

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



November 2012  
Vol. 46, Issue 11

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**Chips and Chatter Deadline:**  
**The 3rd Thursday of each month**

### 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

Next meeting will be November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Garland Women’s Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. This month we will have the DVD “Ed Swoboda, A Life of Gems and Minerals”

### Club Officers for 2013

President: Del Grady  
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223  
 Secretary: Lee Elms  
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821  
 Editor: Don Shurtz  
 E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com

**Reminder: 2013 dues are now due**

**Check our website, [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org) for prior month issues of the Chips and Chatter**

## President's Message

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



It's the time of the year to start looking for a gift for our annual Christmas party. Attend Novembers meeting and help us plan the party and support your club. Remember 2013 DUES are due.

## October 2012 Minutes

October 4th, 2012



The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by President Del Grady.

The pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

The Sunshine report: We were informed that an old club member, Robert Richter died earlier this month. Butch informed us that his mother is not doing very well. Secretary Leanda Elms was still wearing bandages from her recent bout of skin cancer surgery.

The minutes of the September meeting that were in the Chips and Chatter were unanimously approved. We would like to give Don Shurtz a big round of applause and tell him how much we appreciate him doing the newsletter now.

The treasurer's report was unanimously approved when presented to the club members  
There was no old business so we moved right on to new business.

The nominating committee reported that the new officers for 2013 will stay the same that they are for this year. President, Del Grady, Vice President Mark Carter, Treasurer and Editor Don Shurtz, and Secretary Leanda Elms. We voted unanimously to approve our officers for next year.

We had two new members join the club tonight, husband and wife Frank Hale Jr. and Christina Fugman. Welcome to the club.

2013 dues are due now.

There are quite a few shows going on locally this month. Next weekend is the Arlington Show, the Lockheed-Martin Show in Ft. Worth is Oct. 13th and 14th, and the Earth Science Fair at Brookhaven College is October 20th and 21st. Also, the Dallas Gem and Mineral Show is October 19th 20th and 21st at Dallas Market Hall.

After our refreshment break, Mark Carter introduced our guest speaker Tommy Diamond. Tommy Diamond is with the Dallas Paleontological Society and he is a specimen preparer at the new Perot Museum of Nature and Science. His program is on the Alamosaurus dinosaur, and it is titled "From Find To Finish." The Alamosaurus is not named for the Alamo in San Antonio. It was found in the Ojo Alamo formation in New Mexico and was first described by Charles Gilmore in 1922. Over ten years ago while on the hunt for bones, one of Tommy's crew found several bones, one of them being the scapula, of an Alamosaurus. The fossil was found in the Big Bend National Park in Texas. You cannot drive off road to get to the dig site. Everything had to be backpacked in to the dig site. After many years of careful digging the bones were dug out and jacketed in plaster, they were then air lifted out by a Super Huey helicopter and loaded onto several flatbed trucks waiting out on the park road. Over 20,000 man-hours were spent prepping these bones and they are now assembled and on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, which opens on December 1st, 2012. It is up on the 3rd floor which is called the gem and mineral hall also. He also told us that if anyone is interested in volunteering in the paleo lab helping to clean and restore these fossils you can contact the museum at [www.perotmuseum.org](http://www.perotmuseum.org).

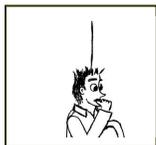
After our presentation was finished we had our raffle and then the meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanda Elms, Secretary

## December Meeting

The December 6th meeting will be our annual Potluck Dinner and Christmas Party. The club will provide the meat dishes. Everyone attending the party is asked to bring a dish to share. The dish can be an appetizer, fruit, salad, vegetable, a desert, drinks, or whatever (never tried one of those). We will also have a gift exchange – please bring a hobby related gift valued from \$10.00 to no more than \$15.00. I am hoping that Wada Fitzgerald will be our hostess for the party – she always has good ideas. If you are stuck for a gift idea, try the Rock Barrel, Natures Gallery, or your nearby Half Price Books. The meeting / party will start at 7:00 PM – that is 30 minutes earlier than our normal meeting. No business, just friends, talk, and food. See you there!



