

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

April 1, 2010
Vol. 44, Issue 4

Feature Article

Field Trip5

Monthly Columns

Area Clubs2
 Birthstone7
 Editor's Corner.....3
 Out and About.....4
 Question of the Month3
 Refreshment Volunteers.....3
 Science Fair.....4
 Secretary Minutes2
 Show Dates6
 Tasty Corner.....5

Meeting, etc.

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Check our website www.pogmc.org
 for past months issue of the
Chips and Chatter

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

POGM meet the First Thursday each month. 7:30 pm at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX, (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook).

Presentation

As of print time, I did not have the information. Sorry.

Club Officers for 2010

President: Del Grady
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Lee Elms
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828 X 1
 E-mail: anitadresner@rocketmail.com

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

March 2010 Minutes

Lee Elms: Secretary, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The March meeting of the Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club was called to order at 7:35 pm with our president, Mark Carter led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurers' Report: Don Shurtz shared the beginning and ending balance for the month with a payout total of \$72.56 for the month. Motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, and was seconded, and approved.

Secretary Report: Discussed the minutes of the February meeting as printed in the *Chips and Chatter*. Motion was made and approved by all to accept the minutes as printed.

Sunshine Report: Warner's wife Cindy has been ill but is on the mend and seems to be doing much better.

Old Business:

Don discussed the Science Fair and told us about who the club selected as our winner; Kitry Gaur. We presented her with a \$100 gift certificate to Nature's Gallery. We also gave out 6 Honorable Mention Certificates.

New Business:

April 23, 24, and 25 is the Inter-Gem Show. We will discuss it more and have flyers at our April meeting.

Field Trip Report: David Dobson wants to schedule a TXI trip possibly in April. Warner is still in the process of scheduling an Arkansas Field Trip.

Visitors: We had several visitors including; Chuck Schiegg, who makes cabs and wants to learn how to do faceting, and Dianne Dawson, who also joined the club tonight. Luisa Rogalland and her family came to visit our club after meeting us at the Science Fair and wanted to come and see what our club is all about.

Program: Del Grady presented our program for the evening. He showed us how to channel set jewelry such as the beautiful Kachina bolo tie that he wears. It is quite a complicated, really amazing and very artistic process and you have to be very precise in your work. He made us aware of books available on how to fashion the silver into the channel set, as well as all the precious and semi-precious gemstones you can use to inlay into the silver channels.

Raffle: After the program, we had our raffle and then the meeting was adjourned.

Area Clubs

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg, 713 Austin, Garland, meets 1st Thursday each month at 7:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Ft Worth, meets 2nd Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Road, off of Plano Road, Dallas, meets 3rd Tuesday each month at 7 pm
Dallas Bead Society, Walnut Hill Rec Ctr, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3rd Thursday each month at 7:30 pm
Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Renaissance Hosp, 2929 S Hampton Road, Dallas, meets 4th Tuesday each month at 7 pm
Ft Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, meets 4th Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI Bldg H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244, meets 2nd Wednesday each month at 7:30 pm

This and That

Editor, POGM

Before you criticize someone, walk a mile in their shoes.
That way if they get angry they'll be a mile away -- and barefoot.

Ref: NexResponse@galaxypor.com

Question of the Month – What is Soapstone?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

What is soapstone? Soapstone is a massive form of talc, and talc is a well known mineral as it represents Moho's hardness of 1, the softest mineral in Moho's scale. Soapstone, besides being known as a massive form of talc, is also called soap rock, steatite, and magnesium talc, and kerolite (sometimes cerolite). Chemically soapstone is hydrous magnesium silicate and represented as $Mg_3Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2$. For kerolite, a little nickel (Ni) is added to the mixture $\{(Mg,Ni)_3Si_4O_{10}(OH)_2\}$.

Being a very soft rock, soapstone can be easily carved with hand tools such as chisels, scrapers, or even flat or sharpened sticks. Because it is easily carved, examples of carved soapstone date back thousands of years. Native Indians of North America carved bowls, cooking slabs, and tobacco pipes from sandstone.

Christ the Redeemer overlooking Rio de Janeiro, from www.wikipedia.com



Seated: Buddha, Baekja, Korea

The Seated Buddha carving to the left dates to the 6th century. Soapstone is still used today in carvings; the Christ the Redeemer carving to the right was completed in 1931.

As evidenced by the number and the locations of soapstone carvings, localities where soapstone can be found are numerous. So, where can it be found in Texas? The only reference that I can trace down is the Texas Rocks and Fossils poster, picture 58 where the caption reads "Blanco County near Johnson City." Further web searching did not yield any further information or specifics. Is anyone ready for a field trip?

- Ref: Rio de Janeiro, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rio_de_Janeiro_Helicoptero_47_Feb_2006.jpg
- Seated Buddha, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:KoreaD.jpg>
- Talc Mineral Data, <http://webmineral.com/data/Talc.shtml>
- Texas Rocks and Fossils, <ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/library/pubs/kids/gempostr.pdf>

Refreshment Volunteers

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

April - Ice & Drinks....Anita Dresner

Snacks.....Paul Sawyer

May.....Ice and Drinks.....Lee Elms

Snacks.....? ? ?

May...Ice and Drinks... ? ? ?

Snacks...? ? ?



Editor's Corner

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Dues Not Paid? Chips and Chatter Not Mailed

If you have any updates; your Email addy, snail mail address or phone number, please make sure the secretary gets the changes and also **your editor**. We encourage you to be green as well as save the club a few dollars over the year by having the *Chips and Chatter* emailed to you. If we may email the *Chips and Chatter*, just be sure to contact the editor at: anitadresner@rocketmail.com, and ask to be put on the C&C email list.

Out and About - Locally

Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Austin Gem and Mineral Society Swap Meet; Saturday, April 10, 2010 in the AGMS Clubhouse parking lot. We would like to invite you to this year's AGMS Swap Meet. If you would like to set up a booth, please contact Kathleen Howard to reserve one or two tables. AGMS will furnish the tables; depending on number of participants, you may be limited to one table. Set up starts at 7:00 am Saturday. The booths open at 9:00 am and will close around 4:00 pm. Contact addy: www.AustinGemAndMineral.org

DGMS Spring Rock Swap; SATURDAY, May 1, 2010 starting at 8:00 am until. Food and drinks provided for a donation of \$5. There will be many different dealers, including but not limited to, rocks, fossils, slabs, minerals, and gem stones, etc. If you care to set up at the swap, please contact Shop Secretary Mollie Cutting at: mollie_cutting@sbcglobal.net. Please forward this announcement to friends, relatives, whomever. The swap will be at our club house at 635 & Plano Road. Signs will be at the corner of Plano Road & Plano Road (no mistake, our street is also named Plano Road) for those not familiar with the location.

Science Fair 2010

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Once again, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, sponsored a Special Award at the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair (DRSEG). The science fair collects the winning entries for 7th through 12th grade at public and private schools from Dennison to the north, Canton to the east, Italy to the south, and Grand Prairie to the west. Over 800 students participate in the fair.

Our club's science fair judges this year were: Lea Elms, Carolyn and Delbert Grady, and Ling and Don Shurtz. As usual, we were all surprised at the high quality level of the projects. If we continue to support the science fair in the future, I would highly encourage all of you to volunteer to judge – you may gain a new appreciation for the work these young students do.

This year Pleasant Oaks will award a \$100 gift certificate to Kriti Gaur for her junior division project Expedition Erosion. Kriti indicated she had been interested in geology and rocks since her early grade school days. Her project dealt with the erosion rates due to rain, of various common Texas rocks. We hope our gift certificate will help spark a continuing interest in geology and related fields.



However, her project was just one of many which we considered. We looked at projects that measured the radio activity of different types of granites, erosion prevention, methods for cleaning up metallic contaminants in soil, the effects of acid rains, factors which influenced the rate of production of copper sulfate, and factors in the rate of crystal growth. Any one of the projects could have been winners; it was a hard choice. In addition to our Special Award Winner, we selected three projects as Honorable Mentions. Two of the three Honorable Mention winners were team projects with two members, so we will recognize 5 students with Honorable Mention certificates. We also offered a free one year membership in our club to the special award and honorable mention winners.

Shop Tips

Editor, POGM

Discourage those snails! Don't throw away worn out sandpaper discs. Instead, cut a slit up the radius, and lay them down like a collar around the stems of your plants. Slugs won't cross the scratchy surface! I'm going to try this one!

Ref: www.scvgms.org

POGM Tasty Corner

Editor, POGM



JICAMA CITRUS SALAD

1 Head Butter or Boston Lettuce	2 Tbsp Rice Wine Vinegar
1 Tbsp Honey	5 Tbsp EVOO (Extra Virgin Olive Oil)
2 Tbsp Fresh Cilantro, chopped	2 Oranges, peeled, cleaned of white membrane, & sectioned
2 Limes, peeled & sectioned	1 Med Jicama, peeled & julienne (approx. 1 C)
1 Med Red Onion, finely sliced	Salt & Pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Remove the core and leaves of the lettuce, washing clean and thoroughly drying.
2. Evenly divide the leaves onto four salad plates.
3. In a mixing bowl, add the vinegar, honey, salt & pepper and cilantro. Slowly whisk in Filippo Berio® Olive Oil.
4. Add orange and lime segments, jicama and red onion and toss until completely coated.
5. Make a mound from this mixture, over the mix greens.
6. Spoon additional vinaigrette over the lettuce leaves.

Field Trip TXI in Midlothian

David Dobson: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

A field trip to [TXI Cement Plant in Midlothian, TX](#) has been scheduled for [April 10, 8am to 10am](#).

We will meet at 7:45am on Ward Road in front of the TXI main office. We are allowed a limited number of rock hounders. Please send me ASAP: **1)** the name/s of all in your party, **2)** email, and **3)** phone number. If after signing up you find you cannot attend, please let me know immediately, so the next person on the list may be notified. Anyone whose name is not on the list, according to TXI, should not be allowed entry. Hope to see you there and to have a great day.

Collecting can be done; **1)** in the parking area, **2)** at the quarry area where we will be allowed access, and **3)** at other areas of very large mounds of dirt, rocks, and boulders. Children are allowed, but must be accompanied by an adult! We will be looking for and finding **a)** pyrite, **b)** sepiarian nodules, and **c)** marine fossils, and **d)** many species of shark's teeth.

Tools; **1)** a small rock hammer, **2)** small zip lock baggies for small fossils, and **3)** collecting bag for larger specimens and **4)** sun block and **5)** WATER. A good idea to bring with you: **A)** steel toe shoes and **B)** knee pads. **Hard hats and safety glasses will be provided, and are to be worn at all times;** but, if you have your own please bring them. **No open toed shoes, IE; sandals!!!! Pants required. No shorts allowed. No Cameras allowed. No Littering.**

A great Thank You to TXI will be use of good judgment and conduct of a safe manner, to grant us a future return date.

Note: Take Caution and Do Not Stand Near Rock Walls as Rocks can fall off.

Directions to Ward Road, site of the TXI main office, meeting location in Midlothian, TX: South on 35E to Highway 67. Take Hwy 67 South to Midlothian, TX. Exit Ward Road. Go east under the overpass and we will be parked on the right side of Ward Road, across the street from TXI main office.

Contact: David Dobson Rocktrading@aol.com ****(Send all responses to this address!)****

Show Dates

April 2010:

9-11 ALBUQUERQUE, NM: "Treasures of the Earth 41st Annual Show"; Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; Creative Arts Center, New Mexico State Fairgrounds (Expo NM), San Pedro entrance, across the street from the Lujan Bldg; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$1 Fri, \$3 Sat & Sun, children under 13 free; more than 40 dealers, displays, door prizes, kids' booth, silent auctions, faceting demonstrations, gold panning, gem setting, free mineral/gem identification; contact Paul Hlava, (505) 255-5478; e-mail: hpf5@qwest.net

10-11 ABILENE, TX: Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Show; Abilene Civic Center, 1100 N 6th Street; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5; adults \$5, children \$3; vendors, rock, fossils, tools, gems, sand art, wheel of fortune, raffles, club member demonstrations, geode cracking; contact Betty Scarborough, 422 CR 606, Tuscola, TX 79562, (325) 668-2374; e-mail: waltswife1029@yahoo.com; Website: www.txol.net/rockclub

16-18 ALPINE, TX: "Wonders from Our Desert & Beyond Show"; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Kokernot Lodge, Rte 223 bypass; Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5; Free admission; Kids' Corner, door prize, dealer demonstrations, video "What's Hot in Tucson"; contact Mary Brogan, PO Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 837-3824; e-mail: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Website: www.agates123.com/cdgmcc/

17 NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR: Central Arkansas Gem Annual Swap, Mineral & Geology Society; Burns Park, Elder Johnson Pavilion, I-49 Exit 150, Military Dr.; Sat. 8-5; free admission; bring your own table or tailgate; contact Pat Kissire, 4900 Sparks Rd, Little Rock, AR 72210, (501) 821-2346; e-mail: pkissire@sbcglobal.net; Website: www.centralarrockhound.org

24-25 JACKSON, MS: Mobile Rock & Mineral Society Mineral & Rock Show, The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Nature's Society of Majestic Arts; Mississippi Fairgrounds, Trademark Bldg; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; gems, minerals, fossils, beads, crystals, rough and cut stones, finished jewelry, tools and lapidary supplies, fossils, minerals, stone vases and carvings, loose precious stones, mobile gem mining, gold mining, pearls, knapping, faceting, jewelry repairs; contact Sharon McClanahan or Stan Bennett, (601) 898-0407; e-mail: stan@tompkinsbarron.com

24-25 MEMPHIS, TN: 32nd Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show; Memphis Archaeological & Geological Society; Memphis International Agricenter, Expo Center, West Pavilion, A and B wings, 7777 Walnut Grove Road; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$5, children 12 and under \$2, Scouts free; dealers, exhibits, kids' area, speakers; contact WC McDaniel, (901) 274-7706; e-mail: info@theearthwideopen.com; Website: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com

24-25 WACO, TX: Waco Gem & Mineral Club 50th Annual Show; TSTC Industrial Trade Center; Sat 10-5:30, Sun 10-5; Adults \$5 (both days), Students \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Road 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311

April-May 2010:

30-2 HOUSTON, TX: "Houston Fine Mineral Show, 2nd Annual Show"; Embassy Suites Hotel, near The Galleria; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; more than 50 dealers; contact Dave Waisman, PO Box 8543, Spokane, WA 99203; Website: www.finemineralshow.com

May 2010:

1-2 LUBBOCK, TX: Show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$4, students (6-12) \$2, children under 6 free with adult; door prizes, children's "Spinning Wheel", demonstrations, sphere making, wire wrapping, silent auction, club displays, dealers, beads, jewelry, minerals, carvings, rough and polished rocks; contact Archie Scott, 2709 Belvedere Road, Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 894-1584; email: archie.scott73@yahoo.com; Website: http://lgmstx.org

14-16 ENID, OK: Enid Gem & Mineral Society Annual Swap; Oakwood Mall, 4125 W. Owen K. Garriott Road; silent auction, kids' area, lapidary work, rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry; Fri & Sat 10-8, Sun 12-5; contact Stan Nowak, (580) 484-2785; e-mail: snowak48@yahoo.com

18-MESA, AZ: Show, "Rings & Things BeadTour"; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn & Suites (Superstition Ballroom), 1600 S. Country Club Dr.; Tue. 12-4; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Website: www.rings-things.com

20-ALBUQUERQUE, NM: "Rings & Things Bead Tour Show"; Rings & Things; MCM Elegante Hotel, 2020 Menaul NE; Thu. 12-4; free admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; Website: www.rings-things.com

29-30 FT WORTH, TX: "Fabulous Fossils" 59th Annual Show; Ft Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, Amon G. Carter Exhibit Bldg, 3401 W Lancaster; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children under 12 Free; 30 dealers, kids' games, hourly door prizes, grand prize, silent auction, exhibits; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234; (817) 925-5760; email: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Website: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org



Birthstone: Diamond

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Diamond - ancient Greek adamas (αδάμας) meaning “invincible”.

Birthstone of April, sixty-year anniversary symbol, used for the arms of nobles, and was used in religious icons in ancient India, and a signature of betrothal in engagement rings.

The 19th century saw an expanded popularity of the diamond, partly because of the improved cutting and polishing techniques and their growing supply. Almost half of all diamonds come from Africa with lesser quantities coming from Canada, Australia, India, Russia, and Brazil. During this time, their popular demand greatly rose with the growth in world economy and advertizing blitz.

Diamonds come in various colors. Colored diamonds have impurity inclusions that cause the color; usually the impurities replace a carbon atom in the crystal lattice, known as a carbon flaw. The most common of colors range from yellow to brown. Diamonds are the hardest natural material; its hardness on Mohs scale of mineral hardness is 10 (hardest). Their hardness has been known since antiquity. But, an allotrope of carbon first synthesized in 2005 known as aggregated diamond nanorods, are even harder than diamond.

To keep your diamonds looking their very best, they need care. Cleaning them at least once a month will remove the natural elements they come in contact with, such as body oils, make up, and even grease that is in the air. Give them a bath in a warm water solution using dish washing liquid, rinse in warm water then pat dry. There are other methods of cleaning also. There is the sonic vibration sold with its own solution and also jars of dipping solutions. Whichever method you choose, be certain to read the instructions and follow them.

Did you know about these records for largest diamonds?

The Cullinan Diamond, was the largest gem-quality rough diamond ever found (1905), at 3,106.75 carats, and is part of the British crown jewels.

Cullinan I or the Great Star of Africa, one of the diamonds cut from it, was formerly the largest gem-quality cut diamond at 530.2 carats.

Golden Jubilee (1985), a 545.67 carat, yellow-brown diamond followed the Great Star of Africa in size.

The Centenary Diamond, which weighs 273.85 carats, is the largest flawless and colorless (grade D) diamond.

The Millennium Star is the second largest (1990) at 203.04 carats.

Historical claims are diamonds possess several supernatural powers:

They give victory to he who carries it bound on his left arm, into confrontation.

It is good for sleepwalkers and the insane, as it clears their path.

A diamond's hardness can only be broken by smearing it with fresh goat's blood.

Think about this

Travis Metcalfe, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, believes that the galaxy's largest diamond is the core of the white dwarf star BPM 37093. Observations indicate that the core is a diamond crystal 4000 km in diameter.



Ref: <http://www.costellos.com.au/diamonds/index2.html>
<http://thebrazilianconnection.com/diamondinfopage.html>Britannica
<http://www.answers.com/topic/diamond>
<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Raw+Diamond+Picture&FORM=IGRE5#focal=005a1a4ed265460e0a5c823d9259996b&furl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.starzdiamonds.com%2Fcatalog%2FDSCN5341.JPG>

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

April 1, 2010 7:30 PM, 713 Austin, Garland Women's Bldg, TX

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
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

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies

