

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



November 6, 2008
Vol. 42 Issue 11

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

November issue 2008 by Anita Dresner. 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 given.

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, November 6, at 7:30 pm
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

No report at print time

Club Officers for 2007

President: Donnette Wagner
1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
2nd VP: Donna Mallory
Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
Secretary: Nell Black
Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
E-mail: andresner@verizon.net

Minutes –October 2, 2008 General Meeting

Secretary, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Meeting called to order by President Donnette Wagner. Pledge led by Mark Carter.

A motion made to accept Minutes as printed in *Chips and Chatter* by Ling Shurtz seconded by Anita Dresner. Motion passed.

The treasurer's report was given. Motion made to accept the report by Ling Shurtz and seconded by Scott Wagner. Motion passed.

The sunshine report mentioned Wanda Fitzgerald and Jesse Davis.

Tonight visitors were: Karen Corey, Renee Stonebreaker, Peggy Jeremiah

Mark Carter gave the 1st vice presidents report.

Editor's report was given Anita Dresser and she requested more articles for *Chips and Chatter*.

A show report was given by Ling Shurtz. Donnette Wagner extended a special recognition to all those who worked so hard to make the show a success.

Donnette Wagner delivered the report from the nominating committee. The following were nominated for next year:

Donnette Wagner - President
Mark Carter - 1st Vice President
Donna Mallory – Secretary
Don Shurtz – Treasurer

There were no nominations from the floor. Scott Wagner made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented, Ling Shurtz seconded the motion. The vote was held and the slate of officers was approved.

New business included the DGMS Rock Swap 10/4/2008.

- Intergem 10/10-13/2008 (Warner will coordinate)
- Earth Science Fair at EMGI on 10/11/2008
- Refreshment volunteers for November are: Mark Carter – Food, Ling Shurtz -Drinks

Mark Carter presented a program on central Colorado collecting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Sunshine report

C&C Editor

Oct 15, 2008. Dr. Sea's father was diagnosed having **colon cancer** and had to have surgery on **October 23**. Dr. Sea wrote and asked us to pray for her father. Dr. Sea returned home October 28 reporting the surgery went well. The family has great hopes for a full, be it slow, recovery for her father. Please let us continue praying for his wellness and healing and strength for the family. May God bless this family!

Dr. Sea made this statement to me and I just want to share it with you, for I too, find it so true! "Most people who have an interest in the earth and its products are such a naturally loving and caring people."

Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



In case you do not know it, I am editor for several newsletters in and around the greater metroplex area. So bear with me if you are reading this for the second time. I just had to repeat myself here because the theme of this article is so important to me. Thank you for reading my articles and the other articles offered up for your pleasure in your *Chips and Chatter*.

I know you know I am always asking for articles to go into the *Chips and Chatter*. Trips, planned or past, shows, classes for our hobbies, recipes, pictures of your mother-in-law, anything. I also know you know it takes work to keep up with planning a program, or a field trip or the newsletter. Have you ever noticed every year it gets harder and harder to find volunteers to take an office position? I often wonder why that is. Does it ever bother you that officers are hard to come by?

I was wondering the other day; if every member would serve in an officer's position for just one year what kind of things would happen; could be they would gain a healthy respect for what the person holding that office does for the club members, 2, could be they would bring new energy to the office with new fresh ideas, helping keep the meetings fun, 3, could be they would enjoy offering their time and help to officers and the fellowship that comes with doing so. Yes, it takes the membership to make an organization work just as it takes gas, oil, tires, and engine parts for a vehicle to make a road trip to Tucson.

I thought about this; there are 525,969.2 minutes in a year, give or take those thirty minutes wasted the other night. How many minutes would be left over to enjoy if one offers thirty minutes once a year to do a Program? 30 minutes from 525,969.2 minutes would leave at least 525,939.2 minutes. Think about it. Giving up those minutes would make you feel so good! You know it would. And your friends at the meeting would be delighted that you shared with them.

Now if speaking in front of people is not your forte then consider taking a pen and paper and jot down 100 words, place them in an envelope and snail mail them to your editor or just email them. A longer article would be greatly appreciated by your editor, but any article would be fantastic. I know there are funny, hilarious tales or field trips you can share with the membership, because you others already. So tell me now, how many minutes would be left over to enjoy elsewhere if one offers up a tidbit of information once a year that would only take ten minutes or so to copy or write down? 10 minutes from 525,969.2 minutes would leave at least 525,959.2 minutes. Yep, those minutes are valuable; but, I know you can afford to share a few of them with your fellow rockhounds.

Yes, I think maybe, just maybe we have a tendency to get lack luster and let the other fellow do the work, when if we all pitched in it would be FUN for all, not so much WORK for a few. I hope the New Year ahead will find you offering to keep your club WORKing FUN and find yourselves volunteering to come to the aid of your fellow club member.

A huge THANK YOU to each that have contributed to the *Chips and Chatter* this year!

Presidents Message

Donnette Wagner: President Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral

With that last cold snap, fall is really here. The holidays will soon be upon us and we won't have time to take a breath until after the first of the year. The show is over and it was a great success. We had an increase in attendance this year which was great to see. We had many people seek members out to tell them what a wonderful time they had and how much they learned about the wonderful world of rocks and gems.

I would like to thank everyone that helped with the show. Without each and every one of you who came and worked so hard, we would have had problems keeping everything going. I would like to give a special thanks to Cheryl Hoffman and Mary Falcone, who after joining the club just three weeks earlier, came in, took on any job, and worked like veterans.

Two more people that need to be recognized and given a very special thanks are Don and Ling Shurtz. They have worked all year to make sure that everything was prepared for the show. I have served as Dealer Chairman, Show Chairman, and Mailing List Preparer in years past but never all at the same time! They also prepared and delivered food for the dealers and club members working the show. They worked from set-up through take-down wherever they were needed all weekend long. That kind of dedication to any organization is not often found. A very big "Thank You" from each and every one us.

That being said, we did have one very significant problem with the show and it is a problem that has been getting bigger each year. We had fewer members than ever help to put on and/or work during the show. The members that did come and work had to put in many more hours than should have been necessary. My husband worked all but one of the hours that we were open to the public, as well as helping with take-down. Unfortunately, most of the others that worked the show put in much the same amount of effort. This is totally unacceptable.

The Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club has put on an annual show for as long as I have been a member (more than 18 years) and probably much longer. It is hard to even contemplate the idea of not putting on a show; but with the lack of participation by the membership, I believe it is something that we have to address. The board has discussed the situation and does not believe that we can continue to do a show with this level of participation. Those of us that have been keeping the show going the last few years cannot continue to do so without help. Your help!

In my newsletter articles and in the meetings, I have tried to impress upon everyone the value of the show and what it provides to the public. I have also repeated that the show is the only revenue generating event that we put on. It funds our operating budget, the *Chips and Chatter* newsletter, and our ability to donate to our scholarship fund. Without the show other means would be needed to fund these club activities.

Any club is no more that what the members bring to the club. When individuals step up to serve as officers, provide programs, share knowledge, and volunteer time to the club, then the club and its members flourish. Without these efforts from enough individuals, the club cannot provide the membership with the activities desired.

We are at a crossroads of what this club is and what it will become. Each of you as members is the future of the club. Each of you as members must decide what you are willing to provide to the club. It is time for us to decide what we want this club to become.

Please come to the November meeting. We will be discussing the future of the show and the future of the club. We want everyone to participate in this discussion. The Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club is a club with a distinguished past. Help us make sure that it has a great future.

Refreshment Duties

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

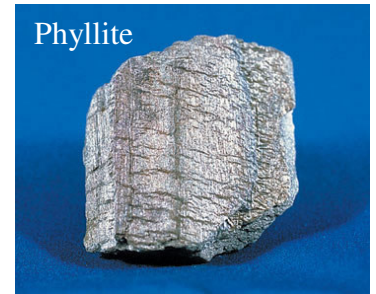
<u>Month</u>	<u>Ice & Drinks</u>	<u>Snacks</u>
<i>November</i>	<i>Ling Shurtz</i>	<i>Mark Carter</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>Christmas</i>	<i>Potluck</i>

Question of the Month – What are Phyllite and Schist?

Don Schurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

In a previous article, I discussed shale, a sedimentary rock formed from compressed mud and clay. In the subsequent article, I discuss what happened to shale when it is exposed to greater pressures and moderate temperatures; it becomes the metamorphic rock shale. So what would happen if you subject slate to even greater pressures and higher temperatures? It forms yet another metamorphic rock called phyllite, and with even greater heat and pressure it ultimately becomes schist.

Like their parent rocks (properly called the protolith), both phyllite and schist have the property of fissility, or being able to be split into layers. In fact, the name schist comes from a Greek word meaning "to split". The major distinction between phyllite and schist is whether the crystalline structure can be distinguished by the eye – if you can see the crystal structure it is schist, if not then it is phyllite. As an aside, if 50 % or more of the mineral grains are aligned then the rock is schist, but if less than 50 % of the mineral grains are aligned in layers then the rock is Gneiss (now isn't that nice?).



The proper term for schist that is formed from clays and silt through the process of shale – slate – phyllite is mica schist. Other forms of schist are derived from talc, granite, basalt, marble, calcite, hornblende, quartz, and olivine. Generally a schist started as a sedimentary rock (shale and sandstone), but can also come from rocks that were originally igneous (basalt and olivine).

