



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



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April 2022
Vol. 56, Issue 4

1st Place, 2019 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Large Rough Diamonds

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Diamond is the April Birthstone. Most diamonds are quite small (less than 1 carat), but whatever happened to the largest diamonds ever found. For this discussion, let us assume that a large diamond is greater than 1,000 carats. Surprisingly, Wikipedia has a list of all the diamonds over 200 carats in size. There were six diamonds over 1,000 carats, but only 5 were gem quality. The largest diamond ever found was Sergio weighing in at 3,167 carats. Found in 1895 in Brazil, it is not a gem-quality diamond. It is believed to be of meteoric origin. It was broken down into 3 to 6 carat pieces and sold as industrial diamonds. The second-largest is the Cullinan Diamond; it is the largest gem-quality diamond ever mined. It weighed 3106.75 carats and was found in South Africa. It was cut into 105 stones, the largest being the Cullinan 1 (also known as the Great Star of Africa) weighing 530.4 carats – the largest cut diamond in the world. Next is the Sewelo diamond, the third-largest rough diamond. It was mined in Botswana Africa from the Karowe Mine, coming in at 1758 carats. It was mined in 2019. The fourth-largest diamond is also from Botswana and weighed 1174 carats. It was mined at the Karowe Mine. The latest information that I can find indicates the diamond is still intact and owned by the Karowe Mine. The fifth-largest diamond was the Lesedi La Rona which weighed 1109 carats. It was mined in 2015 in Botswana. The name means Our Light in the Tswana language, the official language of Botswana. It was first offered for sale in a stand-alone auction in 2016. The high bid was \$61 million, but did not meet the reserve price and was withdrawn from the auction. In 2017 the stone was sold to Graff Diamonds of Great Britain. It has since been cut into smaller stones. The sixth and last diamond was mined in, you guessed it – Botswana. It was 1098 carats in weight. As with the 1174 carat diamond, I have not found any further update on the status of the stone.



Cullinan Diamond

For the record, diamonds are the hardest known natural mineral and are the defining mineral for Mohs hardness of 10. Diamonds are a single element mineral formed from the element carbon. They have a clear streak, belong to the cubic crystal system, and typically form in the octahedral (8 sided) crystal habit.

Reference: Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Picture: Cullinan Diamond, Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>, picture in Public Domain

Federation News

From Roger's Desk

Roger Buford, SCFMS President,
From the January – February SCFMS Newsletter

Hello from the bayou also known as the Boot. I write this at the beginning of January as I again take the office as your President and want to encourage all of our members to help out our Federation and clubs by volunteering to take on one of the open positions we have and provide your input on ways we can improve and grow our clubs again after all of our COVID issues. Membership in our clubs has decreased greatly due to the lack of ability to meet in person for so many of us. I encourage you to stay in contact with other members of your club by phone or email. Remember those members who you have not seen for a long time and make sure they know that your club still exists even if you cannot meet in person, you can always have a Zoom meeting and for those who do not use computers, make sure they have the information to join in by phone so they do not feel neglected.

Liz and I are getting ready to head to Quartzsite, Arizona for a few weeks and see what new finds there are and I encourage everyone to make that trip at least once, it is not as fancy as going to Denver or that other show in Arizona but if you are looking for the best prices Quartzsite is the place to go, and not just for rocks, you can find anything under the sun there.

Have a happy New Year, 2022 “will” be better than the last two!

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Please note that some shows are still being canceled in response to health concerns associated with COVID-19
Check with the show contact to verify the show status

April 2022

- April 2 - 3, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Fiesta of Gems, Morris Center @ Joe Freeman Coliseum, Website: SWGMS.org
- April 8 – 10, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, <https://www.intergem.com/>
- April 9 - 10 April, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Building, Email: delanec3@earthlink.net
- April 30.- May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&MS, Waco Convention Center, website www.WacoGemandMineral.org
- April 30, Dallas, TX, Dallas G&MS Rock Swap, 10205 Plano Rd., Dallas. Free

May 2022

- 28–29 May, Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Memorial Center, website: <http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org>

June 2022

July 2022

- 1–3, Farmington, NM, San Juan County G&MS, McGee Park, Email: torycbonner@gmail.com
- 16 – 17, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS, Exchange Center at the Expo Square, website: www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org

August 2022

- 20 – 21 August, Bossier City, LA, Ark-La-Tex G&MS, Bossier Civic Center

September

- 24-25 September, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
- 24-25 September, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Wonderland of the Americas, website: www.SWGMS.org

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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Visit us: www.pogmc.org Like us on Facebook

AFMS President's Message

Margaret Kolaczyk, AFMS 2022 president
From the March 2022 AFMS Newsletter

In the last 3 months I have moved twice. The first was when I sold my home of 26 years and moved to Arroyo Grande, CA to be closer to family. Then, in January, I purchased a new home and moved again. In November of 2021. I left my job of 11 years and started a new job in December. This has been a long journey, but also an interesting challenge. Because I have been a little sidetracked, I would like for anyone who has sent me an email and I have not responded, please send it again.

The AFMS Juniors Website is up and running. Please check it out at www.juniors.amfed.org. The team worked hard and really created a fantastic website. The updated AFMS Website is still moving along. Its launch date is still in the future.

Things have been pretty quiet and I do not have much to report. Even though this is for the March newsletter, I figure many are at Quartzite and/or the Tucson Show. I have not had the chance to attend either but it is great to talk with those who do go.



April 2022

Shows and Activities - continued

October

- 8-9 October, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic and Convention Center, email: selovelace@showdirection.com
- 14 - 16 October, Westwego, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, The John A Alario Event Center. SCFMS & AFMS Show and Convention, Contact J. David Cope, (504) 214-6754. November
- 19 – 20 Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, website: dallasgemandmineral.org

December

Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Ref: January – February 2022 SCFMS Newsletter

Arkansas' Little Grand Canyon

The canyon is a unique carving through the stone
By Raymond Lynch, From the March 2022 Hot Springs Bulletin

The Ozarks has its Grand Canyon but if you head south to the Ouachita's of Southwest Arkansas. you'll find Arkansas' Little Grand Canyon. The latter is one natural wonder you may have overlooked in Arkansas. This feature off of White Oak Lake, Chidester, Arkansas is a peaceful spot and not to mention beautiful! White Oak Lake is known for its state park and campground but that's not the only place to visit. Head to the northern side of the lake for a rewarding detour. The parking for this little canyon is on 219 Ouachita Road 332 after the dam.



References:

- Driving Directions, Carol Ann Carson drivingdirectionsab.com
- livelivehappytravel.blogspot.com, ctr rt,lt
- onlyinarkansas.com, lower lt.
- Facebook/Arkansas Nature Lovers/Jenn Jones upper lt.
- www.hotsp.com, upper right.



Editor's Corner – Thanks Highland Park Lapidary

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Local businesses will often go beyond expectations to keep customers and store visitors happy, but when was the last time that a primarily online business reached out to help their customers and others? So, I want to thank Highland Park Lapidary for the “over and above service” they are providing. If you are not aware, they are hosting online Webinars most every Friday evening that deal with topics for many rockhounds. Guest experts are invited to provide their insight into the topic being covered. Further, they are posting the Webinars on YouTube so that if you missed them, you can review them. If you are interested in learning to cut cabochons, try Webinars 3, 4, and 5. For diamond saw care and maintenance try Webinars 5 and 7. How about flint knapping – try Webinar 8 and a soon-to-be-posted Webinar 9. Future topics are forthcoming. The posted videos can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLARAALMc77rM9EqjwWGS6n4q9F0vdvG3W>. **Thank You, Highland Park Lapidary.**

Bench Tip from Brad Smith

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COLORING EPOXY

There are two ways to add color when you are using epoxies. The first is to add a powdered material like colored chalk, charcoal, or powdered colors from an art supply store. One that I particularly like is a set of pastel glitter powders. A second way is to add a liquid pigment like nail polish, model airplane paint, or tinting pigments from a marine supplies store.

In preparing epoxy for use, the important things are to use exactly equal parts of the two components and to thoroughly mix them together. Coloring material can be added at any time. If I'm making just a small amount, I squeeze out equal-sized droplets onto a piece of scrap paper or aluminum foil and mix thoroughly with a toothpick.

To mix larger amounts of epoxy, I use a gram scale to weigh the first component. Then I zero the scale and weigh out the same amount of the second component, add coloring if needed, and mix.

If you are using 5-minute epoxy, the mixing needs to move quickly. But I like to work carefully when adding color. So I squeeze out equal-sized droplets side by side on the scrap paper. Then I work with just one of the droplets to add the colors. The 5-minute clock only starts when you mix in the second droplet.

More smart solutions for your jewelry making problems can be found in my metal arts books on Amazon at <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

And if you enjoy these tips on jewelry making, take a look at the sample chapters from:

- > Bench Tips 1 - <http://amzn.to/1Z6hQ06>
- > Bench Tips 2 - <http://amzn.to/2KCygh4>



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



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 see website while we work to find a new home.
- [Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2022

President: Don Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Judy Wilson
Secretary: Amy Vulk
Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
Editor: Don Shurtz
Contact us by e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com or
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

Minutes

POGMC President Don Shurtz called the March 2022 club meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Visitors: There were no visitors

Minutes: There were no minutes for the December 2021 meeting or for the January and February 2022 meetings. However, we need to approve the November 2021 Minutes as published in the December Chips and Chatter. Carolyn moved that the November 2021 Minutes be approved. Julie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ling presented the Treasurer's Report for December, January, and February. Carolyn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed

Old Business:

- Dues are due.

New Business:

- April IGEM is scheduled for April 8 – 10 with set-up likely on April 6. The club booths will be \$100.00 for the 2x20 ft. (front length) booths payable at the show. We need to discuss two items:
 - It was determined that several club members wanted to sell items at a club booth.
 - The booth fee for the April IGEM will be \$100.00. Don requested a motion to the effect that "The booth fee for individuals will be paid as donations to the POGMC which will, in turn, pay the club booth fee to IGEM. Further, the booth fee for the individuals will be based on the percentage of the booth utilized (i.e., a

seller wanting one of the two booths would pay \$50)." Motion made by Julie and seconded by Carolyn. The motion passed.

- The club meeting permanent location was discussed, including:
 - One of the Garland City Recreation Centers
 - DGMS Training Room
 - Restaurant
 - Member's home
 - Other options
 - Cheryl made a motion to continue in the Bradfield (City of Garland) Recreation Center until June 2022. Carolyn seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- A general discussion was held about snacks for the meeting. Carolyn volunteered to bring snacks for April, May will be a Potluck "Taco Thursday", Amy will bring snacks for June.

Break

Presentation: We started watching a segment from the 2013 Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium titled Russian Gem Mines, a presentation by Dr. Peter Lyckberg. About 15 minutes into the presentation, we had to stop in order to clean up the room before our 8:30 vacate time. We will continue the video at the April meeting.

Raffle: We held the raffle

Don adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM

APRIL MEETING
April 7 starting at 7:00 PM
Bradfield Recreation Center
1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Thursday of each month. Next meeting on April 7 is at the Bradfield Recreation Center starting at 7:00 PM

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

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VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Meetings: First Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be on **April 7, 2022, starting at 7:00 PM. We will meet at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Dr., Garland, TX**

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