

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



August 4, 2011  
Vol. 45, Issue 8

### Feature Article

Article of Interest.....	5
Cutting a Stone.....	3

### Monthly Columns

Area Clubs .....	3
Birthstone of the month .....	4
Editors Corner.....	2
President's Message.....	x
1 <sup>st</sup> VP.....	2
Today in History .....	4
Refreshments.....	3
Rockhounds Article .....	2
Secretary Report.....	2
Upcoming Events .....	x
Upcoming Shows .....	6

### Meetings etc.

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Check our website [www.pogmc.org](http://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 at 7:30 pm at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX, (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook).

### Club Officers for 2011

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

**Chips and Chatter Deadline:**  
**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month**

## July 2011 Minutes from the Secretary

POGM Secretary: Lee Elms

The July Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Meeting was our annual "indoor picnic", held at Spring Creek Bar-B-Q on July 7th at 7pm. Our picnic is not a formal meeting therefore no business was conducted nor minutes taken. We have come to appreciate our "annual picnic", a great get together in a climate controlled setting. There were approximately 13 members present. We enjoyed the camaraderie and sharing of events which we had experienced since our last meeting.

Patti and Butch have been teaching jewelry making classes at the Garland Senior Center and Ling has been assisting them. As I have never made jewelry I eagerly signed up for the class and have been taking this class to learning how to make jewelry. It has been a lot of fun and it really stimulates your mind with how creative you can be with some wire, beads, and stones to come up with something you can be proud of. Last year all of my friends and relatives received knitted hats and scarves I made. This year, it will be jewelry!!!

As the picnic came to an end everyone noted we all had a great evening and we will see each other at our meeting; August 4th, at our usual Garland Womens' Building, at 7:30pm.

### President Message

Del Grady: President Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

No information at time of printing

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Message

Mark Carter: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

We were so happy to present an award for a science fair project which exhibited and displayed a geology theme at this year Science Fair, held in February at Fair Park. Taylor Volesky, a young lady whose project showed the different layers of lava flows of the New Mexico volcano; received POGM Science Fair 1<sup>st</sup> place award. We at Pleasant Oakes Gem and Mineral Club will have the honor of her speaking to us about her project this month.

\*To review Taylor's accomplishment please refer to the April issue of the Chips and Chatter where you will find the judging panel, Ling, Del, Carolyn, and others comments and merits, acknowledging the fine work middle and high school students are submitting at the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

### RockHounder Article

POGM Member: Ling Shurtz

I have been teaching at the Garland Senior Center on Wednesday along with Patty and Butch. The Garland Senior Center has made every Wednesday afternoon available to people that want to make jewelry, do wire wrap, or other art, crafts, hobby classes. Many of the ladies have expressed a desire to do a Gem Tree and/or a Kalediscope. We look forward to offering these classes to them

### Editor's Corner

C & C Editor: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Did you see the neat article Don Shurtz submitted for the C&C this month? Thanks Don!

**I am looking forward to more material to publish from each of you.** You may submit your article/s by sending them through email me at: [anitadresner@rocketmail.com](mailto:anitadresner@rocketmail.com) or snail mail to: 3809 Skyline Drive, Rowlett, TX 75088



\*(Editor note)

## Refreshment Volunteers for August

Now which month did you say you would sign up for?



Snacks Ling

Beverage/Ice Don



September Snacks

September Beverage / Ice

Beverage: 2 or 3 (assorted and a diet 2 liter Colas) & a bag of ice. Snacks: Finger Foods like Cookies or Veggie/Fruit tray.

### Area Clubs

Arlington G&M Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX  
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg, 713 Austin, Garland, meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm  
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Ft Worth, meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Road, off of Plano Road, Dallas, TX, meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm  
Dallas Bead Society meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 7:30 pm Address pending  
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Society, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, 4<sup>th</sup> Tue. each month at 7 pm  
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month at 7:30 pm  
Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. ea. month at 7:30 pm

## Cutting a Stone?

### **Deciding to Cut a stone.**

The great strength of cabochons versus faceted stones is the reflected light enhances surface colors and textures. The cabochon relies upon surface reflected light to strengthen the color, pattern, and surface quality of the mineral.



A faceted stone uses reflection along with deflection. Light reflects off the surface but also enters the gem, reflecting off the interior by angled facets. The light, entering a transparent crystal, can be disciplined by the placement of the cuts.

Maybe we should have a program regarding how to facet a stone. Is there anyone willing to step up and offer to do such a program? If so, contact Chuck McRae and let him plug you into his roster of up-coming programs.

### Great Quotations to Ponder

Newsletter Editor

**“Success without honor is an unseasoned dish; it will satisfy your hunger, but it won't taste good.”**

**-Joe Paterno**

**"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."**

**-C.S. Lewis**

**“The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work.”**

**-Harry Golden**

**“It is not length of life, but depth of life.”**

**- Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## August Birthstone of the Month: Peridot

C & C Editor: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Peridot is the best known gem variety of olivine, a species name for a series of magnesium-iron rich silicate minerals. It is a bright yellow-green to green gemstone, a fancy of humans for thousands of years. Some historians suspect at least some of the "emeralds" worn by Cleopatra were actually Peridot. People wear the stone because it is supposed to bring the wearer success, peace, and good luck. The United States was once the largest producer of Peridot, with a 1993 production value estimated to be about \$1.5 million, according to the USBM.

The United States was once the largest producer of Peridot, with a 1993 production value estimated to be about \$1.5 million, according to the USBM. The major competition comes from China and Pakistan. Earliest recorded production was about 70 A.D. from St. Johns Island, in the Red Sea, off the coast of Egypt. Today small amounts of material from there are still being produced. Later, Peridot was produced from deposits in Myanmar (formerly Burma), and were well known for their 20- to 40-carat cut stones of superb color and clarity. Currently, deposits in Arizona are the major source of U.S. Peridot. The bright green, yellow-green to olive-green Peridot is used both as a faceted and tumbled gem. The faceted stones are used jewelry. The tumbled gems can be set in baroque jewelry, drilled and strung as beads. Peridot Mesa, located on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation east of Globe in Gila County, is the most productive locality for Peridot in the world. A second Arizona is Buell Park Apache County, Arizona, about 16 kilometers north of Fort Defiance. However, it is estimated 80% to 95% of the world's production of Peridot comes from the San Carlos Reservation. On the Reservation, Peridot can be mined only by individual Native Americans or by individual families of Native Americans from the San Carlos Reservation.

The Peridot occurs as individual grains and aggregates of grains in basalt which is about 3 to 35 meters thick that forms the top and sides of Peridot Mesa. The material is recovered after it has weathered out of the basalt. The Peridot grains commercially recovered are typically 6 to 13 millimeters in size. Therefore, the faceted stones produced from this material are generally about 1 carat in size; 2 to 3 carat stones are not uncommon. Stones as large as 15 and 22 carats have been cut from San Carlos Peridot. Gem-quality Peridot; brown, greenish-brown, yellowish-green, and the desirable Peridot green can be found at three different locations in New Mexico: Buell Park in McKinley County in the northwestern part of the State and in Kilbourne Hole and Potrillo Mar depression near the Mexican border. Currently, there is no commercial production of material from any of the deposits in New Mexico, but "rockhounds" and other mineral collectors gather materials from these locations for their own use.



Peridot from the San Carlos Apache reservation in Arizona. (Photo is courtesy of ICA/Bart Curren.)

[U.S. Department of the Interior](#)

[U.S. Geological Survey](#)

[Minerals Information](#)

988 National Center

Reston, VA 20192 USA

URL: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/gemstones/sp14-95/peridot.html>

### Today in History

Editor, Pleasant POGM of Dallas

#### **History on this date:**

1983 While warming up before 5th inning Yankee Dave Winfield accidentally kills a seagull

1971 U.S. launches 1st satellite into lunar orbit from manned spacecraft

1881 122 degrees F (50 degrees C), Seville, Spain (European record)

1181 Supernova seen in Cassiopea

#### **Born on this date:**

1961 Barack Obama 44th President of the United States, U.S. Senator from Illinois 2005 – 2008

1901 Louie "Satchmo" Armstrong, New Orleans, jazz trumpeter, Hello Dolly

#### **Died on this date:**

1891 George Washington Williams, historian (History of Negro), dies at 41

1821 William Floyd, U.S. soldier/signer of Declaration of Independence, dies at 86

## Article of Interest: Rockhounding DFW Metroplex

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Rockhounding in the DFW Metroplex? Well, not really rockhounding, but sites of possible interest to rockhounds in the Metroplex. OK, so the rocks that you find in the Metroplex are mostly fossils. Is that rockhounding? Yes or no, I will share some of the places I have looked and found interesting.

Let's start in Richardson, at Breckenridge Park. Breckenridge Park is basically south of Renner Road between North Star and Brand. There are quite a few fossils, mainly bivalves imbedded in the limestone. We have also found Crinoids stems in the same location. The same stream that runs through Breckenridge Park also flows through Oak Grove Park in Plano. We have found a few fossils in Oak Grove Park, but they are not nearly as numerous.

In Dallas, a good location is near Midway and Northwest Highway. A stream crosses Midway just south of Northwest Highway just south of Cochran Chapel Road. You can park in the parking lot of Cochran Chapel or along Cochran Chapel Road and cross over Midway on the north side of the stream where there are some paths down to the creek. The creek has exposed the Bishop shale and fossils can be found in the shale. Take a dinner knife or chisel to split the shale, particularly where you see a lump. Small bi-valve fossils are common. We even found a trilobite in the shale. Also look for sharks teeth. If you follow the Cochran Chapel Road to the west where it ends and follow the trails to the west towards Bachman Lake, I have found some calcite crystals along the paths. I found them where the trails cross exposed limestone – it seems as though there is a layer of calcite crystals imbedded in the limestone

In Fort Worth, Sansom Park is an interesting place to look. The Park is south of I-820. Take the Jacksboro Highway south about a half mile and turn west on Roberts Cut Off Road. As the road starts a turn to the south you will find the entrance to the park. Look along the edge of cliffs in the exposed limestone, and if it is still there, a road cut into the limestone going down to Lake Worth. Along the road cut into the limestone we found bi-valve and gastropod fossils. We picked one piece about 12 by 12 by 2 inches and found the bottom side packed with fossils.



While you are in Fort Worth, go a little to the south and west to Benbrook. The dam for Benbrook is a good starting point. Take US-377 south to Winscott Drive, turn south to Lakeside Drive, and follow it south to the south-east side of the dam. From the parking area you can walk down to the exposed limestone at the edge of the lake. We found gastropods and ammonites in addition to bi-valve fossils. Many of the ammonites were imbedded in the limestone, but we walked down to the loose limestone near the shore and found several small but complete ammonite fossils. On the other side of the dam and working towards Holiday Park we found several gastropod fossils along the edge of the creek.

There are other places in the Metroplex to spend an afternoon looking for rocks and fossils, but quite frankly, I've reached about my limit of knowledge of places. In south Dallas I hear stories of concretions full of calcite crystals. I also hear stories of fossils along the creek that feeds White Rock Lake. How about some of the readers sharing their favorite locations so we can all join in the fun.

## 2011 Shows

### AUGUST

**19-20 TAHLEQUAH, OK:** Tahlequah Rock & Mineral Society Show; Tahlequah Community Bldg, 300 W 1<sup>st</sup> Street; Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5; FREE; rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, demonstrations, auction, children's activities, educational displays; contact Sara Brasel, (918) 458-0801; e-mail: [crosstimbersrd@earthlink.net](mailto:crosstimbersrd@earthlink.net)

**20-21 BOSSIER CITY, LA:** Ark-La-Tex Gem & Mineral Society; Bossier Civic Center, 620 Benton Road; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$4, students \$1, under 6 free; door prizes, youth activities, demonstrations, exhibits; contact Charles Johns, 9314 Overlook Drive, Shreveport, LA 71118, (318) 687-4929; email: [cwsejohns@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwsejohns@bellsouth.net); Website: [www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)

**27-28 MOUNTAIN HOME, AR:** Ozark Earth Science GMFC Show; Sr Ctr Cooper Park, 1101 Spring Street; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; FREE. Admit, door prizes, gem/mineral/fossils, displays, child's area, handmade jewelry, demos; contact Ed Hakesley, 821-1 Alexis Circle, Mountain Home, AR 72653, (870) 424-0956; email: [edscamp3@yahoo.com](mailto:edscamp3@yahoo.com); Website: [www.ozarkearthscience.org](http://www.ozarkearthscience.org)

### SEPTEMBER

**3-4 ARLINGTON, TX:** Arlington Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show; Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and children \$3, Scouts in uniform free; silent auctions, Gem ID, Kids' Korner, door prizes, gem, lapidary and jewelry displays and demonstrations, Rock Food Table; contact Jack Spinks, 209 Overlook Drive, Midlothian, TX 76065, (214) 335-9452; email: [jlspinks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlspinks@sbcglobal.net); Website: [www.agemclub.org](http://www.agemclub.org)

**6-18 ENID, OK:** Enid Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show & Sale; Oak Wood Mall, 4125 W Owen K. Garriot Road (Hwy 412W); Fri & Sat 10-9, Sun 12-6; FREE; rocks, gems, minerals, jewelry, beads, fossils, rock food table, junior activities, grab bags, demonstration, door prizes; contact Billy Wood, (580) 234-5344 or (580) 402-5568; email: [baronladislaus@att.net](mailto:baronladislaus@att.net)

**10-11 SILOAM SPRINGS, AR:** Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society Fall Swap; clubhouse parking area, Hwy 43N; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5; FREE; gem wash, auction Sat; contact David Leininger, (479) 263-1424; email: [hulagrub@aol.com](mailto:hulagrub@aol.com); Web site: [www.nwarockhounds.org](http://www.nwarockhounds.org)

**24-25 RICHARDSON, TX:** The Bead Market Wholesale & Retail Show; Richardson Civic Center, 411 W Arapaho; Sat & Sun 10-4; FREE; gemstones, glass beads, lampwork, vintage beads and buttons, Swarovski Elements, crystals, pearls, bone beads, jewelry, books, tools; contact Rebekah Wills, (903) 240-7198; email: [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net); Website: [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)

### OCTOBER

**1-2 JACKSONVILLE, AR:** Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Show; Jacksonville Civic Center, 5 Municipal Drive; Sat & Sun 9-5; FREE; more than 20 dealers, demonstrations, exhibits, door prizes, Kids' Dig, geode cracking, Rock Spin, mineral identification, grand prize; contact Lenora Murray, 218 Old Hwy 11S, Hazen, AR 72064, (870) 255-3679; email: [lenoramur@aol.com](mailto:lenoramur@aol.com); Website: [www.centralarrockhound.org](http://www.centralarrockhound.org)

**8-9 FT WORTH, TX:** LMRA Stone Steppers Annual Show; Lockheed Martin Recreation Association, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road; Sat & Sun 9-6; FREE; rocks, gems, minerals, flinters, prospecting equipment, GPAA, jewelry, pottery, stained glass, children's activities; contact Steve Shearin, 860 Stafford Station Drive, Saginaw, TX 76131, (817) 733-5368; email: [steve.l.shearin@lmco.com](mailto:steve.l.shearin@lmco.com)

**8-9 TEMPLE, TX:** Tri-City Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show; Mayborn Convention Center, 3303 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street; Sat & Sun 10-5; adults \$3; silent auctions, raffles, door prizes, grand prize, demonstrations, dealers, rough, slabs, cabs, faceted gems, equipment, finished jewelry; contact Chip Burnette, 2630 Polk Street, Killeen, TX 76543, (254) 630-3573; email: [burnette@acweb.com](mailto:burnette@acweb.com)

**13-15—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS:** 25th annual World Champion Quartz Crystal Digging Contest; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu. 8-3, Fri. 9-3, Sat. 9-3; adults \$80 (\$95 after Oct. 1); dig quartz crystals, keep all you find, meet other miners, maybe win a prize; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: [director@mountidachamber.com](mailto:director@mountidachamber.com); Web site: [www.mountidachamber.com](http://www.mountidachamber.com)

**13-16 FRANKLIN, NC:** South East Gems & More Annual Show; Whistle Stop Mall Pkng Lot, 1281 Georgia Road -Hwy 441N; Thu/-Sat 9-6, Sun 9-4; \$0 dealers, silver & goldsmithing, rough, slabs, fossils, minerals, metaphysical, findings, gemstones, custom jewelry&repairs; cont; Mark or Patricia Smith, 751 Hutto Pond Road, Aiken, SC 29805, (706) 490-4550; email: [segems@ymail.com](mailto:segems@ymail.com)

**14-16—MOUNT IDA, ARKANSAS:** Show, "Quartz, Quiltz and Craftz Festival"; Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce; Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Fairgrounds Rd.; Thu. 9-6, Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, minerals, jewelry, quartz crystals, quilts, crafts, children's digging contest Sat.; contact Maureen Walther, Mount Ida Area Chamber of Commerce, Mount Ida, AR 71957, (870) 867-2723; e-mail: [director@mountidachamber.com](mailto:director@mountidachamber.com); Web site: [www.mountidachamber.com](http://www.mountidachamber.com)

**21-23—AUSTIN, TEXAS:** Annual show, "Gold"; AG&MS; Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5, 60 & over \$4, 13-18 \$1, 6-12, 50 cents; 30 + dealers, jewelry, beads, gemstones, mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, spheres, lapidary equipment, exhibits, "Rock Food" table, touch table, fluorescent minerals, member collections, silent auction, demonstrations, faceting, cabbing, fossil cleaning, polymer clay, "Youth Education Day" Fri., Gem Mine, Wheel of Fortune, Jewelry Making, door prizes, grand prize; contact Susan Postlethwait, 6719 Burnet Ln., Austin, TX 78757, (512) 458-9546; e-mail: [showchariman@austingemandmineral.org](mailto:showchariman@austingemandmineral.org); Web site: [www.gemcapers.com](http://www.gemcapers.com)

## CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 831934

Richardson, TX 75083-1934

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

5<sup>th</sup> Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins  
1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins  
9<sup>th</sup> place AFMS 2006 small bulletins  
3<sup>rd</sup> place SCMS 2005 small bulletins  
3<sup>rd</sup> place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins  
1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins  
HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins  
2<sup>nd</sup> place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

## 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)

### Program Presentation

Taylor Volesky; POGM Science Fair 1<sup>st</sup> place award, speaking on "Lava flows of the New Mexico volcano" at our August meeting.

*See details within this Chips & Chatter*

### Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

### Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies