



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



December 2024
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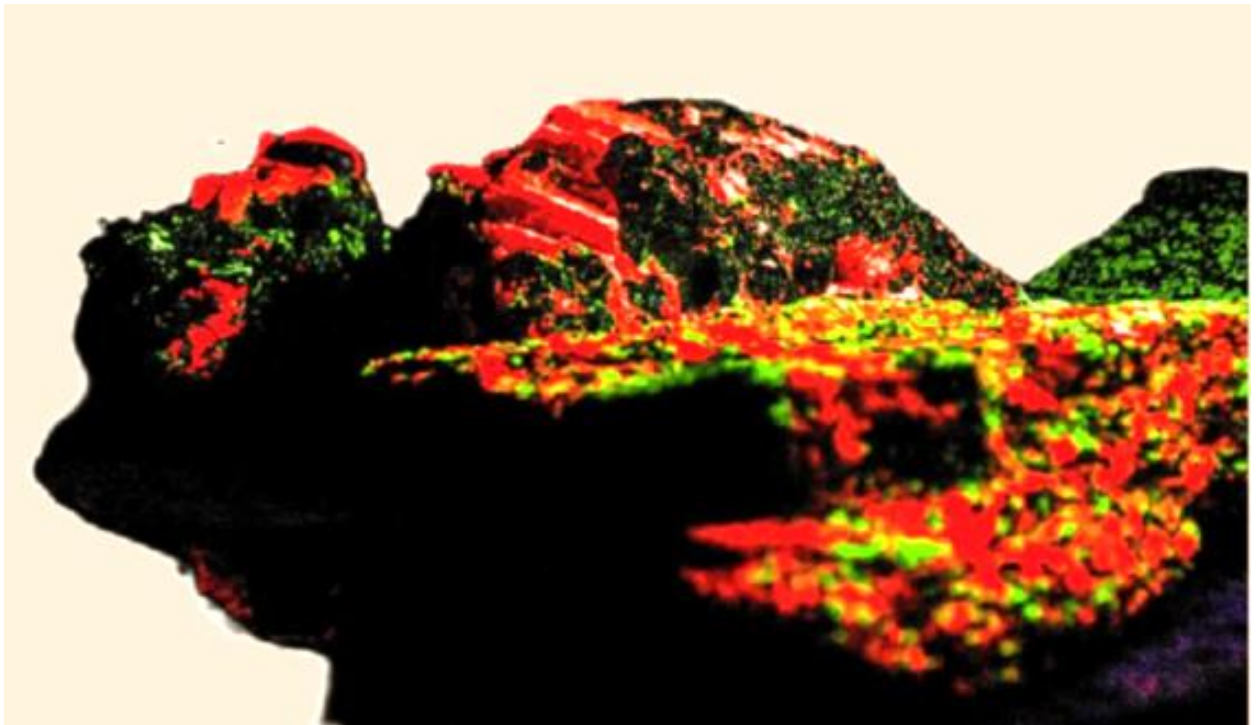
1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Christmas Rocks and Minerals - Continued

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Over the years I have nominated various stones to be Christmas Rocks and Minerals. I started in 2018 nominating Watermelon Tourmaline and Bloodstone as the Christmas Mineral and Rock. In 2019 I added Willemite to the mineral list. In 2021 I added a plethora of minerals to the list by nominating a posting titled Minerals Reminiscent of Christmas by David Joyce that appears on MinDat.com. A link to the post is <https://www.mindat.org/mesg-278215.html>. I still go back and look at the post and learn something new every time I review it. If you have not done so yet, take a look. In 2022 I added "a lump of coal" to the Christmas list for those who have been "naughty."

Last year I added Unakite as a red and green rock (granite) and Anyolite (aka Ruby in Zoisite, a red mineral in a green matrix.



