

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



October 2016  
Vol. 50, Issue 10

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

Member of  
SCFMS



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AFMS



### 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.

### American Golden Topaz

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The American Golden Topaz is in Dallas through January 2017. The American Golden Topaz at 22,892.5 ct was, until 2014, the largest cut topaz and largest semi-precious cut stone in existence. However, in 2014 the El-Dorado topaz at 31,000 ct became the largest cut topaz and largest semi-precious gemstone. The American Golden Topaz is still the largest cut stone in the Smithsonian collection and is part of a temporary exhibit of Smithsonian Giant Gems on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. When the stone is on display at the Smithsonian it sits on a plaque that is engraved with "Gift of the Rockhound Hobbyists of America through the efforts of the six regional federations of mineralogical societies and Drs. Marie and Ed Bogatta. An article in the [November 2014 Chips and](#)

[Chatter](#) goes more deeply into the history of the acquisition of the stone, but just know that the



American Federation of Mineralogical Societies are the "Rockhound Hobbyists of America." I would like to recommend that we form a field trip to visit the Perot to see this fabulous stone along with the rest of the Smithsonian Giant Gem display. The display includes one of the Mogul Emeralds set with over 50 cts of diamond, a 13,188 ct Quartz Sphere, a 7033 ct blue (irradiated) topaz "football", a 7,478 ct Rock Crystal Quartz Egg, and other stones that are just totally awesome.

Ref:

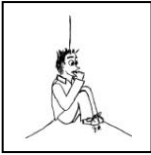
- Chips and Chatter, November 2014, <http://www.pogmc.org/newsletter/Nov14cc.pdf>
- World Famous Topaz Gemstones, <http://ostro.com/en/#world-famous-topaz-gemstones>

*Chips and Chatter*

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

October 2016

Visit us: [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org) "Like" us on Facebook



**Editor's Corner – This and That**  
**Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas**

This: Ever since I found out about the American Golden Topaz I have wanted to see it. Now I have, and I am not disappointed. I have always had a fascination with Tiger's Eye, and when the topic showed up in the Backbender's Gazette (Houston Gem and Mineral Society) I wanted to share the article.

The Club INTERGEM Guidelines as approved at the September meeting are published on page 4.

That: Club elections of Officers for 2017 (November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 through November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2017) will be at our next meeting. Please come so you can cast your vote. See you there

**Show Calendar – Upcoming Show Dates**

Sep 30 – Oct 2, Albuquerque, NM, Jay Pen, NM Expo State Fairgrounds, [jaypen246@gmail.com](mailto:jaypen246@gmail.com)

Oct 1 – 2, Jacksonville, AR, Greater Little Rock Area MF&G Show, Jacksonville Comm. Cen., [thom61847@yahoo.com](mailto:thom61847@yahoo.com)

Oct 7 – 8, Mount Ida AR, Annual Quartz, Quiltz, and Craftz Festival, Montgomery Cnty Fairgrounds, 870-867-2723

Oct 8 – 9, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Center, [burnette@aceweb.com](mailto:burnette@aceweb.com) or [trinity4112@me.com](mailto:trinity4112@me.com)

**Oct 14 – 16, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, [www.intergem.com](http://www.intergem.com)**

Oct 14 – 16, Westwego, LA, G&MS of LA, Inc, Alario Center, [greatmre@aol.com](mailto:greatmre@aol.com)

Oct 21 – 23, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Cen., [showchairman@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:showchairman@austingemandmineral.org)

Oct 29-30, Glen Rose, TX, Dallas Paleo Soc., Fossilmania, Somervell Expo Cen.,

Oct 29 – 30, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, Modern Living Bldg, [tgabrish@gmail.com](mailto:tgabrish@gmail.com)

Nov 5 – 6, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Cen., [Kendrick@amaonline.com](mailto:Kendrick@amaonline.com)

Nov 5 - 6, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Ector Co. Coliseum Fairgrounds, [www.midlandgemandmineral.org/](http://www.midlandgemandmineral.org/)

Nov 11 – 13, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Cen., [www.hgms.org/](http://www.hgms.org/), [showchair@hgms.org](mailto:showchair@hgms.org)

Nov 19-20, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Restiol Expo Cen., [www.dallasgemandmineral.org/](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/)

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

Ref:

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

**LEAVERITE**

*by Kinney Polve*

*from Rock-n-Rose 05/2016, via The Cowtown Cutter 04/2016, via The Rockhounder 6/2016,  
via The Backbender's Gazette 09/2016*

I think we all know, what I'm talking about,  
The rocks we brought home, but we should have thrown out.  
What was the cause, was it maybe the light,  
Was it some distraction, or just poor eyesight?  
Sometimes we don't know, how they get to our house,  
I really don't know, but I blame my spouse.  
It must be her fault, that we brought them all home,  
Because I won't pick them up, I'd leave them alone.  
What is it about them, what did we see,  
Was it the color, or a pattern maybe?  
When I'm there collecting, I pick up the best,  
Because rocks are so heavy, I leave all the rest.  
It had to be someone else, it couldn't be me,  
I wouldn't pick them up; I wouldn't, you see.

When you get back home, does this happen to you,  
The rocks you brought back, don't have the same view?  
Where did the nice ones go, you picked up on the trail,  
Where did they go, I never can tell.  
Did something happen, what could it be,  
Is somebody playing a trick on me?  
It isn't a trick, it's just Leaverite,  
You need to know, how to identify it right.  
I know there's a reason, it changes this way,  
It depends on the light, and the weather that day.  
There are many factors, which come into play,  
There may be more, I really can't say.  
If this doesn't help you, I will beg your pardon,  
Just throw them all out, into your rock garden.

## Tiger Eye History and Facts

Article Provided by Top Gems, via The Palomar Gem 02/2005 with additions from the Internet, via Chips 'N Splinters 05/2016, via The Rockhouser 06/2016 via The Backbender's Gazette 09/2016

First of all, tiger's eye, tiger eye, tigereye, and tiger-eye are all accepted ways to write this name.

Tiger's Eye is a durable quartz composite with the usual quartz hardness of 7. It begins as the fibrous blue mineral called crocidolite, which is comprised of iron and sodium. Most of us know crocidolite as asbestos. The transformation begins when quartz becomes imbedded between the fibers of crocidolite. This process will result in one of two gemstones. A blue stone is called Hawk's Eye or the golden brown stone called Tiger's Eye.

During the process, the asbestos is completely dissolved. But the quartz takes on the fibrous formations and the blue color of crocidolite. This creates the parallel lines within the gem which gives it that ever shifting play of light and movement the stone is so loved for. This is also known as chatoyancy, the gleam that rolls across its surface, much like the eyes of a cat.



Even though the iron and sodium dissolve, traces of the hydrated oxide of iron deposit between the crocidolite and quartz, creating the golden color that is common to Tiger's Eye. How much of this hydrated

mineral is deposited will determine how golden brown, red, green, or blue Tiger's Eye and Hawk's Eye will be. The rarer blue Hawk's Eye will have only the slightest amounts. The varying amounts of hydrated oxide of iron actually cause several colors and mixes of color. When the color is a greenish gray, it is called cat's-eye quartz. A golden yellow reflection on a brown stone is called Tiger's Eye. If the stone is blue gray or bluish, it's known as Hawk's Eye. Reddish brown, or mahogany colored stones, are known as bull's-eye or ox-eye.

Up until recently tiger eye has been considered to be a pseudomorph, but new evidence proves otherwise. It has long been thought that the crocidolite fibers were replaced with quartz, much like the replacement that happens in petrified wood. New evidence proves this may not be the case and that quartz and the crocidolite co-exist.

Tiger eye has a fibrous structure, and in the lapidary shop must be oriented properly to get the chatoyancy and/or the "cats eye" effect. Cuts must be exactly parallel to the length of the fibers to get the full chatoyancy. If the saw cut is

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Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

perpendicular, or 90° to the fibers, you end up with a lifeless, dark brown to black stone with no chatoyancy or light play at all. **Orientation of cutting is critical to getting good chatoyancy and color out of tiger eye.**

These fibers in tiger eye may be up to about two inches long and very thin. Most are only 0.001 millimeters, or 0.000039 inches in diameter and are not always straight, making it even harder at times to cut good chatoyant stones.

### TREATMENTS:

In most cases, but not always, red tiger eye is not a natural occurrence. It is usually the result of heating and can be done using the kitchen oven. Here's a basic recipe for heat treating tiger eye.

To protect the tiger-eye from thermal shock during heating, cover slabs of ordinary, gold tiger eye in fine, clean silica sand, at least 3" all around the slab.

Place the metal container in a cold oven and increase the temperature by 50 degrees every hour until it reaches 400 degrees. Then turn the oven off and DO NOT OPEN THE DOOR. Allow plenty of time for the container to cool all the way through. (If you heat treat tiger eye to sell, BE SURE you let it be known it has been treated. It's only right, and it's the law.)

There are natural occurrences that tiger eye can be found with red color, and other known ways have been from brush fires where the deposits are found, and also when miners would build fires next to the seams to help crack it up into smaller pieces; remember, most of these miners had nothing but hand tools to work with.



Not long after tiger eye was first discovered for lapidary, the world famous Idar-Oberstein lapidaries discovered by using hydrochloric or oxalic acid, they could bleach tiger eye to an evenly colored light, translucent yellow. When cut properly, they produced "cats eye" stones that look much like the rare variety of chrysoberyl, but gemologists can very easily distinguish between the two.

Other treatments, but not usually done—never by me—but some do it, especially in pietersite and bighamite stones, it is very common to run into pits, cracks, or voids called vugs. These are sometimes filled with wax, super glue, or Opticon in the last steps of sanding and polishing the stone. I never do any of these treatments, but as I said, it is and has been done by others.



There are many other types of stones that display a "cats eye" or shimmering chatoyancy. The word "Chatoyant" comes from the French word for "cat" or to glow like a cat's eye.

Tiger eye is the anniversary gemstone for the 9th year of marriage

**Note:** Remember that tiger eye has asbestos, so always use a face mask and/or keep tiger eye under water when sanding and polishing.

## Rock Talk

Walter Beneze, SCFMS President  
From the September/October 2016 SCFMS Newsletter



Walter Beneze,  
SCFMS President

The 2016 AFMS Convention was held in Albany, Oregon at the end of July and was hosted by the Willamette Agate and Mineral Society. The AFMS business meeting went smoothly and it was nice to see some of the folks from other Federations again, and meet some new ones. The show featured 179 competitive and non-competitive show cases, about 40 dealers and several field trips to local collecting areas. If anyone went home without a few new rocks for their collection, they weren't trying very hard (or maybe were resisting temptation very hard?). Thanks to the WAMS for a successful event.

We still have several Committee member vacancies and are in need of volunteers. One of the big missing holes is an Historian for the SCFMS. I have had conversations with several people in the last few months in which one or the other of us was trying to track down a document from a past meeting or a past show packet or whatever. If you or anyone you know has any record of anything in the SCFMS past, (directory's, annual meeting minutes, show packets, newsletters) please scan them and send to me in digital format, or mail them to me so we can rebuild the past and have a complete file for someone to maintain. We are missing so much information and history that should be on file that it is a shame. If you are willing to step up and be the Historian, please contact me, we will work together to fill in the void.

Another vacancy that needs to be filled is the Endowment Fund Chair. The Chair works with the Endowment fund Treasurer and handles the paperwork necessary to recognize donors to the fund. This is not a full time undertaking, it just requires someone that can receive information, keep a record of the information, and print (or get printed) certificates that are then mailed or delivered to societies and/or individuals. I know someone has the time to help out with this, please contact me and let's get to work! If you have not seen the new Facebook Page for the SCFMS, be sure to go 'Like' us, and keep up with things that are happening in between newsletters. Also be sure to go check out the newly revamped website for the club at, [www.SCFMS.net](http://www.SCFMS.net) Our webmaster, Don Shurtz, has been busy and it shows!

I hope you are able to enjoy the last bit of summer as we roll into fall, and be sure to visit a show or two as they happen in your area!

