



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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

AMETHYST – FEBRUARY'S BIRTHSTONE

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Amethyst is February's Birthstone. Amethyst is the violet-to-purple variety of Quartz. Except for the Iron trace atoms caught up in the mineral matrix, it is the same as Quartz. Its chemical formula is Silicon Dioxide (SiO_2). Like Quartz, Amethyst has a Mohs hardness of 7.0. Amethyst's color can range from violet to purple, with hints of blue and red. They get their color from trace amounts of Iron in the plus3 valence state (Fe^{3+}) and radiation. The color of Amethyst can fade if exposed to intense sunlight.

Amethyst's name is from Koine Greek *amethystos*, which means not intoxicated. The ancient Greeks believed that Amethyst gems or Amethyst wine goblets prevented intoxication. Medieval European soldiers wore Amethyst amulets in the belief that Amethyst would aid in healing and maintain a cool head. In Tibet, Amethyst is considered sacred to the Budha; they still use prayer beads made from Amethyst. Purple is considered to be the color of royalty. Amethyst emblems were worn with purple clothing to show their royalty and office.

Historically, the highest quality amethyst was found in Russia (Siberia), Brazil, Uruguay, and Sri Lanka. Today, Amethyst is found in many places throughout the world. The countries that produce the most Amethyst are Brazil, Canada, Uruguay, and Zambia. Lesser amounts are found in Afghanistan, Argentina, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States. Amethyst can be found in Texas. The Woodard Ranch in Alpine is likely the most prolific location for finding Texas Amethyst. Mindat shows seven locations where Amethyst has been found in Texas -three locations in West Texas (including the Woodard Ranch), two locations near Llano, and two locations southeast of San Antonio. In the DFW area, your best bet for finding Amethyst would be the local gem and mineral shows, the local rock shops, and the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Two spectacular Amethyst geodes are on display at the Perot, the Grape Geode in the Lyda Hill Gem and Mineral Hall and the large heart-shaped geode (pictured above) near the museum entrance.

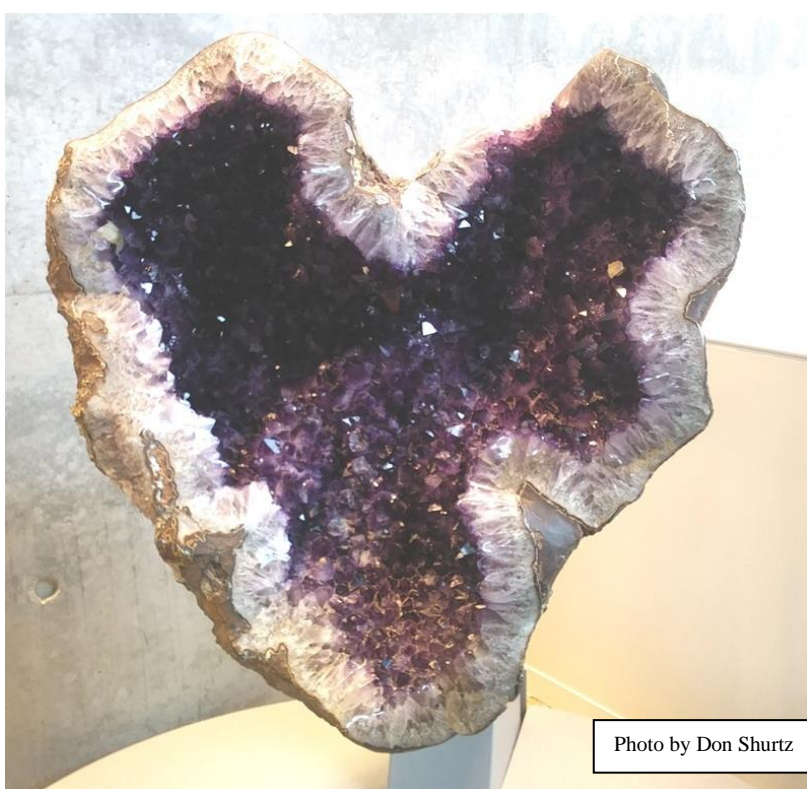


Photo by Don Shurtz

Ref: Amethyst, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amethyst>

Ref: Amethyst, Mindat, <https://www.mindat.org/min-198.html>

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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February 2025

Bonanza Lake, BC

By Gordon Burkholder

From the 2/2017 Ripple Rock Gem and Mineral Club Bugle via the January 2025 Stoney Statements, Newsletter of the Clear Lake Gem and Mineral Society

On Vancouver Island there are many locations where marble can be found, but the seam around the Bonanza Lake is quite large and very interesting. There are signs of how the marble was 'mined' at the main site and I marvel at how such large pieces of rock would have been hauled out of the backcountry to transport to the mill site for working. Indeed, moving 25-tonne pieces of rock onto a flatbed would have been an engineering feat in itself.

A view of some of the marble at Bonanza Lake



Photo by Steve Cooley

Minfile # 092L339 describes the site thusly: "The Leo D'or marble prospect is located approximately 30 kilometres southwest of Port McNeill on northern Vancouver Island. The property is situated at the northeast end of Bonanza Lake on a tree-covered slope which rises from the lake shore to the east at an average slope of 30 degrees.

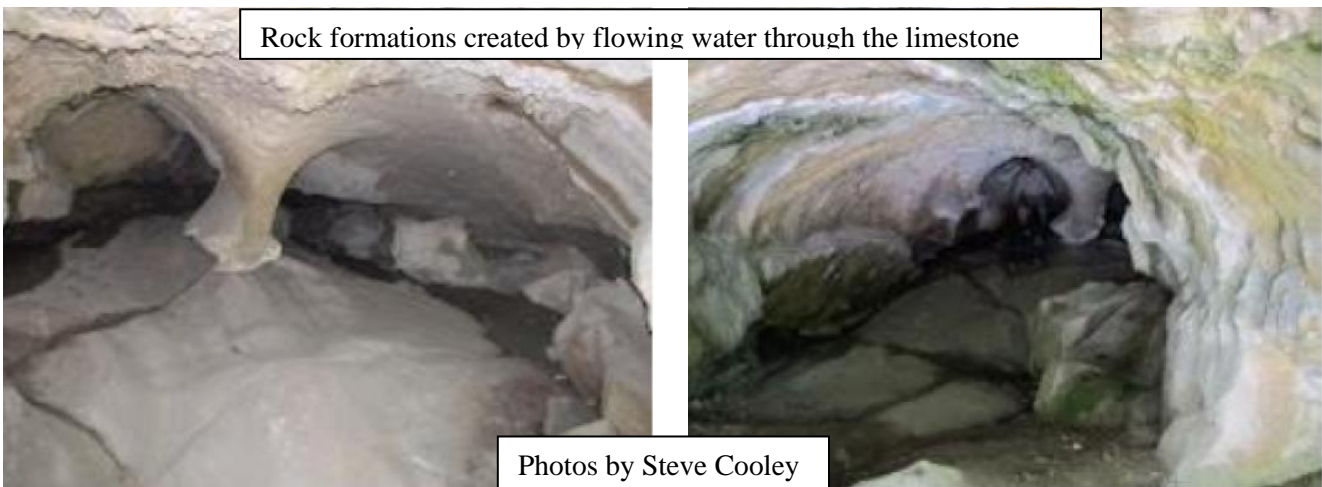
A band of limestone of the Upper Triassic Quatsino Formation, Vancouver Group, up to 2.5 kilometres wide, trends northward along the east side of Bonanza River and Bonanza Lake for 6.25 kilometres. To the west, the limestone is in fault contact with basaltic flows of the Upper Triassic Karmutsen Formation, Vancouver Group. An elongate stock of coarse-grained, biotite quartz

monzonite of the Early to Middle Jurassic Island Plutonic Suite intrudes the limestone from the southeast. On the Leo D'or property, the limestone has been recrystallized to marble by these intrusions. Discontinuous dykes of basalt, averaging 60 centimetres in width, are also observed throughout the area."

The file goes on to state: "The marble varies in colour from very light grey to dark grey or almost black, to mottled grey and white. In some areas, distinct black to light grey bands of marble, varying from several centimetres to several metres, occur. The grain size of the marble varies from fine to coarse-grained; the majority (approximately 75 per cent) is medium-grained. Light brown to light orange surface staining is caused by the oxidation of iron impurities in the marble."

Our explorations of the area have revealed some interesting caves and water-worn formations that are accessible to most people by climbing up a short, steep path. The sight at the end of this climb is worth the physical exertion.