The hardness of schist varies depending upon the type of schist being examined, i.e., the base minerals in the schist. Mica schist has a relatively low hardness (2 – 4) while schist with granite or quartz base would have a much higher hardness (5 – 7). However, a better measurement of schist is may be is fracture strength. Fracture strength is important to the mining industry – rocks with low fracture strength can be broken up by picks or a tractor with a back hoe while rocks with high fracture strength would need to be broken up with explosives. On the fracture scale, weakly cemented sedimentary rocks rate 10 to 20 (shale would be an example). Schist rates only slightly higher at 20 – 40. An example of a rock with high fracture strength would be quartzite.

As a rockhound, what would we do with a phyllite or a schist rock? About the best that I can come up with is to collect one of each as a sample, and then leave it at that. Perhaps a phyllite or a schist rock can be polished, but probably not mica schist. Perhaps someone out there can come up with a better reason, so I will leave it as an exercise for the reader.

Ref:

Phyllite, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyllite>

Phyllite, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:PhylliteUSGOV.jpg>

Rock properties, http://www.geocities.com/unforbidden_geology/rock_properties.htm

Schist, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schist>

Schist, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:SchistUSGOV.jpg>

Feature Article

Submitted by Anita Dresner

GEODES

An egg, when cracked open for the world to see, is a gorgeous surprise of dazzling fancy. AMD

Geodes (Greek geoides, "earthlike") are geological rock formations which occur in sedimentary and certain volcanic rocks. Geodes are essentially rock cavities or vugs with internal crystal formations or concentric banding. The exterior of the most common geodes is generally limestone or a related rock, while the interior contains quartz crystals and/or chalcedony deposits. Other geodes are completely filled with crystal, being solid all the way through. These types of geodes are called nodules.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:

This is what I found to be agreed upon by all articles I have read. Geodes are most often hollow, a rock of globular shape sometimes referred to as a nodule. Their diameter can be from 1 to 12 inches or greater.¹ In an old silver mine near Almería, NE Spain, in 2000, a huge geode measuring 26 ft long and 6 ft across was found.

Most geodes are filled with minerals, have thin layers (the outside) of chalcedony ("wavy" quartz) and covers a lining of crystals that point in towards their centers. Crystals can be quartz or rarely can be calcite. Geodes have a cavity and it will probably fill with a salt solution. The inside cavity wall is like a layer of gelatinous silica, which in time, will be transformed into the chalcedony layer (this time is questionable from thousands of years to millions of years). In due time, water surrounding the layer gets less salty and osmosis sets in. As silica gel dehydrates, crystallizes into chalcedony, cracks, and mineral waters enter into it, the crystal pointing towards its center is created.

Put-In-Bay Ohio is an island 3 miles by 1 mile wide in Lake Erie.² There is an interesting story of a man and his soul mate that spent two days in the largest CELESITE Geode in the world. He speaks of the "energy" he could feel upon entering the cool underground cavern entrance of the geode. How, with all the "blue energy light" around him, he felt he was going into the womb of the universe. After taking the geode tour, the couple was allowed to stay a while and meditate amongst all the CELESTITE. Celestite is said to be an angelic stone and was given powers by angels. It is also said to have many, many qualities. It is believed by many to be a stone that brings balance, especially to the thought processes and communication. What wondrous, fascinating, and beautiful things Mother Nature has bestowed upon us to enjoy.

A little history here on finding this geode: In 1887, Mr. Gustav Heineman emigrated from Baden- Baden in Germany to Put-in-Bay, Ohio. In the following years, he established a winery, which is still well-known for its high quality wines today. In 1897, he sank a well beneath his winery and discovered a large vug in 10 m depth. On exploring the cave, he found much of the cave walls showed extremely large and well developed tabular crystals, which turned out to be strontium sulfate, i.e. almost pure celestite.

References:

¹ The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright © 2007, Columbia University Press. All rights reserved.

² Web: <http://www.crystalmaster.com>

What's For Supper?

Anonymous

Roast Turkey with Oyster Stuffing

1 10-12 lb. turkey	1 pint shucked oysters
1/2 cup chopped celery	1/2 cup chopped onion
1 bay leaf	1/4 cup butter or margarine
6 cups dry bread crumbs (about 24 slices)	2 beaten eggs
1 tablespoon snipped parsley	1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1/2 teaspoon salt	
Dash pepper	

For stuffing, cook celery, onion & bay leaf in hot butter until tender but not brown. Discard bay leaf. Stir in oysters, bread crumbs, eggs, parsley, poultry seasoning, salt & pepper. Add enough reserved oyster liquid to moisten; toss gently to mix. Stuff turkey or cook separately.

I believe years ago growing up in PA my mother would place the extra stuffing she could not get in the turkey in a small white fabric bag that she only used for this purpose. She placed it alongside the turkey in the pan & it would be nice & moist. My first time living away from home in Missouri & faced with this situation & no bag, we used my husband sock (clean, of course). My relatives were not there to witness this, but them hearing it took me a long time to live down.

Better Homes & Garden American Christmas Crafts & Food

InterGem Date

C&C Editor

My Intergem dates are always fun and informative in many ways as they were again this year. I know without a doubt each of you that showed up and worked had a good time and refreshed friendships as you used muscles that have been somewhat dormant since last spring show. The fall Intergem Show was October 10, 11, and 12. Yes, it does come around twice a year, most faithfully. And most faithfully, we show up to help set-up. I hope all learned a thing or two this year. Like how to staple the easiest and how long to cut the table covering. I did learn something this year. Since the father of the company that puts on the InterGem Show passed away, the siblings are going through some growing pains. And painfully so did the clubs. I know that each club's representative needs to stay in direct contact with Intergem so as to be up-to-date on what changes may be taking place from season to season. With the InterGem being one of the greatest advertisement our club can have outside of word of mouth, I know they and we are going to continue having a great working relationship together in the future. Here is a big thank you to each that came out to help with the set up. THANK YOU!

Just a Thought

C&C Editor

*Wise Indian pondering over the daylight Savings Time Change:
Why would cutting one foot off top of blanket and
putting it on bottom of blanket make it longer?*

November 2008

November 2008						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 	2
3	4	5	6 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 	28	29	30

Show Dates

November 7, 8, & 9 – Rocky Mountain Fed. Show presented by Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society. Fri: 10am-6pm; Sat: 9am-6pm; Sun: 10am-5pm; Central Park Building at Expo Square (between Harvard & Yale on 21st) in Tulsa, Oklahoma \$5 adults, \$10 for 3-day; under 12 and Scouts in uniform are free with parent; Point of contact: Richard Jaeger: <mailto: RjgrSci@aol.com>; Virgil Richards: <mailto:dws@dances-with-snakes.com>; or Peggy Stewart: <mailto: peggy22@cox.net> (publicity chairman)

November 8 and 9, 2008, Fossil Show : Old Settler's Heritage Association (inside) Next to the Dell Diamond on Highway 79, Round Rock, TX 3 miles east of IH-35 Sat 8 9:am - 5:pm Sun 9:am - 4:pm \$2/adult, \$1/students, children under 6 free.

November 22 & 23, 2008 Dallas Gem and Mineral Show, Resistol Arena Exhibition Hall I 635 @ Military Parkway, Mesquite, TX Sat.. 10:am - 6:pm, Sun 10:am - 5:pm. Adult \$8, Student \$3, under 4 free

Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs

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 at 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 each month @ 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

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

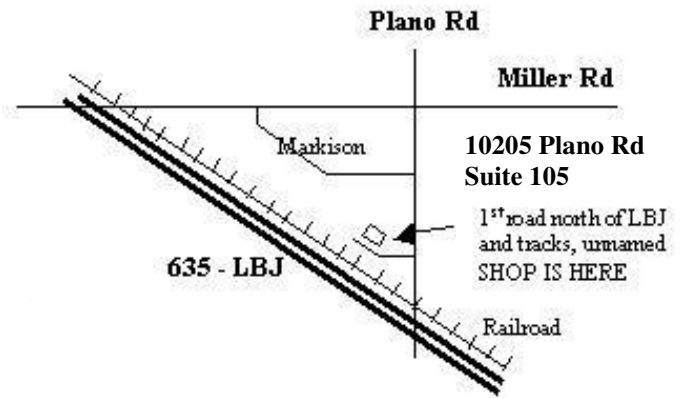
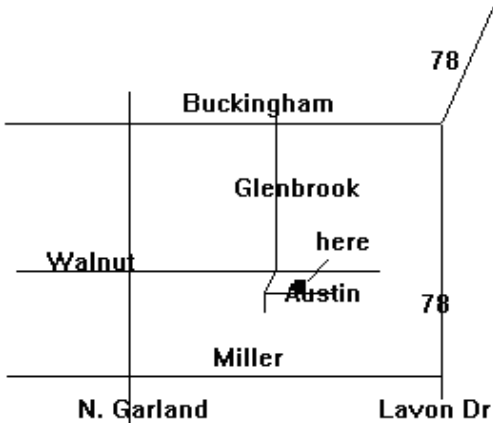
- 1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
- 9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
- 3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
- 3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
- 1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
- HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
- 2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

Next Meeting: November 6, 2008 7:30 PM, Garland Women's Activities Building

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

Meeting Map

Club Shop Map for Classes



MEETINGS

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
 Garland Women's Activities Building
 713 Austin, Garland, TX
 (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

MEMBERSHIP

Single Adult: \$16.50, Junior: \$5.00
 Family: \$27.50
 (plus badge fee for new members)

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies