



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



February 2019

Vol. 53, Issue 2

1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2018 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

## February's Birthstone: Amethyst

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas  
From the February 2015 Chips and Chatter

Amethyst is considered by many to be the most desirable member of the Quartz family. The chemical formula for amethyst is  $\text{SiO}_2$ , silicon dioxide.  $\text{SiO}_2$  is also the chemical formula for quartz, citrine, rose quartz, agate, jasper, glass, and who knows what else. Agate and jasper are microcrystalline – you need a microscope to see the crystals. However, quartz, amethyst, and citrine all are macro-crystalline – they form larger crystals. So what is it that causes quartz to be clear, citrine to be yellow, rose quartz to be pink, and amethyst to be purple? Like many minerals, it is a trace element that gets caught up in the crystal structure. Pure quartz, without any trace elements, is clear. The pink color or rose quartz is caused when a manganese atom occasionally replaces one of the silicon atoms. The yellow color of citrine is caused when an iron atom occasionally replaces one of the silicon atoms. The purple color of amethyst is caused when an iron atom occasionally replaces one of the silicon atoms. Now if you read that carefully, you will note that both citrine and amethyst are colored by trace amounts of iron. SO WHAT IS GOING ON? If you remember back to your school days, specifically your chemistry classes, you will recall that an atom can come in different valence states – valence being caused by the

loss or gain of electrons. Citrine is colored by iron in the +3 valence state ( $\text{Fe}^{+3}$ ) while amethyst is colored by iron in the +4 valence state ( $\text{Fe}^{+4}$ ). The different valence state of the iron, mixed with a little quantum physics, causes different light absorption, thus both yellow and purple colors with the same (basic) trace element.



Some of the other properties of the quartz family include a Mohs hardness of 7 (quartz is the defining mineral for hardness 7), a white streak, and form in the trigonal crystal system, their crystal habit being a six-sided (hexagonal) crystal which ends in a six-sided pyramid.

Amethyst has a rich history. The early Egyptians often cut (engraved) amethyst to form intaglio gems. The word amethyst comes from the Greek word "amethystos" which means "not drunken" (i.e., sober). The early Greeks believed that amethyst could prevent intoxication. In particular, they

believed that you could not get intoxicated from wine that was consumed from an amethyst goblet. Amethyst was also one of the stones mentioned in the Bible – one of the stones on the Breast Plate of Hosen.

Amethyst is found in many parts of the world. The major commercial producers are Brazil and Zambia. Other countries where amethyst is found are Russia,

South Korea, Australia, Canada, and India. In the United States, amethyst is found in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Maine, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Texas. The Texas locations include the Blanca and Quitman Mountains near Sierra Blanca, Alpine, and Oxford. Amethyst geodes are also found in Brewster, Presidio, Culberson, and Hudspeth counties.

Ref:

- Amethyst, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amethyst>
- February Birthstone, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/february-birthstones>
- Mineral Miners, <http://www.mineralminers.com/html/>

Pictures:

- Amethyst cluster photo by Don Shurtz. Specimen on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- Feb 16, Llano, TX, Friends of the Llano Red Top Jail, Llano Cty Community Center., [www.prospectingtexas.com/events.html](http://www.prospectingtexas.com/events.html)
- Feb 16-17, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, Georgetown Comm. Cntr., [sparkaustin@outlook.com](mailto:sparkaustin@outlook.com)
- Feb 23, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center, [bobcat22@suddenlink.com](mailto:bobcat22@suddenlink.com)
- Mar 2-3, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Cty Fair Grounds, [lolabellelamb@yahoo.com](mailto:lolabellelamb@yahoo.com)
- Mar 2-3, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M Borchard Fairgrounds, [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)
- Mar 9-10, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center, [swgms.org](http://swgms.org)
- Mar 7 - 10, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM State Fairgrounds in Deming, [thedgmsclub.com](http://thedgmsclub.com)
- Mar 15-17, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, [jaypenn246@gmail.com](mailto:jaypenn246@gmail.com)
- Mar 23-24, Cedar Rapids, IA, Cedar Valley R&MS & AFMS CONVENTION, Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, [cedarvalleyrockclub.org](http://cedarvalleyrockclub.org)
- Mar 29-30, Ada, OK, Ada G&MC, Pontotoc County Agriplex, [bfreeman.1966@yahoo.com](mailto:bfreeman.1966@yahoo.com)

Ref:

- November - December 2018 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

## A Craftsman's Eye

By Stephen Wilkerson, from the March 2018 Backbender's Gazette



metal smith finds gold in the morning sun,  
silver in starlight, copper in the sunset,  
bronze in a fire's glow, cold iron in rain clouds.

A gem cutter sees diamonds in the glitter of snowflakes,  
sapphire in a cloudless sky, ruby in a drop of blood,  
amethyst at twilight, emerald in spring leaves.

A stone carver finds malachite in an open field of grass,  
jasper in the autumn leaves, lapis in the ocean depths,  
obsidian in a midnight sky, opal in a rainbow.

An uninspired man lives in a dreary world.  
Where things are what they seem, taken at face value;  
and nature shapes his point of view.

But an artist sees what might be in what is.

## 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 (next to their shop)  
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 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 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland  
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

# South Central Federation of Mineral Societies Convention Report

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The South Central Federation of Mineral Societies 2019 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Fredericksburg Roundhounds. The convention was held in conjunction with the Hill Country Gem & Mineral show on 19 January 2019 at Lady Birds Park in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Convention activities started with the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmaster. Don Shurtz gave the keynote presentation at the breakfast; his subject was The Club Website. Don talked about elements of a good website. He addressed the purpose and goals for a website, resource for design, important items and information that should be on every page. He then talked about the pages that a website should incorporate including a Home page, About page, Contact page, Show page, Links page, Newsletter page, and Field Trip page. Don mentioned some of the security aspects associated with the contact page (preventing web crawlers for skimming email addresses) and Shop page (letting thieves know the content of the shop and the hours that it is not in use). After the keynote speech, The Editor and Author awards were presented. Pleasant Oaks had three awards this year, all by Don. His Quartz Crossword won second place in Written Features, his article "Blue Quartz", from the August 2018 issue of the Chips and Chatter, won first place in Adult Articles, and the Chips and Chatter, August 2018 issue, finished in first place in the Mini-Bulletin category. Don then presented the Awards for the Web Site competition. Gordon Galligher of the Paleontological Society of Austin was the first place winner, visit their website at <https://austinpaleo.org>.

After the breakfast, most everyone went to the Hill Country Gem and Mineral show. The breakfast ended at about 9:30 am and the show opens after 10:00 am, so the breakfast attendees were some of the earliest visitors. The show is relatively small, but had great attendance. The admission to the show was free, but chances for the Grand Prizes (eight items) were a dollar per ticket or seven tickets for \$5.00. The silent auction was also a big attraction.

The SCFMS Convention was held Saturday afternoon starting at 1:00. Jerrold Simpson, the SCFMS Executive Vice President, presided at the Convention. Roger Burford, the SCFMS President had prior and was unable to attend. More than half the clubs in the SCFMS were represented. Business went well except for election of officers. A slate of candidate officers had not been prepared by the nominating committee. It was determined that a slate of candidates would be prepared and the elections held by email and or mail. The new officers will take their seats in January 2020. The convention did approve a budget for 2020. It should be noted that Ling Shurtz agreed to become a member of the Nominating Committee and assist in developing a slate of officer candidates. The next Convention location was discussed. The Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society has tentatively agreed to host the show in Temple, TX at their show in October 2020.

The Convention Awards dinner followed the first day of the show. The meal was Texas B.B.Q with plenty of sides. The speaker at the Awards dinner was the SCFMS Scholarship Honoree, Dr. Melanie Barnes, a Senior Research Associate of the Texas Tech University and the Scholarship Recipients, Ethan Backus and Katie Gates, both from Texas Tech University. Dr. Barnes gave a presentation on the Geology Department and some of her work. This was followed by presentation by Ethan and Katie discussing their studies and fieldwork. The presentations by Dr. Barnes and her students were the highlight of the entire Convention.

Sunday morning was the Rollin Rock Club (RRC) annual meeting. This is a global club with mobile members. Sherman Trumble, the RRC President, presided at the meeting. After the introductions, prayer, and Pledge of Allegiance, the business of the RRC was conducted. First, there was the telling of jokes. Then the RRC Treasure Chest drawing was held. The meeting closed with several slabs and rocks being auctioned. The proceeds from the auction were donated to the Fredericksburg Rockhounds scholarship fund.

# Word Find – Amethyst

Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

## AMETHYST

Solution 18 Letters

C	E	D	I	X	O	I	D	N	O	C	I	L	I	S
H	R	C	O	L	O	R	E	D	E	D	O	E	G	V
E	E	E	T	H	U	N	D	E	R	B	A	Y	F	I
V	N	A	T	R	A	N	S	L	U	C	E	N	T	O
R	I	E	T	S	B	E	A	D	S	T	H	B	C	L
O	W	R	U	R	U	A	R	E	I	U	T	X	O	E
N	G	O	L	D	E	L	Y	T	E	B	U	E	L	T
N	G	N	I	V	R	A	C	A	B	I	C	H	O	G
A	P	N	R	E	R	A	T	L	R	G	A	D	R	N
I	U	E	O	R	L	O	A	E	A	R	S	R	Z	I
R	R	V	N	A	T	D	C	R	D	H	I	U	O	N
E	P	E	T	C	E	S	D	K	T	M	D	N	N	N
B	L	S	O	R	F	E	R	R	I	C	E	K	E	I
I	E	N	E	U	N	Z	T	R	A	U	Q	G	D	W
S	B	R	A	Z	I	L	Y	R	L	E	W	E	J	T

