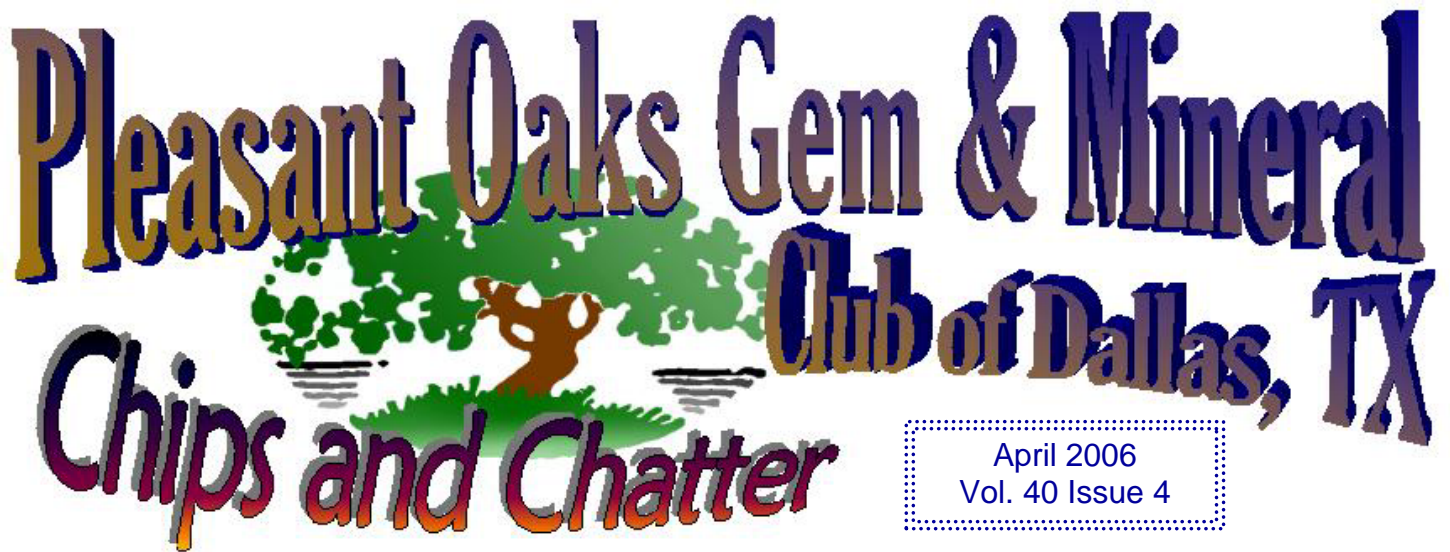


Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



April 2006
Vol. 40 Issue 4

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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
- Metal Etching Class - in work
- Alpine Field Trip, 8 - 15 April, see page 3
- TXI Field Trip, 8 April, see page 3

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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: April 6th at 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Robert Richter
Collin County Community College

Show & Tell

April is Egg Time
Rock Eggs - Beaded Eggs
See page 3

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

March 2, 2005, 7:30 PM Location: Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin St., Garland, TX

The meeting was opened at 7:06 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Officer Reports:

- 1st Vice President – no report tonight
- 2nd Vice President. Her father passed away last week. President (Beth Hollingsworth) has a card for members to sign that will be sent to her.

2. INTERGEM Show:

- The show format was discussed. Dates are March 10-12, 2006.
- The shop will be closed on Saturday, March 11 for the show.

3. Field Trips:

- A trip to Jasper, Texas is planned for March 18, 2006
- Brad spoke of the field trip to Alpine, Texas on April 8, 2006. When they went in October, they found cabs, plume and basalt.
- David spoke of the field trip to TXI on April 8, 2006. It will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4. Rock Swap:

- There will be a swap at the shop on April 1, 2006.
- A volunteer is needed from the POGMC to oversee as the shop is cleaned of unwanted items. Dale will be there to oversee the equipment. Among equipment for sale is a saw grinder unit and the POGMC has a kiln for sale. This will be a silent auction.
- The shop is now close to “breaking even”. 2 saws have been repaired and all positions at the shop have been filled.

5. Secretary Needed:

- The POGMC is in need of a recording secretary. *Renee Wofford has volunteered to take this position.*

6. February Minutes:

- Read and accepted.

7. Treasurer's Report:

- Read and accepted.

8. Editor's Report:

- Help is needed with the Science Fair at the Fair Park Automobile Building on Saturday, March 25, 2006. Dale and Carolyn will help and Cindy can if she has a ride. Breakfast to be served and information given at 8:30 a.m. Judging will start at 9:00 a.m. and end around 12:00 noon.

9. Old Business:

- The by-laws need to be updated. Mark Carter is absent today...but Don Shurtz will have the revised by-laws in this month's Chips 'n' Chatter, to allow the Membership to read and review them and vote on them at the April 6 General Meeting.
- Wanda confirmed that there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the shop on Saturday, April 15 for kids up to 12 years of age.

10. New Business:

- A suggestion was made that the club procure a projector to have available when guest speakers need one. 1st Vice President, Charles, would maintain possession of this between meetings. *Wanda suggested that the membership wait to purchase one until she confirms if she has one the Club can use.*
- Howard suggested that the Members begin showing their own collections. He will be showcasing his own collection on April 15, 2006 at his home. The fee for doing this \$10.00 for a family or \$5.00 for an individual.

BREAK TIME

11. Program:

- Del Klosterman presented a slide show and program on some of the earliest recorded fossils, stromatolites from the Precambrian era.

Renee Wofford, Secretary

Some Shop Notes

Qualifying classes start April 12 and runs 4 consecutive Wednesday evenings. Times are 6 to 9 PM. The qualifying class fee is \$30.00. A sign up sheet will be available at the April meeting.

Names were drawn for the April 4 and 11 Silversmithing class. Another class will be arranged in the future.

Show and Tell Table - April is Egg Time

Wanda Fitzgerald, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

Let's fill the Show & Tell Table full of eggs at the April club meeting. There have been some egg classes and many beautiful things have been made from all different kinds and sizes of eggs.

There have also been a lot of eggs made from different kinds of rocks & minerals. I remember when I tried to make my first egg out of agate - it ended up as a one-sided stone.

Let's see how many different kinds of eggs we can put in our Easter baskets this year.

Easter Egg Hunt

Wanda Fitzgerald, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

There will be an Easter egg hunt for youngsters (up to 10 - 12 years old) at the Joint Shop on Saturday morning, April 15th (the day before Easter) at 10:30 AM. Bring you children/grandchildren with their Easter Baskets and have lots of fun. The shop is at 10205 Plano Rd, just north of the LBJ freeway. See the map on the back page.

Science Fair Results

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

The Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair was held on Saturday, 25 March. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club again awarded a "Special Award" to a deserving student. Charles and Nell Black, Del and Carolyn Grady, and Don and Ling Shurtz were present to judge the student's projects. This year the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club Special Award was presented to Bethany Carson of the Lowry Freshman Center, Allen, TX for her project on Paleontology of North Texas. Bethany had collected a number of stunning fossils from the North Dallas area. The "Special Award" winner will receive a rock tumbler (including everything from stones to polishing powder) at the science fair awards banquet on April 26. The Special Award also extends an invitation for a free one-year membership in our club. Pleasant Oaks sends our congratulations to Bethany

It was hard to pick a winner from the projects that we evaluated. We also awarded three Honorable Mention awards that also include an invitation for a free one-year membership in our club. This year Honorable Mention awards were made to Truc Do (also from the Lowery Freshman Center in Allen) for her project on using micro-fossils to determine the date of various land formations in the Dallas Area, to Chelsea Ables (Armstrong Middle School in Plano) for her project on cave rocks, and to Roman Stolyarov (Harmony Science Academy, Dallas) for his project on refraction of light. Pleasant Oaks also sends our congratulations to Truc, Chelsea, and Roman.

Federation Notes - AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC of Dallas

The AFMS Endowment Fund raffle for 2006 is underway. Joyce Speed is the SCFMS representative for ticket sales. I have talked with Joyce and she will not be able to attend our April meeting. She has, however, indicated that we can collect funds and she will send us the tickets (I may even have them in time for our meeting). I will put a list at our meeting for people to sign up. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each for 5 for \$20.00. A complete list of raffle items (with full color pictures) can be found on the AFMS web site at <http://www.amfed.org/endow2006.htm>. Here is a brief description of the prizes to date: (1) a 14x18 inch "rock" painting of a horned owl, (2), 14 Herkimer Diamonds in 7 druse-lined vugs in dolomite matrix, (3) a honey-golden calcite crystals in a fossilized Mercenaria permagna (Giant Venus) clam shell, (4) a 3 inch Honey Calcite sphere, (5) a 5 inch diameter Amethyst Geode with crystals up to 1/2 inch (6) a 1.38 carat Tanzanite pendant, (7) a Pendant, entitled "Red Mountain", (8) an pottery bowl made by the drape method, (9) a collection of four agate cabochons cut from material collected in the Calamity Creek area, south of Alpine, TX, (10) a bola tie with stone cut from fossilized white dinosaur bone, (11), a 14k lost wax cast ring with a 8x10 mm topaz, and (12) a soapstone carving of a frog on a leaf. More prizes are expected prior to the convention

Field Trips

ALPINE, TX: Brad Tanas is organizing another trip to the Alpine area for week of 8 to 15 April. The trip will include the Marfa (old Alpine) Gem and Mineral club show. A tentative schedule for the field trip is:

8th leave Dallas

9-12th Walker Ranch (fee dig)

13th at petrified wood location? 1 day trip - several options (fee dig)

14th at Marfa Show and a local show field trip

15th 1/2 day at Marfa Show and/or field trip (play it by ear), drive home

16th relax and clean up on Sunday 16th (Easter Sunday)

Here are some more details from Brad:

Extended Field Trip to West Texas to Collect Plume Agate

When: April 8-15, 2006

Where: Alpine, TX - meet at Antelope Lodge at 8am sharp each day!

Sponsor: Dallas Gem & Mineral Society - <http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org/>

Who can attend: Other clubs are welcome

The most common material at his location is red and black plume agate, moss agate and jasper of various colors and patterns.

Collecting at this location is arduous if you climb the surrounding hills. Collecting is not arduous if you walk the flat areas and stay off the hills. The elevation is 5000 feet and the surrounding hills are approximately 500 feet vertical and rocky. Obviously, the best stuff will be found hiking up and down the hills but decent material can be found that has washed down or been exposed by rain. An automobile can be driven to the collecting area (if you drive slowly over the bumps) so you are never too far from your car. The nearest medical help is in Alpine about 17 miles from where we will be collecting and could be further if we take a day trip to another location. As this is a rocky and grassy area, snakes are always a possibility in Texas. If you plan on hiking, bring a walking stick. This is a dry camping area so bring your supplies, water, food, sunscreen, hats, first aid and dress appropriately. Trip liability waivers will be signed on location.

Here is some basic trip info:

Trip starts April 8th (travel day) and ends for me on the 15th. You are welcome to join for the whole week or part. Some club members can only participate during the week. The Marfa show is April 14-16 and we will visit the show on Friday the 14th. In Alpine there are plenty of stores, restaurants and cafes to eat at. Everyone is responsible for their own food and accommodations.

Each morning we will meet at the Alpine Lodge at 8am sharp. Some rockhounds stay at the lodge, some tent or RV and some stay in the hotels in town. This year the fee dig is \$35 per day, \$70 for 3 days and \$20 for half day.

Antelope Lodge, <http://www.antelopelodge.com/>, 800 880 8106

Tenting or RV camping will be at Pecan Grove RV Park. Dry camping is also available at the collecting area. 800 644-7175

Both are less than 1 mile apart.

If you have any questions, send an email to Delairocks@aol.com and put Alpine Trip in the subject line.

Brad

TXI: David Dobson will be leading a field trip to the TXI plant in Midlothian. If interested, send David an email at rocktrading@aol.com. Collecting time will be from 9 AM to 1 PM. Plan to meet outside the plant

COLORADO: Under discussion is an extended field trip this summer to Colorado. Early plans are to go in late July and return in early August. Mineral collecting is expected to be excellent. More details when available.

Upcoming Shows

Apr 6-9	Galveston, TX	Bead Cruise 2006 to Cosumel, 210-738-8988
Apr 8-9	Abilene, TX	Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center, 325-692-4642
Apr 14-16	Marfa, TX	Big Bend G&MS, American Vets Bldg, 432-729-4526
Apr 14-16	Houston, TX	IGEM Houston, Reliant Center, 301-294-1640
Apr 28-30	Austin, TX	IGEM Austin, Palmer Events Center, 301-294-1640
Apr 29-30	Lubbock, TX	Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Civic Center, 806-894-1584
May 13-14	Corpus Christi, TX	Bead Market, Ramada Inn Bayfront, rebekah@thebeadmarket.net
May 19-21	Grapevine, TX	Bead Renaissance Show, Grapevine Conv. Cntr, 505-894-1293
May 27-28	Fort Worth, TX	Fort Worth G&MC, Amon Carter Exhibit Hall, 817-648-9416
June 9-11	Stillwater, OK	Rocky Mountain Fed. show, Stillwater G&MS, Payne Cnty Expo, 405-372-8635

Proposed BY LAW Changes

Article III, Membership: Change section 3 to include "Family" membership. Section 3 to read (changes underlined):

"Membership shall be of three types: Regular, Junior, Family, and Honorary.

A. Regular membership shall include persons meeting the requirements of Article III, paragraph 1.

B. Junior membership shall be available to any person 16 years and under with the approval of parent or guardian and meeting the other requirements of Article III, paragraph 1.

C. Family membership shall include all members of the same family who meet the requirements of Article III, paragraph 1.

D. Honorary memberships may be awarded at the discretion of the Executive Committee."

Article IV, Dues: Change the date of delinquency of dues. The section will read:

"...Any regular member shall not be considered delinquent in dues until the first meeting in January (approximately 60 days) but shall pay full annual membership dues."

Article V, Meetings: Change the report of the nominating committee to indicate that they will nominate a Show Chair (rather than the Dealer Chair automatically becoming the next Show Chair). The section will read:

"...In addition to the officers, the committee nominates a person for Club Editor, Show Chair Person, and Assistant Show Chair Person (Dealer Chair Person). Persons..."

Article VI, Officers and Committees: Change the officer listing to indicate a Secretary rather than a Recording Secretary and a Corresponding Secretary. Also move those sections dealing with the Executive Committee to Article IX. The section will read:

"...2nd Vice President in Charge of Shop and Lapidary Secretary

"...The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Show Chairman, Assistant Show Chairman, Club Editor, and immediate past President or member at large elected by the membership. (remainder of this section moved)"

Article VII, Duties of Officers: Change to combine the duties of the Recording and Corresponding Secretary to the Secretary: The section will read:

"The Secretary shall keep the records of the membership of the Club and the minutes of the meetings, and those of the Executive Committee. Additionally, the Secretary shall be responsible for all other official Club correspondence and permanent files of Chips and Chatter, which shall be turned over to that person's successor."

"...The Treasurer or Secretary shall be authorized to disburse funds."

Article VII, Earning Restrictions: Delete reference to Directors. Section will read:

"...or be distributable to its members, (deleted) officers or other private persons,

Article IX, Duties of the Executive Committee: Move those item relative to the Executive Committee from Article VI, and change the dollar limit that the Executive Committee may obligate from \$40 to \$50, and to delete reference to the Board of Directors. Section will read:

Business of Special Executive Committee meetings may be conducted with a quorum of 50% of the committee present.

The immediate past President or a duly elected or appointed individual shall serve as Club delegate to the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies meetings or shows.

The Executive Committee, (deleted) shall generally administer the affairs of the Club and supervise the finances. Expenditures in excess of fifty dollars must be approved by the Executive Committee or a floor majority vote.

Question of the Month - Obsidian

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

From the March issue: What is OBSIDIAN?

Editor's Note: I was going to write the world's best, award winning article about obsidian, and then stumbled across the following article by Terry Yoschak, originally published in "The Rollin' Rock, July 1994 and republished in "The Pineywoods Rooter, March 2006. As this article is even more interesting and informative than what I intended, I have decided to use it to answer this month's Question of the Month.

Obsidian: A Biography by Terry Yoschak

If we were to tell the life story of a piece of obsidian, one of the millions of pieces native to California, it might go something like this: born in a volcanic eruption, quarried and carved into a scraper for tree bark, traded for ocean shells, chipped into an arrowhead, lost during a deer hunt, buried by debris and sediments, dug up by an archeologist, mailed to a laboratory for testing, and finally laid to rest in a museum collection.

That sounds like a useful, well-traveled life. But a short one, since its lifespan as described above could be a mere 20,000 years or so quite a youngster compared to most rock and mineral specimens. Yet few other minerals have had as much cultural, historic and scientific importance as obsidian. The key to obsidian's impact lies in two factors: its homogeneity (uniformity or sameness) and its ability to hydrate (to absorb water from the surrounding air or soil). When obsidian is born in a rhyolitic lava flow, where the lava cools so fast that no crystals form, the resulting chemical composition is homogenous across the flow.¹ Every flow will contain slightly different amounts of trace elements than every other flow, so each flow has a chemical "fingerprint" of its own. Two pieces of obsidian from the same flow will have identical fingerprints, no matter how far apart they were discovered. Obsidian "sourcing" (determining exactly where a piece of obsidian originated) is accomplished by the use of Neutron Activation Analysis (NAA), which bombards the specimen with a field of neutrons. The trace elements within the sample become radioactive and the radioactive emissions are used to identify dozens of different elements and the amounts of each element. Since no two flows anywhere in the world have exactly the same trace elements in exactly the same amounts, comparing the specimen to a database of previous specimens solves the mystery.

According to the Worcester Polytechnic Institute, "fingerprinting of obsidian artifacts by NAA is a nearly 100 percent successful method."² Obsidian sourcing has been a primary means of determining patterns of migration and trading among prehistoric peoples in California. If the same obsidian fingerprints exist on samples formed at Lassen Peak and excavated near Alameda, trading surely occurred during that 250 mile trip. People near the coast who had no local source of obsidian often traded their coastal treasures,

making material. Just as homogeneity has enabled us to determine the "where" in the life of a piece of obsidian, hydration has given us clues about the "when." As soon as obsidian is formed, its exposed surface begins to absorb water from the atmosphere. The absorption continues steadily over time, dependent on variables such as local temperature and humidity. By microscopically measuring the depth of the absorbed water layer, called the "hydration rim," we can determine the date of an obsidian artifact, either relative to another artifact, or sometimes with an absolute date.

When obsidian is quarried or flaked in the process of becoming an artifact, new surfaces are suddenly exposed to the atmosphere beginning new hydration processes. In our biography above, the tree bark scraper would have been hydrating longer than the arrowhead but how would we know the true age of the artifact when different hydration depths and layers exist on the same specimen? In addition, without knowing how the climatic variables may have changed over thousands of years, the process of the hydration dating method has "major limiting problems. Some of these pitfalls have given rise to wildly conflicting and controversial theories about the age of the first human settlements on our continent.

A new technique called Secondary Ionization Mass Spectrometry (SIMS) involves slowly penetrating into the obsidian sample with an ion beam and measuring more precisely the distribution of hydrogen (in the absorbed water), and the depth of the hydration rim.³ As science develops even more sophisticated laboratory techniques and computer models to analyze hydration variables, we will gradually be able to refine and revise the "when" of obsidian specimens, and then perhaps every piece of obsidian can have its own true biography.



References:

1. Glascock, Michael. Archaeology, Geology, and Geochemistry of Obsidian for Provenance Research. Oct 2002. <http://www.peak.org/obsidian/abstracts_g.html>
2. "Neutron Activation Analysis." Worcester Polytechnic Institute. <<http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Depts/ME/Nuclear/Reactor/Labs/R-naa.html>>
3. "The Obsidian Clock." Oak Ridge National Laboratory, <<http://www.ornl.gov/info/reporter/no7/clock.htm>>

Question - of - the - Month for May: What is JADE

Joint Workshop Calendar

April 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM ROCK SWAP All Fools Day
2 Daylight Saving's Time Begins	3 Open Shop 6-9 PM	4 Silversmithing Class		5 6 PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:30 PM		8 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM Field Trip to TXI Quarry Field Trip to Alpine, TX
9 Field Trip to Alpine, TX	10 Open Shop 6-9 PM Field Trip to Alpine, TX	11 Silversmithing Class Field Trip to Alpine, TX	12 Qualifying Class begins Field Trip to Alpine, TX Passover Begins	13 Field Trip to Alpine, TX	14 Field Trip to Alpine, TX Good Friday	15 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM Field Trip to Alpine, TX
16  Easter Sunday	17 Open Shop 6-9 PM	18 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society Meeting 7:00 PM		19	20	22 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM Earth Day
23	24 Open Shop 6-9 PM		25	26	27	28  Arbor Day 29 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
30						

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

Joint Workshop Calendar

May 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Open Shop 6-9 PM	2		3 4 PLEASANT OAKS Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:30 PM	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM 1st Sat. Trading Day
7	8 Open Shop 6-9 PM		9	10		13 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
14 MOTHER'S DAY	15 Open Shop 6-9 PM	16 Dallas Gem & Mineral Club Meeting 7:00 PM SHOP CLOSED	17	18	19	20 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM Armed Forces Day
21	22 Open Shop 6-9 PM	23	24	25	26	27 Open Shop 9AM - 2PM
28	29 Open Shop 6-9 PM Memorial Day	30	31			

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

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 a 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.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

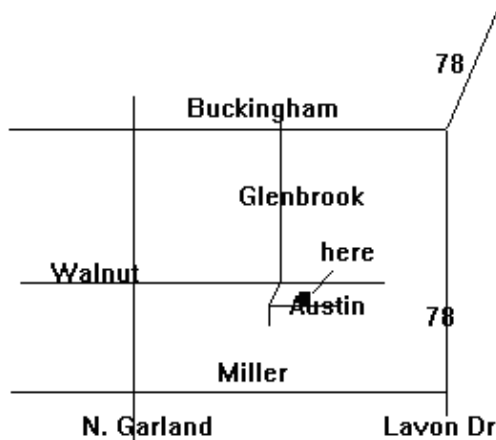
To:

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

TXI Field Trip on Saturday, 8 April
Alpine week-long Field Trip starts 8 April
Next Meeting - Thursday, 6 April

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

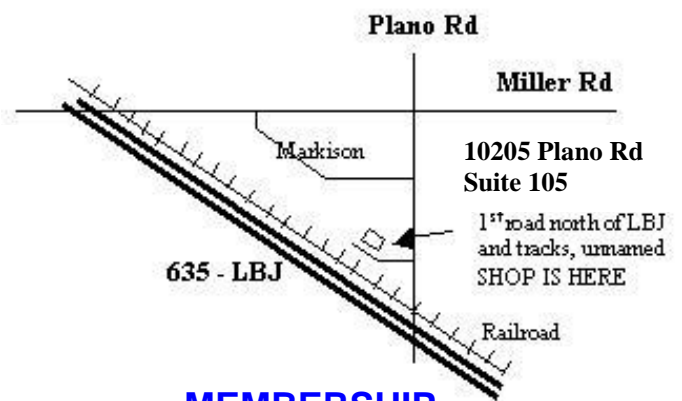
Meeting Map



MEETINGS

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Build
713 Austin, Garland, TX
(Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

Joint Club Shop Map



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