

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

September 2014
Vol. 48, Issue 9



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

Member of
SCFMS



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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

September 4th, 2014, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin Rd, Garland

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Club Officers for 2014

President:Ling Shurtz
1st VP:Mark Carter
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer.....Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: ...don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

**VISIT OUR AWARD WINNING WEB SITE TO
VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR.**
www.pogmc.org

Minutes of the August 7th, 2013 Meeting

The August 7th 2014 club meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

Sunshine report: Mark Carter had arthroscopic surgery late last month on his knee and he is walking around just fine. Carolyn Grady was feeling a little under the weather this evening so she didn't make it to the meeting.

We discussed the minutes of the March meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mark. The motion was seconded by Don, and the motion passed.

Del Grady gave the Treasurers' report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' report was made by Mark. The motion was seconded by Lee, and the motion passed.

New Business: We need to form a nominating committee for next years' officers. Ling and Mark said they would work on it.

The SCFMS Convention is this coming weekend in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Ling and Don will be representing our club.

Mark Carter told us about Brad Tanas who is a well known gem and mineral collector. He will be giving a presentation next Thursday night at the Allen Library at 7:30pm. His presentation is titled "West Texas Treasurers", which will be mainly agate.

David Dobson is having a garage sale this coming weekend.

David is also having another field trip to TXI in Midlothian on Sept. 6th, 2014. Please contact him to print out the necessary paperwork you will need to participate in this field trip.

Our presentation tonight is a JTV DVD of Jerry Sisks' gemstone buying adventures in Mexico, Thailand, Italy, Africa and India and Trade Shows. We saw the primitive mines in some of these countries, and the armed guards at the mines to prevent looters. We saw how unsafe some of the roads are due to robbers, and unsafe due to weather conditions. We also saw how some of the mined gems went to India to the cutters and grinders who took the raw product and made them into fine quality gems to be sold around the world.

For refreshments this month Ling made peach and coconut ice cream from the peaches she and Don grow in their yard. It was so good. Thank you Ling!

For our raffle table our new member carved a beautiful duck letter opener. We also had quartz, a spectacular geode with tiny quartz crystals inside, agates, and mahogany obsidian.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms

Field Trip

David Dobson has set up another Field Trip to Midlothian for fossils and pyrites on Saturday, September 6th, 2014 from 8:00 – 10:00 AM with a possibility of extending until 12:00 noon. The Field Trip will be to the same quarry that we normally go to, but due to a merger between TXI and Martin Marietta, you may find a different name on the outside of the buildings. Contact David at

RockTrading@aol.com

President's Message

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The SCFMS convention hosted by the Baton rough Gem and Mineral Society was a wonderful event. Boudin (Cajun Sausage) treat during the main convention meeting was great. Mr. Ray Duplechain was a gracious host.

We should extend our effort regarding the selection of an AFMS Scholarship Honoree – a person chosen by the SCFMS to award two scholarships of \$4000.00 each to graduate students attending a school in the SCFMS region. This is open to anyone, not just educators.

Next year's convention will be at Austin. The AFMS and SCFMS conventions will be hosted by The Austin Gem and Mineral next October 23rd – 25th in conjunction with their annual show.

Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for September and October 2014

Sep 6-7, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&M, hulagrub@aol.com, www.nwarockhounds.org

Sep 6 – 14, Denver, CO – various shows. See show list at <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

Sep 20, Tulsa, OK, Indian Nations Artifact & Fossil Shows, Oral Roberts Univ. Mabee Center, INAFshow.wordpress.com

Sep 26-28, Richardson, TX, The Bead Market, Richardson Civic Center, rebekah@thebeadmarket.net, www.thebeadmarket.net

October 3-5, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, showchairman@austingemandmineral.org, www.gemcapers.com

October 4-5, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas GM&GS, Jacksonville Community Center, thom61847@yahoo.com, www.centralarrockhoud.org

Oct 10-12, Metairie, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, gemshow2014@gmail.com

Oct 11-12, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Center, burnette@aceweb.com, www.tricitygemmineral.org

Oct 17-18, Victoria, TX, Victoria G&MS, Community Cntr, www.victoriagemandmineral@yahoo.com

Ref:

January / February 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

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



Editor's Corner: Is a POGMC Show Possible

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Some time ago I wrote about a club show that I attended when I was in California on business. I remember three things about the show – (1) It had free admission, (2) I got 3 pieces of Onyx (really Calcite) that were from the local area, and (3) I could not find the club. The show was small, only about 15 vendors, but the club did not have a booth or table. The show was outside (you can do that in California) and held in the parking lot of a local college. BUT I COULD NOT FIND A CLUB OR CLUB REPRESENTATIVE. I found that rather remarkable until I attended the recent CERA show at Brookhaven College. This was still a small show, but larger than the show I attended in California. The size of the show was about the same as our shows held at Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute – now Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute because they were in the same building.

