

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



October 1, 2009
Vol. 43 Issue 10

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Check our website www.pogmc.org
 for past months issue of the
Chips and Chatter

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

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

Presentation

September meeting's speaker will be Dianne Brownlee. You will not want to miss hearing Diane and getting to know her.

Club Officers for 2009

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

President's Message

Donnette Wagner, President, POGM Club

It is really is hard to believe October is here and it is time for everyone to get back into their regular routine. The fall shows have begun and add to that the State Fair and fall is a great time to live in Texas.

We selected a nominating committee in September to prepare a slate of officers for the 2010-2011 club year. I hope each of you has thought about taking an office for the next year and have contacted Mark Carter or one of the other members to volunteer. The strength of any club is related directly to the level of participation of its members. We want a healthy club and that takes more people to step up and get involved. If you didn't get the hint read the last two sentences again. The current officers have, for the most part, been officers many times and/or for many years. They have stepped up time after time. It is time for YOU to join in the fun and take a turn in a leadership position.

Please volunteer and talk to the nominating committee when they contact you and let them know which office you would be willing to accept when offered. If you are not sure what is required of that position, ask one of the current board members.

Please become part of the future of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club. This is a wonderful club and we need you to help us make sure that it has a great future.

The Tasty Corner

Editor POGM Club



LOW COUNTRY STEAMPOT

Ingredients:

8	Shem Creek Mussels	8	Folly River Clams
8	John's Island Oysters	8	Creek Shrimp (16-20)
8 oz	Calico Scallops	½ lb	Sausage/Kielbasa, cut into 4 pieces
2	Corn Ears (halved)	3	New potatoes, halved
1 Tsp	Bay seasoning	1	Lemon, juice of
2	Tomatoes, quartered	1	Onion, large diced
6 oz	Water		

Instructions:

1. In a large soup kettle, bring lemon juice, water, seasoning, onion and tomatoes to a boil.
2. In a steamer basket deep enough to just touch the broth, line the bottom with the potatoes. Stack the clams and oysters.
3. Drop the basket in the pot and cover with a lid. Simmer about 5 minutes and then drop in mussels, sausage, and corn. Simmer until clams are just starting to open.
4. Add shrimp and scallops. Simmer until just done and remove basket.
5. Divide evenly over 4 bowls filled with red rice. Pour remaining liquid in pot over seafood. Stand corn in rice vertically for presentation. Garnish with fine diced tomato and elongated chives around edge of bowl.

September 2009 Minutes

Donna Mallory, Secretary POGM Club

President Donnette Wagner called the meeting to order.

Mark Carter made the motion to accept the August meeting Minutes as printed in Chips and Chatter, and seconded by Hat. The motion carried.

Don Shurtz gave the Treasurer's report. Mark Carter made a motion to accept the report and seconded by Wanda Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

There was no Sunshine Report and no Visitors.

1st VP Mark Carter told of a trip on September 25th to Jet, Oklahoma to dig Slenite crystals. Please contact Mark for further information.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Congratulations to our editor, Anita Dresner, who received Honorable Mention at the AFGMC for small club newsletters.

Approval was granted to print an additional 50 copies of Chips and Chatter for handout at the Earth Science Fair and Intergem.

Ling Shurtz has sent in the contract for Intergem. Volunteers were asked to help with set up and promoting the Club at Intergem on the first weekend of October. Volunteers are needed to promote the Club at the Earth Science Fair September 25-26.

Arlington Gem and Mineral Club are holding their show September 5-6 at the Arlington Convention Center.

The South Central Federation of Gem and Mineral Clubs show is to be held in Temple, TX October 10-11, 2009.

A Nominating Committee was appointed, consisting of Mark Carter, Ling Shurtz, and Lee Elms, to select a slate of Officers for 2010.

Diane Brownlee of the Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute at Brookhaven College presented an excellent program dealing with the historical basis of Texas' geology and the outreach programs conducted at EMGI.

Meeting adjourned.

Did You Know?

**For a real treat, consider attending The South Central Federation Convention.
It is being held in Temple, Texas October 10 & 11, 2009**

**Don't forget about the InterGem Show:
Work days; September 30 – October 1, Show; October 2 – 4 2009**

A Different Kind of Rock Show

Oklahoma Mennonite Relief Sale: November 6 & 7 Garfield County Fairgrounds, Enid, OK

Event Contact: Don Gerbrandt

Phone (580) 234-3247

Email: donair@suddenlink.net

Website: <http://www.mcc.org/reliefsales/>

October Birthstone: Opal

Chips and Chatter Editor

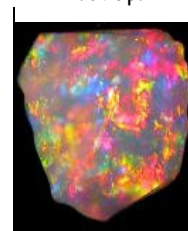
Coober Pedy,
South Australia. White Opal



"Peruvian blue opal"
San Patricio, Peru



Australian
Black Opal



Some History of the Opal

There are said to be several opal origins; one says it comes from a Sanskrit word "upala", meaning **precious stone**. There were/are more than one name for the word "opal". The Romans knew it by "opthalmus" being the Greek word for "eye" and also as "opalus". There are precious opal, common, fire, Peruvian opal and the synthetic opal. The Romans, it is said, obtained their supplies through Middle East Traders, believing the opal was a combination of the beauty of all precious stones and greatly valued. They were used as a preventative medicine against "eye" disease, as well as carried as a good luck charm or talisman because it was believed that like the rainbow, opal brought its owner good fortune.

