercial use for Crocoite came shortly after it was discovered. It was found that when ground to a fine powder it produced a brilliant yellow tinting agent for paint known as chrome yellow. However, a more economical means of producing chrome yellow was developed by making non-crystalline lead chromate. Now the most frequent use for Crocoite is as a mineral specimen. The best mineral specimens currently come from mines in Tasmania. Tasmania is a noted source for many minerals, but Crocoite is such a popular choice that it has become one of the official Tasmanian state emblems, the state mineral. Another popular state emblem for Tasmania is the only living marsupial carnivore and popularized in the Warner Brothers “Looney Tunes” and “Merrie Melodies” comedies, the Tasmanian Devil!

The crystals of Crocoite are generally long, slender prisms (needles) that are typically $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length, although exceptional specimens can have needles up to 4 inches in length. Crocoite is one of the few minerals that can form hollow needles. Although I cannot find a reference, it is my understanding that Crocoite is one of only four minerals that can form hollow needles. Pyromorphite and Vanadinite are two other minerals that can form hollow needles. If a clear, solid needle of sufficient size is found, it can be faceted, but generally only as a specimen as it is too soft to be worn as jewelry.

References:

- Tasmania State Emblems, <https://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/>
- Treasure Mountain Mining, <http://www.treasuremountainmining.com/>
- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- Crocoite, National Gem Labs, <https://nationalgemlab.in/crocoite/>

Pictures: Pictures by Don Shurtz



Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Please note that many shows are being canceled in response to health concerns associated with COVID-19

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

- MAY 23-24, Ft. Worth, TX, Ft. Worth G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Center, fortworthgemandmineralshow.org
- MAY 30-31, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

Ref:

- March-April 2020 SCFMS News
- SCFMS Local Shows, www.scfms.net
- Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Reprinted by permission of the author, Brad Smith. Received as an email from Brad Smith

DRILLING SMALL ITEMS



Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now

by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape or a piece of vinyl tubing over jaws of the pliers if needed to avoid scratches.

DRILLING A STONE

One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the



drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$7.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.

Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How-To" Jewelry Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

This stay at home is driving a lot of us nuts. However, we can hope we are one the downside swing of the COVID-19 cycle and that the shelter in place restrictions can start being lifted soon. In the mean time, follow the direction of your local health and law enforcement agencies. If you need to go out for essential needs, mind the social distancing restrictions. Stay calm, stay healthy, and we will all see this through. See you at the June meeting.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

President:	Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs:	Carolyn Grady
2 nd 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 for April

No meeting held, no minutes generated

Safety Matters – Tools of the Trade

By Ellory Barow, AFMS Safety Chair



Perhaps you have noted the often stated "Please read and follow manufacturer's instructions" These words appear on a myriad of tools, supplies and equipment. Anything from a rock pick to a 48" slab saw may state some version of the above quotation. The "instructions" often cover safety, as well as maintenance guidelines. So yes, safety is part of many manufacturers' recommendations. Being safe is part of their concern and it can end up saving you money as well.

A good measure of our hobby involves use of tools - microscopes, rock picks, slab saws, geode crackers, faceting machines, soldering torches, faceting machines, and cars. Cars are a really big tool.

Sure, we service and maintain our cars. We realize it costs time and money to do so, but with that expenditure one has a car that lasts longer and is safer. The same can be said of a rock pick or a slab saw. The rock pick's instructions are usually short, the slab saw's rather lengthy. However, both are worth reading. Besides routine saw

MEETING

The April May meetings has been canceled. Our meeting place, the Garland Activities Building, has been closed by the City of Garland. We are hopeful that meetings can resume in June. Our June meeting is planned for June 4, 2020. Further information will be passed to all club members as it becomes available.

The April International Gem and Jewelry Show (IGEM) was canceled. The show was rescheduled for August 7 – 9 at Market Hall.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Copyright Information: This issue of the Chips and Chatter is copyright © by Don Shurtz. Unless otherwise noted, permission granted for non-commercial reproduction of articles provided they remain essentially intact and credit is given to the author and original source. Where noted, the author retains the copyright and must be contacted for permission to reproduce the article. All articles may also be used as reference provided citation is provided.

maintenance, which generally makes a saw safer to run, there are usually specific safety recommendations. Those recommendation might include reference to maintaining hood gaskets for mist containment, or ductwork to vent mist, or safe saw vice operation, or adjusting guarding, or proper grounding of electrical components, or avoiding pinch points (areas on the saw where fingers might be pinched between moving parts). All such recommendations are based on the manufacturer's thorough understanding of the design and operation of their equipment.

Manufacturers want you to be safe as you enjoy many years use of their equipment. That's true for everything from that rock pick to the mammoth 48" saw.

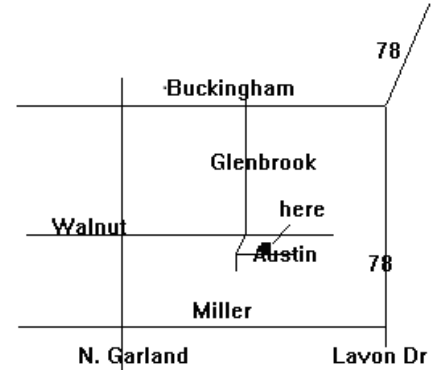
Now to the cost of safety. Safe car tires, brakes, working windshield wipers are all clearly issues of safety. The expenditures help avoid car accidents. Perhaps the cost of a damaged hammer handle or misadjusted blade guard are not as apparent. The costs might be much more apparent if the flying hammer head hits a bystander, or the improper guard allowed flying debris to cause eye damage.

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

The May meeting is canceled in response to the COVID-19 Health Issue

Features

In Memoriam 2
 Crocoite 3
 Bench Tips from Brad Smith..... 4

Monthly Columns

Club and Meeting Information 1, 5, 6
 Minutes 5
 President's Message 5

Federation News

Safety Matters, Tools of the Trade 5

Notices

Shows and Activities 3
 Visit an Area Club 4
 Copyright Notice 5