

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

April 2008
Vol. 42 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 and Thursday - 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and each Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon
- Check the calendar for class schedule.

April issue 2008 by Anita Dresner. 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.

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: Thursday, April 3 at 7:30 pm Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Making a Gem tree. Material needed: 24 gauge gold wire (Hobby Lobby or Michael \$3.00 or less), E6000 clear glue, favor rock (pretty), wire cutters, round nose pliers, toothpicks, small polish gem stone or pebbles, enough to make a Gem tree (I have supply on hand, cost is \$2.00 dollar).

Club Officers for 2008

President:	Donnette Wagner
1st VP:	Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
2nd VP:	Donna Mallory
Treasurer	Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
Secretary:	Nell Black
Editor:	Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
	E-mail: andresner@verizon.net

Minutes – February, 2008 General Meeting

Minutes as compiled by Secretary, Nell Black, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charles Black.

Minutes of the January meeting were printed in the February 2008 Chips and Chatter. At the end of the meeting, it was announced that the POGMC Executive Board had appointed Jessie Davis to fill the vacant Treasurer position and appointed Donnette Wagner to fill the vacant Executive Board Member at Large position. Motion to accept given by Donna Mallory and Donnette Wagner made second to the motion. Motion passed.

Treasure's Report – Don Shurtz

Motion to accept both Jan. reports. Moved by Mark Carter and seconded by Wand Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

Sunshine Report

Anita Dresner, the editor for the Pleasant Oaks club, husband died on 2/08/08. If you would like to send her a card, her address is as follows: 3809 Skyline Dr., Rowlett, TX 75088.

Roland Hall, one of the original members of the Pleasant Oaks club, announced that he is moving and needs to clear out a large pile of rocks from his house in Mesquite. Fee is as desired. Contact Roland Hall at 214-695-4511 or rosahalle@swbell.net.

President's Report – Don Shurtz

Highlights of executive meeting:

- Accepted the resignation of Jessie Davis as Treasurer due to health concerns.
- Appointed Donnette Wagner as President and resignation as Executive Board Member at large, appointed Don Shurtz as the Treasure and resignation as President and appointed Scott Wagner as Executive Board Member at Large. All changes to be effective following the February meeting.
- Voted to add Ling Shurtz, Donna Mallory and Mark Carter as signatures on the Pleasant Oaks checking account, and approved ordering of new checks that would require two signatures on all checks.
- Voted to obtain a second key for the P.O. Box, Donna Mallory to hold the second key.

1st Vice President's Report – Mark Carter

Presentation given was a SCFMS slide show on collecting in the Needle Point (West Texas and Mexico) area. Even though the audio portion of the presentation failed about 10 minutes into the presentation, we pressed on with Mark Carter reading from the script and with comments from Donnette Wagner who had made similar trips in the past. The slides of collecting sites and specimens from both Mexico and West Texas were great.

2nd Vice President's Report – Donna Mallory

A field trip to Arkansas (Hot Springs area) for a quartz dig is planned for late March. A field trip to Mason County Texas for Topaz is in work.

Editor – Anita Dresner

Anita was not at the meeting due to husbands' health problems. We later learned that Anita's husband had died. He passed away at 12:30 am on Friday 08, 2008.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

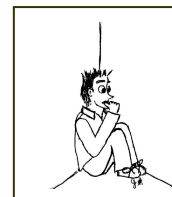
Break: Break at 7:55 to reconvene at 8:15.

New members: Shahin Etezadi and Debbie Rodriquez. Motion to accept new members made by Donnette Wagner and seconded by David Dudich. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Hello POGM Rockhounds!

WOW! What a full Chips and Chatter this month. We have all kind of reading from how to get to know one another to sharing with your little buddies to gifts to the club and, well gee this issue of the C&C makes for a great read. David Dobson is inviting you to let him know of any locations that make for a great field trip and ultimately a fantastic article for the newsletter. The President wishes to get to know each of us better through a super column each month. What a neat idea! I took liberty of changing the title for this column to "Getting to know you". This is a way to get to learn a little something about each other so when we meet and greet at the general meeting we already know something about each other. What fun! Don has some treasures to tell us about gifted to us from Robert Richter and Rolland Hall.

So pour yourself a cool drink, kick your feet up and enjoy the read. See you next month!

President Report

Donnette Wagner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Hi everyone, for those of you that may not know me, my name is Donnette Wagner and I have been a member of the Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club for around 18 years now. I have been president of the club before (many years ago) and have served in other positions as well. I am looking forward to serving as your president and being an active part of this club as we move forward.

One of the things that I have been thinking about is how we can help our new members get to know the rest of us and how we can get to know them. Serving as an officer often leaves little time to spend chatting and getting to know people during the monthly meetings. The show is often the only thing that really gets people working together and talking one on one.

I would like to propose that each month one or two people volunteer to write a little something about themselves and what part or parts of the hobby they are interested in. Nothing grand, just a couple of paragraphs, even I can do that. There are so many facets to our hobby, rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, geology, archeology, crafts, etc. What better way to find other members with the same interests or someone with information on things you never realized could be so interesting? We have a lot of great people in this club and I think sharing our interests and knowledge is a big part of what being in a club is all about. I will start the ball rolling with a Member Profile of myself.

This has been a very eventful year already and it is just getting started! Let's all look for ways to help make this club the great organization I know it can be. For those of us that have been members for some time, let's take this opportunity to get involved again, attend meetings, become an active part of the club, help shape its future, and enjoy each other. For our new members, ask questions, volunteer to help with activities, bring your interests to the membership. You are a large part of our future and we want to provide you with a club that you will enjoy and want to be a part of.

We are the Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, let's get busy and have some fun!

1st Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

No Report @ Print Time

2nd Vice President Message

Donna Mallory, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

No Report @ Print Time

This and That

@ Large, Don Shurtz Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

1. It seems that a lot of people picked through the collection of rocks that Rolland Hall offered at our last meeting. I visited Rolland on March 2nd, almost a month after the rocks had been offered, and picked up the last 8 milk-crates full of rocks for the silent auction. The reason that I believe the rocks had been well picked over is that the last 8 crates are basically going to be “sell by the box so we don’t have to move them again”. I am sure there will be a few individual rocks that will be sold (some petrified wood, and some specimens of wavelite.). We owe Rolland a big thanks for his donation.

2. Robert Richter has donated 2 cabinets to the club. Robert used them for his mineral collections. The first cabinet has 27 drawers. The cabinet is 30.5 inches wide, 13 inches deep, and 37.5 inches tall. Each drawer is 9 by 12 by 3.25 inches. Robert indicated he used this cabinet for thumbnail specimens – each drawer could hold 6 – 18 specimens single stacked! The second cabinet weighs about a ton (actually, probably close to 120 lbs – definitely a 2 man lift). It is 36 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 48 inches tall. It has 10 shelves plus the top. The clearance on each shelf is 2.5 inches. I suspect each shelf could hold 2 - 4 flats. This is a very structurally sound shelf system. Robert indicated he used the shelves for storing flats of mineral specimens. Thank you, Robert!



Refreshment Duties

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

<u><i>Month</i></u>	<u><i>Ice & Drinks</i></u>	<u><i>Snacks</i></u>
<i>April</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>

Feature Article

By David Dobson

Rockhounding with My Little Buddies

For Rockhounds, the Dallas, TX area doesn't have a variety of rocks and minerals to find; but, it does have an abundance of marine fossils. At the last rock show, The North Texas Earth Science Fair a new friend of mine from the Arlington Rock Club gave me the location of a new site to collect ammonites and some clam fossils. The site is some gravel lots surrounding a knife shop in Fort Worth, TX. The site has some fossils, but will either run out or will have buildings on it soon. For directions to the knife shop, please go to www.houseofbladetexas.com. You are now parked on ammonites.

Last week, we needed something to do and I was excited to visit this location; so, we set out to find some rocks. Going rockhounding with my four year old son, Daniel is great! He hasn't found a rock that he doesn't like. And many times he will say "Daddy I like that rock please put it in the truck." "Yes, Daniel that is a nice piece of plain limestone that happens to be 400 lbs!" Now, I like big rocks as some of you know; but, how do you say no to a little guy using his manners. We quickly focused our attention on other rocks when he then found these shell fossils shown here. We picked this rock up instead.



I have Daniel's first rock saved and dated. It was an oval stream tumbled piece of quartz. He found it at age two. It was a landscape rock at a hotel that we were staying at; but, it is his first rock now. Amy, at 17 months, found her first rock yesterday at the park. Even though it was a piece of limestone that had a little cement on it, it still counts. Here is Amy with her first rock.



Daddy's little Pebblepup!

Anyway back to the fossils. It was a sunny day with temperatures at 50°F with 20 mile an hour winds. We could have done without the winds. The collecting area is several acres. All the rocks including fossils are the same color. These are not really fossils as they are molds of the ammonite shells. So look for the giant round snails. Most ammonite molds will be in segments a little less than ¼ of the ammonite to be found. I did find one complete mold. Some with

patterns showing sutures and other showing the ammonite shell contours will be found. The ammonites are more closely related to today's Nautilus.

Here is Daniel and I collecting along with some of our findings.



We are looking for more newsletter articles; so, if you have any other sites to share, please send to rocktrading@aol.com and maybe we can turn it into an article.

Getting to Know You

By Donnette Wagner

From the President's Message, you already know a little about me. My husband Scott and I live outside of Greenville and drive about 50 miles each way to attend the meetings.

We discovered the club by attending the Pleasant Oaks Show on a whim as we drove by the Richardson Civic Center and saw a sign. Mack White, a member that taught jewelry making, made quite an impression on me. I decided to take some lessons and he convinced me to join the club. I thought it would help me meet other people interested in jewelry. What I didn't know was how much more I would find.

I knew very little about rocks and nothing about fossils. I liked beautiful jewelry and the stones set in them. What I discovered was an amazing world of agates, jaspers, and opals, of fossils, minerals, lapidary, and so much more. I have dug quartz crystals with members in Oklahoma, crossed the Rio Grande in a row boat with members to find beautiful agates in Mexico, and picked up fossils all around the Dallas Area. I have learned how to set-up and decorate tables for the show, design a showcase, work with dealers, even help children to bid on silent auction items.

The more I have learned, the more I realize how much more there is to learn. I have found an interest in things that I never imagined I would be interested in. That is part of what keeps me coming back month after month, year after year. There are also so many great people. Because I was encouraged (pushed) to get involved and did, I have met and gotten to know many amazing people. From program speakers to show dealers, from local members to members of distant clubs, this organization has provided me the opportunity to meet a number of fascinating people many of which I am proud to call friends.

I am gushing a little, but this is a great club. It can provide you with all the same opportunities, all you have to do is get into it. Join me, it's great fun!

Question of the Month - What Element Forms the Most Minerals?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

So there I was, looking at the Periodic Table of Elements which hangs next to my PC. I am not sure why I tend to fixate on it, but I do. Early I wrote an article about a class of elements that do not form minerals – those being the Nobel gasses (neon, argon, etc.). They can not form minerals as they do not have any free electrons to join with other elements. Then I started wondering about the opposite end of the spectrum – which element is found in the most number of minerals? My going-in guess was oxygen. Oxygen is the most common element in the earth's crust and seems to oxidize about everything. Oxygen is found in over 1400 elements. If oxygen, as an oxidizing agent, has that many minerals, what would I find if I looked at the reducing agents on the other side of the chart? Turn out hydrogen was the only viable candidate having over 1400 elements too.

So I decided to go back and look around oxygen some more. Sulfur is found right below oxygen in the periodic table, so it seemed as though it should be a viable candidate. Sulfur, which is the 14th most common element in the earth's crust, is found in over 1600 elements – a clear leader over oxygen and hydrogen. So if the element below oxygen is found in a greater number of elements, how about the element below sulfur? That would be selenium, but it is only found in about 120 elements – not even close!

