

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



April 2007
Vol. 41 Issue 4

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Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our website for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop: Each Monday - 4:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and each Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon
- Ladies night at the shop on 2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursday, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

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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 3rd at 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Charles Black – Wire Wrapping a Beaded Bracelet
Kids, Mr. Randy says some of your polished rocks will show up at the meeting. Be sure to come and get them.

Show & Tell

Sure hope some Arkansas crystal will show up on the table this month. You are always welcome to bring items to share with us at any meeting for Show and Tell.

Club Officers for 2007

President: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
2nd VP: Brenda Dowell, (972) 771-9502
Treasurers: Delbert Grady, (972) 235-6575
Secretary: Renee Wofford
Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
E-mail: andresner@verizon.net

Minutes – March, 2007 General Meeting

Minutes as compiled by Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club meeting held March 1, 2007 at the Garland Women=s Activity Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Don Shurtz and the Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Don Shurtz .

Doug Wallace gave a presentation on Collection Evaluation and Appraisal for Estate Planning.

A short break was called at 8:05 and the meeting re-convened at 8:15.

The February 2007 minutes were printed in the March 2007 *Chips & Chatter*. A motion was made and second to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed

Del Grady presented treasurer's report; Started with \$8,760.19. The club spent \$1,096.54, income of \$1,160.66 leaving a balance of \$8,894.24. For first time ever, the shop made a profit. A motion was made and second to accept the minutes as printed and passed.

Mark Carter advised that for the April meeting, we would have Hands On with Charles Black doing a Wire Wrap Demonstration and any others that wanted to do a demonstration. Mr. Mark has tumbled rocks of Grant and Branda that they may pick up.

Brenda Dowell report:

1. The spring Rock Swap at the shop will be in April 14, 8 AM until __
2. Discussed mini classes to be coming in addition to the Thursday night classes and there will be a donation of \$2.00/hour.
3. Supervisors meeting will have greater interaction with those using the equipment as machines are being abused.
4. Brenda offered a field trip to Arkansas to all that were interested. They were to contact her for information.
5. Brenda gave a detailed insight as to the events and dates for the Colorado Field Trip coming up in August.
6. Brenda handed out a note asking for in-put on questions regarding the continuing use and desires for the use of the shop.

Anita expressed a thank you to everyone that has been contributing articles to the C&C and would be trying to get C&C mailed out on the Friday before meeting in the future.

Old Business

1. The dates for the club show were tentatively set as Saturday, September 29th and Sunday, September 30th, with Friday, September 28th as show set-up. These dates would be after the Denver and Houston shows which are scheduled for 14th-16th of September in Denver and 21st-22nd of September for Houston. Ling Shurtz will talk with EMGI to determine if the dates are suitable. Don Shurtz will update the flyer for the new
2. Need to get Donna Mallory to serve as Secretary as she is greatly needed. Anita has the recorder and that can serve very well to gather the minutes.
3. Science Fair on March 24th & 25th. Volunteers for judges are Ling & Don Shurtz, Carolyn & Del Grady, Nell & Charles Black, and Anita Dresner. Paperwork for award has been submitted and the \$30 for awards banquet for our winner (and teacher) has been submitted by Don Shurtz. Also, the tumbler kit has been purchased by the treasurer.
4. The mini show at Brookhaven will be March 3rd and 4th. We will be promoting our club and the hobby. The following have volunteered to attend a club booth at the show: Don & Ling Shurtz and Anita Dresner. Donna indicated she would print up flyers as a master is available so we can pass them out at the show. Don has the electronic files for the 2006 flyers and will prepare a 2007 version when the show dates are finalized.
5. IGEM show schedule for May 4th to 6th. Warner will be our coordinator.
6. Committee of Beth, Warner and Anita, with Beth being the chairman, to recommend restrictions to impose or no, upon members to be able to participate in the IGEM show starting this fall
7. Del Grady will be preparing a proposal for the *Beginner's Faceting Class*.
8. Anita refreshed the idea of listing those bringing refreshments in the C&C as a reminder to them.

New Business

There was a request for donations for the raffle table. A discussion of purchasing items for the raffle table was presented. There was a motion made in favor of this and voted upon. The motion carried to spend \$50.00 now and another \$50.00 at the IGEM show for these items. Ticket prices were discussed and tabled until purchases were made.

Donnette will be giving a presentation on Opals at the Dallas Club Meeting in April. All are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00PM.



Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

WOW, now what are we going to do? I mean, what with all this great rain and fantastic weather, field trips and contest to judge. What a busy month we have had. It has been great to visit with each of you as we have come together for the various events!

I sure hope we get to see some of that crystal that made it home with the members that went on the Arkansas trip. I hear they had a fabulous time! I had a good chat or two and saw some old friends and made some new friends at the Brookhaven Show while attending to the Club booth. A big THANK YOU to Ling, Don, Charles, Nell and Donnette, for volunteering to be there to promote the club and the interest of rocks, gems and minerals.

This year was my first opportunity to visit with the students at the Science Fair. I am so glad that I volunteered to be a judge! Again, WOW! These young people are so talented and to think this is actually where some of the great minds of our future lie. I think we are going to be in good hands. It was outstanding and I know all those from POG&M that were judges, had as great a time and was as blown away as I was with the hope of our future as it is related to the sciences. If you get a chance to volunteer as a judge, do yourself a favor and jump at the opportunity.

Please remember, if you have a subject or article to submit to the Chips and Chatter let me hear from you. I would love to have pictures of Rock Hounding trips and/or articles, or experiences to share. To have your article in the coming month's Chips and Chatter, I need it by the 3rd Thursday of the month.

President's Message

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

If you didn't make it to the last meeting, you missed a good one. Mr. Doug Wallace gave an excellent presentation on the need for evaluating the worth of your rock and mineral collection. He also presented some thoughts on insurance for your collection. His talk was one of the most thought provoking presentations we have had in years.

By the time you read this, the club will have participated in the "Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair" for middle and high school students. We will have evaluated a grunch (great big bunch) of projects and selected a "Special Award" winner and one or more honorable mention recipients. The Special Award winner will receive a new Lortone rock tumbler kit (tumbler, grinding and polishing materials) and an initial load of agates. The Special Award and honorable mention winners will also be given a 1 year membership in the club. I am sure that we will hear more about the Science Fair next month.

Field trips are on the way. It is also the time of year when we are getting out in the sun for yard work. When you go on a field trip or just out to work in the yard take a minute or two to think about safety. As you put on your sun block (SPF-15 or better) and your hat, consider the task at hand, the tools required, and the procedures you will employ. Don't over exert yourself – if you need help, ask. Think about safety, and then practice safety. We want everyone to make it to the rest of the meetings this year.

See you at the April meeting - Don

Refreshment Duties

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

<u>Month</u>	<u>Ice & Drinks</u>	<u>Snacks</u>
April	Nell	Donnette
May	Beth	Wanda

1st Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

This month, we will have Charles Black showing how to make a wire wrap bracelet. Be sure to bring the following measurements in 22 gauge gold filled or silver square wires to make your very own wire wrapped bracelet: two wires 15 inches long, one wire 8 inches long and 3 foot of ½ round 24 gauge gold filled or silver square wire, plus 40 3mm beads.

Shop Report

Brenda Dowell, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Remember April 14, Rock Swap starting at 8:00 AM at the Club Shop. The shop is located at Plano Road and 635. Members will be tailgating their wares; gems, minerals, fossils, slabs, and all sorts Rocks. Food and Beverages will be available for a donation. Members please bring fresh baked goodies to donate to the food sale. Remember, the bake sale is to help the shop and to get to know one another.

You can contact Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM

Arkansas Field Trip Report

Brenda Dowell, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

We had 8 people go on the Arkansas field trip. Our dig was at the Jimmy Coleman Mine just outside of Hot Springs. We were blessed with great weather and a great leader, Howard Khul. He did a wonderful job of leading us to and helping us gather wonderful goodies! Most of us are probably still washing the dirt and mud off of our crystal finds. We would like to plan on another trip there this fall.

Field Trips

Report by Brenda Dowell

August 3rd – 12th - Colorado Summer Field Trip. The trip takes in the Creede G&M Show the 1st weekend and the Buena Vista Rock Show the 2nd weekend. Brenda Dowell, Jim Senseman and Dave Greenburg will guide you to the digging sites around the area for this field trip. If you are interested, please contact Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM or (972) 771-9502.

Pleasant Oaks Want Ads

For Sale

David Dobson

Petrified wood **for sale** \$0.50/lb. Pieces up to 200lbs. **Wanted** small motor cycle or dirt bike will trade for petrified wood or other rocks. Ask for David, (214) 731-1288.

Question of the Month: What is Calcite

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Society

Calcite is, as minerals go, a reasonably common mineral. Chemically it is Calcium Carbonate, or CaCO_3 . Calcite rates a 3.0 on Mo's hardness scale meaning that it is rather soft. You can't quite scratch it with your fingernail, but should be able to easily scratch it with a copper penny (2.5 and 3.5 respectively on Mo's scale). However, the best test to determine if a specimen is calcite is to put a couple of drops of dilute hydrochloric acid on it. If it bubbles and fizzes it is most certainly calcite.

Calcite can be found as crystals or in massive form. The crystals are generally hexagonal (six sided) in shape but also form rhomboids (solid parallelograms). The color is generally clear or white but also can be yellow, green, pink, red, blue, or black plus a few more colors tossed in for good measure. Calcite exhibits birefringence, or double refraction – that is to say that if you place a piece of clear calcite with parallel faces over printed matter, you will see two images of the printing. Some calcite also displays phosphorescence if illuminated with ultra-violet light (a black light).



Calcite Concretion found by Ling Shurtz at Midlothian, TX. Photo by Don Shurtz

Where would you find calcite? Just about anywhere in the world. In the Dallas area, start digging down and in a few inches to feet you will find limestone. Limestone is primarily microcrystalline calcite. Calcite concretions can be found in many locations in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, particularly in the southern sections of the cities. Don McCully brought a calcite concretion to our last meeting that he had found near I-30 and loop 12. Ling Shurtz found several calcite concretions at the TXI Cement Plant in Midlothian during one of our field trips. I was recently working on deepening Ling's koi pond. At about 3.5 feet deep, I was cleaning dirt and loose limestone off the top of a limestone layer and struck something hard and protruding up from the limestone. I worked a hardball sized piece of the protrusion out of the limestone and found it to be calcite with some evidence of crystallization.

As indicated, calcite is found almost anywhere in the world. Some of the most spectacular calcite specimens on the market these days come from China. Other places know for calcites are Iceland (Iceland Spar), Mexico, and many places in South America. In the US nice specimens are found in Arizona, New Mexico, and Tennessee plus many other places. Calcite is also known by a variety of names such as Iceland Spar, Dogtooth Spar, Mexican Jade, Angle Wing Calcite, and many others.

Ref:

Calcite Mineral Data, <http://www.webmineral.com/data/Calcite.shtml>

mindat.org, <http://www.mindat.org/min-859.html>

Schuman, Walter, Handbook of Rocks Minerals & Gemstones, copyright 1993, HarperCollins Publisher and Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY

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

Thank You

Nick Theis for the Earth Science Fair

The North Texas Earth Science Fair would like to thank all who participated in any way to make the Fair a success. We saw many old regulars, a great number of teachers, and students from at least six different college classes, many interested and interesting people, the Dallas Gem & Mineral Club and Pleasant Oak Club were represented and show flyers were handed out. The Nature Exchange from the Dallas Zoo enrolled new traders. I saw some lady's with new jewelry. A Good Time was had by All.

Thank You!

Points of Interest

Nick Theis for the Earth Science Fair

Thanks to all who helped in anyway with the North Texas Earth Science Fair. Thanks for advertising, thanks for coming, and thanks for sharing with others. We have a great hobby shared by great people.

Some key points about the Fair:

- We had no mailing list from past events. Dealers invited their past customers.
- Colleges were invited because of geology classes being taught there. Class participation was very important.
- The Dallas Zoo's Nature Exchange expanded our customer base to include other nature items.
- We also reached out to some teachers who expressed interest in rocks and minerals.
- Most invitations were sent via e-mail.
- The Fair worked because everyone helped make it a success. Students from at least 6 different college classes attended. We had students from Brookhaven, Mountain View, UTD, and North Lake.
- The Fair was definitely a low budget event. We took advantage of what was available.
- The event was sponsored by the EMGI facility and staff.
- We did not rent tables but used the tables available at Brookhaven. We only hired enhanced security for Saturday night. Brookhaven Campus police normally patrolled the facility.
- Because the facility was free to us, the event was free to the public. No cost for admission!
- We spent \$390 for extra security.
- Our advertising was \$65 for flyers.
- The total cost for the Fair was \$455.
- The costs were carried by the vendors none of which should have paid more than \$75 for their booth after they receive a small refund not yet mailed.
- We saw a different public than at most shows and hopefully encouraged more people to enjoy our hobby.
- Both Pleasant Oaks and Dallas Gem and Mineral Clubs advertised their fall shows.
- An estimated 600 people attended the show.
- We intentionally used local vendors, but one of our vendors was from Kansas.

I wrote this down because this information maybe useful to our local clubs.

Nick Theis

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. Ctr., NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas
Oak Cliff G&MS meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd., Dallas, TX., 75224
Fort Worth G&M Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.

Events

Local

From Sue Dale Miller Arlington Club

Arlington Club, April 21st parking lot sale at the club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington. We are looking forward to having a good sale and lots of fajitas. The club charges \$10 for a spot and a small amount for all you can eat fajitas. The \$10 just covers the cost of keeping the building open (and the lights on) all day. Every come. Dale

Upcoming Shows

From the Show Calendar of Lapidary Journal

Apr 6 & 8 – Austin, TX Contact: info@intergem.com or www.intergem.com	International Gem & Jewelry Show Lester Palmer Event Center
Apr 7 & 8 – Abilene, TX Contact: slightfoot@aol.com	Central Texas Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show Abilene Civic Center, N 6th & Pine
Apr 28 & 29 – Memphis, TN Contact: James Butchko, (901) 743-0058 rockclub@earthlink.net	Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society: 28th Annual Mid-America Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show Midsouth Fairgrounds – Pipkin Building; East Parkway & Central Ave
Apr 28 & 29 – Waco, TX Contact: Kay Langston, (254) 863-0206 jdodson@aenbb.net	Waco Gem & Mineral Club: 47th Annual Show Heart of Texas Fair Complex – 4601 Bosque Blvd 28th – 10-5:30 PM; 29th – 10-5 PM

April 2007

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1  Palm Sunday
2 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	3  Passover	4	5 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg	6  Good Friday	7	8  Easter
9 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	10	11	12 6:00 – 9:00 pm Ladies Night @ the Shop	13	14  8:00 am Rock Sale	15
16 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	17 7:00 pm Dallas Gem Club Mtg	18	19	20	21	22  Earth Day
23 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	24	25	26 6:00 – 9:00 pm Ladies Night @ the Shop	27  Arbor Day	28	29
30 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop						

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

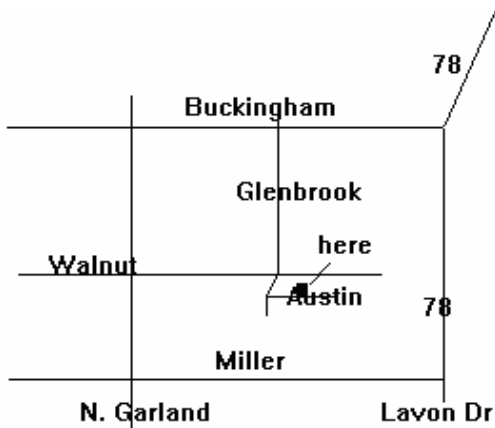
To:

1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
 9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
 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

Next Meeting: April 5, 2007 at Garland Women's Activity Building, 7:30 PM

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

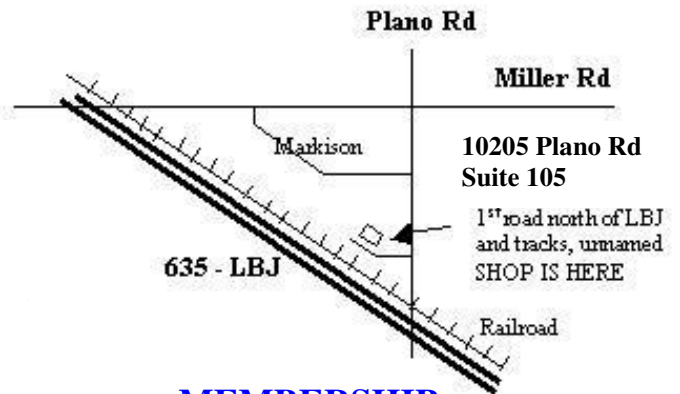
Meeting Map



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