- |             |                 |             |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| BEADS       | GOLD            | STALACTITE  |
| BLADE       | HARD            | THUNDER BAY |
| BRAZIL      | HEAT            | TRANSLUCENT |
| <u>CAB</u>  | HEX             | TREATED     |
| CARVING     | HUE             | TWINNING    |
| CHEVRON     | IRON            | VERA CRUZ   |
| CLUSTER     | JEWELRY         | VIOLET      |
| COLOR ZONED | PURPLE          | WINE        |
| COLORED     | QUARTZ          |             |
| CUT         | RELATED         |             |
| DRUNK       | ROCK            |             |
| FERRIC      | SEVEN           |             |
| GARDEN      | SIBERIAN        |             |
| GEM         | SIDE            |             |
| GEODE       | SILICON DIOXIDE |             |

Answer to Word Find at bottom of page 5

Directions: Find the words from the list, then grey out or circle the letters. The words may be horizontal, vertical or diagonal. The remaining letters will spell out a word or phrase

## Lyda Hill Gem and Mineral Hall

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

After about a one-month closure, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science has reopened the Lyda Hill Gem and Mineral Hall. The hall has more mineral cases and has installed four new large displays, one devoted to birthstones with both minerals and cut stones, a special display case for birthstone jewelry (it will be updated monthly), a large case for a fabulous new stibnite specimen from China, and a new case for the Eyes of Africa, a large Quartz and Alien Eye Fluorite specimen. Each of the four new cases includes a video display with enhanced information about the specimens and jewelry. In the remaining cases, about half of the specimens are new to the Perot. One of the new cases has specimens from the Museum Staff and Volunteer Collections. Ling and I are fortunate to have one of our specimens selected for the new case. Come on in and check the new hall out. Give me a call before you come and I will try to arrange to be there and give you a guided tour through the hall



A 56 ct Amethyst Necklace designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany, from the Smithsonian Institution collection that was displayed at the Perot Museum



This beautiful Amethyst Necklace is currently on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in the new case for display of the month's birthstone.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The January IGEM show was good, but not great. January was also the SCFMS Convention in Fredericksburg. It was a nice show and the convention successful despite many people being in Quartzite, AZ for the activities there. In February we will be participating in the STEM Fair at Brookhaven College. The Fair will be Feb 23, 2019. So far we expect Ling, Don, and Warner to help man our booth. Others are welcome!

## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

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](mailto:L.SHURTZ@gmail.com)

## MEETING MINTUES

The January 3, 2019 meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM by the President, Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by Ling.

Quorum: We had a quorum present.

Sunshine Report: Patti is still experience health issues

Minutes: There were no minutes from the December meeting as it was our annual Christmas Dinner and Party. The minutes from the November meeting, as printed in the December Chips and Chatter, were discussed. A motion was made by Carolyn and seconded by Warner to accept the minutes as printed. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady presented the Treasurer's Report for November and December. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Carolyn and seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- IGEM is January 11 – 13 with set up on January 9. Tickets are available on the front table.
- Dues are past due!

New Business:

- The STEM Fair at Brookhaven College has asked POGMC to participate. The Fair will be February 23, 2019. Participation in the Fair was discussed. Don mad a motion for POGMC to participate in the Fair. The motion was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.
- Regional shows, in addition to the IGEM show, include Fredericksburg and Tyler.

Presentation: After the break, we viewed a talk by Dr. G. Rossman on the Color of Minerals from the 2017 Dallas Mineral Collecting Symposium DVD. The talk, although quite technical, was well received. Dr. Rossman described how trace elements in a mineral cause absorption of certain light frequencies, thus the specimen will be the complimentary color of the absorbed light. Dr. Rossman also described how defects in the crystal structure can effect light scattering so that the specimen shows color.

## MEETING

Our next meeting will be February 7, 2019 starting at 7:30 PM. Our presentation will be given by, Mr. Tom Dill of the Dallas Paleo Society. He will be talking about the geology of Texas. Our March meeting will be on the March 7, 2019. Stand by for details.

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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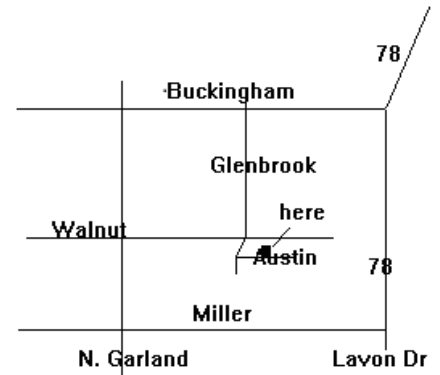
Answer to the Word Search:  
February Birthstone

**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: Our next meeting will be January 3, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM. Tom Dill, President of the Dallas Paleo Society, will give a presentation about fossils**

**Features**

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