

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



September 2006
Vol. 40 Issue 9

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Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our web site for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop on Monday evening and Saturday morning

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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

Monthly Meeting: September 7th at 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Show Preparations
&

**Hands On (Metal Coloring, Bola Braiding,
 Wire Wrapping (Make a Bracelet))**

Show & Tell

**Something you have made that you are
 proud of**

Club Officers for 2006

President: Beth Hollingsworth, 972-226-1543
 1st VP: Charles Black, 940-381-6913
 2nd VP: Brenda Dowell, 972-771-9502
 Treasurers: Delbert Grady, 972-235-6575
 Secretary: Renee Wofford
 Editor: Don Shurtz 972-509-2821
 E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com
 4004 Dublin Road
 Parker, TX 75002-6526

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club Minutes

Minutes – July, 2006 General Meeting

No minutes to publish

Upcoming Shows

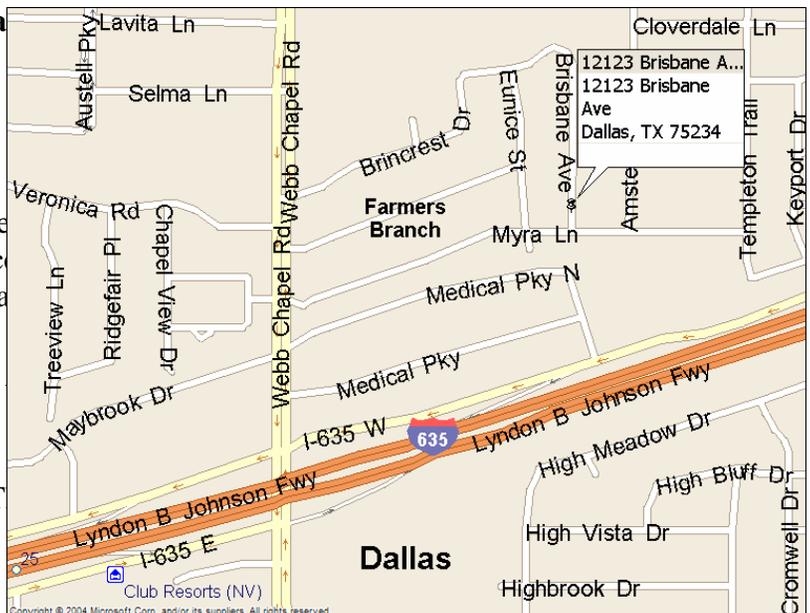
Sep 2-4	Arlington, TX	Ark-LA-Tex G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, 318-746-8735
Sep 13-17	Denver, CO	Arlington G&MC, Arlington Convention Center, 817-277-2286
Sep 9-11	Grapevine, TX	Various shows
Sep 2-4	Silver City, NM	MIDAS Texan Fine Jewelry Show, Gaylord Resort & Con. Cntr, 972-660-3831
Sep 22-24	Humble, TX	Grant County G&MS, Silver City Rec. Center, 505-388-4054
Sep 23-24	Richardson, TX	Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, 281-389-0377
Sep 30-Oct 1	Dennison, TX	Bead Market, 903-734-3335
Sep 30-1 Oct	Farmers Branch, TX	Pleasant Oaks G&MC EMGI Building, Brookhaven College, 972-509-2821
Oct 7-8	Amarillo, TX	Texoma Rockhounds, Dennison Sr. Citizen's Center, 903-891-9602
Oct 7-8	Jacksonville, AR	Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Center,
Oct 12-15	Mount Ida, AR	Central Arkansas GM&GS, Jacksonville Comm. Cntr, 501-821-2346
Oct 12-15	Oklahoma City, OK	World Championship Crystal Dig, 870-867-2723
Oct 13-15	Tahlequah, OK	OK International Gem Show, Box Business Conv. Cntr, 405-213-0407
Oct 14	Fort Davis, TX	Tahlequah R&MS, Tahlequah Community Bldg, 918-458-0801
Oct 14-15	Sierra Vista, AR	Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center & Botanical Gardens, 432-426-2924
Oct 14-15	Temple, TX	Huachuca Gem Mineral, and Jewelry Show, Elks Lodge, 520-459-5221
Oct 27-29	Glen Rose, TX	Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Center, 254-030-7-15
Oct 27-29	Live Oak, TX	Austin & Dallas Paleo Society, Fossilmania, 210-492-9163
Oct 28-29	Tulsa, OK	Bead Renaissance Show, Live Oak Civic Center, 505-894-1293
Nov 3-5	Tulsa, OK	Tulsa R&MS, Expo Square, 918-728-8097
Nov 4-5	Midland, TX	Bead Renaissance Show, Expo Square Trade Center, 505-894-1293
Nov 11-12	DeRidder, LA	Midland G&MS, Midland Center, 432-697-7668
Nov 17-19	Albuquerque, NM	DeRidder G&MS, Beauregard Parish Fair Grounds, 337-585-3693
Nov 18-19	Mesquite, TX	Dallas G&MS, Resistol Rodeo Exhibition Hall, 972-278-4845
Nov 18-19	Fort Worth, TX	Bead market, Will Rogers Center, www.thebeadmarket.net