### Editor's Corner: Lake Ralph Hall (Again)

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Did you see it? By “it” I mean the article on the front page of the Metro section in “The Dallas Morning News” on Sunday, 21 October. The title of the article is “Reservoir could get OK in 2013.” Lake Ralph Hall will fill an area that 60 years ago was a small, meandering river. The Army Corp of Engineers decided to straighten out the river to improve the flow and help control flooding. It worked, but over the 60 year period since then, the straight path has allowed the water to flow at a much faster speed than the meandering river it replaced, and the faster flow promoted erosion. This erosion has created a channel that is up to 300 ft wide and 60 feet deep. The erosion process has exposed countless fossils – mainly ammonites and related sea life of the same era. It has also exposed at least one Mosasaur vertebrae, jawbones, and even a complete specimen. Does this sound familiar? YES – it is the North Sulphur River. Apparently the construction of the lake and the dam to create the lake is not a done deal, but the North Texas Water District has acquired a third of land (12,000 acres) that is needed for the project. Flower Mound is about the only city opposed to the project; makes me want to stand up and cheer for Flower Mound. Unfortunately, they oppose the project because they do not believe the district has the financial resources, not because the project would destroy a world class fossil collection site. In fact, the article does not really address that aspect of the project, although they do show a picture of an official from the Upper Trinity Regional Water District looking for fossils in the dry bed of the river.

### Possible Field Trip – Lake Ralph Hall, a.k.a North Sulphur River

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

With an editorial about Lake Ralph Hall, where else could this possible field trip be but the North Sulphur River. My preference is to enter the river at the crossing of the bridge for FM2990 just to the north east of Ladonia. Another popular choice is to enter the river at the crossing of State Highway 34 just north of downtown Ladonia. Still another popular site is where FM 904 crosses the river. FM 904 turns north towards the river about 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of the way between Ladonia and Pecan Gap. You do not want to be in the river if there are storms in the immediate area or for a day or two after the storms – flash flooding in the channel is a distinct possibility. A pair of rubber boots is desirable, and a bucket to hold your finds is recommended. The vast majority of the fossil finds will be eroded out of the matrix – but I would bring a screw driver or rock pick along just in case.

### SCFMS Officers for 2012, 2013

From the August 25 minutes of the SCFMS 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

The following are the SCFMS Officers for the next 2 years:

President – John Nash  
Executive Vice-President – Beth Muller  
Secretary – Ann James  
Treasurer – Donna Ducote  
District I VP, Northeast Texas – Steve Hilliard  
District II VP, Southeast Texas – Fred Brown

District III VP, South Texas – Joe Grimes  
District IV VP, Central Texas – Chip Burnette  
District V VP, West Texas – Herman W. Jones  
District VI VP, Rollin' Rock Club – Edith Guenther  
District VII VP, Arkansas – Raymond Lynch  
District VIII VP, Louisiana – Jim Marler  
Executive Secretary – Jonathan Moehring

## TXI Field Trip September 15<sup>th</sup>

By: David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Well, we had another great field trip Saturday September 15th, 2012. Our destination was the TXI Cement Plant Quarry in Midlothian, TX for a fun time to collecting pyrite, calcite, septarian nodules, and marine fossils including sharks teeth, ammonites, baculites (straight ammonites), and shells molds. The age of these specimens are about 90 million years old.

The day before rain was in the air, but it didn't stop us from having a great field trip. The day was over cast with a temperature of about 75 - perfect rock hounding weather.

Here are some of the wonderful specimens found.

Very nice sharks teeth and septarian nodule specimens.



This was a kid friendly field trip. We had a few Carrollton, TX cub scouts who attended.

I schedule these trips about twice a year. Hope to see you in six months for the next TXI field trip.

### 2012 Show Dates

3-4 November, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread GUMS annual show, Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S. Buchanan ST, email [finfran@midplains.coop](mailto:finfran@midplains.coop)

3 -4 November, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS annual Show, Midland Center, 105 N. Main St, email [show@midlandgemandmineral.org](mailto:show@midlandgemandmineral.org), web site [www.midlandgemandmineral.org](http://www.midlandgemandmineral.org)

9-11 November, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS annual show, Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, email [sigridstewart@gmail.com](mailto:sigridstewart@gmail.com), web site [www.Hgms.org](http://www.Hgms.org)

16-18 November, Live Oak, TX, Exhibit Group International, Live Oak Civic Center, email [egi@168@hotmail.com](mailto:egi@168@hotmail.com), web site [www.egishows.com](http://www.egishows.com)

17-18 November, Ft. Worth, TX, "The Bead Market", Amon Carter Exhibit Hall, 3400 Burnett Tandy Dr, email [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net), web site [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)

30 November-2 December, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Shrine Auditorium, 6331 Alabama, email [gemcenter@aol.com](mailto:gemcenter@aol.com)

8-9 December, DeRidder, LA, DeRidder G&MS annual show, Beauregard Fair Grounds, 337-585-3693

8-9 December, Live Oak, TX, , "The Bead Market", Live Oak Civic Center, email [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net), web site [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)

21-23 December, Grapevine, TX, Gem Faire Inc., Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 Main St, email [egi@168@hotmail.com](mailto:egi@168@hotmail.com), web site [www.egishows.com](http://www.egishows.com)

14 - 16 December, Pflugerville, TX, Exhibit Group International, Windermere Events Center, email [egi@168@hotmail.com](mailto:egi@168@hotmail.com), web site [www.egishows.com](http://www.egishows.com)

1-31 January 2013, Quartzsite, AZ, email [info@desertgardensrvpark.net](mailto:info@desertgardensrvpark.net), web site [www.desergardensrvpark.net](http://www.desergardensrvpark.net)

2-17 February 2013, Tucson, AZ, [rockshowtucson@gmail.com](mailto:rockshowtucson@gmail.com)



# SCFMS GOLD SPARK PLUG AWARD

By Ike House, Chairman

From the 2012 September – October SCFMS Newsletter

**KEITH HARMON**

The recipient of this year's Golden Spark Plug Award is well known for his friendly and kind behavior. He always gives of his time and resources to encourage others in our wonderful hobby. He has donated many specimens and material for educational purposes. He has served as his club's show chairman, Rockhound of the Year and many other offices. He singlehandedly doubled his club's membership in three years.

A stalwart supporter of the SCFMS, he has served as treasurer, vice president, and president. During his tenure he organized and started arguably the most important benefit the Federation provides, the liability insurance program. He continues to give freely of his time and expertise to the Federation officers and is a valuable resource for everyone.

You may have seen him as a show dealer. Look around and find the biggest bunch of grinning kids, old and young alike, around his tables as they marvel at the heretofore unseen beauty of a newly-cracked geode. Congratulations to our 2012 Golden Spark Plug Award recipient, Keith Harmon.

## November Birthstones: Topaz and Citrine

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Technically, topaz is not the November birthstone. It is orange topaz that qualifies as the birthstone and is also the state gemstone of Utah. All the other colors of topaz, and there are more than a few, do not qualify as being a birthstone. Colors include yellow, pink, violet, light brown, blue, and clear. The blue variety of topaz is the state gemstone of Texas. Pale blue topaz can be heat treated and irradiated to enhance the blue color. Brown and pale topaz can be treated to yield yellow, pink, and violet. Unfortunately, many topaz stones, whether treated or natural, can fade and become almost clear – I know this from experience with some of the topaz from Topaz Mountain in Utah. Blue topaz is found in the Mason county area of Texas. Topaz is primarily an aluminum silicate with a bit of fluorine and some hydroxide radicals tossed into the mix. It comes in at 8 on the Moh's hardness scale, making it very suitable for frequently worn jewelry.



In keeping with the orange coloring of topaz for the November birthstone, citrine is also yellow to brown in color. Citrine is a type of quartz mineral (Silicon Dioxide) with trace amounts of iron giving it color. Natural citrine is quite rare. Most of the citrine available today started life as amethyst, another quartz mineral with trace amounts of iron giving it a violet to deep purple color. When heat treated, the amethyst will turn yellow to orange in color – that is, it will turn into citrine.

As a member of the quartz family, it comes in about 7 on the Moh's hardness scale – hard enough to be used in frequently worn jewelry. As mentioned, most citrine is really heat treated amethyst. Most of the amethyst and heat treated citrine originate from mines in South America. Some natural citrine is mined in Brazil and Columbia. Other locations include Zaire, Spain, and France.

Ref:

American Gem Society <http://www.americangemsociety.org/november-birthstones>

Citrine, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Citrine#Citrine>

The Gemstone and Mineral Kingdom, <http://www.minerals.net/mineral/citrine.aspx>

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

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## Area Clubs

Arlington G&M Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm

Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dls, TX, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. 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:

### Coming Up

Next meeting will be November 1<sup>st</sup> at the Garland Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. We will view a DVD titled "Ed Swoboda, A Life of Gems and Minerals"

The December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at 7:00 PM and will be our annual pot luck dinner and Christmas Party, see page 3

## 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)

### MEETING MAP