Rock formations created by flowing water through the limestone



Photos by Steve Cooley

Other finds in this area include some very colourful Gordonite that we stumbled upon while the construction of the Kokish Dam was underway.



Coordinates are 50.527729, -127.432094 (degrees.degrees)

Image from Google Maps



Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check the show contact to verify the show status

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

VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX

[CERA 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

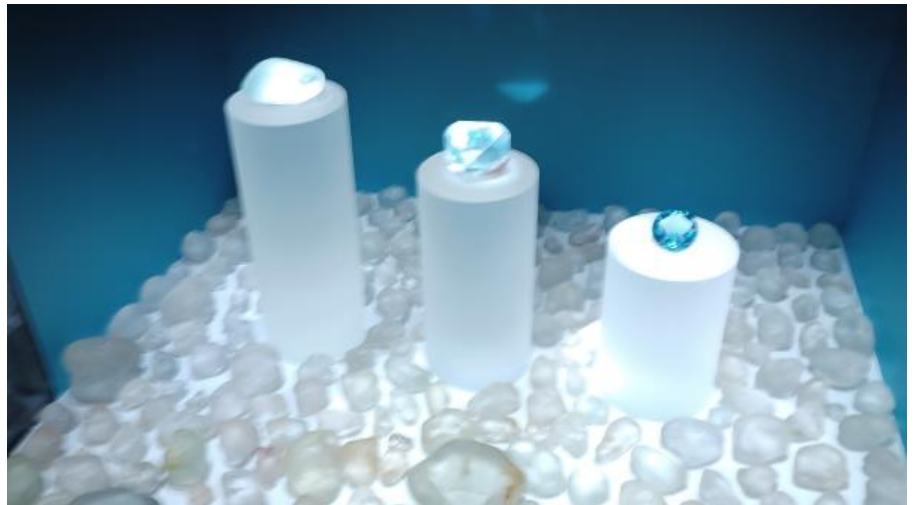
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

TOPAZ: A SPECTRUM IN STONE

PICTURES from the LYDA HILL GEM AND MINERAL HALL at the PEROT MUSEUM OF NATURE AND SCIENCE, DALLAS, TEXAS



Imperial Flame Topaz



Topaz from Mason County, Texas



Imperial Topaz



Blue and Pink Topaz

OFFICERS FOR 2024 – 2025

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

Minutes of the January 6, 2025 Meeting

Call to Order: President Joe Vulk called the meeting to order.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 4, 2024 meeting were published in the December Chips and Chatter. Carolyn made a motion to accept the Minutes as published. Brenda seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurers report. Ling presented the Treasurer's Report for November. Julie made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Amy seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Visitor Terry Johnson visited the November meeting.

Old Business:

Don gave a report on the November 23 SCFMS Convention in Mesquite, TX. The Dallas Gem and Mineral Society hosted the Convention. Don reported disappointing attendance at the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters and the Awards Banquet. However, attendance at the General Meeting was strong; over half the SCFMS Societies/Clubs and half the officers were in attendance. The formal Roll Call of the Societies and approving the Officer Reports took a long time. However, we had a lively discussion regarding the format (electronic or live attendance) for future conventions. This morphed into discussing how to increase participation in competitive display cases. We also discussed the methodology for electing District Vice Presidents. A committee was formed to review the method and to suggest changes to the constitution and By-laws.

New Business:

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

1. We briefly discussed a possible Field Trip to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.
2. The International Gem and Jewelry Show will be held at Fair Park on January 10 – 12, 2025.

Break: We took a short break to grab a snack and to do the door prize raffle.

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

It seems as though our President is off sailing the High Seas again. He asked me if I would lead the next meeting – I will do my best.

I apologize if you find the content of this Chips and Chatter to be lacking or if it is a little later than usual. My vision went SOUTH after an eye injection. During the time that I would generally create the Chips and Chatter, I could not see my computer screen well enough to type anything. My vision finally improved enough to get the Chips and Chatter going, but it got me off to a late start.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on February 3, 2025, at the Knights of Columbus Hall starting at 7:00 PM. The presentation will be an Internet video related to our hobby. The exact title will be a surprise.

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February 2025

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 will be Monday, February 3, 2025. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX. The presentation will be a hobby-related video.

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