Happy – Not So Happy Note From Wanda

Wanda Fitzgerald, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

Happy: I was impressed with the young lady (Bethany Carson) that won the Science Award. She had such a nice display. She presented her project well. Her family was there to support her. We need more people to get interested in science at a young age. If you missed her presentation at our last meeting, you missed a good program.

Not So Happy: Robert and I are going to have to move. We will have a rock, fossil, book, and jewelry sale on Saturday, September 16 at our home. We have been collecting for 27 years. The sale will be at 12123 Brisbane, Farmers Branch (near I-635 and Webb's Chapel). The sale will start at 9:00 AM





Editor's Corner Show Dates

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Several of the Club Officer's received the following email from Keith Harmon. Keith is a past president of the SCFMS, and has been a dealer in our show for many years, so I think he speaks from a position of authority:

I was reading your newsletter and in the June issue I noticed a mention in the Executive Committee notes that your club is planning to change show dates in 2007 to March 31-April 1. Current show dates for 2006 are to remain September 30-October 1. While I am certain your club is not entertaining this move lightly I would ask you to think about the following suggestions:

1. Anytime a show changes its dates it is detrimental. People get use to an event occurring at a regular time and look for it at that time. The only reason to change a show date radically is if it is forced on them to do so because of problems with venue location, or time slot occupied by another event. The same holds true for changing show location.
2. The first weekend in October is an ideal time frame. Your major dealers have just returned from the Denver Gem and Mineral show with their newest purchases and this is the first or second show for them to offer the new items to the public. This is important because the absolute best selections of new merchandise are available at the Pleasant Oaks Show. (A definite positive in any advertisements) Most people who collect lapidary, mineral, fossil or related items recognize this and plan to attend your show. Because of this timing event your show is not loaded with picked over materials that have been displayed since February.
3. Other shows in the immediate area are Waco in May, Ft. Worth in May, Arlington in first weekend of Sept., and Dallas in mid November. Your October date is ideally situated and you will not be in conflict with any local shows or other South Central Federation Shows, a very important aspect for your dealers. Conversely, in March and April other major shows like Corpus Christi, San Antonio, and Lubbock all have scheduling difficulties with their venues and can and do jump dates by as much as four weeks a year. This is a major scheduling nightmare for vendors and adding Pleasant Oaks in the mix adds a potential for show schedules on the same date. While this may not concern your club too much it is a real dilemma for vendors who make a living providing booths at these shows. To be forced to drop a show because of booking conflicts is a serious hardship. This was extremely apparent a couple of years ago when Pleasant Oaks scheduled your show dates at the same time as the Denver show. Several of the major dealers at the Pleasant Oaks show had to make the unpleasant choice of which show to attend and Pleasant Oaks lost several quality dealers that year. Fortunately, the problem was corrected the following year.
4. An additional suggestion is do NOT change dealer locations in your show. People who attend the show rely on your postcards to tell them when to come. They rely on their memory of where they purchased what they liked to return to the vendor they want to see. They do not remember dealer or company names, but they do remember where they want to go. The practice of assigning slots on who pays when is a built in conflict between the dealer and club and dealer to dealer. When the club moves a dealer from the spot his customers expect him to be in he gets angry. This is reasonably expected since from his view he will be losing some of his customers who will not recognize him. When a dealer is moved because another dealer wants his location he gets MAD. This is entirely foreseeable and causes animosity between dealers that could and should have been prevented. The upshot is happy dealers give a show a great reputation and quality dealers are then readily available. Quality dealers equal quality shows and good attendance. Unhappy dealers bicker and fuss and run down a show and eventually quality dealers are hard to come by. Fortunately, the quality dealers in your show have good rapport with each other and no bitterness exists between them yet. This is the only show I participate in or have heard about that this problem exists. Dealer moves within a show should only be made when requested by a dealer and that move does not affect an existing dealer's space. Ideally those moves are made when an existing dealer no longer participates in a show.

