



April 2nd Meeting Canceled

May 7th Meeting Canceled

The City of Garland has closed the Garland Activities Building for April and May. It doesn't make any sense to try to meet elsewhere – the risk would be low, but will be lower if you just stay home. Make sure you are washing your hands frequently and using disinfectants on frequently touched surfaces. Avoid crowds; try to remain at least 6 feet away from others if possible. If you feel sick (cold or flu like symptoms), develop a dry cough, shortness of breath, or a fever, contact your doctor for advice and instruction. Comply with the instruction from local law enforcement and health officials. Be safe and we will be able to continue a normal routine when the threat of the COVID-19 has diminished.

IGEM April 10 - 12 is canceled

IGEM is in the process of scheduling a new show for August at Market Hall. The dates of the new show will be published when they are confirmed.

Smithsonite

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Smithsonite, also call Zinc Spar and sometimes Bonamite, is an ore of Zinc. Chemically it is Zinc Carbonate, $ZnCO_3$, but often contains other elements (including copper, cadmium, cobalt, and iron) in trace amounts replacing the Zinc atom yielding a variety of colors including yellow, green, blue, yellow, orange, and brownish red. When it is relatively free of trace elements, it is white to clear. Although Smithsonite forms in the trigonal crystal system, it is rarely found in crystalline form – it is generally found in rounded or botryoidal masses. Smithsonite has a Mohs hardness of 4.5 and a specific gravity of 4.4 to 4.5.

Originally, the zinc ore was called Calamine. In an 1802 paper, Mr. James Smithson found that Calamine contained two minerals, a Zinc Carbonate and a Zinc Silicate. The Calamine Carbonate was named Smithsonite in 1832 in honor of James Smithson while the Zinc Silicate was named Hemimorphite. Mr. Smithson was a British chemist and mineralogist. Upon his death, the estate of Mr. Smithson passed to his nephew in America, Mr. Henry James Hungerford. When Mr. Hungerford died, he had



no children

so he bequeathed Mr. Smithson's estate to the United States of America for the establishment of the Smithsonian Institution – now more commonly known as the Smithsonian, which includes the National Zoo.

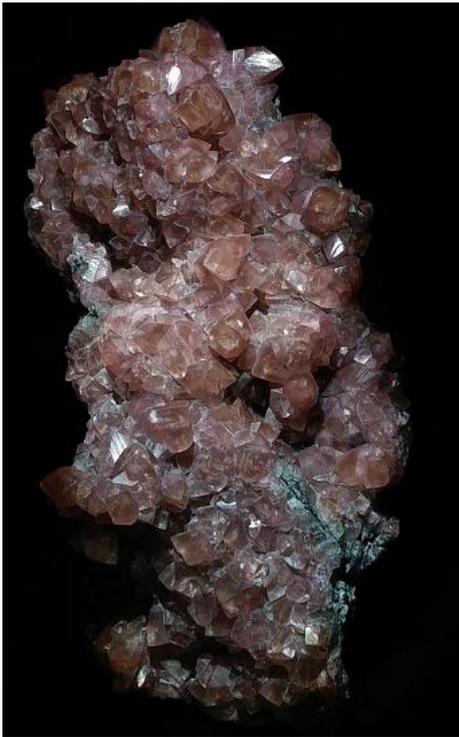
Reference:

- Smithsonite, Minerals.net, <https://minerals.net/>
- Smithsonite, Mindat.org, <https://mindat.org/>
- Smithsonite, Smithsonian Institution, Wikipedia,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Photographs by Don Shurtz of specimens displayed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. The top (green) specimen is from Sardinia, Italy and bottom (brownish red) specimen is from Tsumeb, Namibia.

Note: if you enjoy puzzles, this photographs (as are most of the mineral specimens featured in the Chips and Chatter) can be found at Jigsaw Planet, <https://www.jigsawplanet.com>



Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Please note that many shows are being canceled in response to health concerns associated with COVID-19

Check with the show or contact to verify the show status

- APR 4-5, Siloam Springs, AR, NW Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Center, www.facebook.com/NWAGMS/
 - APR 10-12, Dallas, TX, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Market Hall, <https://www.intergem.com/>
 - APR 11-12, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Convention Center, www.new.calichtimes.com/page13.htm
 - APR 25, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Wonderland of the Americas mall, www.swgms.org
 - MAY 23-24, Ft. Worth, TX, Ft. Worth G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Center, fortworthgemandmineralshow.org
 - MAY 30-31, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
- Ref:
- January February 2020 SCFMS News
 - SCFMS Local Shows, www.scfms.net
 - Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Reprinted by permission of the author, Brad Smith. Received as an email from Brad Smith

PROBLEMS WITH SMALL DRILLS

Drilling small holes can be a problem. With drills that are less than 1 mm (18 gauge or .040 inches), some chucks will not tighten down well enough to hold the drill securely.

The problem is easily solved in either of two ways - with a chuck adapter or by buying your small drills with a 3/32 inch shank size. Either way you have a large shank to be gripped in your drill press, Foredom or Dremel, so changing bits is fast and easy.



Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls.



PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS

As a general rule of thumb, I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things.

First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily.

Lastly, before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How-To" Jewelry Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Ready to Rock, Rockhounds!

Jennifer Haley, AFMS Historian, from the April AFMS Newsletter

Woo-hoo! Did anyone else see it? I was sitting on the couch half watching the Oscars on TV, and more interested in my bowl of pistachio ice cream, when a clever Facebook commercial came on the screen catching my attention. The theme of their ad was called, "Ready to Rock." The creative commercial showcased twelve popular groups who have the word rock in their description and who use Facebook. It was a high energy advertisement using one second video clips for each group. Examples of the variety of group users were, Moab Rock Climbers, Table Rock Lake, Rock Buggies-Off Roding and Experimental Rocketry to name a few.



I just about fell off the couch when I saw one of the twelve groups printed in big letters was, "Rockhounds," showing a photo of the famous selenite cave in Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico with people exploring the cave.

I had to look up the cost for these ads because not only was the commercial shown during the Oscars, it was shown during the Super Bowl this year, and the word rockhounds was featured in both. The cost of a commercial during the 2020 Super Bowl was \$5.6 million for 30 seconds. The cost of an ad during the 2020 Oscars was from \$2.6 million and higher for 30 seconds. The part of the Facebook commercial recognizing "Rockhounds" was a full 60 seconds! Do the math folks, we were just gifted with some amazing free advertising. How many people watched the Oscars this year? 23.6 million! How many people watched the Super Bowl this year? 101 million!

In case you missed seeing the commercial, you can watch it in full at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0uYOOTz6kk>. "Rockhounds" is mentioned at approximately 40 seconds into the ad. The message in big letters at the end of the commercial is, "Whatever you rock, there's a Facebook Group for you." I am still on cloud nine that this happened for Recreational Rockhounding and that Facebook thought enough to include us in their advertising.

I hope societies mention this exciting news at your next general meeting and include the information in your bulletins to inspire members. At a time when we sometimes worry about changing times and its impact on our recreational activity, this experience of receiving free national advertising is truly amazing and something to celebrate. Any time your society editor would like to include an AFMS Historian article in your bulletin, I am more than happy to forward you a digital copy to use. Ready to Rock, Rockhounds, that's us!



VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The March meeting will again celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Corn Beef and Cabbage Potluck Dinner. For the meeting, we should continue our discussion of meeting format and location. Do not forget to start planning for the April 2020 International Gem and Jewelry Show – dates are April 10-12. Plan for set-up on Wednesday, April 8.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

MEETING MINTUES for March 5

POGMC President Ling Shurtz called the March 5, 2020 club meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Sunshine Report:

- Butch is still recovering from his second heart attack and a stroke. He is at Palomino Place in Mesquite. Patti is also at the same facility and doing better. <Editor's note: Butch pass away at 4:30 AM on Friday, 6 March. Per the wishes of the family. there was no memorial or funeral. >

Visitors: No visitors

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the February meetings as printed in the March 2019 Chips and Chatter. Cheryl made a motion to accept the minutes. Hatt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was deferred to the next meeting

Old Business:

- The spring IGEM is April 10 – 12 at Market Hall*.

New Business:

- Tickets for the April IGEM show should be available at the April meeting. Plan for set-up on Wednesday, April 8*.
- Carolyn won the coloring contest

* *Editor's Note: IGEM for April has been canceled*

Area shows:

- MAR 7-8, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Cnty. Fair Barn
- MAR 7-8, Gulf Coast G&MS, RMB Fairgrounds
- MAR 12-15, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SW NM Fairgrounds,
- MAR 14-15, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center
- MAR 20-22, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds
- MAR 27-28, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC

Break

Presentation: In lieu of a presentation, we had a St. Patrick's potluck dinner featuring Corned Beef and Cabbage provided by the club and dishes provided by club members to make a memorable feast.

Ling adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Minutes: From notes by Don Shurtz

MEETING

The April and May meetings have been canceled. Our meeting place, the Garland Activities Building, has been closed by the City of Garland

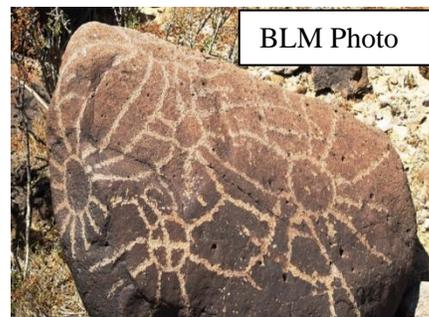
VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Copyright Information: This issue of the Chips and Chatter is copyright © by Don Shurtz. 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 provided.

To all Rockhounds and Friends – Your Help is Needed

AIAA via Mark Nelson, from the April AFMS Newsletter

An Historic Petroglyph was stolen from the El Paso Mountains and your help is needed to find it! Be On the Look Out (BOLO) for any signs of the article and HELP to return it to its home! The Sunburst Petroglyph was stolen from the El Paso Mountains near Ridgecrest, California. The Bureau of Land Management's Ridgecrest Field Office is offering up to \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for stealing the petroglyph. If you have any information regarding the person(s) involved in this crime, you are encouraged to call WeTip immediately at 1-800-782-7463. For more information contact the Ridgecrest BLM Field Office at (760) 384-5400.

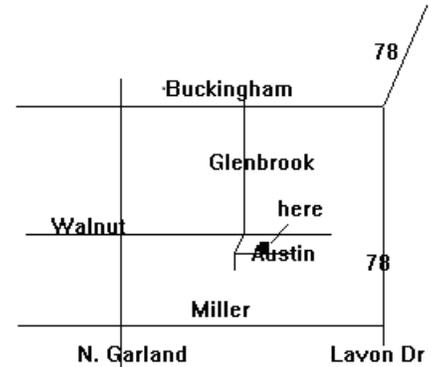


PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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)



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, particularly 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. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

The April and May meetings are canceled in response to the COVID-19 Health Issue

Features

Bench Tips from Brad Smith..... 3
Meeting **1**
 Smithsonian 2

Monthly Columns

Club and Meeting Information 1, 5, 6
 Minutes 5
 President’s Message 5

Federation News

Ready to Rock Rockhounds 4
 To all Rockhounds and Friends, Help is Needed . 5

Notices

Shows and Activities 3
 Visit an Area Club 4
 Copyright Notice 5