



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



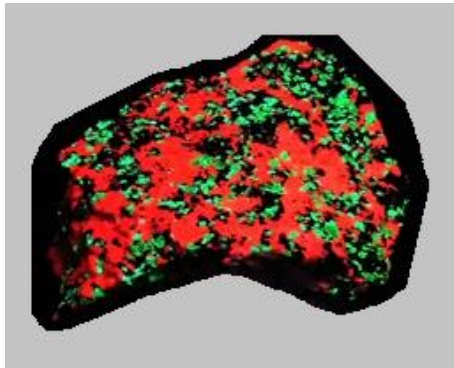
December 2022  
Vol. 56, Issue 12

1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

## Christmas Mineral or Rock Revisited

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The December 2018 Chips and Chatter featured an article titled “Tourmaline, a Mineral for Christmas.” The Watermelon variety of tourmaline with its red and green needles on a white matrix had all the colors to remind me of Christmas – Green (Christmas Tree), Red (Santa’s Suit), and White (Snow). As a rock for Christmas, I nominated Blood Stone – a green variety of chalcedony that has red spots of hematite scattered throughout. Again it was the colors, red and green, that led me to name it my Christmas Rock.



In December 2019 I added the Calcite and Wilmanite specimens from Franklin

County, NJ to my list of Christmas Minerals. When illuminated with an ultraviolet light source (black light), it displays brilliant red and green areas (islands) on a black background. When illuminated by a normal light source, it often shows green and white areas.



I was thinking about a new Christmas Rock or Mineral and found a gold mine of ideas on Mindat, a general article (blog?) titled Minerals

Reminiscent of Christmas (<https://www.mindat.org/mesg-278215.html>). Due to copyright laws, I cannot show you the pictures from the article, but I would highly encourage you to follow the link and take a look for yourself. You will find a decorated Christmas Tree in a Silver specimen, a Stilbite bow tinged with Celadonite, a Christmas scene with a Christmas tree using rocks and minerals as ornaments, rocks and mineral gifts around the tree, and a fireplace with a glowing (red colored) rock fire. Next is a Mesolite specimen shaped like a snowman carrying a small gift of stilbite. You will also find a Gold and a Cerussite (?) Christmas wreaths, a blue Christmas tree, a mineral forest with a Christmas tree, a Christmas tree with Quartz Points decorations, and more – it just keeps going on. Again, I encourage you to follow the link and see for yourself.

As I was reading about the Gold and Cerussite wreaths, it suddenly dawned on me what the most obvious Christmas Mineral/Rock should be, and it is not a rock or a mineral, but it sure seems like one. It is COAL. What else more represents Christmas than a stocking stuffed with Coal that you always dreaded if you were a “bad” little boy or girl. So, it may represent Christmas, but it is the Christmas you don’t want to have. There is nothing like a gentle reminder of coal in your stocking you hang up at the fireplace to remind you to be the perfect angel, at least during December!



Reference: Mindat, Minerals Reminiscent of Christmas, <https://www.mindat.org/mesg-278215.html>

Pictures: Wilmanite by Don Shurtz, Tourmaline from [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tourmaline.jpg) (CC-BY-SA-3.0), Coal from [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coal.jpg) (Public Doman)

**In Memory of Patricia (Patti) Mitchell**  
**July 26, 1937 – October 22, 2022**



POGMC CLUB  
MEMBER  
SINCE 2009

LOVED TO  
TELL STORIES  
OF TRIPS TO  
OKLAHOMA TO  
SELL JEWELRY  
AT THE  
CASINOS

SELLING AT  
THE  
BUNCHANAN  
JEWELRY SHOW  
AND HATING  
THE LACK OF  
SALES

SELLING  
JEWELRY AT  
INTERNATION  
GEM AND  
JEWELRY  
SHOW (IGEM)

**REMEMBERING PATTI**  
**FAMILY WITH BUTCH**  
**FRIENDLY**  
**HONEST**  
**LOVED CANNED MANDARIN ORANGES AND BBQ**  
**SKILLED JEWELRY MAKER**  
**BEAUTIFUL PERSONALITY**

## FEDERATION NEWS



### ARE YOU A PHISHING TARGET

By SUSAN BURCH, SCFMS EDITOR  
From the November-December SCFMS Newsletter

It has become common to hear of people who've fallen victim to one scheme or another. And no, it's not always older ones who trip up. Although it's easy to say, "I would never fall for that", those who use these schemes are very good at disguising them as legitimate, many times pretending to be a company you have dealings with or even one of your acquaintances or friends.

Whether it's a text sent to your phone, an email that slips through your spam filter, or some other avenue, it's not always easy to tell if it's real or a phishing scheme. These scammers launch thousands of phishing attacks like these every day and are constantly updating their methods. And, they're often successful.

One of the most recent, many AFMS, SCFMS, and other club officers are receiving requests for members to buy gift cards or do some other favor involving money for another club member. It's believed the officers are targeted by a web crawler that harvests email addresses from federation and club-related websites, newsletters, and emails. It's strongly suggested to change the email address format of any posted on your club's website and in your club newsletter. Instead of the typical address, use the word "at" instead of the "@" symbol and use spaces. Remove hyperlinks for email addresses as these web crawler algorithms can follow the hyperlink.

Federations, gem clubs, and the officers of these will NOT request you to purchase gift cards or ask you to send them money to do them a favor. If you receive a money request, call the person the email seems to be from to double-check if it's a legitimate request. Never click on a link asking you to confirm your account or to send money online. These are most likely phishing scams aimed at robbing you of your hard-earned money or goods.

Please be aware that these schemes are out there, keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

**Editor's Note:** Watch out for what appear to be email addresses from friends, businesses, and even from people you do not know: It is easy for scammers to use a familiar email address when it is actually bogus. With most email systems, if you hover your mouse over the email address name, the full email address pops up letting you see if the address is legitimate. If the email is bogus, mark it as spam – do not open it.

### Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

#### December

- 2-4 December, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Temple, email [ekosturakiis@gmail.com](mailto:ekosturakiis@gmail.com), website: [epmgs.com](http://epmgs.com)
- 11-12 December Mountain Home, AR, Ozark Earth Science Club, Baxter County Fairgrounds contact Allison (417) 679-0466

#### January 2023

- 1-31 January (also into February), Quartzite, AZ – many shows, Quartzite, AZ, [xpropress.com/showcase/profile/5/Quartzsite-showcase-swapmeet](http://xpropress.com/showcase/profile/5/Quartzsite-showcase-swapmeet)
- 21-22 January, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Pioneer Pavilion, website [Fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://Fredericksburgrockhounds.org)
- 28-29 January, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Tyler Rose Garden Center, website: [etgms.org](http://etgms.org)
- 28 January–12 February. Tucson, AZ. Many shows late January through mid-February.

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

Ref: November-December 2022 SCFMS Newsletter



# Pleasant Oaks Annual Christmas Party

## When and Where

**Thursday, December 1, 2022**  
**7:15 to 8:45 PM**  
**Bradfield Recreation Center**  
**1146 Castle Dr., Garland, TX**

## What to Bring - 1

**A Snack to Share:**  
**Cheese, Chips and Dips, Nuts,**  
**Finger-Food Meat snacks,**  
**Veggies and Dips,**  
**Sweets, Cakes, Deserts, etc.**

## What to Bring - 2

**A Gift for the**  
**“Thieves Gift Exchange”**  
**Hobby Related**  
**Value about \$15.00**



## What to Bring – 3

**Yourself, Ready to Talk, Smile, Eat, Party,**  
**Be Happy, Have Fun, and Steal a Gift**

## **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth  
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas  
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth  
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 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 7:15 PM, Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland,  
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2022

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

### Minutes of the November 3, 2022 Meeting

POGMC President Joe Vulk called the November 2022 club meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Break: Cookies and Drinks

Visitors: There were no visitors

Presentation: Round Table Discussions:

Minutes: We reviewed the October 2022 Minutes as published in the November 2022 Chips and Chatter. Don made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Hatt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Ling presented the Treasurer's Report. Carol made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Hatt seconded the motion. The motion passed

Old Business: There was no old business

New Business Discussion Items:

- Don gave a brief report on the September SCFMS Convention. At the Editor and Webmaster Breakfast, The Chips and Chatter placed first in the SCFMS and AFMS in the Mini-bulletin category. There was not a quorum present for the SCFMS general meeting; no business was transacted.
- For the December meeting, we will hold a Christmas Party. Rather than a Pot-Luck dinner, we will all bring a snack to share. We will also hold a "Thieves" gift exchange (gifts about \$15.00 in value and hobby related)
- Future Meetings: We will continue with our basic meeting format except we will move the Break to the start of the meeting – it should yield more time for the other meeting activities. For special food meetings, we will continue our historical format, including the 4<sup>th</sup> of July at Spring Creek BBQ, St. Patrick's (Irish) dinner in March, Taco Thursday in May to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, Pizza in October, and a Christmas party with snacks or dinner in

December. For Speakers we will try to get someone from Garrett Metal Detectors to talk about treasure hunting, Dr. Louis Jacobs to talk about Paleontology, Julie to talk about opal, plus other speakers as the opportunity permits. For projects, Ling will lead a Gem Tree class and we will see if Ted Wilson can do a Faceting demonstration, plus other hands-on projects as time permits.

- Meeting Frequency – we will continue with Monthly Meetings.
- Chips & Chatter: There was a preference for full-color Chips & Chatter for the printed copies.

Raffle: We held the raffle.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm

### Presidents Message

It was good to see so many members present at our November meeting. It was a very productive meeting and we made a lot of good plans for the entire year to come. I am looking forward to the December meeting when we each bring snacks to share and a gift of about \$15 for the "thieves" gift exchange. We will need to have a short business discussion because Don reports that we need to make a decision whether or not our club will participate in the IGEM show at Dallas Market Hall on January 20-25.

Wishing you all the best for this holiday season. My family will celebrate Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. I hope all have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Joe Vulk

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

### NOVEMBER MEETING

**Our December 1st meeting will start at 7:15 at the Bradfield Recreation Center. It will be our Christmas Party with shared snacks and a "thieves" gift exchange**

**Copyright Information:** This issue of the Chips and Chatter is copyright © by Don Shurtz. Unless otherwise noted, permission is granted for the noncommercial 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 references provided a citation is provided.

# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



<p>Meetings First Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX</p>	<p>Membership Single Adult: \$16.50, Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50 (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>
---	---

## 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  
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.  
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 1, 2022, starting at 7:15  
Christmas Party, Snack Foods to Share, “Thieves Gift Exchange for Fun (see page 4)

### Features

Christmas Mineral or Rock Revisited .....	1
In Memory of Patricia (Patti) Mitchell .....	2
Pleasant Oaks Annual Christmas Party .....	4

### Notices

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

### Monthly Columns

Club and Meeting Information .....	1, 4, 5, 6
Minutes of the October Meeting .....	5
President’s Newsletter Message .....	5

### Federation News

Are You a Phishing Target .....	3
---------------------------------	---