

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



October 2, 2008
Vol. 42 Issue 10

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Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our website for a color version of the *Chips and Chatter*
- Open Shop: Each Monday - 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and each Saturday - 8:00 am – Noon
- Check the DGMS website for class schedule

October 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, October 2, 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 –September General Meeting

Don Shurtz for Nell Black, Secretary, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

The September meeting of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club was called to order by the president, Donnette Wagner.

The pledge was led by Del Grady.

Minutes: Donna Mallory moved that the minutes of the August meeting as published in the September Chips and Chatter be accepted. The motion was seconded by Mark Carter. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Don Shurtz presented the treasurer's reports for June and July. Mark Carter made a motion to accept the report. Donna Mallory seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sunshine Report: Visitors, Thomas Wollwert and his son Brock, Richard Blyth, Mary Falcone, and Cheryl Hoffman.

1st VP Report: Tonight's activities will support the show. We will identify minerals and specimens for the Silent Auction, assemble boxes for the silent auction, and put stamps and mailing labels on postcards.

2nd VP Report: TXI Field Trip on September 9th. Meet at the TXI plant in Midlothian. Sign-up with David Dobson.

Editor's Report: Anita was not present; but, Donnette reminded us that Anita requests short biographies from each member for "Getting To Know You" articles for the Chips and Chatter.

Show Report: Ling Shurtz advised that all the booths are filled.

Old Business: None

New Business: Nominating Committee for 2009 officers: Mark Carter, Don Shurtz, Ling Shurtz, Donnette Wagner, and Donna Mallory.

A break was called at 8:00 pm and the meeting reconvened at 8:15 pm.

Membership applications for Mary Falcone and Cheryl Hoffman accepted and unanimously approved. Visitor Richard Blythe is a geologist and helped mark Carter and others in identification of specimens for the Silent Auction. Visitors Thomas Wollwert, Brock Wollwert, Mary Falcone, and Cheryl Hoffman all helped in putting labels and stamps on show postcards. We thank all the visitors and club members in helping with these show preparation activities.

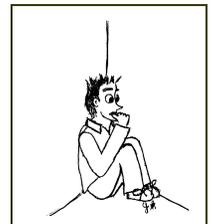
The meeting was adjourned about 9:20 pm.

Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

As I sat at my computer this morning and composed my thought to share with some dear friends, it crossed my mind that I wanted to share in part, some of what I wrote to them.

When was the last time you stopped, stood still, took in all that is around you? Probably been a while in this busy and hectic world we live in. As I sit here on my patio sipping my warm and tasty tea in the cool of this super morning, I count my blessings. But first, I need to be still and open to recognizing these blessing. Then, I have to share them to make them multiply. Blessing like it is a beautiful day to be alive, watching squirrels jumping from tree limb to tree limb, hearing the birds singing and the trickle of the water. Taking a few moments each new day to be still and take in all the wonders that has been given to me to share each day! This I share with each of you today; "May your day begin as it should end, full of hope, love, peace and joy, in spite or because of the woes that have come your way. Be strong enough to send your troubles on the wings of eagles for solution. Sit for a bit and reflect upon the wonders that are yours to have and share this day while taking in a slow, deep breath of cool refreshing morning air and know that you too are loved."



Refreshment Duties

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

<u><i>Month</i></u>	<u><i>Ice & Drinks</i></u>	<u><i>Snacks</i></u>
<i>October</i>	<i>Need Volunteers</i>	<i>Need Volunteers</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>Need Volunteers</i>	<i>Need Volunteers</i>

Feature Article

Submitted by Anita Dresner

Mason County Topaz The Texas State Gem

Topaz, the state gem of Texas, is found within the borders of the state only in Mason County. It occurs in granite outcroppings principally in the Streeter, Grit, and Katemcy areas. It is usually found in streambeds and ravines but occasionally can be located atop the ground.

Topaz resembles quartz and ranges in color from clear to brown to yellow to sky blue. The blue stones are especially beautiful when faceted in the Lone Star cut.

Items you will need with which to hunt topaz area pick and shovel and a wire screen with about ¼ inch mesh. Small pieces of topaz can sometimes be found by sifting dirt through the screen. A nice-to-have but optional item is a chemical called bromoform. Topaz will sink in this chemical, whereas the less dense quartz it so resembles will float. **WARNING:** bromoform is highly toxic and should be handled with care, and kept away from children.

