

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter



December 2015  
Vol. 49, Issue 12

1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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## 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.

## December Birthstones, Turquoise, Zircon, and Tanzanite

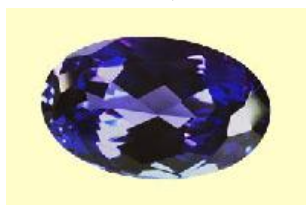
Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Besides being December's birthstones, what do turquoise, zircon, and tanzanite have in common? They are all minerals, they are all hard enough to be fabricated into jewelry, and they all can be blue in color. However, blue is not the only color they come in



and may not even be the most common color they exhibit. Turquoise's color varies from light green to sky blue. Zircon comes in a variety of colors including reddish brown, red, pink yellow, green blue, grey, and colorless. Brown zircons will change to blue or colorless if heat treated. Tanzanite forms as brownish looking crystals and is trichroic meaning it can be blue, red, or violet depending upon which axis

of the crystal is being examined. However, tanzanite is always heat treated (sometimes naturally but mostly in furnaces) and the resulting mineral is dichroic resulting in only exhibiting



blue and violet colors. Turquoise has a Mohs hardness of 5 to 7, fractures conchoidally, has a waxy luster, a bluish white streak, and a chemical formula of  $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_8 \cdot 4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Zircon has a hardness of 7.5, vitreous luster, a white streak, and is chemically  $\text{ZrSiO}_4$ . Tanzanite comes in at 6.5 on Mohs scale, perfect fracture, vitreous luster, a white streak and the chemical formula of  $(\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)(\text{Si}_2\text{O}_7)\text{O}(\text{OH})) + (\text{Cr}, \text{Sr})$ .

Turquoise is a stone of antiquity. It was one of the first stones used for jewelry having been fabricated into jewelry in ancient Egypt (3000 BCE) and also by the Aztec Indians (600 AD) and possibly earlier by other Mesoamerican cultures, including the Incas (2000 to 300 BCE) of the Americas. The name "turquoise"



comes from the French word "turques" meaning Turkish stone – the stones were introduced into Europe through trade routes passing through Turkey from mines in the Khorasan Province of Persia (now Iran). Other names for turquoise include "callais" from Pliny the Elder, "pirouzeh" (meaning victory) by the Persians, "firouzeh" by the Arabs and "chalchihuitl" by the Aztecs. Turquoise is found in many parts of the world including Iran, Sinai, the United States (Arizona and New Mexico are our

Continued on page 2

largest producers), China, Afghanistan, Australia, India, and Chile. Some of the mystical properties associated with turquoise include the ability to protect riders from injury, gaining friendship, protection from evil, power, and leadership.



Zircon comes in a variety of colors. Yellow zircon is also known as hyacinth and even earlier as jacinth. Jacinth is mentioned in the bible as one of the stones in the high priest's breastplate. The word Zircon comes from the Persian word "zargun" which means "golden-colored". Clear zircons (natural or more often heat treated) are used to simulate Diamonds and are called "Matura diamonds". There are many mystical properties associated with Zircon. Regardless of color zircon is known as the "stone of virtue". Other properties are associated with different colors of zircon: brown heals headaches; yellow brings sleep and gives wisdom; red heals injuries and used to cure ear infections; green helps with friendship and wealth; and violet attracts money.

Zircon is found world-wide. It is generally found in granite and pegmatite as small crystals. Gem quality Zircon is found in the Ural Mountains of Russia, in Italy, Norway, Sri Lanka, India, Thailand, Cambodia, South Africa, Madagascar, Canada, and the United States (Main, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Colorado, and – not to be missed – Llano County, Texas).



The final birthstone for December is Tanzanite, the most recent stone added to the American Gem Society birthstone list. It was added to the list in 2002, the first stone since 1912 to be added. Tanzanite was first discovered in 1967 and is found in only one area of the world, Tanzania. More correctly called blue zoisite, it acquired the Tanzanite name from Tiffany & Co. At the time Tiffany had a sales campaign which advertised that tanzanite could only be found in two places, "In Tanzania and at Tiffany's". The largest tanzanite crystal found to date is 7.46 lb (15,839 carat) mined in 2005. One would believe that a stone discovered in 1967 would not have been around long enough to develop mystical properties, but it seems to have acquired many. It is believed to help with psychic powers – one of the most powerful stones it would seem. It promotes "safety in linking with higher realms" and helps one with meditation. It also helps beginners with clairvoyance. It is supposed to be calming and soothing. It is also believed to strengthen the immunity system, detoxify blood, and improve vitality. The list goes on and on – not bad for such a new stone.

