



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



February 2023  
Vol. 57, Issue 1

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

## ROCKHOUND HOLIDAYS

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The winter time frame seems to have more occasions for us to have a celebration or holiday than the rest of the year. It starts with Thanksgiving and runs through Valentine's Day. All these holidays had me wondering if we had any Rockhound-related holidays. Then, in mid-January, I received an email from Rock & Gem magazine that answered the question. Rock & Gem sends out a weekly email newsletter that has interesting and timely reprinted articles. Each electronic issue has three or four articles. The latest had an article "2023 Rockhound Holidays". Rockhound Holidays listed include Old Rock Day on January 7, National Jewel Date on March 13, Geologists Day on April 2, Nickel Day on May 16, Dinosaur Days on May 15 and June 1, National Caves & Karst Day on June 6, World Oceans Day on June 8, International Drop a Rock Day on July 3, International Rock Day on July 13, Pet Rock Day on September 3, Collect Rocks Day on September 16, and International Fossil Day on October 11. Thanks to Rock and Gem, they also explained what these days really signified and how they were celebrated. I never realized there were so many days to celebrate Rocks and Rockhounding!

I wondered what Old Rock Day was all about. It is a day to contemplate how old the Earth is. It was probably just a coincidence, but on Old Rock Day I was reading Isaac Asimov's *Guide to Earth and Space* which had a lot to say about how big and hold old the Earth really is, and how the age, size, and shape were determined.

National Jewelry Day seems like it should be just before Valentine's Day, not a month later. It is a day to think about jewelry, from the most ancient to the newest pieces in the Jewelry Store. On National Jewelry Day you are supposed to wear your jewelry, be they a simple ring or a gaudy necklace, or better yet would be both! It is also a day to consider buying a jewelry item for your loved ones (see, I told you it should be a month earlier).

Geologist's Day was set aside to recognize geologists, both professional and amateur. It is also a day to think about how geology impacts our lives. Geology provides



a method to clean our teeth, fuel our automobiles, and build our homes and buildings. It is because of the Earth's geology that life evolved.

Nickel Day is a day to think about the mineral Nickel, how it is mined and how it is used. The five-cent coin is called the Nickel as they were made from – you got it – Nickel. Nickel was used in many ways by itself and, more often, alloyed with other minerals. Nickel Day makes me wonder why we don't have a Gold Day, Aluminum Day, Iron Day, etc.

Dinosaurs were so big and lived long (and they still live today, we just call them birds) that we need two days to celebrate them. Dinosaur Days are days to ponder how the dinosaurs lived, how there became so many species, and what caused the demise of all but the non-avian dinosaurs. Dinosaur Days would be a good day to visit a local museum to study and appreciate them.

National Caves and Karst Day and World Ocean Day are more or less self-explanatory. However, International Drop a Rock Day is not what I expected. I thought one should take a rock and just drop it. It is actually a bit more

complicated. One takes a rock and paints a picture and/or message on the rock or rocks and hides (drops) them for others to find. The finder can do with it as he/she pleases. They can hide it again, keep it, or possibly even follow the directions if there is a message provided. As a thought, we have a bunch of donated tumbled rocks. We could tie some of these up in small bags with a note to contact the club if they would like to learn more about rockhounding, and then hide them in places that people visit (shopping centers, grocery stores, parks, etc.). It may be a way to gain a few members. If we publicize it, we could perhaps get an even bigger response.

Pet Rock Day is a day to think about the 1975 marketing scheme which caused an international craze. Who, besides myself, didn't have a pet rock? Could this be another outline to grow our club? Some nice rocks and a booth at a park or store could lead to more members.

National Collect Rocks Day is just what the name implies. The day was established recently in 2015; a day to get out and collect rocks and appreciate geology. It is not known how the day was established and who celebrated it. Still, it sounds like a good day for a field trip.

International Fossil Day is much like National Collect Rocks Day but has been around longer. It is a day to go out and hunt fossils. Here in North Texas, we do not have to travel far to find fossils. Mineral Wells Fossil Park and the Ladonia Fossil Park (North Sulphur River)

are two popular spots, but fossils can be found almost anywhere the white limestone or the grey shale outcrops are exposed. Locally you can find fossils in Breckenridge Park (Richardson), the area around the dam at Benbrook Lake, the outcrops on the eastern side of Lake Worth (e.g., Marion Sansom Park), and the creeks in east and northeast Dallas (where legally accessible) are all possible locations.

There are at least two takeaways from this article. The first is that it is OK to celebrate being a Rockhound. The second is that there are nationally and internationally recognized days to celebrate rocks.

I would like to thank Rock & Gem for the articles that they distribute in their Weekly Newsletter. For me, they provide background and insight for potential articles. Below is a link to the weekly newsletter from Rock & Gem. The newsletter is free and you do not have to be a subscriber to Rock and Gem. However, Rock & Gem does collect your email for advertising their Magazine. I find that is a small price to pay.

Pictures:

- Rockhound State Park, Deming, NM, from Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki, Picture by John Fowler, CC BY 2.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rockhound_State_Park_Deming_NM.jpg) <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>.
- Teepee Canyon Agate, from Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki, Picture by James St. John, CC BY 2.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Teepee_Canyon_Agate.jpg) <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>.

**Rock and Gem Magazine**

<https://www.rockngem.com/author/adminrockngem/>

---

---

## FEDERATION NEWS

### From Roger's Desk

Roger Burford, SCFMS President  
From the January-February SCFMS Newsletter

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and we are fighting bad weather across the country. I am hoping that this year finds everyone in good health and that this new year will motivate you to volunteer for some of our open positions. I am looking now for three people to help with the nominating committee as documented in article 5 of our Bylaws, it is time to fill these positions. I would much rather have a volunteer than to appoint people for this position. This is also true for the other open positions. I will be looking for someone to fill the Rockhound of the Year committee, Endowment Fund, and more.

Our Federation is only as good as the people who volunteer for open positions and this being my last year as President, it would be great if I could have all of the positions filled. Take a look at our Constitution, Bylaws and Operating Procedures, and find a position that you can help us with. There are open positions for District VP for regions 4 and 5 along with the Nominating Committee. These are all important positions that need to be filled now.

If your club has not submitted the change of officers to Linda Simpson, Susan Burch, and Kimberly Brannon, please do so very soon. These are to be registered with the state and for inclusion in our directory.

Our convention will be hosted by the Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana from October 20<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup> with the meetings held on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The location is in the Alario Center in Westwego, Louisiana. Please make every effort to attend.

***Chips and Chatter***

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

Page 2

Visit us: [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org)

February 2023  
Like us on Facebook

# Happy Chinese New Year

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Welcome to the Chinese New Year. This is the Year of the Rabbit. The Chinese New Year celebration started on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and will run for 16 days until February 10<sup>th</sup>; we are right in the middle of the celebration. The Chinese birthstones are not based on the month of birth, but rather the Chinese Year of birth. The birthstone for the Year of the Rabbit is Amethyst. Below is a list of the Chinese Animals that represent the Years, and the corresponding Stone for each Year. All these animals, stones, and some of my favorite Chinese minerals are hidden in the Word Find Puzzle below. See if you can find all of them.

<b>Year</b>	Rat	Ox	Tiger	Rabbit	Dragon	Snake
<b>Stone</b>	Aquamarine	Sapphire	Pearl	Amethyst	Opal	Aquamarine
<b>Year</b>	Horse	Sheep	Monkey	Rooster	Dog	Pig
<b>Stone</b>	Topaz	Emerald	Peridot	Citrine	Diamond	Ruby

The Animals and Minerals above are surrounded by some of my favorite Chinese minerals: Aragonite, Azurite, Barite, Fluorite, Hemimorphite, Pyromorphite, Quartz, Rhodochrosite, Scheelite, and Stibnite.

Note: The animal names and the minerals may be found printed forward, backward, up, down, or along a diagonal going up or down and forward or backward. The solution is on page 4.

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



## Puzzle Solution

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

## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

### February 2023

- 28 JAN – 12 FEB, Tucson, AZ, many shows.
- 9 – 12 FEB, Tucson, AZ, Tucson G&MS (also called The Main Show), Tucson Convention Center, [www.tgms.org/show](http://www.tgms.org/show)
- 18-19 FEB, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MC, Community Center at San Gabriel Park, [facebook.com/WilliamsonCountyGemSociety](https://facebook.com/WilliamsonCountyGemSociety)

### March 2023

- Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, [www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info)

### March 2023

- Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Building, Facebook: NWAGMS
- San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Morris Center at Joe Freeman Coliseum, [www.swgms.org](http://www.swgms.org)

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

**Ref: January-February 2023 SCFMS Newsletter**

## January 2023 Presentation Review

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

You would think after 60 years of rockhounding that somewhere along the line I would have learned to create jewelry by wire wrapping. I guess that’s what you get for thinking. Our January meeting was a basic wire wrapping class presented by Julie and Warner. They supplied the tools, wire, and quartz points to be wrapped. The steps were demonstrated and then each person followed the steps as presented. In the end, everyone had a wrapped quartz point that could be hung from a chain as a pendant. Thanks go out to Warner and Julie for their presentation!

## 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 the 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 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,

## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2023

President: Joe Vulk  
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 January 20, 2023 Meeting

Thanks to Joe, Brenda, and Hatt for providing refreshments.

Joe opened our first meeting of the year at 7:30pm on January 5, 2023.

Ling gave the treasury report. Hatt made a motion to accept the report, Carolyn seconded it and it was voted approved by members.

It was confirmed that our rental for the Recreation Center room is paid up for the full year in the amount of \$495.00.

#### Old Business:

A lengthy discussion on our participation in the upcoming IGEM Show is scheduled for January 20-22. Julie and Warner will set up the booth and represent our club. It will cost \$200 for a 20-foot space and \$400 for a 40-foot space. They will be setting up the booth on January 18th. Members were invited to help with the set-up if possible.

#### New Business:

No specific new business was reported. But Joe gave a heads-up that we need to discuss compensating members' expenses.

Carolyn volunteered to provide refreshments at the February meeting. As VP in charge of programs, she offered that she will make sure we have a good program at the February meeting.

There was no other business, so the business meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15.

Afterward, Julie and Warner gave a demonstration on wire wrapping. They supplied tools, crystals, and wire. Everyone was given the opportunity to make their own wire wrap pendant. Everyone enjoyed it and agreed we should do it again.

Amy Vulk, Secretary

### Presidents Message

I hope everyone had a good holiday season. The December meeting was very enjoyable - the pot-luck nibbles and "thieves" gift exchange. I wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year.

The January meeting had an excellent program provided by Julie and Warner. I thoroughly enjoyed learning from them how to make pendants using the wire wrap method. Thanks to them for providing the tools, supplies, and gemstones.

We participated in the IGEM show at Dallas Market Hall on January 20-25. The majority of the work was done by Julie and Warner. They not only set up the club booth and provided all the displays and demonstrations but they also manned the booth all three days that the show was open. Thanks also to Don for spending a lot of time with the set-up and finding our club banner for display.

Joe Vulk, President

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

### FEBRUARY MEETING

**Our February 2, 2023 meeting will start at 7:15 at the Bradfield Recreation Center**

**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, February 2, 2023, starting at 7:15

### Features

Rockhound Holidays ..... 1-2  
Happy Chinese New Year & Word Find ... 3 and 4

### Monthly Columns

Club and Meeting Information ..... 1, 5, 6  
January 2023 Presentation Review ..... 4  
Minutes of the January 2023 Meeting ..... 5  
President's Newsletter Message ..... 5

### Notices

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

### Federation News

From Roger's Desk (SCFMS President) ..... 4