Another tale of the history of Australian opals state they started back around 1849 at a cattle station called Tarrawilla, near Angaston some 80km outside Adelaide; however, it is said Australian opal did not appear on the world market until the 1890s.

But on the other hand, one tale has the Opal being a precious stone for a very long period. It has the history of **opal** in Australia began millions of years ago when parts of Australia was covered by a vast sea. Over time, rain and floods flushed water containing **silica minerals** from the ground surface and down into the cavities and niches in sedimentary rocks. Over an extended period of time not only did the **silica stone** transform itself into **Opal**, the silica mixture also replace any organic material such as plants, animals, wood & bone deposited in these crevices and niches, only to make "**opalised fossils**". When the water itself evaporated, the remaining silica formed a gel (minute **silica spheres**) hardening over time into the opal we know. So, opals are a gel from silica with **varying percentages of water**, somewhere between three and ten percent, and the opal has a hardness on the **Moh's scale** of 5.5 to 6.5.

The play of the fantastic colour in opals is caused by the silica spheres **dissecting light** as it passes through the stone putting on a brilliant light display of all the **colours of the rainbow**.

Apart from Australia, opal is found in **Mexico**, **Brazil's** north, and in the USA states of **Nevada and Idaho** as well as in **Ethiopia**. In recent times, opal has been discovered in **Canada** as well.

Resources:

<http://www.opals-on-black.com/HistoryOfOpal.html>

<http://www.costellos.com.au/opals/history.html>

<http://www.geology.com>

<http://www.aussietreasurechest.com.au>

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Visit our web site: www.pogmc.org

Editor's Corner

Chips and Chatter Editor



Are you interested in a free on-line course on Gemstones?

I have looked for articles of interest that may stimulate the novice rockhousers, as myself, as well as pique the interest of avid and knowledgeable rockhousers. I have not registered to take the class below, even though it is suppose to be free; and therefore, do not endorse it. However, I do think there may be those of us that may want to benefit from it. If you are interested, the web address is located at the end of the article. Listed here below are the topics for each lesson. Please, let me know if you find this type of article in the RockHouser valuable, or would you rather not have this type of article.

I need your input in order to bring you reading material you would find informative. I would like to give you the address for you to mail your article/s to me for the Chips and Chatter. 3809 Skyline Dr., Rowlett, TX 75088

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GEMSTONES?

Introduction to Gemology: Barbara Smigel, PhD, GG.

Ms Smigel covers how they gemstones are formed, why they shine, and how or what makes up the value of a gem. She discusses how to spot a synthetic stone, what makes a star in a stone or even a cat's eye and even how to tell same color stones from each other. Also, she talks about mining, cutting and polishing of gemstones. Do you want to know which gemstone is the toughest? She has the answer. If you are interested, the web site is in blue below the lesson titles, which are listed here. This course is offered at CSN, <http://www.csn.edu/> as Geology 115

Lesson 1: Basic Terms

Lesson 2: Naming and Measuring Gems

Lesson 3: Physical Properties of Gems

Lesson 4: Optical Properties of Gems

Lesson 5: Magnification and What it Reveals

Lesson 6: Optical Phenomena in Gemstones

Lesson 7: Gem Fashioning

Lesson 8: Gem Enhancement

Lesson 9: Synthetics and Simulants

Lesson 10: Gem Formation

Reference: <http://www.bwsmigel.info/>

Area Clubs

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

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

Dallas Paleontological Society, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, Ridgewood Rec. Center, 6818 Fisher Road, Dallas, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

Dallas Bead Society, Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3rd Thursday each month at 7:30 pm

Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets 4th Tuesday each month at 7 pm

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

Show Dates

October 2009

8-10 - MOUNT IDA, AR: Annual World Championship Quartz Crystals Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd; Thu 8-3, Fri 9-3, Sat 9-3; Adults \$75/\$90; keep all you find, meet other miners, maybe even win a prize, an international event; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957 (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mountidachamber.com; Website: www.mountidachamber.com

9-11 - MOUNT IDA, AR: Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Festival; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd; Fri 8-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4; Free Admission; Children's dig Sat, fun for all, crystals, crystals and more crystals; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957 (870) 867-2723; e-mail: director@mountidachamber.com; Website: www.mountidachamber.com

10-11 - TEMPLE, TX: Tri-City G&M Society South Central Federation Show; Frank Mayborn Civic & Convention Center, 3303 N Third St; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$2, Children under 12 free; faceting demonstrations, grab bags, treasure wheel, silent auction, displays; contact Leslie O Connally, 875 N Wheat Rd, Belton, TX 76513, (254) 939-7015; e-mail: lconnally@clearwire.net

16-18 - VICTORIA, TX: Victoria Gem & Mineral Society Show; Victoria Community Center, 2905 E North Street; Fri 9-6, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$3, Children free with adults; jewelry-making demonstrations, gemstone identification, wheel of fortune, jewelry, fossils, minerals, geodes, crystals, jewelry findings, gemstones, lapidary equipment and supplies; contact Ken Lemke, 3417 Coletoville Road, Victoria, TX 77905, (361) 575-5350; e-mail: klemke@vctx.org

23-25 - AUSTIN, TX: Austin Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road; Fri 9-5, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Students (13-18) \$1; Children (12 and under) 50 cents; more than 30 dealers, gems, jewelry, fossils, meteorites, art demonstrations, "Youth Education Day," door prizes; contact Brian Wetzig, 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458-9546; e-mail: general@austingemandmineral.org; Web site: www.austingemandmineral.org

Oct 30 - Nov 1: LIVE OAK, TX: Bead Renaissance Retail & Wholesale Show; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; Free Admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, PO Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: beadshow@aol.com; Web site: www.beadshow.com

November 2009

7-8 - AMARILLO, TX: Golden Spread G&M Society Show; Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S Buchanan; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, wheel of fortune, silent auction, 43-pound sapphire display; contact Dee Hawkins, 108 S Polk St, Amarillo, TX 79101, (806) 681-0960

7-8 - OKLAHOMA CITY, OK: Oklahoma G&M Society Show, "River of Gems"; OK State Fair Park, 3001 General Pershing Blvd; Sat 9-6, Sun 9-5; Adults \$6, Children 12 and under, Boy/Girl Scouts/Campfire members in uniform Free with Adult; museum and member exhibits, dealers, minerals, cabochons, faceted stones, findings, demonstrations, wire wrapping, silversmithing, knapping; contact Arlene Burkhalter, 1267 Kingbird Lane, Choctaw, OK 73020, (405) 732-0808; e-mail: maburkhalter@cox.net

13-15 - HUMBLE, TX: Houston G&M Society 56th Annual Show; Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy; Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$7, Seniors & Students \$6, Children under 12 free; displays, gems, minerals, fossils, fluorescent rocks display; demonstrations, jewelry making, beading, lapidary, children's activities, Scout Merit badge program, famous "Dino Dig", jewelry, minerals, fossils; contact Patty Scott, 14906 Summerland Circle, Cypress, TX 77429, (281) 373-1578; e-mail: nigels_mom@sbcglobal.net; Website: www.hgms.org

13-15 - TULSA, OK: Retail and wholesale show; Bead Renaissance Shows; Expo Square, Exchange Ctr, 4145 E 21st St; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; Free admission; bead artists, dealers, ancient, vintage, contemporary and designer beads, jewelry, tools, books; contact J&J Promotions LLC, PO Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: beadshow@aol.com; Website: www.beadshow.com

13-15 - HOUSTON, TX: Houston G&M Society Presents 56th Annual HGMS Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5 Humble Civic Center, 8233 Will Clayton Parkway, Humble, TX, 5 miles east of Bush International Airport, 1 mile east of Hwy 59

27-29 - TERLINGUA, TX: "Rock & Gem Fest" Show; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Big Bend Motor Inn Conference Room, Route 118 & Route 170; Fri 12-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 9-5; Free Admission; dealers, rocks, gems, jewelry, Kids' Corner; contact Mary Brogan, PO Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 837-3824; e-mail: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Web site: www.agates123.com/cdgm/

December 2009

4-6 - KENNER, LA: AKS Gem Shows; Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; Adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chainmaille, and more; contact Kay Schabilion, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Website: www.aksshow.com

12-13 - DERIDDER, LA: DeRidder G&M Society Show; Beauregard Parish Fair Exhibit Hall, 610 West Dr; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; Adults \$2, military with current ID & Children under 12 Free; door prizes, jewelry, gems, cabs, wire wrapping, Louisiana opal, silent auction, hands-on instructions in flint knapping, cab making, gem faceting; contact Adam Valin, (337) 585-3693; e-mail: avalin1@bellsouth.net

January 2010

16-17 - FREDERICKSBURG, TX: "Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show"; Fredericksburg Rockhounds; Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, 1606 South Hwy 16, south of downtown Fredericksburg; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Free Admission; Rollin' Rock meeting Sunday, hourly door prizes; contact Jeff Smith, 208 Castle Pines Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 895-9630; e-mail: jeffbrenda@windstream.net; Web site: www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org

February 2010

1-28 - QUARTZSITE, AZ: "Desert Gardens International Gem & Mineral Wholesale & Retail Show"; Desert Gardens RV Park; 1064 Kuehn Road, south side of I-10, along Frontage Road; 9-6 daily; Free Admission; crystals, minerals, rough, polished, jewelry; contact Sharon or Sandy, Desert Gardens RV Park, 1055 Kuhen Street, PO Box 2818, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6361; e-mail: info@desertgardensrvpark.net; Web site: www.desertgardensrvpark.net

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
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

October 1, 2009 7:30 PM, 713 Austin, Garland Women's Bldg, TX

**Pleasant Oak Gem & Mineral
Club Meeting**

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies