



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



February 2018

Vol. 52, Issue 2

1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2017 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

## February Birthstone – Amethyst

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Amethyst is the birthstone of February and the wine lover's favorite mineral. It is not because of its color – a light to deep purple, similar to some red wines. If you drink your wine from a goblet carved from amethyst or wear an amethyst amulet while drinking your wine, you can enjoy all you want without getting drunk! At least that is what ancient Greeks and Romans believed. The name "Amethyst" means "not intoxicated" and comes from the Koine Greek language *amethystos*.



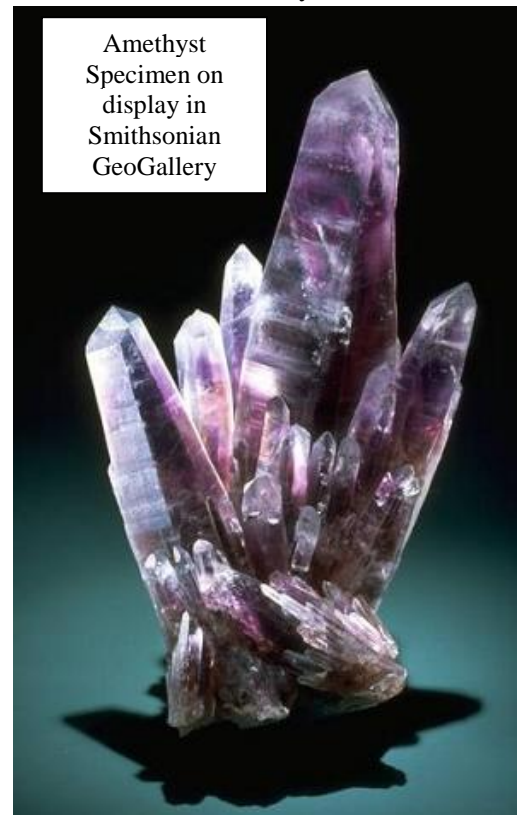
Amethyst Specimen on display at Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Amethyst is the purple variety of quartz. It is chemically identical to quartz,  $\text{SiO}_2$ , with trace elements of iron. The purple color is derived from the irradiation of iron ( $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ ) ions replacing the Silicon atom in trace quantities. It has a Mohs hardness of 7, a white streak, and vitreous (glassy) luster.

Most amethyst available in today's market is mined in Brazil or Uruguay. The amethyst from Uruguay is noted for its deep purple color. Other sources of amethyst include Zambia, Russia, South Korea, Australia, Mexico, Canada, and the United States. In the United States quartz can be found in Arizona, Texas, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maine, Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Unfortunately,

synthetic amethyst is available, often not identified as such. Much of the synthetic amethyst comes from Russia.

I present two pictures of amethyst crystal clusters for your comparison. I have been told that the amethyst specimen at the Perot Museum is virtually identical to a specimen at the Smithsonian Museum. Then compare both pictures to the cover of the February 2018 Rock & Gem magazine. All three specimens are from the same area around Guerro, Mexico. All three specimens are similar, but the Perot and Smithsonian are clearly different. The Rock & Gem amethyst is over 6 inches in height, the Perot about 14 - 16 inches in height, and since the Smithsonian and Perot are described as similar, the Smithsonian piece must also be about 14 - 16 inches in height.



Amethyst Specimen on display in Smithsonian GeoGallery

### Reference:

- Amethyst pricing, <https://www.gemologyonline.com>
- Amethyst, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

### Pictures:

- Smithsonian – photo by Chip Clark, <https://www.si.edu>
- Perot – photo by Don Shurtz

Editor's Note: Please view these pictures on-line; the printed version has been altered to lighten the background and outline definition has been lost.

## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Feb 17, Llano, TX, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano County Community Center, [prospectingtexas.com](http://prospectingtexas.com)

Feb 24 – 25, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center, [bobcat22@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobcat22@suddenlink.net)

Apr 4 – 8, Raleigh, NC, AFMS Convention/Capital Area G&M Show, Tar Heel G&MC, Kerr Scott Bldg., NC Fairgrounds

May 5-6, Lubbock, TX, SCFMS Convention/Lubbock G&MC Show, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center

**Don't Forget:** Quartzite – Jan 1 through Feb 28 – numerous shows  
Tucson – Jan 19 through Feb 12. Tucson G&MS (main show) is Feb 8 - 11

Ref:

- September - October 2017 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

## MARKING YOUR TOOLS

Brad Smith, from November – December 2017 SCFMS Newsletter

It makes sense to mark your tools if you ever lend them to friends or take them out to classes or workshops. Question is how to mark them permanently. For metal tools, I use a very small ball bur running fast in the Dremel or Foredom to "engrave" my initials. Other times I'll form the initials with a number of hits with a center punch.

But for hammer handles and other wooden tools, the country boy in me came back and thought "Why not make a branding iron?" If you'd like to try one, all you need is a little scrap copper or nickel about 22-24 gauge, a piece of heavy brass or copper for a base, about 6 inches of metal rod and a piece of wood for the handle.

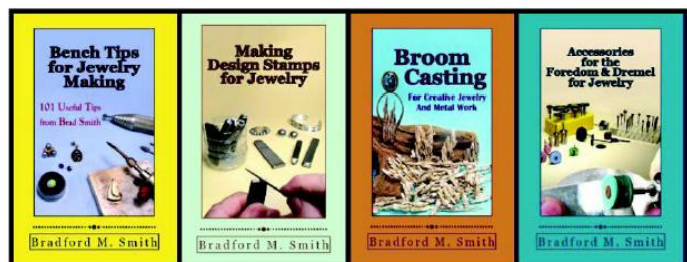
I formed my initials from a couple 4mm wide strips of sheet nickel. The "S" was one piece, but the "B" was three pieces soldered together with hard. (Remember to form the letters backwards). I then soldered the letters with medium onto a piece of 1/8 inch thick brass bar to act as a heat sink. Finally, I soldered a piece of 1/8 round rod on the back of the brass bar as a shaft to join to a wooden handle.

With the holidays upon us soon, we're all making our lists. If you need a present for someone who does jewelry, consider a book that teaches new skills. See a selection at [Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



Please include the following attribution with each publication: "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285800/) and [www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0988285835) [www](http://www.www).

[BradSmithJewelry.com](http://BradSmithJewelry.com)



*Chips and Chatter*

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Page 2

February 2018

Visit us: [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org) "Like" us on Facebook

# Rock Talk

From the December 2017 SCFMS Newsletter



I want to thank every member of the SCFMS for allowing me 2 years of presiding over the business of the Federation, and for all the memories that I will carry for years to come. I have enjoyed having interactions with so many new people that I would never have met in any other circumstance. Knowing that the true strength of any position one holds lies in the people that support and help you in that position, I want to thank the officers and Committee members that keep the SCFMS on track. Everyone plays an important role, and I want to give special thanks to Kimberly Brannon and Don Shurtz as examples of people that have gone above and beyond expectations. Wishing all of you a great holiday season and a great year for 2018, I will see you at a show down the road. Thanks for everything, Walter Beneze SCFMS President for a few more minutes...

## Let's Go Endowment Fund!

by Cheryl Neary, Endowment Fund Chair from the December 2017/January 2018 AFMS Newsletter

I know you can hardly wait to see if you win one of the many endowment prizes! To paraphrase the quote – Yes, you need to buy tickets to win it! Your representative has tickets available for you to purchase. Please see the chart at the end of this article for your Federation representative.

Why support the Endowment Fund? The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs; just to name a few.

The AFMS Convention will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Endowment Fund winners will be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening. You do not need to be present to win your prize – although it would be nice to have your company. However – you do need to purchase your tickets to be a possible winner!

If for some reason you do not want to support the Fund by purchasing tickets, then please think about donating an item. This year we are hoping to receive at least 30 items – each with a monetary value of \$75.00 or more and no more than five (5) pounds in weight.

To date we have received the following donations:



#1 - Kyanite pendant and earring set wrapped in gold-filled wire donated by Doris Kean. Estimated value is \$125. (MWF)

#2 - 2 bolos: Silver lace onyx, Calico, CA and Brown Biggs Jasper donated by Jean & Bob Stultz. Estimated value is \$75. (CFMS)

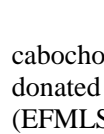


#3 - Manufactured metal burro and miner buckle and Ocean jasper (green, old collection), Madagascar bolo donated by Jean and Bob Stultz (past CFMS Presidents). Estimated value \$95. (CFMS)

#4 - Silver miner bolo donated by Jean and Bob Stultz (past CFMS Presidents). Estimated value \$75.00 (CFMS)



#5 - Amethyst crystal slice on wooden base donated by the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value \$187. (EFMLS)



#6 - Sterling silver wirewrapped jasper cabochon with sterling silver chain crafted and donated by Pamm Bryant. Estimated value \$75. (EFMLS)



#7 - Petosky stone cabochon wirewrapped in Sterling Silver crafted and donated by Pamm Bryant. Estimated value \$75. (EFMLS)

#8 - Framed Fossil Fish donated by Richard Jaeger, former AFMS President. Estimated value \$75. (RMFMS) (Photo forthcoming)

Please check the website every few weeks for updates. As donations are received, they will be updated to the website.

Again, for those of you who have in the past supported the Endowment Fund- thank you! Please continue to support our efforts. For everyone else – please consider supporting the Endowment Fund and the activities generated by the Fund.

You can purchase your tickets from: Walter Beneze, 4204 45th St. Lubbock, TX 79413

Editor's Note: Since this article, 5 new items have been added. I would encourage you to look on the AFMS Web Site

([http://www.amfed.org/2018\\_AFMS\\_Endowment\\_Fund\\_Draving.pdf](http://www.amfed.org/2018_AFMS_Endowment_Fund_Draving.pdf)) for updates and for much better pictures than are shown in this article. Don

### Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Amazing Rock Trivia

from The Rock Prattle 09/2016, via Rockpile 1/2018, via The Backbender's Gazette 01/2018

Tourmaline and quartz will develop an electrical charge when heated, and tourmaline jewelry will attract dust when displayed under hot lights. There is no such thing as “jade – green “jade” is one of two different minerals – jadeite or nephrite. Jadeite is the most valuable of the two. The second most valuable color of jadeite is lavender.

You can dig or pan for colored gemstones such as emerald, aquamarine, moonstone, garnet, citrine, amethyst, ruby, and sapphire at Gem Mountain in Spruce Pine, North Carolina.

There is a manmade brilliant white stone called moissanite, which can fool a jewelry store diamond tester (Depending on what type tester they have).

The big “ruby” in the royal crown of England is actually a red spinel.

Ivory imitations are carved from corozo nuts, tagua nuts, and doum palm nuts.

If allowed to sit in moist or humid conditions too long, hematite jewelry has such a high iron content it will rust. Jet, made popular for jewelry by Queen Victoria in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is actually a type of fossilized coal formed 180 million years ago from trees.

It takes one to three years to grow a cultured pearl (or more).

Goldstone is not a stone – it is a glass containing copper powder that gives it aventurescence (quick bright flashes of light).

“Black Onyx” is actually orange and brown sardonyx that has been dyed black, and it should be cleaned carefully to avoid removing the dye and dulling this porous quartz.

Cultured pearls are made by inserting a small shell bead into an oyster or clam as an irritant, and waiting years for the shellfish to cover the bead with its luscious nacre. Pearls, by law, must be called “cultured pearls” unless they are completely natural, and most pearls sold today are cultured.

Amethyst can fade if exposed to too much sun.

Historically, before science could tell minerals apart, all yellow stones were called “topaz.”

Rubies were synthesized in the late 1800s, and more was charged for the synthetics than the natural rubies.

“Herkimer Diamonds: are actually double-terminated quartz.

:Smokey Topaz” is not topaz – it is brown quartz.

Radiation causes diamonds to turn green. Some diamonds are artificially (and safely) irradiated to achieve a green color, but early on – before the process was refined – some green diamonds were actually made radioactive. They are confiscated by the U.S. Government if found today. A new process has recently been developed to achieve green color in diamond using just pressure and heat.