Ref:

The American Gem Society, Birthstones by Month, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones>

Gem Select, <http://www.gemselect.com/other-info/birthstone-history.php>

The New World Encyclopedia, <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/>

Turquoise Meaning and Uses, <http://www.crystalvaults.com/crystal-encyclopedia/turquoise>

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

Pictures: Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>

Turquoise earrings, photo by paparutzi, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic

Zircon pendant, released to the public domain by Walters Art Museum

Tanzanite (cut), photo by Wela49, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

Turquoise Nugget – released to public domain by Arpingstone at English Wikipedia

Red zircon, photo by Ivorov, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution – Share Alike 4.0 International

## Visit an Area Club

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

Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club, meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth

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

Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)

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

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

Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,

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

# ROCK TALK

Walter Beneze, SCFMS President, from the November December 2015 SCFMS Newsletter

By now the annual convention is over and we are moving forward with new officers for 2016. My name is Walter Beneze, I live in Lubbock, Texas and have the privilege of serving as the new President of the SCFMS.

I have been a rock hound since the 70's, when my Dad introduced me to the hobby as a boy. We lived in Colorado, and hunted rocks all over the place. My dad's property was a great place for finding petrified wood, and at one time I had a very nice collection of smoky quartz that we collected on Pikes Peak. We traveled on rockhounding trips as well, Wyoming jade, Oregon obsidian, Ohio flint, agates from all over; great memory's... My dad made jewelry with many of his finds, while I was content to stack up mine for another day.

Fast forward to the late 90's when my Dad decided to sell his equipment and stock of rough that was sitting around waiting to be worked. I bought his equipment and stones and a few new pieces of equipment with the intent of carrying on, only problem was, I did not know much about Lapidary work. I was a collector, one of those guys who could not walk thru a field without looking for a rock to pick up. Now, many of you probably know that Lubbock is a great place to go rockhounding, as long as you don't mind driving 5 or 6 hours somewhere else first.

All this to say, in my search for more rocks (to stack on my shelves and in buckets in my workshop and back yard), I found the Lubbock Gem and Mineral society thru their annual show and sale. In the year or two following the first show that I attended, I kept running into a particular member, who encouraged me to join the club. Eventually I did join, and the club has been a great experience for me.

I want to encourage everyone to stay involved in your local club, and encourage new people to join your club. There are lots of collectors out there who can help your club grow, and you can teach how to be a Lapidary, or Silversmith, or whatever. I'm looking forward to a great year and hope to meet many of you along the way.  
Walt Beneze

## Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Dec 4 – 6, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Auditorium, [gemcenter@aol.com](mailto:gemcenter@aol.com)

Jan 16 – 17, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, [gideonjim1@gmail.com](mailto:gideonjim1@gmail.com)

Jan 20 – 24, QIA POW Wow, Quartzite, AZ. Many other shows in area from Jan 1 – Feb 14

Jan 22 - 24, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MC, Tyler Rose Center, [whizgnat@netzero.net](mailto:whizgnat@netzero.net), [www.etgms.com](http://www.etgms.com)

Jan 30 – Feb 14, Tucson, AZ, numerous shows in Tucson area.

Feb 21 - 22, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, Community Center – San Gabriel Park, [wcgms.org](http://wcgms.org)

Feb 27, Llano, TX, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano Community Cntr, [frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com](mailto:frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com)

Mar 5 – 6, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M. Borchard Fairgrounds, [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)

Mar 10 – 13, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM Fairgrounds, [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com), [www.thedgms.com](http://www.thedgms.com)

Mar 18 – 20, Albuquerque, NM, Alb. G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, [paulhlava@q.com](mailto:paulhlava@q.com), [www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info)

Apr 1 – 2, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, Pontotoc Cnty Agri-Plex, [okieed42@windstream.net](mailto:okieed42@windstream.net),

Apr 30 – May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Event Center, [www.wacogemandmineral.org](http://www.wacogemandmineral.org)

May 7 – 8, **Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS and the SCFMS Show and Convention,**

<http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/57th-annual-show>

Ref:

September October 2015 SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>



# ROGER'S ROCK RAMBLINGS

Roger Burford, SCFMS Executive Vice President, from the November December 2015 SCFMS Newsletter

First I would like to thank everyone involved with my nomination for Executive VP. I am very proud and excited to take on this roll at the regional level.

My wife Liz and I became involved with the rock hounding hobby very recently in comparison to many of club and Federation members but dove right in the deep end learned quite a bit over the past year. Nothing in my background could have prepared me for all of the information and skills I have had to learn.

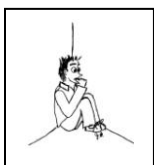
I retired from the US Navy in 1999 as an Aviation Electronics Chief Petty Officer and decided to move back to my home town. I met Liz about six months later and we were married six months after that. All of my background had been in electronics and computers and that is what I did until I had to have back surgery three years ago which caused me to have to stop working. Now I spend most of my days being able to enjoy the hobby we all love and have been learning new things every day.

Little did I know I would be putting my life of computers and electronics behind me at my age and do something fun like playing with rocks or doing rock related things every single day. We are always looking for picking spots for the Baton Rouge Society and I want to build a library of presentations and learning material for our club to use now and into the future.

I feel that we have not spent enough effort in our organization to connect with the younger people in our area. We were asked by the Girl scouts this year to participate in one of their events which was the first time that has happened. We had to scramble to put something together for them but in the end they really enjoyed it, so did we, and we have already been invited to participate next year. We are being contacted more and more to do events where we do demonstrations of cabbing and tumbling. Participating in these events help us reach towns in the surrounding area more so than we can do with just our annual show and lets people know that we do more than just the shows.

We as a society need to contact teachers in all of the primary schools to not only help educate the children in classrooms but also to let them know that there is a club that loves rocks and maybe they will get their parents interested and involved. We need to bring in younger people who share our interests to keep our societies viable. Without the new blood we could just fade away which is a terrible thing when we know kids love to play with rocks.

Now to get out and find more rocks!!!!



## Editor's Corner – Miscellaneous Mutterings

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

### Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



I trust you noted something different about this month's Chips and Chatter. One comment that I received in this year's Editor and Author competition was that the leading page was too much about the club; not enough about rocks. Some have suggested that we have a full color page with a featured mineral or rock, but I opted to try a compromise – several rock pictures and an article about December birthstones (rocks). The club information ends up on page 5 and the issue index ends up on page 6 (last page). Still

Happy  
New Year!

another change under consideration would be to go to a landscape layout half page format – more like a magazine. This offers complications in making a web version, but the post office would love it. The staples would be along the fold line which is what they want (allow). If we don't move there and if the post office decides to enforce the details of their regulations then we would have to mail our newsletter in an envelope or not staple the pages together. Stapling would be the task of you the recipients. I would **REALLY like to hear from all the club members on the format and changes** – the old format, this current format, and the proposed change to a landscape magazine layout.

Our new SCFMS officers started their term on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Please note the short biography / article by the new SCFMS President Walter Beneze (ROCK TALK) on page 3 and from the new SCFMS Executive Vice President Roger Burford (ROGER'S RAMBLINGS) at the top of this page.



## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The SCFMS Convention is now over, but the next one is just around the corner. The 2016 SCFMS Convention will be held in conjunction with the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society Show on 7 and 8 May. Our new officers for 2016 have been installed. They are the same officers as 2015 with the addition of Carolyn Grady as the vice president for programs. See the complete list of officers below. Our next meeting will be our annual Christmas Dinner and like last year we will again hold it at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson. There will not be a gift exchange, but there will be a nice door prize awarded. Come on out; we will start at 7:00 PM.

## Club Officers for 2016

President:	Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs:	Carolyn Grady
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, Field Trips:	Open
Secretary:	Lee Elms
Treasurer	Del Grady
Editor:	Don Shurtz
E mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com	

## A Little Humor



With permission  
Erston Barnhart, Rock Buster News  
Central PA Rock & Mineral Club

## Minutes of the November 2015 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Ling Shurtz.

We recited the Pledged of Allegiance.

New officers for 2016 were installed. The new Officers are Ling Shurtz as president; Carolyn Grady vice president for programs; Del Grady as treasurer, Lee Elms as Secretary, and Don Shurtz as Editor. David Dobson has volunteered to assist us in Field Trips to Lockheed Martin Materials cement factory.

POGMC was represented at the SCFMS Convention by Ling Shurtz (delegate) and Don Shurtz (SCFMS Treasurer). Both reported on the convention (long with most reports being "in the packet"). Ling and Don also attended the SCFMS Awards Banquet highlighted by the presentation of the Golden Spark Plug awards to Ron Carmen and to Paul Good. Rarely are two Golden Spark Plug awards presented in a single year, and Paul was the first to receive his second Golden Spark Plug award, the first award being in 2003.

The options for the December meeting were discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to hold the December meeting at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson.

Following the break we watch the first half of the video Dinosaur 13, a compelling video about the finding and then the government seizure of Sue, the most complete T Rex dinosaur fossil ever found. The second half of the video may be shown at a later meeting.

The raffle was held

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

From notes by Ling and Don Shurtz

## Monthly Meeting

The December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be at Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson starting at 7:00 PM. There will be a nice door prize.

The January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting will be back at the Garland Women's Activities Building

### VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

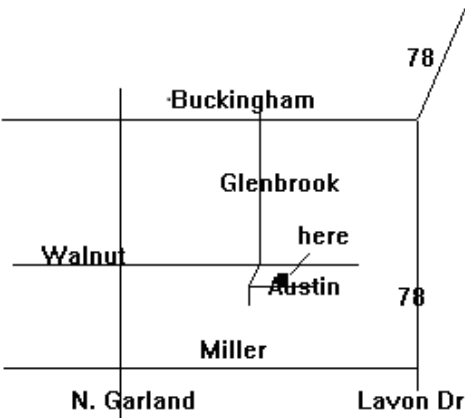
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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: \$16.00,  
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50  
(Plus badge fee for new members)



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

To:

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