## POGMC INTERGEM GUIDELINES

- I. The purpose of the Club participating in INTERGEM is to promote the club and to attract new members; not to resale purchase merchandise in direct competition with paying vendors.
  - II. Participation in INTERGEM is a chance for club members to showcase our hobby to the public. Being able to sell your hobby produced items is a bonus.
  - III. Each Club member that helps set up INTERGEM is entitled to an equal share of the table space that is provided by INTERGEM.
    - A. Normal setup is Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning
    - B. Booth size and /or table space is dependent upon INTERGEM and is out of the Club's control. Booth modifications must meet INTERGEM standards and table bump out is not permitted.
  - IV. Show hours are Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and Sunday
    - A. Table space must be stocked and manned during all show hours.
    - B. If you are unable to open, attend, and/or close your space during show hours you need to make arrangements to have another club member cover for you.
- Merchandise offered for sale should be hobby related and produced, collected, and/or modified by the club member selling it.
- A. Material purchased for resale should be kept to a minimum. If we upset the paying vendors we could lose our chance to participate in the show.
  - B. Space permitting, extra space may be allocated for actively demonstrating members.



## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Our club officers for 2017 will be elected at the October meeting. We also have IGEM in October with set up on **Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM (Note Change)** and the show from the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Sachse Fall Festival will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Parker Fest will be the 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Club Officers for 2016

President: Ling Shurtz  
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 September 2016 Meeting

The September 1<sup>st</sup> meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the president, Ling Shurtz

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Don Shurtz

Sunshine Report:

- Butch had successful back surgery

New business:

- The nominating committee reports out at the October meeting – let Ling know if you are willing to take on a position
- The club voted to continue SCFMS Membership (motion by Carolyn, second by Warner)
- The club approved the INTERGEM GUIDELINES as presented by the IGEM committee (motion by Carolyn, second by Warner)  
Warner told us that there will be an exhibit of the Sistine Chapel at this year's State Fair.
- Don told us that the Perot Museum will soon open an exhibit of Smithsonian Giant Gems including the American Golden Topaz

Following the Break we accepted the application for new members Vickie Ewing and Charles Hayes

Presentation: Del and Don had their flat laps ready. Don had prepared trimmed stones on a dop stick for new members to learn how to cut cabochons. Most completed

their rough shaping of the stones; the stones will be finished at a subsequent meeting.

### Meetings

The October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin Rd, Garland. For the presentation we will continue the cabochon cutting – make sure to bring your stone from the last meeting.

The November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building.

### VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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### October Birthstones – Tourmaline and Opal

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Tourmaline – a family of gems with a virtually all the colors of the rainbow. There are even bi and tri-colored tourmalines. Tourmaline has an alphabet soup for its chemical composition and is 7.0 – 7.5 on Mohs hardness scale. Opal comes in many varieties including common, fire, and precious opal and others. It is composed of hydrated silicon dioxide and falls between 5.5 and 6.0 on Moh's scale.

### IGEM SET-UP – LATE NEWS

**LATE NEWS FROM DANNY BAKER: IGEM will not have access to Market Hall until Thursday, October 13th. Set-up will be Thursday with some help possibly needed on Friday. Set-up will start at 9:00. Bring a club badge or IGEM badge so that the guards can let you in.**

### Repeating

**IGEM SET-UP WILL BE THURSDAY STARTING AT 9:00 AM**

### Visit an Area Club

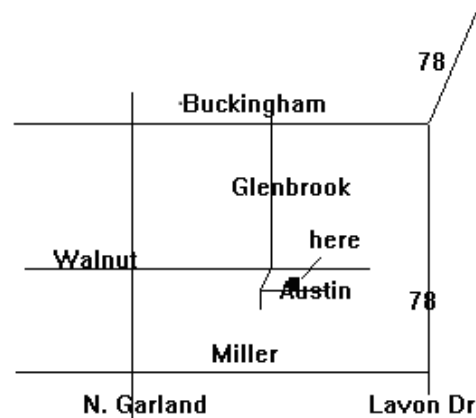
[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm  
[Cowtown G. M. & Glass Club](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth  
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX  
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)  
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth  
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,  
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

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)



The October 6th meeting will be the Garland Women’s Activities Building, 713 Austin Rd, Garland. For the presentation we will continue the cabochon cutting – make sure to bring your stone from the last meeting.

**IGEM SET-UP WILL BE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup> STARTING AT 9:00 AM**

CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

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