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1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Calcium Carbonate

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

If you live in North Texas, you probably encounter Calcium Carbonate several times every day. Calcium Carbonate is common in many habitats. In addition to seeing most every day, you likely brush your teeth with it, eat it, and do many other things involving calcium carbonate. In our area of Texas, if you look outside, look for a white stone. Odds are it is calcium carbonate in the form of limestone.



Calcite from England

Calcium Carbonate comes in many varieties. It is the building block of Calcite, Aragonite, Chalk, and Marble mineral specimens. It is the marble countertop that surrounds your sink. The white stones previously mentioned are limestone. If you dig in the soil around Dallas, the white caliche you encounter is generally composed of calcium carbonate in the form of limestone. If you look at the bottom of the caliche, you may see calcite crystals. If you hunt fossils, the white rock matrix is often limestone, and often the fossils are also limestone.

Seashells are a form of calcium carbonate, often calcite or aragonite.



Marble bowl from Greece

One of the largest users of calcium carbonate is the paper and packaging materials industry. The calcium carbonate is used as both a filler and a coating material.



Aragonite from Italy

Large quantities of calcium carbonate are used as thickening agents and color for paint. Your toothpaste uses finely ground calcium carbonate as a filler and polishing agent. It is used to improve the texture and thickness of some liquids, regulate the acidity of the final product, serve as a coloring agent, and perform other functions that enhance the taste and visual

consistency of prepared food. However, the construction industry is the largest user of calcium carbonate. The foundation of your house likely started life as calcium carbonate, as did the concrete roads you drive on. The foundation and the concrete highway began as a form of calcium carbonate (probably limestone), but the calcium carbonate was modified (by heat) to form calcium oxide. The calcium oxide is used in cement. However, adding sand and gravel to the cement yields concrete for buildings, roadways, and other construction-related materials. Limestone is used as an aggregate for road beds and foundations.

All versions of calcium carbonate have the chemical composition of CaCO_3 . In the form of calcite, it is the defining mineral for the Mohs Hardness of 3. In the form of aragonite, it has a Mohs hardness of 3.5 to 4. In the form of limestone, its Mohs Hardness is 3 to 4. In the form of marble, it also has a Mohs Hardness of 3 to 4. When converted to cement and ultimately to concrete, it has a Mohs hardness of 5 to 6.



Limestone from Fredericksburg, TX

Calcium carbonate, in its various forms, is one of the most common materials you will encounter. Its uses are widespread and impact you daily.

Reference

Google AI

Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Essential Chemical Industry, <https://www.essentialchemicalindustry.org/chemicals/calcium-carbonate.html>

Pictures:

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Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

OCTOBER

October 3-5, Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana, John A Alario Event Center, <https://www.gmsofla.org/>

October 17-19, Austin G&MS show and SCFMF Convention (October 18). The show is held at the Palmer Event Center in downtown Austin. The Convention Breakfast and General Meeting will take place at their clubhouse, located at 6719 Burnet Lane. The awards banquet will be held at Nature's Treasures, located at 11055 N. IH-35 Frontage Rd. Both are north of downtown Austin.

NOVEMBER

November 1-2, Paleontological Society of Austin, Old Settler's Heritage Association, <https://www.austinpaleo.org/fest.html>

November 1-2, Midland Gem and Mineral Society, Bush Convention Center, <https://www.midlandgemandmineral.org/>

November 7-9, Houston Gem and Mineral Society, Humble Convention Center, <https://hgms.org/>

November 15-16, Fort Worth G&M Club, May 24 - 25, Will Rogers Memorial Center,

<https://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org/show.html>

November 22-23, Dallas Gem and Mineral Society, Mesquite Convention Center, <https://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/>

DECEMBER

December 6-7, DeRidder Gem and Mineral Society, West LA Forestry Fair Grounds,

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064473110778>

Ref: Local Shows, https://www.scfms.net/local_shows.htm

FEDERATION NEWS

SCFMS Federation News

Don Shurtz, SCFMS President

The SCFMS Convention is on October 18 in Austin, TX, in conjunction with the Austin Gem and Mineral Show. The show is taking place in downtown Austin at the Palmer Events Center from October 17 to 19. While the show is in North Austin, all Convention Activities will be in North Austin on September 18. The Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters will kick things off at 8:00 AM, AGMS Clubhouse, 6719 Burnet Lane, Austin, 78757. The Annual Meeting will be held at the same clubhouse (address above) starting at 2:00 PM. The Awards Banquet will take place at 7:00 PM at Nature's Treasures, 11055 N IH-35, Austin, TX 78753. Although not a Convention Activity, the Rollin' Rock Club official meeting will be at 8:00 AM, Sunday, October 19, at the Palmer Events Center, in the back corner of the Exhibit Hall. I would encourage everyone to attend. The Rollin' Rock Club is a happy time. There will be jokes and stories, a drawing to be the owner of the 2024-25 Traveling Treasure Chest, a raffle for the 2025-26 Traveling Treasure Chest with the proceeds going to the AFMS Scholarship Fund (the winner will have their name in the hat for next year's drawing of the Treasure Chest), a raffle of donated rocks, minerals, and other items to support a worthy cause such as the local club's scholarship fund, the Rollin' Rock Club Treasury, the SCFMS Endowment Fund, the AFMS Scholarship Fund, etc. The item or items will be selected by a vote before the raffle. Many of the meeting attendees are vendors at the show, so the meeting will be brief – they need to get their booths ready for the final day of the show.

At the Annual Meeting, we will need to approve a budget for 2026, elect new officers for the 2026-2027 term, and address any new or outstanding business. I believe the meeting will be about 2 hours in length, but possibly shorter. I will do my best to keep it as brief as possible.

Officers and Committee Chairs and Members are hard to come by. If you have the time, please consider helping the SCFMS. Most positions require less than 20 hours of work each year. Our recently appointed Secretary and District V Vice President have resigned due to personal obligations. That opens up two more SCFMS positions that need to be filled.

VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets the 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, 7
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

FEDERATION NEWS

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Ellery Borow

From the EFMLS News, October 2024
via the August-September SCFMS Newsletter



Rocks, minerals, fossils, and gemstones are all about time, a time back in the history of our planet. Well, maybe not so much gemstones. It is likely that few people want to know how many millions of years ago a diamond, ruby, emerald, or sapphire formed deep in the Earth. But layer upon layer upon layer of history are important to know.

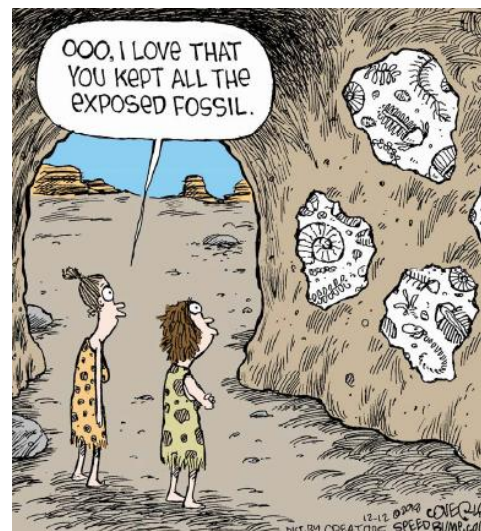
In more recent terms, rock clubs have a history as well. History is, after all, what happened yesterday, last week, last year, or decades ago. Does your club have a history? Most certainly it does. For many clubs, their history resides in the collective memories of its club members. Other clubs have a more formal history in the form of an archive of its newsletters and bulletins.

One could question why a club's history is important. Just as it is important to know the history of when tornado season comes, or hurricane season, or when sea turtles hatch, or penguins gather, so it is with a club's history. Clubs need their history of what worked at past shows, which meeting programs were well attended, which cupcakes sold best at the club's food sale fundraiser, or which club activities garnered the most new members. History is important. So how does your club keep its history?

What does your club keep and know of its history? Is the only club history kept found within the collective memory of its members? Suppose the long-time field trip committee chair departs the club. What if that person's memory was the only record the club had of its field trips for the last several years? Who else would remember all those years of trips, who were the contact persons for permission to visit the mines, what minerals were found by the club members, and how well attended was each trip? What records are important for a club's use?

There are important records for a club to keep. Important records can be legal documents such as articles of incorporation, records of not-for-profit status, yearly tax records, club constitution and bylaws, and other legal documents. Records of club civic activity show success, field trips, picnics, lists of program speakers, membership lists, lists of past presidents (as well as other officers and committee persons), or any of numerous other possible historically significant records; all have value to a club. Simply keeping archives of newsletters and bulletins reflects only a portion of a club's history.

Some things to note are not so much of a practical history, but of a philosophical history. Why did your club form? Who were its leaders? What was on the minds of its founding members when creating your club? When did your club organize? What helped your club grow? What helped form the focus of your club to rock, minerals, fossils, lapidary, or jewelry activity? There are many such questions to ask, yet answers may not be found in club newsletters. Answers to such questions may only reside in the memory of a club's founding members. If there are founding members still around, a club might find it interesting to ask such members these questions. And do so before it is too late.



OFFICERS FOR 2024 – 2025

President: Joe Vulk
1st VP, Programs: Amy Vulk
2nd VP, Field Trips: Julie Wilson
Secretary: Johnny Rhodes
Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
Editor: Don Shurtz
Contact us by email: don.shurtz@gmail.com

Minutes of Recent Meetings

Our August Meeting was canceled. No minutes were required for the August Meeting.

The July meeting was our annual get-together at Spring Creek BBQ. There was a lot of talking, but no club business was transacted. No minutes were required for the July Meeting.

Our June Minutes were published in the July Chips and Chatter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone can make it to our September meeting.

I will be asking for a nominating committee. This committee will provide a slate of officer candidates for the October election of officers for the next term.

Don may have some information for the SCFMS convention scheduled to take place in Austin on October 18th.

Joe Vulk, POGMC President

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on September 1, 2025, at the Knights of Columbus Council 6402 Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, starting at 7:00 PM.

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Editor's Corner – This and That

This issue of the Chips and Chatter has undoubtedly been a challenge – and my laptop came close to winning! First, I apologize if this arrives a bit later than usual. I try to mail the Chips and Chatter one week before the meeting (the Monday before the meeting). However, as I am writing this, it is the Monday before the meeting, and I will not complete it before the mail deadline. It has been a war between me and the laptop. I save a version, but when I open it next, things are missing. Sometimes it is just the images and text boxes I had been working with before saving the file. Sometimes it is all the images and text boxes in the document. Sometimes it is the text I have been working on, and in one case, it was everything (including the text, images, and text boxes) but the footers. I am not sure what is going on, but I suspect either a bad hard disk or a glitch in my Word program. As I learned of the types of problems being encountered, I started saving versions much more frequently, but that did not seem to help. Right now, I am saving the document about every 10 minutes to my backup external hard disk. It seems to be working using these options. I am holding my breath, hoping that it will continue to work until I finish the edition.

Please note in the President's Message (above) that Joe is calling for a Nominating Committee. The positions that need to be filled are the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor. From the Editor's perspective, it would be nice if someone else could give the position a try.

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Thursday of each month. Our meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Council 6401 Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX

Membership

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

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. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be on Monday, September 1, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Council 6402 Hall is located at 3722 Cavalier Drive in Garland.
The activity for the meeting will be a video titled "The Gem Hunter in Afghanistan."

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Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

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