



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



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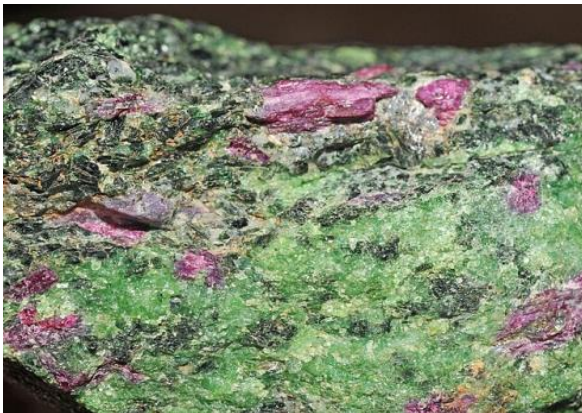
1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Christmas Rocks and Minerals - Continued

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

In the December 2018 Chips and Chatter, I nominated Watermelon tourmaline as the Christmas Mineral. I also nominated Bloodstone as the Christmas Rock. In the December 2019 Chips and Chatter, I added the Calcite and Wilmanite specimens from Franklin County, New Jersey to the Christmas mineral list. Last year I added a link to an article on mindat.com titled Minerals Reminiscent of Christmas (<https://www.mindat.org/mesg-278215.html>). I implored everyone to read that article – it had a wealth of ideas about Christmas Minerals. I again ask, if you have not yet done so, take a look at the article. Last year I added a Christmas Rock – but a rock for those on Santa’s “Naughty List”, a lump of black coal.

This year I wanted to add some red and green stones (other than bloodstone) to the Christmas Rock list. The first is Unakite. Most Unakite is Green and Pink, but with a little effort, you can also find Green and Red Unakite. Unakite is a granite composed of orthoclase feldspar (pink to red), epidote (green), and clear to milky quartz. It has a Mohs hardness of 6 to 7. Unakite was originally found in North Carolina in the Unaka mountains. The most productive mines are in Virginia. It can be found in many places in the Blue Ridge Mountains. It has also been found in Africa, Brazil, China, and Australia.



I also want to add Anyolite, also called Ruby in Zoisite, Ruby-Zoisite, and Tanganyika Artstone. Anyolite was originally found in the Tanganyika Territory which later became part of Tanzania. Anyolite is composed of green zoisite and ruby. The hardness of Anyolite is classified as 6.5 which is the hardness of the green zoisite, the predominant mineral in the stone. The ruby crystals, which are not gem quality, have a hardness of 9. Predominately found in Tanzania, it has also been found in Australia.

MERRY CHRISTMAS / HAPPY NEW YEAR

Reference:

- Unakite, Zoisite and Clinozoisite, Geology.com, <https://geology.com/gemstones/>
- Wikipedia, Unakite, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unakite>

Pictures

- Tumbled Unakite, Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> used under [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0](#)
- Anyolite, Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> used under [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0](#)


President's Message – At the Arboretum

We made a good showing at the Arboretum Children's Adventure Garden - Rock and Mineral Event on 11-12 November. On Friday, I visited Don at his place and loaded up my car with some of our club's specimens plus a couple lapidary machines. Unfortunately, Don had contracted COVID-19 on a recent trip to see his daughter and he was not able to attend our Arboretum event. On Saturday morning, Johnny and Choice helped me set up our display at the Arboretum. Later, Amy and Eden, Hatt, assisted by my son, Daniel manned our display for the remainder of the day. Sunday morning, Carolyn, accompanied by her friend manned the display until Amy and Eden plus Julie and Warner showed up. Many thanks to these folks for devoting their time and effort to this project. Don provided many club and personal items for the display: a polished Petrified Palmwood specimen, which is the Texas state stone, a large Llanite specimen unique to Texas, various geodes, and many beautifully tumbled stones. Julie and Warner brought a nice sampling from their extensive collection. Thanks to Don, we were fortunate to have a large quantity of tumbled stones for giveaway. These were real drawing cards for the children passing our display. They were happy to dig through and pick out a favorite polished stone to take home. And naturally, their parents came over to our display to see what their kids were up to. This provided us an opportunity to tell them about our club and invite them to visit our meetings and perhaps join the club. We got numerous leads for club member candidates.



Jonny and his son Choice at the booth. Choice is having a great time!

Daniel and Eden at the booth

A photograph showing a man and a young girl sitting at a table covered with a green cloth. The table is filled with various gemstones and minerals in clear plastic trays and boxes. The man is looking towards the camera. A banner on the table reads "PLEASANT OAKS GEM & MINERAL CLUB".

Daniel and Eden at the booth

On November 19, my family went to the annual Dallas Gem and Mineral Society show held at the Mesquite Convention Center. I was very impressed with the quality and quantity of the displays at the show. We had a great time but we did not allow enough time to see everything. We visited with Julie who was manning her and Warner's booth. We made some purchases for Christmas gifts at various booths.

As I write this, it is Thanksgiving Day and I am thankful for our club and the comradery of you our members. I would like to wish all of you a Merry and Happy Holiday Season and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I am looking forward to our holiday party in place of our meeting on December 7th. See you then.

Joe Vulk

December 2023 Meeting

Annual Christmas Party with Potluck Snacks

Bradfield Recreation Center
1146 Castle Dr.
Garland, TX

Starts at 7:15
Ends at 8:45
BE ON TIME!

Potluck Snacks
Bring A Snack Or Treat
To Share

What to Bring
Candies, Cookies
Cakes, Pies
Meat/Fruit/Veggie Snacks
Nuts
Drinks (non- alcoholic)

HAVE FUN
FORGET THE DIET



Naughty Santa Gift Exchange
Bring a Hobby Related
Gift, about \$15.00 value

WHAT TO BRING?
Rocks - Rough or Slabs
Books (try Half-Price Books)
Jewelry
Tools
Anything Hobby Related

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

December 2023

- December 9-10, Leesville, LA, Deridder G&MS, West La Forestry Auditorium Bldg., www.rockngemswla.com

January 2024

- January 17 – 21, Quartzite, AZ, Quartzite Pow Wow plus other shows in area, <https://10times.com/powwow-show>
- Jan 20 – 21, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Ladybird Johnson Park, <https://fredericksburgrockhounds.org>
- Jan 26 – 28, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Tyler Rose Garden Center, www.ETGMS.org
- Jan 24 – Feb 4, Tucson, AZ, Tucson annual shows throughout the city, www.jogsshow.com

February 2024

- Feb 17 – 18, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, San Gabriel Park Community Center, <https://wcgms.org/>

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

Ref: September - October 2023 SCFMS Newsletter

Special thanks to Del Glasner, the SCFMS District 8 Vice President for helpful information about SCFMS Club Shows.

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 the 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 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 7:15 PM, Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Dr, Garland,
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

Federation News

Club Safety Program — Safety Matters

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair, from the November 2023 AFMS Newsletter

The last words anyone wants to hear at a club show, meeting, field trip, or other activity are:

- Does anyone have a bandage?
- The fire extinguisher is not working!
- Where is the nearest hospital?



Many businesses, schools, and even families practice safety. They have regular fire drills and emergency weather event drills and even prepare go-bags to have emergency supplies readily accessible in the event of an emergency. Rock and mineral clubs prepare in other ways – they keep medical emergency/medical aid kits handy; they address possible safety concerns ahead of time to prevent injury; they offer training for their lapidary/craft workshops; and some clubs also have occasional meeting programs about field trip, show, and meeting safety.

Club members are, no doubt, people who keep themselves and their families safe in the club setting of a show, meeting, or field trip. However, it is not just club members who are present – there are visitors, guests, and the general public. Such guests attend club activities and expect the club will be conduct a safe event. So, who in the club attends to the safety of our guests, visitors, and the general public?

Many clubs make the show chairperson the one who addresses matters of show safety, the field trip chairperson the one who addresses field trip safety, and the club president the one who addresses meeting room safety. Other clubs have a single dedicated safety chairperson who has the last word on all matters of safety with any and all club activity. Some clubs have members who are dedicated safety persons for their show's safety, another member dedicated to field trip safety, and still another member dedicated to work-shop safety. No matter how it is addressed, clubs recognize the need to have all activities safe for everyone – members, guests, and the general public. At this point, I must confess to being a safety person. That means reading about safety interests me. It is fun to read about safety. I like thinking of new, better, and additional ways of being safe. Safety is one of the means to keep everyone happy and enjoying their club experiences. The more people are involved in safety, the better the overall experiences will be for everyone. It would be great if everyone in the club kept being safe as part of the club "experience." That all said, being safe involves knowledge of rock cleaning chemicals, MSHA rules, soldering fume ventilation, machinery operation, wiring a hall for the show dealer's electrical needs, minerals that can be dangerous to even hold in one's hand, reading the expiration dates of the items in the emergency medical kit, knowing how to perform emergency medical treatment, and so much more. There is so very much to being safe that it is difficult to imagine that one person can be knowledgeable about, and keep up to date on, all aspects of safety.

With safety being so important and given that being knowledgeable in every aspect of safety would be difficult for one single person, please consider the following: **There is wisdom in having a dedicated field trip safety person, a show safety person, a shop/equipment safety person, and a medical safety person in every club.**

Safety is important for every club. Instead of safety being just a job, it is also an opportunity to learn, share what one learns, help people stay safe, and have a sense of satisfaction with keeping the hobby enjoyable for everyone.

Safety is every club member's business. Everyone's safety matters.

OFFICERS FOR 2023 - 2024

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 or
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

Minutes of the November 2, 2023 Meeting

POGMC 1st VP Carolyn Grady called the 11/02/2023 club meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Snack time: Until late-comers arrive. Thanks to Ling, Amy, and Hatt for providing the snacks.

Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum: We have a quorum

Visitors: Mary Anne Grady and Daniel Vulk.

Minutes:

Minutes of the October meeting were published in the November Chips and Chatter. Cheryl made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Hatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Treasurers Report:

Ling presented the Treasurer's Report. Julie made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carol seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Old Business:

- Rock Swap report - Don (not present) left word that it was canceled due to rain.
- SCFMS activities: Carolyn attended via Zoom. Don is SCFMS president. See newsletter for details.
- POGMC display at Arboretum 11 & 12 November. A Roster Sheet was passed around and all hours are covered.

New Business:

- The President of the SCFMS (Don) needs an SCFMS secretary. Most work is at convention time. No one volunteered.
- Planned December meeting (social) with shared Christmas snacks and a \$15.00 gift exchange.

Snack for next meeting: The Meeting will be Potluck snacks – bring a snack to share.

Presentation: Carolyn and others brought supplies to make bracelets. Several people completed theirs at the meeting.

Raffle None - Don is out of town.

Carolyn adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

President's Message

See Page 2

December Meeting

The December 7 Meeting will start at 7:15 at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX. This will be our annual Christmas Party with gift Exchange (about \$15.00 value, hobby-related) with stealing. We will also be having Potluck snacks, desserts, sweets, and treats – bring a treat to share.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be April 6 at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX 75040

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 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 7, 2023

This will be our Annual Christmas Party with Potluck Snacks Gift Exchange – see pages 3 and 5

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