I am pointing these items out as a dealer as well as being a Show Chairman myself. My experience in this area is based on 13 years of actively participating in shows and managing shows. We currently participate in 26 to 27 shows annually and I am the show chairman for the East Texas Gem and Mineral Show in Tyler. I hope this helps in your planning.

If your Editor has a current copy of the Houston Gem and Mineral Society newsletter !! Backbender Gazette¶ I would also suggest you look at the Article by Scott Singleton, President HGMS. This article is part four of a five part history of the HGMS Annual Show. It points out the good and the bad that have occurred for the last several years and lessons to be learned from putting on a show. On page 48 Scott points out 5 things that he learned and recommended to their board of directors. The number one thing he recommended was FALL is a better time for retail sales, but above all the date must be Consistent.¶

This is written not as criticisms but as suggestions that should be considered. I am personally affected by your board's decision so I believe I do have a responsibility to offer these thoughts. My only concern is for the continued and improved success of the Pleasant Oaks Show and Club. We enjoy being a part of your show and look forward to participating each year. We have always had good shows at Brookhaven College and hope to continue to do so.

Respectfully,
Keith Harmon
keithharmon@earthlink.net

Editor's Corner Show Dates (continued)

It turns out that I do have a copy of the Backbender Gazette that Keith refers to, and I would like to quote five points from the article *History of the HGMS Annual Show* by Scott Singleton (August 2006 Backbender's Gazette):

1. "Fall is a better time for retail sales, but above all the date must be consistent
2. We need quality guidelines for dealer acceptance and need to be governed by the all-important customer –to-dealer ratio.
3. We need to attract kids
4. We need to stifle the rotating Show Committee membership problem
5. We need to have an attention-grabbing headliner exhibit for the show."

The article goes on to describe some things "we did to shoot ourselves in the foot

1. DO NOT change show venues unless it is unavoidable. This certainly happens sometimes for reasons beyond our control, but should be avoided. The reason is simple: for annual events, the buying public gets accustomed to seeing and doing things at the same time and place, year after year. Publicity doesn't have to be repeated for existing clientele.
2. DO NOT change show dates. This is a cardinal sin. Settle on a date and stick with it
3. 3. Abide by sensible financial plans.
4. The general public is much more inclined to come to a show if it is interesting. I'm sorry, but in my opinion just having tons of dealers does not make a show interesting. Yes, this means I do not find Intergem shows interesting, with their 200 dealers packed into Reliant Center. True, Intergem continues to draw large numbers of attendees, but Intergem has seen a steady drop in attendance for many years, and I do not believe they will be able to turn it around with their current format."

I think there may be a valuable lesson that was learned by the Houston Gem and Mineral Club, and that we are about to learn the same lesson. However, I feel that we may not have the resources to recover from learning a bad lesson. We have taken action to change our show dates to the spring, and that information shows up on this year's show flyer. However, like anything else, that decision is not yet set in concrete (e.g., letters requesting dealer contracts have not been sent out). Perhaps we should listen to the words of a very knowledgeable dealer and learn from the lessons of the Houston G&MS by reconsidering our show date decision.



Our Show

Our 2006 show, the Fall Festival of Gems is now less than one month away. We are going to need every club member to help. There is help needed on Friday for set up. There is help needed on Saturday and Sunday for selling tickets, running the silent auction, helping out with the kid's activities, and probably other activities. Then there is Sunday evening tear down and clean up. Come to the meeting on Thursday, 7 September so you can sign up for a few hours of help. If you can not make the meeting, drop me or any of the club officers an email or give one of us a call with you availability and we will see that you get signed up – and will get back to you.

What else can you do? You can help get the word out about our show. Word of mouth advertising is tremendously more effective than all the printed ads. Talk the show up with your friends, neighbors, and work associates. Back that up with a flyer – at church, in your grocery store, your library, or anywhere else you can. There are two b/w flyers attached to the Chips and Chatter. Come to the meeting to pick up one of the color background flyers. Let's get the word out.

Question of the Month: The question of the month for September, WHAT ARE GEODES, will become the October Question of the Month due to space constraints. Now you have another month to get the correct answer!

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. Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas
Oak Cliff G&MS meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM, Ice House Arts Plaza, 1011 Brooklyn, Dallas
Fort Worth G&M Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.

TXI Field Trip June 10th, 2006

David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Our June field trip was planned for Midlothian, TX at the TXI Quarry on June 10th, 2006. We had 27 people sign up and 27 were in attendance. All had a great time and found some wonderful specimens.

We promptly met at 8:45am to check and sign in. We eagerly left for the quarry at 9am sharp. We started on the north side of the quarry looking for abundant pyrite and some marine fossils. At 11am we went to the south side to search for abundant marine fossils and some pyrite and sepetrian nodules.

The pyrite find of the day went to Justin Suess. I'm not sure, but the pyrite piece that he found must have weighed five pounds. Picture not available in time for article.

Many marine fossils were found. Some shown below:



We concluded our field trip about 1pm. From there many of us met at the Los Tapatios Mexican Restaurant in Cedar Hill, TX. I ordered the chicken enchilada lunch special with double rice, no beans, and pink lemonade. The chicken enchiladas were baked and smothered in a succulent sour cream sauce. If I would not have filled up on the chips and salsa, I would have ordered the Pastel de Tres Leches (three milk cake). I have had this there before and it is delicious! I am getting hungry now so I will be back to finish this article after I get something to eat. ☺

Dinner was great. Now back to the rocks.

Finding The Pyrite -

The pyrite from Midlothian, TX is found in the limestone upper layer. This upper layer is white to light gray in color. The pyrites are very abundant and can be found on the quarry floor, roads, overburden piles, and in the limestone (matrix). The pyrite is brassy/brown to rust color. The brassy/brown pyrites are the ones to collect, as the rusty colored ones are decomposing and will fall apart. Since the quarry is actively being mined, the pyrite is usually separated from the limestone. The hardest part is bending over to pick up the specimens. However, since Pyrite is Iron Sulfide and very dense, it gets very heavy after you have picked up 20+ specimens. Some of the pyrite can be found in the matrix. These can be the best finds as they require some work with a rock hammer or chisel to remove.

On a different field trip to Midlothian, I found my prize pyrite in an overburden pile. As I used my rock hammer to pull up one that was exposed only an inch. I hit the specimen. I moved an inch farther to try again and hit the specimen once more. The next time I moved out a foot as not to damage specimen and my dreams of grandeur. Unfortunately specimen was not that large, but I too have a specimen that weighs about five pounds.

Another TXI trip will be scheduled for the fall. We hope to see you there!



The Federation Page – News from the AFMS and SCFMS



2006 Bulletin Editor's Breakfast

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

This year the SCFMS Convention was hosted by the ARK-LA-TEX Gem & Mineral Society. The convention (and show) was held at the Bossier City Civic Center. The convention started with the Bulletin Editor's Breakfast where the Author and Editor Awards for the SCFMS were announced. Pleasant Oaks members again received a number of awards.

In a new category of Features (cartoons, field trip reports, etc.), Linda Dallas placed 6th for her note titled "Science Fair" and Jessica Shurtz placed 9th for her cartoon "all Weather Hobby".

In the Adult Articles category, Honorable Mentions were awarded to Scott Wing for his article "Field Trip Notes, Llano Uplift" and Mark Carter for his article "How to Build a Club". Don Shurtz was awarded 9th place for his article "Question of the Month – Clastic".

Bulletins are broken down into three categories depending on size: mini-bulletins, small bulletins, and large bulletins. Pleasant Oak's bulletin falls in the small bulletin category and received the 1st place.

The other new category introduced last year was for Websites. This year the Pleasant Oaks web site placed 6th. The Dallas G&MS website (Coco Johnston) placed 4th in this category, the Arlington G&MC website placed 5th, and both the Fort Worth G&MS website and the Oak Cliff G&M website received an honorable mention. I would say that the Metroplex did quite well in the website category!

This year the SCFMS convention in Bossier City was scheduled for the same dates as the AFMS Convention in Nashville. With the conflicting dates, there was no one to attend the AFMS Editor's Breakfast. However, as the result of collusion between Paul Good, SCFMS Newsletter Editor and Kitty Starbuck, AFMS Club Publications Chairperson, the AFMS Awards for SCFMS recipients were awarded at the Bossier City Editor's Breakfast. In the 2006 Bulletin Editors' Contest, the Pleasant Oaks Chips and Chatter was awarded 9th place.

I will present the award certificates to club members at our next meeting.

2006 SCFMS Convention

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

I would like to report that this years SCFMS Convention, hosted by the ARK-LA-TEX Gem and Mineral Society at the Bossier City Civic Center, was the most exciting meeting that I have ever attended. Yes, that is what I would like to report – but in truth it was really rather dull and boring. The SCFMS Bylaws require that an annual meeting be held, so it was held. Perhaps the most important item at this, and most years, convention is the election of officers. The SCFMS Officers for 2006-2007 will be:

President: Chuck Schuler (you can meet him at our show, visit Shu's Rocks)

Executive Vice President: Ike House

Secretary: Ruth Cress

Treasurer: Jonetta Nash

District I (NE Texas): VP: Don Shurtz

District II (SE Texas): John Moffitt

District III (South Texas): Virginia Adian

District IV (Central Texas): Mary Muller

District V (West Texas): Jim Matlock

District VI (Rollin' Rock Club): Betty Gosewehr

District VII (Arkansas): Raymond Lynch

District VII (Louisiana): Bridget Marler

An important item that was discussed was locations of future conventions. Next year's convention was an open date. Houston will be hosting the 2008 convention, and it will also be the AFMS convention. However, after a fair amount of discussion, the Arlington's representative bid for next year's convention (subject to club approval), and Dallas's representative bid as a backup to Arlington for next year's show or for the 2009 show (again subject of club member approval). As the District VP I have been trying to get one of the district's clubs interested in hosting the show/convention and two of the came through. Bravo Zulu (a Navy term meaning "Way To Go") to the Arlington and Dallas clubs.

Full minutes of the show will be available at a future date.

Joint Workshop Calendar

September 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
3	4 Open Shop 6-9 PM Labor Day	5	6	7 PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:30 PM	8	9 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
10	11 Open Shop 6-9 PM	12 Silver Smithing Class	13 Wire Wrap Class	14	15	16 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
17	18 Open Shop 6-9 PM	19 Dallas Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:00 PM	20	21	22	23 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM First Day of Autumn
24	25 Open Shop 6-9 PM	26 Silver Smithing Class	27 Wire Wrap Class	28	29 Show Set Up	30 Pleasant Oaks G&MC Show EMGI Bldg, Brookhaven College Shop Closed

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

October 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Pleasant Oaks G&MC Show EMGI Bldg, Brookhaven College Shop Closed	2	3 Silver Smithing Class	4	5 PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:30 PM	6	7 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM Metal Etching Class 1st Sat. Trading Day
8	9 Open Shop 6-9 PM Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM Metal Etching Class
15	16 Open Shop 6-9 PM	17 Dallas Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:00 PM SHOP CLOSED	18	19	20	21 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM
22	23 Open Shop 6-9 PM	24	25	26	27	28 Open Shop 9AM - 12PM Metal Etching Class
29 Daylight Saving's Time Ends	30 Open Shop 6-9 PM	31 United Nations Day Halloween				

Shop Phone Number: 214-349-2022. For Confirmation of Dates & Times contact Brenda Dowell at 972-771-9502

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

To:

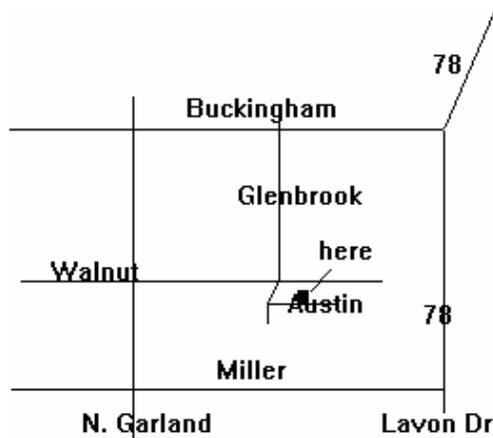
3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
 3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
 1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
 HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
 2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins
 9th place AFMS 2002 small bulletins
 2nd place SCFMS 2002 small bulletins

Next Meeting: September 7th 2006 at Garland Women's Activity Building, 7:30 PM

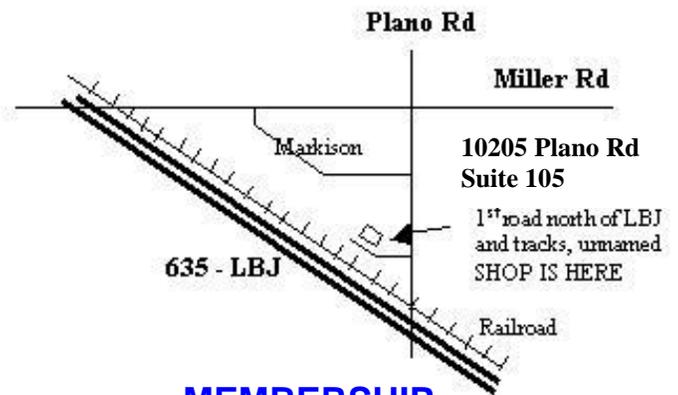
TAKE A SHOW FLYER TO WORK, CHURCH, ETC.

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

Meeting Map



Joint Club Shop Map



MEETINGS

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
 Garland Women's Activities Build
 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)

Member of
 South Central Federation of Mineral Societies
Affiliated with
 American Federation of Mineral Societies