### 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](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month 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 (next to their shop)  
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, 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, Garland,

## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Thanks go out to Dr. Lameul Salik for his great presentation on the Minerals of Pakistan. January IGEM show was a success. Despite the super cold weather, attendance was good. Butch and Pattie could not attend due to a break-in of their jewelry trailer. However, Butch did stop by. The next IGEM will be April 20 – 22. Don't forget the STEM Fair at Brookhaven on February 24, 2018 from 10AM – 5PM

## Club Officers for 2018

President: Ling Shurtz  
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Field Trips: David Dobson  
Secretary: Lee Elms  
Treasurer: Del Grady  
Editor: Don Shurtz  
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,  
[L.SHURTZ@gmail.com](mailto:L.SHURTZ@gmail.com)

## Minutes of the January 4, 2018 Meeting

The January 4 2018 club meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Ling.

We have a quorum. The Club's Constitution and By-Laws defines a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting to be those in attendance at the meeting.

Sunshine report: Del Grady suffered a heart attack a couple of weeks ago but has recovered and is at tonight's meeting.

Visitors: Dr. Lamuel G. Salik

Minutes: We discussed the Minutes of the November 2017 meeting as printed in the December 2017 Chips and Chatter. A motion was made by Butch. The motion was seconded by Cheryl. The motion passed. There were no December 2017 minutes- no business was conducted.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Lee. The motion was seconded by Don. The motion passed.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- IGEM Set Up on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 starting around noontime.

- IGEM Show on Friday through Sunday, January 12-14 2018.
- Short demonstration for the club members by the Editor, Don Shurtz. Don showed us the new peel and stick newsletter seals he bought for using for closure for mailing club newsletters to club members that don't have e-mail.

Upcoming Shows :

- Jan.12-14 2018: IGEM Show in Dallas.
- Jan20-21, Fredricksburg. Fredricksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park
- Jan.27-28, Tyler, East Texas G&MS, Tyler Rose Garden Center

New Business from the floor: None

Break

Presentation: Gems and Minerals of Pakistan, Dr. Lameul G. Salik.

Dr. Salik admires and collects gems and minerals of Pakistan. He also loves the history of Pakistan and the history of Christianity in Pakistan. He told us that he interviewed for a teaching position at the University in Pakistan, and if offered, he will accept the teaching position. He brought a lot of mineral and gem specimens for us to look at. We also had the opportunity to purchase some of the specimens if we wanted too. He also had some antique coins that were made from silver, copper, and bronze. Warner is a friend of Dr. Salik and stays in close touch with him. If there was a particular gem or mineral specimen you want to buy from Dr. Salik you can contact Warner about it.

After the presentation we had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Elms, Secretary

## MEETING

Our next meeting will be February 1, 2018. The presentation will be the video, Antarctica, A World of Ice.

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

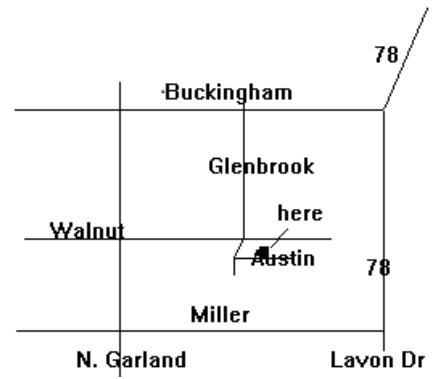
**Copyright Information:** This issue of the Chips and Chatter is copyright © by Don Shurtz. Unless otherwise noted, permission granted for non-commercial reproduction of articles provided they remain essentially intact and credit is given to the author and original source. Where noted, the author retains the copyright and must be contacted for permission to reproduce the article. All articles may also be used as reference provided citation is given.

**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: \$16.50,  
 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 Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

**CHIPS AND CHATTER**

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

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**Next Meeting: February 1, 2018, 7:30 PM at the Garland Women’s Activities Building**

**Features**

Amazing Rock Trivia ..... 4  
 February Birthstone – Amethyst ..... 1  
 Marking Your Tools ..... 2

**Notices**

Meeting Info ..... 5, 6  
 Shows and Activities ..... 2  
 Visit an Area Club ..... 4

**Monthly Columns**

Club Information ..... 1, 5, 6  
 Minutes of the December 2017 Meeting ..... 5  
 President’s Message ..... 5

**Federation Information**

Let’s Go Endowment Fund ..... 3  
 Rock Talk ..... 3