This year I would like to add Franklinite to the list. If you were to read the

2019 article, you would find that Willemite was commonly found and mined in Franklin, New Jersey before they closed down the mining operations. With the name Franklinite, it would probably not come as a shock that it was found in the same mines as the Willemite and was named for Franklin, New Jersey. Franklin is also the Type Locality for Franklinite. Franklinite has been named as the State Mineral for New Jersey.

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

Picture: Franklinite specimen photo from Wikimedia Commons, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklinite>. Photograph by Freire, used under [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license.

FEDERATION NEWS

From the Desk of the [AFMS] President-

JC Moore, AFMS President 2024-25, From the November 2024 AFMS Newsletter

As I begin my term as President, I need to thank the Past Presidents for their guidance and assistance as I have moved up to this position. When Donna and I began this hobby, we never expected to be in leadership roles in our clubs, Midwest Federation or American Federation. It all started with our son doing a 4-H Geology project, then joining local clubs, going on field trips and meeting many wonderful people who helped us to appreciate this fantastic hobby. No matter who you are, we are all the same on a rock pile.

Since my last message, we attended the Southeastern Federation annual meeting in Duluth, Georgia, September 28 and 29. With a hurricane approaching the Gulf Coast, we left Illinois on Thursday heading south to spend the night in Murfreesboro, TN without any weather problems.

Friday, we continued down to the Duluth area without any major weather problems. The area we were in did not have major problems, but we heard areas nearby did have major flooding. After a meet and greet and tour of the clubhouse on Friday, the annual meeting was held on Saturday followed by a great picnic and live auction (200 items) at a nearby park. Again, it was great meeting the officers and club members. The highlight of Sunday was going collecting in a quarry in Summerville, Georgia. After filling two buckets with agate material, we started our trip home so that we could begin getting ready for our local show.

Our next stop is for the Rocky Mountain Federation Show in Oklahoma City. This position is putting a lot of miles on our vehicle.

There are currently two positions that need to be filled: Chair for Judges Training and a Media Director who would coordinate electronic meetings for the Federation. Leslie and David Wayment had been filling these positions and with the passing of David, Leslie has stepped back from her positions. For the Judges training position, it would be desirable that we have someone who has had judging training and has served as a judge. This person would coordinate training sessions throughout the Federation. The Media Director would be responsible for all electronic meetings of the Federation, especially the annual meeting. If you are interested in these positions, please let me know.

SCFMS News – the SCFMS Convention

Don Shurtz, SCFMS President

The SCFMS Convention was held on November 23, 2024. The Convention was hosted by the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society (DGMS) at their annual show. Thanks go out to DGMS for their efforts in making this a Great Event. The Editor and Webmaster Breakfast attendance was quite small, the Awards Banquet could have had better attendance, but I was pleased with the number of people and clubs represented at the Annual Meeting. The AFMS President, JC Moore and his wife, Donna Moore, the AFMS Secretary, attended all of the activities. By changing the Website contest to a fixed schedule for the Website Contest, there were no awards. Those winners will be announced in the JAN-FEB SCFMS Newsletter and the plaque awarded at the next Annual Meeting. The Editor and Author awards will be published in the next SCFMS Newsletter. At the Awards Banquet, a Plaque was presented to Dr. Ron Tykoski, a Vice President at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, for being the 2024 SCFMS Scholarship Honoree. Dr. Tykoski, with the help of his associates at the University of Texas, awarded two scholarships of \$4,000.00 each to two deserving graduate students. We also had the pleasure to introduce the 2023 Scholarship Honoree, Dr. George Maxey. Dr. Maxey is currently the President of the Hot Springs Geology Club. At the Annual Meeting, which had good participation from SCFMS Clubs. We had representatives from clubs in all 3 states of the SCFMS area of responsibility, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. The annual reports of the officers and committee chairs were all approved. We also approved the status of Susan Burch as the SCFMS Executive Secretary. Susan had been appointed to the office earlier in the year. There were no officers elected at the meeting as all of the officers are about to enter the 2nd year of their two-year term, The major item of business was the approval of the 2025 Fiscal Year SCFMS budget. Thanks go out to Henry Rojas, SCFMS Treasurer, and Sigrid Stewart, SCFMS Executive Vice President, for their efforts in compiling and presenting the FY2025 Budget. We had some lively discussions about moving to a Zoom-only format for the next Annual Meeting and about how the District Vice Presidents are elected. Those subjects will continue to be discussed and reviewed.

FEDERATION NEWS (continued)

Safety Matters: Hands – Where Are They

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair, From the October AFMS Newsletter

One's hands play a big part in our hands-on hobby. Setting up for a rock and mineral show several years ago I was taking show tables off the cart, unfolding the tubular steel legs, and moving them into the positions shown on the show's table layout diagram. The tables were the heavy wooden ones with the metal edge around the perimeter. As I grabbed the next table, one finger was pushed hard against the very tip of a sharp sheet metal screw protruding through the metal perimeter frame. The table had been "fixed" by someone with a sheet metal screw placed exactly where one would grab the table to take it off the cart.

Our hands often seem to be placed in pinch-points with rock saws, grinding machine wheels, and folding table legs. Hands and fingers are often thrust between overhanging yet loose rocks, into holes/cavities/vugs in rocks where we cannot see that which our hands and fingers may be exposed.

With machinery and folding table leg pinch-points, we can take note of their inherent dangers ahead of time and be sufficiently cautious when working around them. With rock pinch-points, we can explore the rock to try to be certain nothing is loose that might shift and grab one's fingers or hand. When reaching into a hole, we don't often know what exactly one's hands and fingers might find.

A not-so-common experience is hammering some rock and exposing what looks like a cavity. Sometimes a little more careful chipping may reveal an opening big enough to fit one hand in – a tempting opening to use to explore what is to be found inside the cavity. Think of having such an experience in a pegmatite mine where a hole may very well be a pocket of gem, multi-color tourmaline crystals. It would be hard to resist the temptation to reach inside

to feel what is to be found. True, one might find muck and mud, but one may also find long secluded crystals! Who can resist the temptation to reach in and explore? In such a cavity one is unlikely to find critters inhabiting the hole.

In cavities, vugs, and openings hammered in near-the-surface rock, it is possible any hole might have another or hidden opening allowing the hole to be occupied by things that bite. Any holes in the rock should be investigated with caution for critters living inside the hole, before sticking one's hand inside.

It is important to know where one's hands are, to keep one's eyes open for dangers to our hands and fingers. I have seen people drilling into a board with their hand holding the board and their fingers out of sight on the board's other side – a situation that is liable to result in a hole being drilled not just through the board but the finger as well. It is wise to always know where one's hands and fingers are located.

There are situations where one will want to empty their boots before sticking their feet in them, or look in the pail before sticking one's hand in, or look underneath the crate for biting spiders before reaching underneath to lift it, or use a stick to check out the area under a bush before digging there with one's hands or — well, you get the idea. Please consider keeping your hands and fingers safe by knowing where they are in relation to any possible hidden dangers. Your hands and fingers will love you for the attention to being safe. After all, your safety matters.

Oh, by the way, that sharp sheet metal screw about to puncture my finger? Due to sensitive fingers and quick reaction time, there was no injury – lesson learned.

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 Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, 7
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check the show contact to verify the show status

December 2024

- DEC 14., Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MC, Holiday Craft Fair, Will Rogers Memorial Center, <https://dfwcrafter.com/event/fort-worth-gem-mineral-jewelry-craft-sale/>
- DEC 21 -22, Murph, TX, David Dobson Gem, Crystal, Mineral, and Fossil Sale, 1409 Oak Hill Ln, Murphy, TX 75094, email: **Rock Trading Corp** <rock@rocktrading.org>

January 2025

- JAN 18-19, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds. Pioneer Pavilion, website: Fredericksburgrockhounds.org
- JAN 24-26, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Rose Garden Center, website: etgms.org

February 2025

- FEB 15-16, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, San Gabriel Park Community Center, website: <http://www.facebook.com/WilliamsonCountyGemSociety>

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

Ref: September-October 2024 SCFMS Newsletter

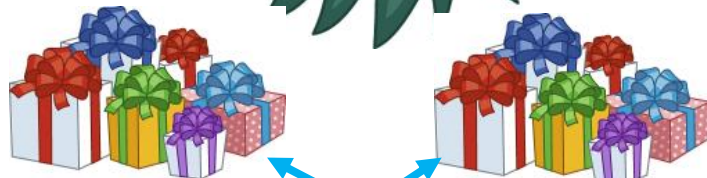
**THE NEXT MEETING IS
OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY
WITH POTLUCK FINGER FOODS
AND GIFT EXCHANGE.
BRING A SNACK TO SHARE, AND
BRING A GIFT TO EXCHANGE.
WATCH OUT FOR THE THEIF!**

**3722 CAVALIER DRIVE
GARLAND, TEXAS**

STARTS AT 7:00 PM



**Caution –
that may
be the gift
you picked**



HOBBY RELATED; LIMIT \$15.00

OFFICERS FOR 2024 – 2025

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

Minutes of the October 7 Meeting

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Joe Vulk. Joe led the pledge of allegiance.

Minutes: The minutes of the October 7th, 2024 meeting were published in the November Chips and Chatter. Carolyn made a motion to accept the Minutes as published. Brenda seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurers report. Ling presented the Treasurer's Report for October. Cheryl made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Amy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Visitor Terry Johnson visited the November meeting.

Old / New Business:

Joe announced we could continue our rental at its current location for the same price. A motion to continue meeting at Knights of Columbus Hall for 2025 was made by Amy and seconded by Don. The motion carried.

Don reported sales of Club rocks and minerals at Dallas October Rock Swap for \$223.00. Proceeds are split half for POGMC and half for AMFS scholarship.

Dallas Gem and Mineral show is on November 23 and 24. They are hosting the SCFMS meeting. Don Shurtz is currently the President of SCFMS 2024 -2025. Joe will represent POGMC at the annual meeting. Amy will assist Don take notes for the Minutes.

Our December meeting is our Christmas Party. Bring a hobby-related gift for the Gift Exchange. It was decided to limit gift costs to a limit of \$15.00. Members are asked to bring a potluck finger food dish of their choice. Good food and conversation.

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Break: We took a short break to grab a snack.

Presentation: A video from YouTube, Risky Business - How People Risk Their Lives Hunting for Gems, Pearls, and Gold was viewed

Raffle: We had the raffle

Meeting adjourned

Respectively submitted
Carolyn Grady



Editor's Corner The Chips and Chatter

I really would like some feedback from POGMC members about the contents of the Chips and Chatter. Do you like the lead articles about Minerals and rocks or should the topics be more diverse? For the edition filler, I often create a word puzzle. Is there a better item for the edition filler? I promise that I will keep all feedback confidential and will not be offended if there are things that you would like to change. Please talk to me at a meeting or send me an email. Remember, this is a Club newsletter, not my newsletter.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be on December 2, 2024, starting at 7:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland. This will be our annual Christmas Party and Potluck Finger Food Extravaganza. Bring your favorite Finger Food to share, and a hobby-related gift for the gift exchange. Don't plan to take home the gift you selected from under the Christmas Tree – Gift stealing will be rampant!

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December 2024

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Monday of each month, KofC Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, TX. Please check website, www.pogmc.org, for updates.

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 is Monday, December 2, 2024. It is our Annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck Finger-Food Extravaganza. Bring a Finger-Food dish to share. For the Gift Exchange, Bring a Hobby-Related Gift with a maximum value of \$15.00

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