

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



1st Place, 2013 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
2nd Place, 2013 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

November 2013
Vol. 47, Issue 11

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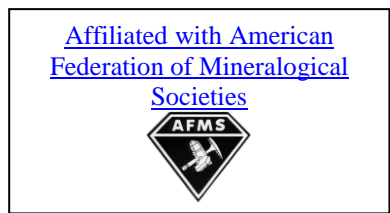
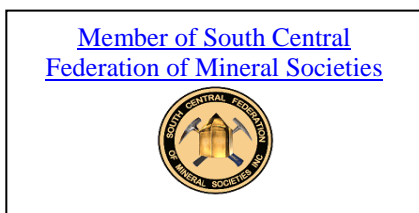
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Purpose

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

Our next meeting will be November 7th, 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. The program will be another Mark Carter special

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

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR

Minutes of the October 3, 2013 Meeting



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

The pledge to the flag was led by Don Shurtz

Sunshine Report: Jessie Davis fell and broke her hip. Let's keep her in our thoughts and prayers for a quick recovery.

The minutes of the September meeting as published in the Chips and Chatter were unanimously approved.

The Treasurers report was presented by Treasurer Don Shurtz and was unanimously approved as presented before the club.

Old Business: The Dallas Club Show. Del said they now have a 5 year contract to have the show a week before Thanksgiving.

- Del and Carolyn went down to Harmon's rock sale and said he had lots of assorted stuff for sale.

New business:

- Tony Langmayer will be the new president and Mark Carter, Don Shurtz and Lee Elms will continue in their current positions.
- Don nominated David Dobson as a field trip coordinator. Mark Carter made a motion that the 2nd vice-president will not be a shop chairman, and it was seconded and unanimously passed.

Field Trips:

- Inter-Gem Show is next weekend. Set-up is Wednesday after lunch and the show starts Friday at noon till 6pm. Saturday 10-6 and Sunday 10-5.
- November 16th is the TXI field trip led by David Dobson. You need to contact him if you plan on going.

Dues will be due next months' meeting

This evening's program was about volunteering at the Perot Museum. The program is for volunteering with the early childhood and pre-school kids. The museum wants to do a program covering different science subjects every week and one a weekend. The volunteers will be Don Shurtz, Mark Carter, Carol Tipp and Lee Elms.

The raffle was held and then the club adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Elms, Secretary

2013 AFMS Recognition Award

By Lauren Williams, Chair

From the November 2013 AFMS Newsletter

The American Federation Recognition Award is given annual to an individual who has gone "above and beyond" the call of duty in serving the AFMS. Nominations are secured from past presidents and the final determination of the recipient is made by a committee of the three most recent past presidents.

Our 2013 recipient has been extremely active in the California Federation, having held many committee chairmanships and offices, including president. She currently serves as CFMS Historian. She is also active in the Northwest Federation where she also serves as their Historian. The lady loves records!

She became involved with the AFMS while she was CFMS President and has been a firm supporter of the AFMS Endowment Fund, Scholarship Foundation, SCRIBE (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors). In 1995 she founded the Editors Hall of Fame in order to recognize the hard working club and federation newsletter editors across the country. She was one of three AFMS members to construct a history booklet to commemorate the 50th anniversary of AFMS (1997) and a follow-up document for the 60th anniversary in 2007. And she's already making plans for the 70th Anniversary in 2017!



She served as AFMS Regional VP representing the CFMS and was elected AFMS President for 2007-08. As fate would have it, a major hurricane struck Houston, TX just before the AFMS Convention was to be held there and thus, she became the only AFMS President to cancel a convention. Not to be daunted she went to "plan B" and major business (budget approval, election of officers) was conducted by mail.

Our recipient has also been very active in other "rockhound" activities including the American Lands Access Association where she currently serves as President.

It is an honor and privilege to present the 2013 AFMS Recognition Award to:

Shirley Leeson

Editor's Corner – Pushing with a Rope

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



Have you ever felt like you are pushing on something with a rope? We all know a rope is pretty good in tension (pulling), but pushing something with a rope just doesn't work. That is more or less how I have felt for the last several years. Here is the text of a message that I sent to the club's Executive Board:

“Executive Board and incoming officers

The next meeting date is 7 November 2013. Effective that date I hereby resign as a member of the club and all club positions.

I am resigning as the Club's treasurer. I will complete the October Treasurer's report and will submit it to the Executive Board. I will take no further action after that date other than to provide the files and historic paperwork to the new treasurer and, if he/she desires, provide them some information and instruction about the treasurer's responsibility and the treasurer's report files.

I am resigning as the Club's editor. I will complete the November Chips and Chatter. I will take no further action after sending out the November issue (approximately 30 October) other than to provide the historic files of the Chips and Chatter to the new editor (or the club's Executive Board if a new Editor is not found), and, if he/she desires, provide a brief description about where information for the Chips and Chatter is derived. As the club's Editor or Treasurer, I have in my possession a new printer, 8 reams of paper, and 500 trifolds (400 were taken to the IGEM show). I will deliver the printer, installation files, paper, and the remaining tri-folds (the reason we opted to buy the printer) to the person designated by the Club's president (current or incoming). I would ask that this be done after the November Chips and Chatter is printed, but will do whatever is directed.

I am resigning as the Club's webmaster. I will insure the web site is up to date with the November Chips and Chatter. I will make no further updates to the web site after posting the November Chips and Chatter. I will provide the files relative to the club's website the new webmaster or the Executive Board.

I am resigning as the Club's Dallas Regional Science and Engineer Fair coordinator. We just (in the last two days) received an invitation to again participate. I will pass that information to the Club's president to do with as the club decides.

I am resigning as the Club's point of contact for the Earth Science Fair. I just received information that the next Earth's Science Fair is at Brookhaven on 18 October - on week from tomorrow. I will not be in town to participate. I had hoped to discuss this with those attending the IGEM show, but that can no longer happen. I hope that the club can find people to man the booth. If not, I would suggest that the club president inform Melanie Gamble ASAP that the club will not be able to participate (I will forward the email that I just received).

I am resigning as the Club's point of contact for working with the Early Childhood Program at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. At this time, no date has been established for the first activity, and I do not know if any of the club members have submitted their volunteer forms to the museum. I would suggest that Mark Carter is most aware of the situation and hopefully will be able to continue the effort.

I would like to think that I am resigning as a club member, but to be technical, I am simply going to let my membership lapse at the end of October and not renew for the next year starting in November. I feel that the club has lost its focus. The club's purpose is to promote interest in various earth sciences, in particular those areas dealing with the science of gems, minerals, and fossils, the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, metal crafts, jewelry arts, and all related fields. The club is a not for profit organization established for charitable and educational purposes (quoted from the club's bylaws, the Chips and Chatter, and the club's web site). For two years running (4 shows) I have worked at set-up for the IGEM for purposed of doing demonstrations, but have found that our tables are all devoted to selling, selling, and selling. This is not why IGEM let us have the tables - it is to promote the club and the hobby and to sell unique items that are not in direct competition with paid vendors at the show. We have been doing OK with the selling aspect, but I see little effort being made to promote the club or the hobby. The club has had declining membership for the last four (or more) years. Things that could help the club gain new membership (a shop and a show being the most prime examples) have been discussed but no action taken. The incoming 2nd vice president offered to get us a show last year. It was decided that this should be an item discussed by the Executive Board, but no amount of reminding or prodding could get an Executive Board Meeting called. Participation in the club's meetings has steadily declined, nothing new has been tried to get members to attend the meeting. The club's treasury has been slowly declining since our last show, and will dry up in about 12 years. Considering our declining membership, lack of club member participation in meetings and other activities that could help showcase our club, and declining membership, it is my opinion that the club should try to join with another local club (it would have to be a not for profit organization if the club wanted to transfer the treasury funds to them) or disband and donate the remains of the club's treasury to some worthwhile activity such as the AFMS Scholarship fund or the SCFMS Endowment fund. However, just wait a few more years and that will not be an issue as the club's funds will be gone. For me, it has just been too hard to prod and attempt to get the club to move forward - to the point that it is not longer worthy of my efforts.

It is with a lot of trepidation that I took these steps, but I am just tired of pushing on a rope.

Sapphire

Carolyn Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

GENERAL

Category : Oxide mineral

Formula : aluminum oxide, Al_2O_3

IDENTIFICATION

Color : historical birthstone Blue
Crystal habit : massive and granular
Crystal system : Trigonal
Symbol (32/m) Space group : R3c
Cleavage : none
Mohs scale 9.0



There are so many interesting facts about sapphires it's hard to know where to start, so I'll just list a few.

- It is second in hardness only to a diamond.
- All gem quality corundum that is not red (ruby) is called sapphire.
- Although the blue color has been the traditional birthstone color for September, sapphires come in white, blue, pink, yellow, green, and purple. The different colors come from trace minerals; blues are from titanium, iron, chromium, copper, or magnesium; iron produces the yellow, orange, green, and purple comes from various mixtures of chromium, iron, and titanium.
- Many of the large sapphire deposits are literally the remains of metamorphic or igneous veins of granite and marble weathered away into stream beds and mountain valleys.
- Sapphires are found in Burma, Thailand, Australia, North America, Brazil, Kashmir, and Africa.
- Due to the hardness and the aluminum oxide, sapphires are used in non-ornamental applications such as scientific instruments, high durability windows, wristwatch crystals, movement bearings, very thin electronic wafers which are used in integrated circuits.
- Medieval historians wrote that kings wore sapphires to protect them from harm and prevent jealousy in their courts. Also, they were worn at the signing of treaties to ensure a true reconciliation and prevent bloodshed.
- There is an ancient Persian myth that tells of a giant blue sapphire that Mother Earth rests upon and the sky is the reflection of the titan blue crystal.
- This touches on several different aspects of sapphires.

Information is from Wikipedia, Sapphire Lore and Shimmerlings.

Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for October - December

NOV 2-3, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Midland Ctr.

NOV 2-3, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, Oklahoma State Fair Park, halfull101-omgs2@yahoo.com

NOV 8-10, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, show@hgms.org, www.hgms.org

NOV 30 – DEC 1, Round Rock, TX, Paleo Society of Austin, Old Settler Park

DEC 6-8, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Auditorium, gemcenter@aol.com

DEC 14-15, DeRidder, LA, DeRidder G&MS, Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds, <http://www.lutheransonline.com/gems>

Ref:

October / November SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

Visit an Area Club

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

Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209

Dallas Paleontological Society, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244

Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX

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

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

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

Birthstones for November – Topaz and Citrine

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

November is another month with more than one birthstone. The two birthstones for November are Topaz and Citrine.

The chemical composition for topaz is $Al_2SiO_4(F,OH)_2$ and is referred to as aluminum fluorosilicate. It has a Mohs' hardness of 8 (it is the defining mineral for the definition of Mohs' hardness 8), thus is suitable for most any jewelry application. Topaz, in a pure form, is colorless. However, topaz is found in blue, yellow, brown, orange, pink, red, and violet colors. Orange topaz is the traditional birthstone for November. Many topaz stones are treated with heat, electricity, and radiation to enhance or change its color. The pink, red, and violet color is attributed to chromium impurities in the crystalline structure. The other colors are due to varying concentrations of the (F,OH) radical and color centers – constructs which are not fully understood. Clear topaz that is treated with electron bombardment will turn sky blue; the blue color will remain unless the stone is heated to a very high temperature. Other colors are known to fade, some very rapidly. The sherry colored stones from Topaz Mountain in Utah will rapidly turn clear if exposed to



light.

As most of us know, blue topaz is the state gemstone of Texas. To be proper, the blue topaz must be from the Mason County area. Many will claim that the stone needs to be cut into a 5 point star to qualify as the state gemstone. Orange topaz is the state gemstone of Utah. Topaz is found in many localities including Mason County in Texas and Utah in the United States, Russia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Pakistan, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Mexico, Australia, and Nigeria



Citrine is the other birthstone for November. Citrine is the yellow to brown colored variety of quartz. Chemically it is identical to quartz, SiO_2 and is referred to as silicon dioxide. Citrine has a Mohs' hardness of 7, thus is suitable for most jewelry applications. The yellow coloring in citrine is due to the presence of trace amounts of iron in the plus 3 valence state in the crystalline structure. Naturally occurring citrine is quite rare; most citrine available on the market today is heat treated amethyst (amethyst gets its color from iron in the plus 2 valence state, but heat can excite the electrons into the plus 3 valence state). The major source of citrine is from Brazil. However, Brazil is also a major source for amethyst, so one would be wise to buy citrine from well known and trusted source, otherwise one may get heat treated amethyst. Other producers of citrine include Madagascar and Russia. In the United States, some citrine is found at Peterson Mountain, Nevada.



Ref:

American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>

Mineral Miner's Home Page, <http://www.mineralminers.com>

The Quartz Page, <http://www.quartzpage.de/>

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

Pictures from Wikimedia Commons, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/> used under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License. Topaz pictures by Rob Lavinski, citrine crystal by Didier Descouens, cut citrine by de:Wela49

Multi-Federation Field Trip

Excerpt from the November 13 AFMS Newsletter

In an article by Doug True, he describes a Multi-Federation Field Trip planned for July 31 – August 4, 2014. The trip will be to Terry, Montana. Quoting from the article, "Terry is right in the middle of some of the best Montana rock hounding areas. We'll have numerous trips to the Gravel Bars on the Yellowstone River; productive areas that I've been hunting on annually for 40+ years. Many are access only through private property, but permissions have been granted. We'll be hunting for Montana agates, Jasper, Petrified Wood, fossil coral, stromatolites, and numerous other 'oddities'". Other trips are planned for fossil hunting in the Pierre and Bear Claw formations looking for ammonites and similar marine fossils. They are also working on a collect of dinosaur fossils from the Hell Creek Formation. There will also be a guided tour through the Eastern Montana Badlands. Terry is allowing their 2 block city park for dry camping and other activities. For more information contact Doug True at 406-670-0506 or email at dtruefossils12@yahoo.com

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

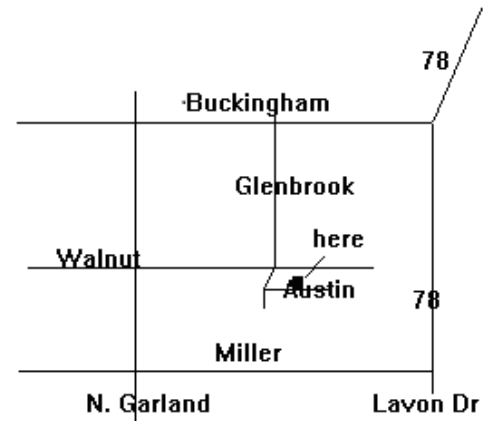


Meetings

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: \$16.00,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)



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

To:

Coming Up

Our next meeting will be November 7th at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 213 Austin Rd, Garland, TX.

The December 2nd meeting will be our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner (the club will provide the meat dishes) and will start at 7:00 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Note that the time is 30 minutes earlier than normal.