You can enjoy topaz hunting throughout the year except during the months of November, December and early January, when the ranches are closed for the deer season. Since digging is often required to find stones, topaz hunting is more pleasant when done during the cooler months. The week following a rain is an excellent time to hunt topaz, since the ground is softer and easier to dig.

Currently, only three Mason County ranches offer the public the opportunity to go topaz hunting. They chare by the day; you keep what you find. Some very nice stones have been found in this way. In fact, since there is no commercial mining of Mason County topaz, hunting it yourself is one of the main ways of finding it. You may hunt topaz at either of the following ranches.

Garner Seaquist Ranch charges \$15 per person per day. Children, ages 7-12 are \$5 per day, and children under 7 are free. Contact Mike Seaquist for first hunt at (325) 347-5413.

Lindsay Ranch: Tak US87 north from the Mason Courthouse 4 miles north of town. You'll see the sign for Lindsay ranch Road on your left, as well as a sign for their Comanche Creek lodging facility. Follow the signs on up to the house. Call first to make sure someone will be available. (325) 347-452.

Source: Mason Texas Chamber of Commerce

www.masontxcoc.com/topaz.htm

TXI Field Trip – September 13th

David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Well, we had a great field trip Saturday, September 13th, 2008. Our destination was the TXI Cement Plant Quarry in Midlothian, TX.

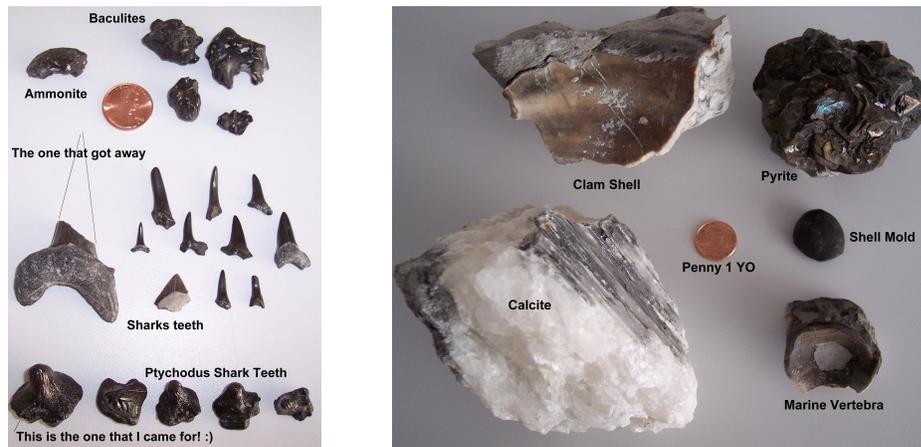
Our trip almost didn't happen because of Hurricane Ide. After several days of watching the weather and staying in contact with TXI we decided to throw caution to the 110 mile an hour winds in Galveston, TX and head south for a fun time to collect pyrite, calcite, septarian nodules, and marine fossils including sharks teeth, ammonites, baculites (straight ammonites), and shells molds.

Leaving that morning at 7:45 for our 8:45 meeting time the clouds were low, thick and dark. Several minutes later a light sprinkle started. I stated, "This doesn't look good" not to anyone in general, but just concerned about the trip. My five year old son Daniel asked "Why" as if a certain soaking was not even a trivial matter to consider. This is the case with Daniel even if he has been given a thimble full of water. This does not come close to explain his delight that when there is water it can make mud! With a small amount of reluctance I told him that our trip could possibly be cancelled because of the rain. He said "OK" as if only along for the ride. The rain soon subsided, only to return with more vigor 20 minutes later. Again, I said, "This doesn't look good" to no one in particular and again getting the "Why" response. I am sure that this conversation happened at least one more time before our arrival.

Our limited attendants list for this trip was full almost immediately after the email went out. With 25 people signed up for the trip 22 attended. Several cancelled at the last minute and I invited the ones on our waiting list. We had a great turn out!

The weather for our collecting was over cast, slightly windy, with a temperature of about 77°F. Great collecting weather! With only one five minute shower the day was perfect. The rains actually helped our collecting by making the fossils more visible.

Here are some of the wonderful specimens found. (The fossils are about 90 million years old-MYO):



Sharks tooth found by Steve Schliesing:



Pyrite found by Miguel Fernandez, picture should show actual size 7 x 3½ I like this one!



I enjoy arranging these trips and have also started one for the cub scouts. Here is one enthusiastic thank you letter from one of our attendees.

Dear David,

Certainly it was a pleasure being with you and the rest of the group in our field trip to TXI. You don't know how much I appreciate your invitation. Last Saturday was a day to remember for years to come. It was a day full of excitement. I hope in the future to be included in your field trips. The collection site was much better than I expected!! I returned home with great specimens of pyrite. Some of those pyrites are already cleaned and forming part of my personal collection. One more time, THANK YOU for that wonderful opportunity!

Sincerely,
Miguel

What's For Supper?

Anonymous

BEEF AND BARLEY SOUP

3/4	Pound Ground Round	1	Small Can Veg-All
1/3	Cup Pearl Barley	1	Can Beef Broth
1	Small Chopped Onion	1 ½	Cup Water
1	Clove Minced Garlic	1	Bay Leaf
1	Diced Carrot	1TbIs	Parsley
1	Rib Minced Celery		Salt & Pepper to Taste
1	Small Can Whole Corn		

Brown Ground Beef, Onion and Garlic in Dutch oven or heavy kettle until it is no longer pink. Add all other ingredients except Veg-All and Corn. Cover and simmer for 1 1/2 hours. Add the Veg-All and Corn and cook another 20 to 25 minutes. Best if beef is very lean, otherwise the soup will tend to be a bit greasy.

5-MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

4 Tbls	Cake Flour (that's plain flour, not self-rising)	4 Tbls	Sugar
2 Tbls	Baking Cocoa	1	Egg
3 Tbls	Milk	3 Tbls	Oil
3 Tbls	Chocolate Chips (optional)		A Small Splash of Vanilla Essence
1	Coffee Mug		

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla essence, and mix again.

Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed! Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired. EAT! (This can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous).

Why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world? Because, now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!

October 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg	3	4 9 am – Noon Open Shop	5
6 5:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	7	8 Intergem Work Day Noon -Until	9 Intergem Work Day 8:30 –Until	 10 Intergem Show	 11 Intergem Show	 12 Intergem Show
13 5:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	14	15	16	17	18 9 am – Noon Open Shop	19
20 5:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	21 7:00 pm Dallas Gem Club Mtg	22	23	24	25 9 am – Noon Open Shop	26
27 5:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	28	29	30	 31 Halloween		

Show Dates

October 11 & 12; The Fall Earth Science Fair, will have Free admission, Free parking, and a friendly welcome to all. Flyers will be sent in the Fall. Mark your calendars now, so you won't miss the next Rock Swap. It should be an exciting and fun day.

October 18th; The DGMS Fall Rock Swap

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)

Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs

Texas School of Earth Science (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:

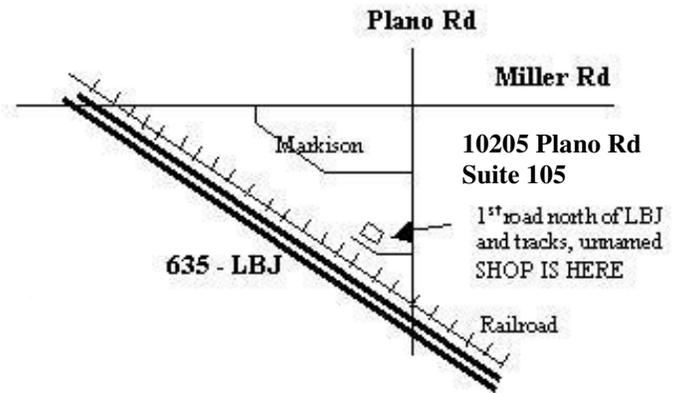
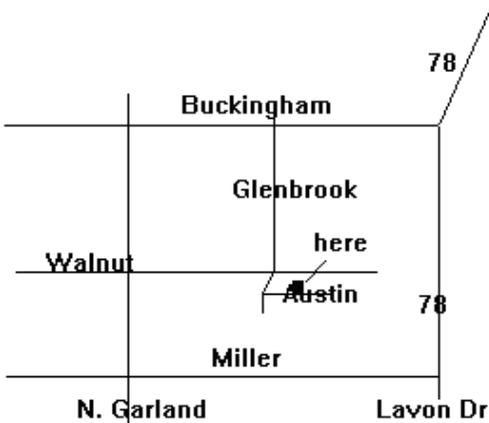
- 1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
- 9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
- 3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
- 3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
- 1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
- HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
- 2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

Next Meeting: October 2, 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