

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



September 2012
Vol. 46, Issue 9

Feature Articles

SCFMS Safety Report4
 September Birthstone: Sapphire.....3

Monthly Columns

Area Clubs5
 Editor's Corner: Club Elections.....4
 Minutes2
 Possible Field Trip3
 Show Dates5

Notices

Backyard Rock Sale2
 Field Trip6
 Monthly Meeting1

Copyright Information

September 2012 issue of the Chips and Chatter copyright by Don Shurtz. 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

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

Next meeting will be September 6th at the Garland Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. Mark Carter will have a DVD which will have some outstanding photographs of thumbnail mineral specimens

Club Officers for 2012

President: Del Grady
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Lee Elms
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Don Shurtz
 E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

From the Secretary: July 2012 Minutes

August 2, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm. We didn't meet in our regular meeting room in the Women's' Building, because the air conditioning to that room was broken. We didn't have a Pledge to the flag because we didn't have a flag in that room.

Sunshine report: Wanda and Anita both had cataract surgery.

There weren't any minutes from last month's meeting because we had our annual 4th of July dinner at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que. We did vote to accept the minutes from the June meeting.

Don Shurtz gave the Treasurers' report and we voted to accept the report.

Old Business:

Don and Ling volunteered to represent the club at the Federation Show and we voted to cover the travel expenses to the show that is held at the end of this month.

The American Federation Show was last weekend up in Minnesota.

New Business: Don and Ling, Mark Carter and Mark and Debra Hall volunteered to be the nominating committee.

Field Trips:

The South Central Federation Show will be August 25th and 26th at Jasper, Texas.

Dallas and Arlington have changed the dates for their shows to the end of September.

Check the newsletter for other local shows.

Visitors: David Dobson brought his new wife Rosella and we all were introduced.

We took our break, and when we came back Mark Carter introduced our members Mark and Debra Hall who would be our speakers and program tonight. Mark had brought numerous pieces of gemology equipment to show us how it helps identify what type of gem stone you have by looking into its structure and seeing inclusions and all sorts of natural structures that make up the stone. It helps you determine if you have a natural or man-made stone...or if it has been heat treated. Mark also brought several books on gems and minerals that had very beautiful pictures of gems their structures, and how they were formed. We all took turns looking at all the specimens he had in those different instruments so we could see their structures and the amazing inclusions.

We had our raffle and then the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Elms, Secretary

Backyard Rock Sale

From David Dobson email

Dates and Times: Friday and Saturday, 24 & 25 Aug (9am to 4 pm), Sunday, 26 August (9am to 2pm)

Where: 3914 Randall Lane, Carrollton, TX

Directions: South on Rolling Oaks Drive off Hebron Parkway (between Old Denton Road and North Josey Lane), then east on Randall Lane

September Birthstone: Sapphire

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Sapphire, from the Greek word *sappneiros* meaning blue stone, is a form of corundum. The chemical composition of sapphire is Al_2O_3 – Aluminum Oxide. Trace elements in the matrix give sapphires its color. If the trace element is chromium it produces a red color and is classified as a ruby. Iron as a trace element yields a sapphire which is yellow to pale green in color. If iron and titanium are present as the trace elements, the sapphire exhibits a blue color. If Iron and chromium are the trace elements, they can yield a pink variety of sapphire know as Padparadscha. Vanadium as a trace element yields a purple sapphire.



In addition to the trace elements, sapphires may also can contain needle like inclusions (generally rutile) causing the stone to exhibit asterism. The asterism can form a 12 pointed star, a six pointed star (most common) or a parallel like blinking “cat’s eye effect” as seen in tiger-eye.

Naturally colored sapphires are becoming quite rare. It is estimated that 95% of all natural sapphires are heat treated to enhance their color. In addition, there are many companies that manufacture artificial sapphires – chemically the same but grown in labs. The labs have been making sapphires for decades (the very first lab grown sapphires were produces in 1902) and they are getting so good that it is sometimes extremely difficult to tell the difference between a natural and lab grown sapphire, even by expert gemologists.

Natural sapphires are mined in many locations including Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Australia, Tanzania, China, and the United States. In the US most of the sapphires are found in Montana; a few are found in North Carolina.

In addition to use as gemstones, sapphires have had a long history of being used in manufacturing. Some of the best watches in the world are built with sapphire bearings (jewels). Watch crystals and optical windows are another use for clear sapphires. Sapphire is also used in the electronic industry in the production of integrated circuits, the sapphire being used as an insulting layer between layers of the circuit. Sapphire has a Mohs hardness of 9, then second hardest natural material falling just below diamond on the Mohs scale. Non-crystalline sapphire is known as corundum and has been used as an abrasive for centuries due to its hardness.

Ref:

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapphire>

Pictures from Wikimedia Commons, <http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/69/Padpa.jpg>. Copyrights released to public domain.

Possible Field Trip?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Where would you go to find agates, jasper, petrified wood, and other rocks? Where would you find more exotic rocks like precious opal, sapphire, emeralds, and even diamonds? This month’s Possible Field Trip has several local places to look. The first suggestion would be the **Dallas G&MS show in Mesquite** on 29 and 30 September. The second suggestion would be the **Arlington G&MC show in Arlington** on 6 and 7 October. The third suggestion would be the **Lockheed Martin Recreation Activities Rockhounds show in Ft Worth** on 13 and 14 October. Three shows on three successive weekends, all within 45 miles of our meeting place. And if you are really ambitious and want to make it 4 successive weekends in a row, you can toss in the **Texoma Rockhounds show in Denison** on 20 and 21 October– a little further away, but only about 60 miles away. I am sure that at any of the shows you can find rough rock, slabs, finished stones, and finished jewelry. You will also probably be able to find various tools ranging from hand tools to complete machines. However, I would recommend you watch the Silent Auction tables for some good deals with the proceeds generally go directly to the club.

If the 4 shows on 4 weekends does not catch your interest, there are twelve other shows listed in the 2012 Show Dates later in the newsletter, all within Texas or an adjoining state. Check them out.

SAFETY REPORT

by: Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Coordinator

Safety Note: DON'T HOLD YOUR CAT DURING AN ELECTRICAL STORM
From the South Central Federation Newsletter, July-August 2012 edition

OK, hopefully that headline caught your attention. I'm somewhat hardheaded and have unfortunately learned this lesson the hard way - twice!!!

Nothing like a lightning strike will turn a cat into all claws going vertical at mach 1. In the worst case I ended up with my hand being used as the launch pad and was cut to the bone on one of my knuckles. Needless to it is not a lesson that I want to learn a third time.

The point of my note is simply to encourage you to pay attention to what is going on around you. Look both ways before you cross the road, never look a dog in the eye from close range, don't pick up that stick with the rattle on the end (snake), etc. Common sense points, but we can take them a little farther.

There should not have been anything inherently dangerous about holding a cat in your lap, but add lightning to the mix and bad things happened. Recently a hiker was killed when a dead tree fell on her. Lesson learned, don't walk under dead trees. Hiking alone was not that dangerous.

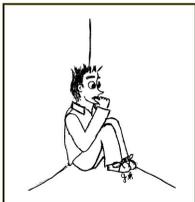
Driving down the road in front of my neighborhood there is a spot that collects water when it rains. That spot is easy to navigate around. However, when a car adjacent to me failed to slow down I hit the brakes. That car hydroplaned into my lane, but missed me and had road space to avoid completely losing control. Lesson learned: pay attention to those around you who might not be familiar with the hazards you are familiar with. Driving there should not have been dangerous.

A friend of mine pulled up at an outcrop. A pit bull came running up to his car. My friend stayed put and the owner showed up a minute later. Ends up the dog was well adjusted and liked my friend (my friend is now called "bacon"). Lesson learned: staying in the car kept him from entering a situation where he was not in control. That dog wasn't dangerous, but he didn't know for sure.

The same friend had an incident where he was walking his dogs on an outcrop and an adjacent landowner accosted him while armed with a shotgun and told him that he would shoot his dogs if they came on the property. My friend promptly left. Lesson learned: discretion is the better part of valor, or in this case, live to hunt fossils on another day. Walking your dogs is not typically a time where you get threatened by a guy with a shotgun!

Yesterday, two men were killed near where I live by a lightning strike. They were sheltering under a tree. Lesson learned: we've been told this since we were children and it is true. These gentlemen could just as easily have sheltered in a car. A very sad thing for their friends and families.

In summary, keep an eye and ear out to your surroundings. It will help you identify hazards and allow you to minimize your risks associated with those hazards. Please do so and stay safe this summer!



Editor's Corner: Club Elections

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

According to the Club Charter and By-Laws, the nominating committee should report out the list of nominations at the October meeting. That still gives us a full month to work. The members of the committee would really like to have volunteers for club positions. Please see or contact Mark Carter, Debra Hall, Ling Shurtz, or Don Shurtz if you are interested. The committee should be nominating candidates for president, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. They should also be suggesting people for the Newsletter Editor, Show Chair, and Assistant Show Chair (Dealer Chair)

2012 Show Dates

September 2012:

1-3 September, Silver City, NM, Grant County Rolling Stones, Grant County Conference Center, email leet@Stockmanfamily.net, web site <http://rollingstones.gms.blogspot.com>

8-9 September, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest AGMS, NWAGMS Clubhouse show, Hwy. 43 North, email, hulagrub@aol.com, web site, www.nwarockhounds.org

22-23 September, Richardson, TX, The Bead Market, Richardson Civic Center, email rebekah@thebeadmarket.net, web site thebeadmarket.net

29-30 September, Santa Fe, NM, Palace of the Governors, Historic Courtyard, email pennie.mcbride@state.nm.us, web site www.nmhistorymuseum.org

29-30 September, Mesquite, TX, Annual show, Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, Mesquite Exhibition Hall, 1818 Rodeo Dr., email, bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net, Web site, dallasgemandmineral.org

29-30 September, Murfreesboro, Crater of Diamonds State Park, Diamond Discovery Center, 209 State Park Rd, e-mail, margaret.jenks@arkansas.gov, web site, www.craterofdiamondstatepark.com

October 2012,

5-7 October, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Creative Arts Building, New Mexico State Fairgrounds, email agmcfallshow@gmail.com, web site agmc.info

6-7 October, Arlington, TX, Arlington Gem and Mineral Club 55th annual show, shopping center behind Walgreens, 1010 N. Collins, e-mail, jlspinks@sbcglobal.net, Web site, www.agemclub.com

6-7 October, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas GUMS, Jacksonville Community Center, email lenoramur@aol.com, web site centralarrockhound.org

6-7 October, Roswell, NM, Chaparral Rockhounds, Roswell Convention & Civic Center, email dweir@cableone.net

11-13 October, Mount Ida, AR, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, 26th Annual World Championship Quartz Crystal Digging Contest, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd., e-mail, director@mtidachamber.com, web site, www.mtidachamber.com

12-14 October, Mount Ida, AR, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Fairgrounds annual show, Fairgrounds Rd., e-mail, director@mtidachamber.com, web site, www.mtidachamber.com

13-14 October, Ft. Worth, TX, LMRA Rockhound Activity, Lockheed Martin Recreation Center, 3400 Bryant Irvin Rd, email lizmarie@yahoo.com

13-14 October, Temple TX, Tri-Cities G&MS, Mayborn Convention Center, email burnette@aceweb.com, web site www.tricitygemmineral.org

19-21 October, Austin, TX, Austin Gem and Mineral Society annual show, Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Spr Rd., e-mail, showchariman@austingemandmineral.org, Web site, www.gemcapers.com

20-21 October, Denison, TX, Texoma Rockhounds annual show, Senior Center, 531 W. Chestnut, e-mail, ramblingrosetoo@yahoo.com

Area Clubs

Arlington G&M Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thur. 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 Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dls, TX, 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm

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

Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 831934

Richardson, TX 75083-1934

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

Field Trip Notice

David Dobson has arranged a field trip to the TXI plant in Midlothian on 15 Sept. (8 – 10 am). If you are interested, send David your name, email, and phone # at DDobson268@aol.com. Attendance will be limited, so get your info to David ASAP

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)

MEETING MAP

