

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



April 2013
Vol. 47, Issue 4

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

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

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 4th, 2013 at the Garland Women’s Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. The program will be a wire wrapping demonstration by Warner Ragan.

Club Officers for 2013

- President: Del Grady
- 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
- Secretary: Lee Elms
- Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
- Editor: Don Shurtz
- E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO SEE THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR

Reminder: 2013 dues are now due

Check our website, www.pogmc.org
 for prior month issues of the
Chips and Chatter



The Vice President Speaks

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

This month's presentation will be demonstration of Wire Wrapping by Warner Ragan

March 7th 2013 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Del Grady, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Parker

Sunshine report Members: Terri Collier and Tony are under the weather and not able to attend tonight. Charlotte Harmon, who many of the members know from the local gem shows, has passed away.

The January Minutes as published in the Chips and Chatter for February were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mark Carter and seconded by Warner Ragan. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was read by Don Shurtz. A motion to accept as read was made by Mark Carter and seconded by Mike Kuntz. Motion carried.

Old Business:

- Don and Ling Shurtz reported on the annual regional Science Fair. A detailed report was printed in the Chips and Chatter.
- Field Trips: Check with David for current field trips to TXI.
- Bi-annual International Gem Show is April 26-28th.

After a short break, we watched a DVD, Cash and Treasures: Hunting Topaz at Thomson Mountain. Raffle.

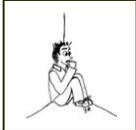
Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by
Carolyn Grady



Editor's Corner

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



What can you do for the club? Can you be an officer, lead a committee, teach a class, lead a field trip, or even go on a field trip? Over the years David Dobson has lead a number of field trips to the TXI cement factory and quarry in Midlothian. His latest field trip was designated as a Pleasant Oaks G&MC field trip, but club member turn-out was a little disappointing. In addition to David, there was Rosella, Greg, Lee, Carol, Ling, and myself. That is only 7 members; we should have had more for a great field trip like this. David did fill out the field trip with other people, so there was a good crowd, and I think everyone enjoyed the trip (see the article starting on page 5). We owe David a huge "THANKS" for arranging these trips over the years, and let's hope that next time we can get a better club showing. By the way, David and Rosella's baby girl was born in the week following the field trip – congratulations!

Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for March and April

Apr 5-7, Live Oak, TX, EGI Shows, Live Oak Civic Center, egi168@hotmail.com, www.egishows.com

Apr 12-14, Ft. Worth, TX, EGI Shows, Will Rogers Memorial Center, egi168@hotmail.com, www.egishows.com

APR 13, North Little Rock, AK, Annual Swap Meet, Central Arkansas G&MS, steelpony@aol.com, www.centralarrockhound.org

APR 13-14, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center, linewalk@juno.com

APR 13-14, Siloam Springs, AK, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, delanec3@earthlink.net, www.nwarockhounds.org

APR 19-21, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MS, Alpine Civic Center

APR 20-21, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Civic Cntr, walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org,

www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

MAY4, Arlington, Rock and Gem Swap Meet, Arlington G&MS, 1408 Gibbons, Arlington, jlpinks@sbcglobal.net, agemclub.com

MAY 25-26, Ft. Worth, TX, Ft. Worth G&MC, Amon Carter Ex. Bldg, fwgmc@embarqmail.com, forworthgemandmineralclub.org

Ref:

Nov-Dec SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/>

Birthstone for April – Diamond

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



What do we know about diamond? It is composed of pure carbon; it is the top of the Mohs hardness scale at 10; it is generally clear but also is known to have color (brown, yellow, blue, green, purple, pink, red, black, and probably others). Diamonds are found in several locations including South Africa (the world's major producer), central Africa (Zimbabwe and Angola), India, Brazil, Russia, and Canada. Living as close as we do the Crater of Diamonds State Park in Arkansas, we also know that a few come from that location. Other locations for diamonds found in the US include Colorado and Montana. The majority of the world's

diamond trade is controlled by the De Beers Company. Antwerp in Belgium is the heart of the cutting and world trade for diamonds with other notable locations including New York City and Tel Aviv. There are many famous diamonds including the Cullinan I or Star of Africa (530.3 carats), the Orloff (300 carats), the Koh-I-Noor or Mountain of Light (105.6 carats), the Taylor-Burton (69.4 carats) the Hope Diamond (45.5 carats), and others.



Diamonds are formed in very specific conditions of high pressure and (relatively speaking) low temperature (e.g. if you consider 900 – 1300 degrees Celsius as low). These conditions are found in the earth's mantle at a depth of 90 to 120 miles. Once the diamonds have crystallized, they need to be transported towards the surface in order to be found and mined. The transportation mechanism is a deep origin volcano – these volcanoes are generally three times deeper than the average volcano. Many of these volcanoes have magma which changes to the igneous rock known as kimberlite. It should be noted that the diamonds are not formed in the magma, only transported to minable depths by the magma flow. As the magma cools and forms the kimberlite it traps the diamonds. It is also interesting to note that some diamonds are formed from carbon that is not of organic origin (hartzburgitic diamonds), but some diamonds are formed from organic carbon which has been transported to the necessary depth by plate tectonics' subduction (eclogitic diamonds). By the strictest definition of a mineral it must be inorganic, so I suppose that eclogitic diamonds are not minerals, but I think that is really pushing a point. In addition to natural formation of diamonds, synthetic (lab grown) diamonds are being produced. Most are produced by a technique known as High Pressure High Temperature process. This technique has been used for years to produce industrial grade diamonds, but recently the techniques have been refined so that gem quality diamonds have been produced. In more recent times, techniques have been developed to form industrial and gem quality diamonds by chemical vapor deposition – a technique developed for the production of microchips used in our electronics. The bad news is that it is virtually impossible to distinguish between a natural and a man-made diamond.

As rockhounds, we generally do not attempt to cut or polish diamond. The materials that can cut and polish diamond are diamond, but the techniques and equipment used in the trade are just not practical for the hobbyist. However, we do use diamond for our rock cutting tools from diamond bladed saws for cutting rocks, rough grinding wheels and discs to shape rocks, diamond sanding wheels and discs to continue the shaping and pre-polishing of rocks, and many use very fine diamond for the final polish of their finished rocks.

Ref:

Crater of Diamonds State Park, <http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/>

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

World's 10 Most Famous Diamonds, <http://www.studiosoft.it/jewelryworlds10.htm>

Pictures:

Diamond Ring, Wikimedia Commons, Creative Commons Attribution 1.0 Generic license

Hope Diamond, Wikimedia Commons, Free Software Foundation, GNU Free Documentation License

Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209

Dallas Paleontological Society, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244

Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX

Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth

Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

How Good Was The TXI Field Trip?

Comments and Pictures for the Pleasant Oaks TXI
Midlothian Field Trip March 16th

Everyone,

Thanks for coming on the TXI Midlothian trip. This trip took more work than usual to coordinate, but coordinating a field trip, any day swinging a hammer until your arm is tired, climbing and dredging up rough terrain for miles refusing to remove rocks in your shoes because your too tired, carrying heavy loads to the point of needing to take several breaks, all this while looking down for hours, is still better than a day at work. ☺

Here are two of my happy finds.



Two
happy
pyrite
pictures:



Hope to see you on the next trip.

Thanks,

David Dobson

David,

Jeff and I wanted to thank you for coordinating the TXI trip today! We had a great time and found a lot of nice pyrite and some fossils. Thanks for getting us into the 8am group! Can't imagine only having 2 hours! Good luck with the coming baby! :) Thanks!

Steph

David,

Gina and I had such a great time. We wanted to thank you for your hard work and the opportunity to be able attend the field trip at TXI. Please keep in touch and if you ever need a baby sitter, we would love to baby sit. We would love to go on other trips in the future....

Take care,

Tammy

Hello David,

Thanks for inviting us to a fun field trip morning. We got a few good pieces of calcite and pyrite. We appreciate the plan, strategy and execution of the event.

Regards,

Andy



Pyrite, calcite, clam and phosphate material/ fossils

David,

I just wanted to thank you for taking us into TXI Saturday. That was my first time and I really enjoyed it. I didn't have much luck this time, but learned a lot so that next time I will do better. We look forward to going on field trips with you again. You are a very patient man.

Thanks again,

Judy

David,

Thank you for taking the time for the excursion. I enjoyed it tremendously. I found Mosasaurus vertebrae, pyrite, calcite, and petrified wood.

Thanks for inviting use to your hunt

Deborah

Hi David,

For the past 3 years I have wanted to go on one of the outings to TXI but I always had something else going on when those trips were scheduled. This year was different, I was able to go and I had a blast. Yes it was a little chilly to start off the morning, but just the excitement of finding all that pyrite lying around on the ground made me indifferent to the wind and dust. And climbing those dirt mounds looking for shark and ray teeth was a lot of fun. I may be 67 years old, but I felt like a kid up there. It's like the fun you have going to Arkansas and climbing around on the piles of tailings looking for quartz crystals. I hope to be able to attend the next outing you have at TXI in the Fall. It was a truly wonderful weekend.

