

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



November 2016
Vol. 50. Issue 11

1st Place, 2016 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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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, 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.

November Birthstone, Citrine

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

When you think of citrine, do you think of a citrus fruit? It would be logical as many of the citrus fruits have a yellow to orange appearance. The word "citrine" is derived from Latin word *citrina* meaning lemon colored.

Citrine is the yellow variety of quartz. That means its chemical composition is silicon dioxide, SiO₂. The hardness ranges from 6.5 to 7 on Mohs scale. The reason for the yellow color is generally accepted to be the presence of trace amounts of aluminum in the crystal matrix (replacing the silicon atom) and then subjected to natural radiation. If there is also trace amounts of iron caught up in the matrix you end up with smoky quartz. However, careful heat treating of the smoky quartz can get rid of the cloudy effect and leaves you with citrine. Amethyst, which derives its purple color from iron in quartz, can be heat treated to yield a yellow to orange

color which, without lab analysis, is virtually impossible to distinguish from citrine. Most citrine in today's market is actually heat treated amethyst.



Through history citrine has often been confused with golden topaz, another November birthstone. Citrine has been called false topaz, Spanish topaz, gold topaz, and Madeira topaz.

Probably as a result of confusion with topaz, citrine is reputed to have the same mystical properties as topaz. This includes reducing anger, calming temper, and is associated with prosperity

Ref:
Citrine, The Quartz Page, <http://www.quartzpage.de/citrine.html>
November Birthstone, American Gem Society,
<https://www.americangemsociety.org/en/citrine-history>

Picture:
Wikimedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Citrin_cut.jpg, by Wela49, licensed GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.2

Show Calendar – Upcoming Show Dates

Nov 5 – 6, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Cen., Kendrick@amaonline.com

Nov 5 - 6, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Ector Co. Coliseum Fairgrounds, www.midlandgemandmineral.org/

Nov 11 – 13, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Cen., www.hgms.org/, showchair@hgms.org

Nov 19-20, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Restiol Expo Cen., www.dallasgemandmineral.org/

Nov 19 – 20, Round Rock, TX, Paleo Soc. of Austin, Fossil Fest, Old Settler's Heritage Assoc., www.austinpaleo.org/

Dec 2 – 4, El Paso, TX, El Paso G&MS, El Maida Shriners Hall, www.epmgs.com

Dec 3 – 4, Leesville, LA, DeRidder G&MS, West LA Forestry Fair Grounds, deridder.rockandgem@gmail.com

Jan 13 – 15, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, <http://www.intergem.com/>

Ref:

- July - August 2016 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

A Word from the President

Ron Carman AFMS President



For the second time I am taking this position and again I have some big shoes to fill (no offense intended, Matt!) I'm following some very capable presidents who have done much to help bring all the federations together and I will try to continue with this work.

Many of you may know me from various shows around the country. For those who don't, I am a member of three clubs in the South Central Federation and I enjoy collecting minerals (although I appreciate fossils and gemstones too) and visiting shows all over. In the coming year, I hope to attend each regional federation convention and become better acquainted with the folks in all seven federations, starting with the Southeast Federation show in Marietta, Georgia in November. The coming year will have conventions all around the U.S. so I will have the chance to travel and visit places I haven't been before.

One thing Matt encouraged during his presidency and I do also, is for all our members, no matter where you live, to get involved with your clubs and federations. Every club has numerous jobs it needs to fill, and the willing volunteers who fill them are the backbone of the clubs and federations. Also, if you see something that you think needs improving or could be done better, speak up and tell someone about it. And don't be afraid to do something to help improve things if needed.

Here's looking forward to a great year and I hope to meet many of you in person.

Ron

Editor Comment – Congratulations to Ron Carmen, a member of the SCFMS, as the new AFMS President. Also congratulations to Emerson Tucker who has take over as the AFMS Show Consultant.

Visit an Area Club

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

[Cowtown G. M. & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth

[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month 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](#), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244

[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth

[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 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,

MINERAL CLEANING

BRIDGET JOUBERT / JIM MARLER
CENLA ROCK HOUNDS

From the September – October 2016 SCFMS Newsletter

At a past rock show (Clearlake show, Pasadena, TX), we stopped by the Fender's mineral specimen booth to chat about their very fine minerals. Jim asked him how he got such beautiful pyrite and galena specimens. He said it was all in the cleaning he did prior to displaying. Here is what he said:



Galena: Soak the specimen in warm "Iron-Out™" to remove surface iron and lead oxides. This may take an all day of soaking if very 'dirty'. Rinse well and scrub lightly with a bristle brush, NOT a wire brush, it scratches! Spray well with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" (non bleach type) and give it a good scrubbing with the brush. Rinse well and let the specimen air dry completely (a fan helps speed this up) before putting it away. By the way, are you wearing kitchen dish gloves? Some people are sensitive to the aggressive chemicals in these cleaners so put on those gloves and safety glasses!

Pyrite: One of the problems with many Pyrite (FeS) specimens is that they may be in a mixture with Marcasite. Marcasite (HFeS₂) is an unstable "Pyrite" and will slowly deteriorate as it is stored, especially in the damp air of Louisiana. If you find your nice pyrite specimen sitting on a pile of sulfur smelling grey ash, it is a mixture specimen! The Marcasite slowly converted to sulfuric acid and iron, eating away at the whole specimen - cardboard box and all!

To clean up specimens with Marcasite, use that wire brush that was forbidden above! Get rid of all the visible Marcasite with a good soap scrubbing. As always, be sure to wear safety goggles when scrubbing any specimen, fine particles will fly all about and love to land in eyes! Rinse well and let dry for a while.

Ok, now spray the specimen with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" and use the brush with vigor. The pyrite part will brighten up very nicely. For specimens that have pyrite on another mineral (i.e. dogtooth calcite), adjust your scrubbing to prevent damage to the other mineral. Always dry completely before storage.



Chalcopyrite: This iron sulfide mineral containing copper is often misidentified as pyrite. Look carefully at the "pyrite" crystals and see if there are multi-colors showing, besides the plain 'gold' of pyrite. If so, this is probably chalcopyrite (peacock ore). Again, spray the specimen with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" and brush scrub it. Though it will not be as bright as pyrite, it will shine up quite a bit, making your specimen come alive!

Other minerals: so far our experience with cleaning other minerals has been that "Scrubbing Bubbles™" works on all minerals but not as dramatically as it does on Pyrite and Galena. What it has done, however, is show us the presence of pyrite, galena, chalcopyrite and other crystals where we did not see them before due to oxidation

and/or dirt. Yes, plain ole soap will clean minerals but the "Bubbles" seems to put that shine on them that other cleaning agents do not!

No, we do not have financial interest in Johnson's Company and their "Scrubbing Bubbles™" but we wish we did since we have gone thru CANS of it and it works so well on our specimens!

Photos chosen from the Internet collection of the Smithsonian.

Martin Marietta Cement Plant Field Trip September 10th

David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

We had another great field trip Saturday September 10th, 2016. Our destination was the Martin Marietta Cement Plant (formally TXI Cement Plant) Quarry in Midlothian, TX for a fun time 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 80 million years old.

The day before our scheduled field trip I had one person ask about the trip being canceled due to rain in the forecast. I had checked the weather report for the past couple of days and with only a 45% chance of rain and dropping from a high of 60% earlier in the week I was optimistic and confident that the Texas weather would not let us down. When I woke up the morning of our trip the streets were wet and a drizzly was coming down. If I don't cancel the night before I go no matter what. I also have only had one of these trips canceled in 16 years and that was due to a hurricane that came up from the gulf. On the way south to Midlothian, TX from Plano, TX the rain came down harder and harder. By the time I was about 10 miles away it was pouring. Maybe I was over reacting, but I was for sure that the trip would be canceled. Seven miles away the rain had almost stopped and five miles away it was just over cast. Arriving at our meeting place there was only a little water on the ground and heavy over cast. The radar showed a huge storm system coming our way. What the heck we were there let's see if they will let us in. The gates were open and we were given a warm welcome. We proceeded to the quarry and you would never have known that it rained. Perfect conditions continued for the whole trip and the over cast protected us from the heat of the sun. It was a good day!

Here are some of the wonderful specimens found:

Sharks Teeth



Pyrite



Ptychodus tooth



Sharks Teeth



Septarian Nodule



Best find on one of my past trips. Now a young man, a kid found this. Now prepped. I'd take that home!





President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

We had a successful IGEM show with Ling and Don Shurtz, Carolyn and Del Grady, Butch and Patti Mitchell, Linda Dallas, and David Dobson participating. We are looking forward to another IGEM show in January. The January IGEM show will be the 13th, 14th, and 15th. We will have to wait for information on set-up. At our November meeting we will install the new officers (same officers as the previous year) and will discuss plans for the December meeting and Christmas party. David Dobson has set up another field trip to Midlothian to look for fossils, pyrites, and other minerals. Contact David (RockTrading@aol.com) if you are interested; you must be on the entrance list.

Club Officers for 2017

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

Minutes of the October 2016 Meeting

The October 6th 2016 club meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Lee Elms.

Sunshine report: Butch was able to attend our meeting this evening. It was so good to see him again after all of the health issues he has been battling these past few months. Hat has a crushed disk in his back and is going to the doctor tomorrow to have it treated with an injection into his spine. We hope that the injection works and stops his pain.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the September meeting as printed in the October Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Hat, and the motion was seconded by Butch. The motion passed.

Treasurers' Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurers' report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' report was made by Casey. The motion was seconded by Butch, and the motion passed.

Old Business: The IGEM will be next weekend at Dallas Market Hall. The set-up for the show will be next Thursday at 9am.

New Business:

The Nominating Committee report:

- President: Ling Shurtz
- First Vice President: Carolyn Grady
- Second Vice President: Open
- Secretary: Lee Elms
- Treasurer: Del Grady
- Editor: Don Shurtz

The election of these officers for 2017 was approved by acclamation.

After our refreshment break we continued our presentation from last month's meeting, the polishing of cut stone into cabochons. Don and Del each brought their grinding/polishing wheels for us to learn hands-on how to do it. You really have to study the stone you are working on to see if you still have "high sides" and how to work them down without doing damage to the "crown" of the cabochon. Then it is on to the polishing disk to really get that shine going on your stone. Also it helps to have a really bright light at the work station to see if you have any imperfections in the stone to be polished off. I was afraid I was going to grind my stone down to a flat nubbin, but Del helped me through it and I must say I am very happy with my finished cabochon. Now I have to figure out how to mount it.

We had our raffle and then the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

Meetings

The November 3rd meeting will be the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin Rd, Garland. The presentation will be a videos entitled Formation of Minerals and, time permitting, Classification of Minerals

The December 1st meeting will be discussed at the November meeting. Possible options include a dinner get together at Spring Creek Barbeque or a pot-luck dinner and/or a Christmas Party at the GWAB.

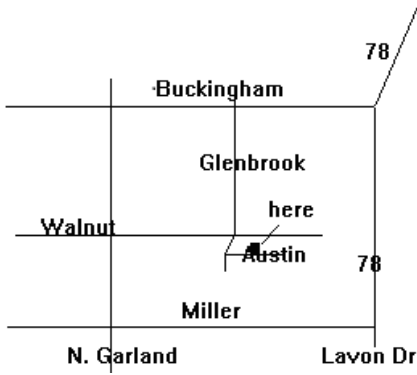
VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



<p>Meetings First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM Garland Women’s Activities Building 713 Austin St., Garland, TX (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)</p>
<p>Membership Single Adult: \$16.50, Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50 (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>



The November 3rd meeting will be the Garland Women’s Activities Building, 713 Austin Rd, Garland. The presentation will be a video entitled Formation of Minerals and, time permitting, a second video, Classification of Minerals

The December 1st meeting will be discussed at the November meeting. Possible options include a dinner get together at Spring Creek Barbeque or a pot-luck dinner and/or a Christmas Party at the GWAB.

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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