Now stretch you mind back to early 2013. David Dobson said he could get us a show. The issue was deferred to be discussed at an Executive Board meeting, but all the prodding could not get an Executive Board meeting called. The show that CERA held could have been our show. The club expenses for the show were virtually zero, yet they were able to offer free admission (good for vendors). The CERA club had many of their members taking booths. I really think this is the kind of show that David had in mind, and if it is not too late, it should be considered. Obviously the date would have to be displaced from the CERA show, preferably by about several months, perhaps in the spring or early summer. Starting over again we would likely not be able to get any of our previous vendors, but I still think it could be done. It is certainly worth considering. At the CERA show I really missed not having a Silent Auction. A Silent Auction would mean that we would have to have club representatives to man it, but the requirement would be minimal. I also missed not having door prizes and a grand prize. Perhaps those are something that we could consider. I wonder if it is too late to put on a spring or early summer 2015 show.

Finally, why should we have a show? At the current time we have no significant income to cover club expenses. We are bleeding away our treasury at a rate that will have us bankrupt in 13 years, give or take. If we want to grow, we need something more than just a monthly meeting. We need activities such as classes, a shop, and more field trips. Some of these could be a source of revenue, but experience tells us that a show is the way to generate funding to drive a club. How About It?

SCFMS Convention Report

Don and Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The SCFMS Convention was August 9th in Baton Rouge, LA. The convention was hosted by the Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Club. For us, things started Saturday morning at the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. The Keynote speaker for the Breakfast was Ms. Darlene Denstorff, the editor of the Community Section of The Advocate, the major newspaper in the Baton Rouge area. It was entertaining to learn from a real Editor. Next were the awards. POGMC had a good showing winning 1st place in the Web Contest (all clubs, no categories by size of club). The Chips and Chatter also won 1st place in the Mini Bulletin (6 or less page) category. In the Original Adult Article category, Don Shurtz placed 2nd (Iron Pyrite), Ling Shurtz place 4th (Pyrite Cleaning – An Alternate Cleaner), and Honorable mentions went to Mark Carter (February's Birthstone: Amethyst), Lee Elms (Birthstone for Oct: Opal), Carolyn Grady (Sapphire), and Gail Spann (The Art of Display: Rouge and Cut). In Features, David Dobson earned an Honorable Mention for TXI Field Trip Nov. 16th. The AFMS Awards for the Editor and Author Contest were also presented with the Chips and Chatter placing 1st in Mini-Bulletins, Don Shurtz placing 10th in Original Adult Article (Iron Pyrite), and our web site (www.pogmc.org) placing 4th.

Next up was the formal Convention, starting in the early afternoon. Generally these conventions are long, and tedious. It was surprising how few of the SCFMS clubs were represented at the convention. From the DFW area only Arlington and Pleasant Oaks were represented. Most of the business was the introduction of the topic and a statement that the report was in the packet. However, things did become a little lively and interesting when the Nominating Committee made their report. I do not know the name of the person who gave the entire convention (in general) and the nominating committee (specifically) a (well deserved?) tongue lashing for re-nominating and re-electing officers who are not at the convention and won't even take the time to make a report. The lady felt that the nominating committee should be in contact with every club to get recommendations for nominations for District Vice President and, in general, more attention should be paid to electing people who will be active. Eventually the slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating Committee was accepted and elected. However, we can hope some good will come from this discussion.

Saturday evening was the SCFMS Awards Banquet. The competitive case competition results were presented Josie Middleton; not many cases to judge, but the few that were entered were high quality. Next up was Virginia Adian introducing the SCFMS Scholarship Honoree, the SCFMS person who selects the winner of the AFMS scholarships, Keith Harmon. Next was the introduction of the recipients of the AFMS scholarships (\$4000.00 to two graduate students). The recipients both gave a short presentation on what they are studying and how the scholarships will help. Don Shurtz then presented the Gold Spark Plug Award. This year the winner was Virginia Adian who was so surprised she was almost speechless. The program for the Awards Banquet was presented by Joe Daley and was a thorough discussion and display of fluorescent minerals. There were the awards for the outgoing officers. Finally John Nash, SCFMS President, closed the Banquet.

Sunday morning was the Rollin' Rock Club annual meeting. After a few jokes (one of the purposes of the meeting is to have fun), the business end of the meeting was conducted, including the minutes from the 2013 meeting, the treasurer's report, and election of 2015 Officers. Next, the 2014 Treasure Chest drawing was held, followed by the first auctioning of the 2015 Treasure Chest. All of the money from the Treasure Chest auctions goes the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Then came the general auction capped by the auctioning of a "rollin' rock – a geode donated by Keith Harmon.

A big "thank you" goes out to the Baton Rouge club, with special thanks to Ray and Cheryl Duplechain, for hosting the convention. The facilities were excellent and the speakers entertaining. One of the highlights was a treat provided at the formal convention. The Baton Rouge club provided a special treat – old fashion Cajun BOUDIN sausage. Many of the conference delegates had also attended the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters and had not had lunch so the BOUDIN really hit the spot. They had enough to feed all who attended and a bunch left over.

September Birthstone, Sapphire

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas

September is one of the months that has only one birthstone, sapphire. Sapphire is a variety of corundum which has a Mohs' hardness of 9.0 (is the defining mineral for Mohs hardness 9) and is made up of Aluminum and Oxygen (Aluminum Oxide, Al_2O_3).



Trace elements of other elements are often found in the corundum crystal structure, and these trace elements give the crystal color. When chromium is the trace element, the corundum is red and is called ruby. With the exception being pink-orange color which is called padparadscha, virtually all the other colors of corundum are called sapphire. Sapphire comes in blue (cobalt blue being the most highly desired color), clear, yellow, purple, orange, green and black. Vanadium is the trace element which colors purple sapphires, iron causes the yellow and green colors, and when both iron and titanium are present the sapphire will be blue to deep blue. Some sapphires are dichromic meaning it can have different colors (blue and bluish-green); the dichromic sapphires are also caused by iron and titanium. Some sapphires also exhibit asterism, the appearance of a six-rayed star. Sapphires that exhibit asterism are generally included with rutile (titanium oxide) and occasionally with hematite (iron oxide). A very few sapphires have both rutile and hematite inclusions and will display a twelve-rayed star.

As with many valuable minerals, treatments are often used to enhance the stone. In the case of sapphire, it was known as long ago as the Roman Empire that heat treating sapphires can cause the stone to turn blue or a deeper shade of blue. A heat treated sapphire that exhibits asterism will become a deeper color and will turn clear. Thus, a naturally blue sapphire is really quite rare. Sapphires can also be produced in a laboratory. The French chemist Auguste Verneuil developed a process for creating sapphires in 1902. This process was named after him, the Verneuil process. Since then there have been other means developed for manufacturing sapphires.



In addition to the use in jewelry, there are a number of other applications for sapphires. For many years the bearings, or jewels, in high quality watches were made from sapphire. Because sapphire is so hard and clear, it is often used for windows in scientific instruments. Sapphire is also used as the window for many of the scanners for reading bar codes that are in use in most stores because it is scratch resistant. Sapphire is also used in making integrated circuits. Silicon on Sapphire (SOS) has been used for many high powered integrated circuits that operate at radio and higher frequencies.

Sapphires are found in many localities. The list includes localities in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Australia, and the United States. In the United States, Montana is where the majority of sapphires are found, although a few sapphires are also found in North Carolina. Sapphire is one of the official state gemstones of Montana (the other being Montana Moss Agate).

Ref

- Birthstones for September, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/september-birthstone>
- Sapphire, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapphire>
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Pictures from Wikimedia, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>

- Faceted Sapphire: Photograph by Montanabw and Bhbritt54 This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license.
- Star Sapphire: Released to Public Domain by Mitchell Gore, the owner of the image

THUNDEREGGS

From the July / August SCFMS Newsletter, no author listed



A legend told by the Indians of the Northwest. Thunder eggs came about when one mountain got angry at another mountain and they started throwing rocks at each other. This was done, accompanied by great roars issued by the angry mountains. Thus "Thunder Eggs".



PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

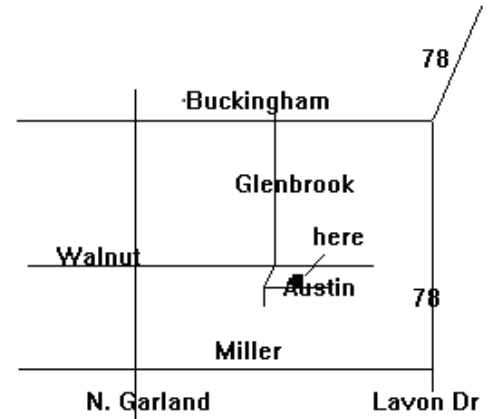


Meetings

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: \$16.00,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)



CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 831934

Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

September Meeting: September 4th, Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX

Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, VFW Hall, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas TX (next to their shop)
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX
CERA (Cowtown G,M, & Glass Club), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, 3024 Acme Brick Plaza, Ft. Worth (formerly LM Stone Steppers)
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,