Thanks a lot,

Lee

David,

Ling and I both had a great time. We stayed in the fossil hunting area for the first 2 hours but only found a bunch of smaller pyrite specimens - generally ball shaped specimens ranging from marble size up to



walnut size; most had good golden coloring. For the last 2 hours we moved down to the pyrite area and found lots of great pyrites - mostly walnut to orange size, but some bigger - and a few nice calcite pieces. Just before it was time to leave I found a softball size chunk of pyrite. About the same time I met Dr. James Carter in the same collecting area. It turns out he was looking for a large specimen to put on display at UTD. I showed him the softball size piece and asked if that was big enough. It was, so I gladly let him have the piece. I hope it does make it to his display. For the record - most of the pieces seemed to be a better quality than prior year finds - most had a lot of nice gold faces showing.

Very respectfully,

Don

Hi David,

Jack and I had a wonderful time.

We hunted pyrite for about an hour (didn't find a ton, but found enough). The gentleman from TXI gave Jack a neat round piece of pyrite. And a lady gave Jack a larger piece of pyrite while we were out hunting. This left us with about 30 minutes to hunt for sharks' teeth (found two small teeth). I think it takes a little more time to find a good spot for this.

Thanks for getting us in on this trip. Really appreciate it.

Dan

Hi David,

Thank you for organizing the hunt at TXI. No big finds for me but lots of fun.

David

Dear Mr. David,
Even though we didn't find anything spectacular (small teeth) I must say that your members are super nice. This is my son Jordan (13) and my first time with your organization since joining DGMS last month. We met a lot of nice and helpful people : notably Andre, Debbie, Judy, Dora & Hope. Sorry my memory cells cannot handle remembering last names! We had a great time getting to know them.

Looking forward to future trips.

God bless,

Ming & Jordan

David,

Enjoyed. But...had limited success. Found some pieces of pyrite, but no shark teeth. Other people found things in the same area, so it's there. Don't have pictures. Am glad that someone could get us in for a change. I haven't been there in 4 or 5 years. So...a giant THANK YOU for getting this done.

Thanks.

Dora

David,

Thanks for letting us come out. The attachment is the pyrite that we found. Best of luck with the new addition to your family.



Pyrite

Lputnam

Hi David,

Thank you for setting up the field trip to TXI. My fiancé and I had a great time! We found some cool stuff, we ended up with a good mix



Fossilized plant material and two pyrite pictures.

Aaron

David,

Thanks again for squeezing us in for Saturdays field trip! Had a great time!

Docia

Editor's Comments:

I wish everyone from the club could have attended. It really was a very nice Field Trip. Again, a big **THANK YOU** to David for arranging this field trip. I hope David can continue to organize such great trips. **WELL DONE!**

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

The Way I See It

by Don Monroe, AFMS President
from the April 2013 AFMS Newsletter



The "Deal" a true story

About 20 years ago, give or take a few, I received a telephone call from Ed Elam who is remembered by many of you as a master of the art of channel or as called by some, channel inlay. Ed noted that we had lost two of our old-time instructors and that he wanted to insure that the future of channel was preserved and the art form would continue to be taught.

Ed offered me a deal that involved coming to his home in Brent, Alabama. He promised that if I would spend time working with him that he would teach me all that I needed to know about doing channel. He further stated that he would help me assemble the tools needed to do channel work and furnish me with some of his slabbed material to get started. Well, I took him up on his offer and this was followed with the opportunity to teach with Ed at John C. Campbell. We did this together for several years. During this period I also taught channel at William Holland and recruited my wife Ann who had developed a significant ability to do channel work. I continued to teach with Ed until his wife's physical condition forced him to give it up. After Ed retired from teaching I continue to this date at William Holland and we teach a few private students.

There is a message in this story which is that all of us that teach need to sponsor someone to take up our job when we must give it up. Ann and I have concentrated on a few dedicated students and hopefully we will have them to take up the challenge when we are no longer able to teach.

The Eastern Federation has a competition program entitled "Each One Teach One" which recognizes Eastern club members who teach others. Clubs and individuals submit information about their members who teach skills to others as Ed did to me with no monetary remuneration for their time or effort. A committee reads all the nominations and makes a determination as to the winner. It's a great way to ensure that the skills we've all learned continue for the next generation and to recognize those who see that it happens.

Our own AFMS Club Rockhound of the Year program can be used as a way of saying "thank you" to the members who teach others. Each club may submit the name and information about one member (or husband and wife team) each calendar year. I'd like to see more clubs brag about these important members each month. Just send your submission to your regional federation "ACROY" chair and you'll see them honored in the pages of the AFMS Newsletter'

Don

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

Coming Up

The April 4th meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building. The program will feature a wire wrapping demonstration by Warner Ragan

The May 2nd meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building.

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

MEETINGS

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

MEETING MAP