Back to sulfur – what elements are found around it? The next heaviest element is chlorine – a very strong oxidizing agent. It is the 16th most common element in the earth's crust, but only found in about 250 elements. So maybe heavier was the wrong way. The element just lighter than sulfur is phosphorus, the 11th most common element in the earth's crust. Phosphorus is found in about 1400 minerals, not as many as sulfur, but close. Just below phosphorus in element weight is silicon. Silicon is 2nd to oxygen in the earth's crust, but is found in more than 2000 minerals. Silicon is a clear winner in forming minerals. When I think of a silicon containing mineral I think silicon dioxide – found as quartz crystals, massive quartz, chert, chalcedony, sand, and a bunch of other forms.

Other elements that stand out from the crowd include calcium and iron found in about 1000 elements each, aluminum found in about 800 elements, and magnesium and sodium found in about 600 elements each.

Ref:

1. The Periodic Table in Earth and Sky, Sarah Kennedy editor, copyright 2005 by Jansen Scientifics
2. Wikipedia Commons, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:USDA_Mineral_Quartz_Crystal_93c3951.jpg



Quartz crystal: Silicon Dioxide.
Picture from Wikipedia Common. Picture is from USDA and is public domain

Class Schedules

Tray Bradford Acting 2nd VP DGMS

Anyone interested in any class needs to contact Tray at ravenfoot1@yahoo.com.
If you are interested in teaching a class, please contact Tray at the same address.

Field Trip

Donna Mallory, 2nd VP

TXI Field Trip, Midlothian, TX, Saturday May 24th. Contact David Dobson or Donna Mallory for sign up and more information. This is a 1st come list. If you have to bow out, please inform David so he may contact the next person on the list. David at: DDobson268@aol.com or Donna at: dsmallory@waymark.net.

April 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg	4	5 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	6
7 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	8	9	10	11	12 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	13
14 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	15 7:00 pm Dallas Gem Club Mtg	16	17	18	19 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	20
21 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	22	23	24	25	26 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	27
28 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	29	30				

Show Dates

A work in progress

POGM Show Report

Ling Shurtz, Chairwoman, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The confirmed show dates for 2008 is September 19, 20, 21 at the EMGI on the Brookhaven Campus.

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.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

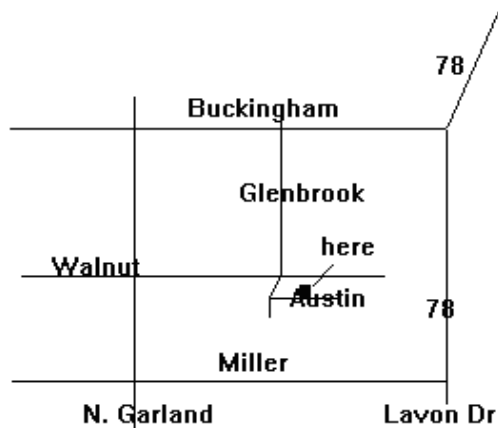
To:

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 3, 2007 at Garland Women's Activity Building, 7:30 PM

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

Meeting Map



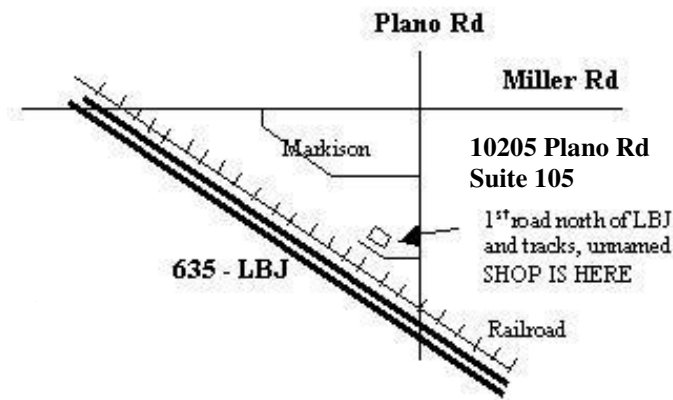
MEETINGS

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

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Club Shop Map for Classes



MEMBERSHIP

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

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies