

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

January 7, 2010
Vol. 44 Issue 1

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Check our website www.pogmc.org
for past months issue of the
Chips and Chatter

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, in particular 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.

Monthly Meeting

POGM meet the First Thursday each month. 7:30 pm at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX, (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

Presentation

The speakers for our January presentation is Mary Sawyer, speaking on "State Fair Winning Jewelry Making" and Joseph Sawyer will give a presentation on treasure hunting using metal detectors.

Club Officers for 2009

President: Del Grady
1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
E-mail: anitadresner@rocketmail.com

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
14 days before the next month's meeting

December 2009 Minutes

December Meeting – Christmas Pot-Luck Dinner
Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

No official club business was conducted at our December Meeting or at our Summer July Meeting.

The December Meeting of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club is always different! It is our annual Christmas Party and Pot-Luck Dinner. The first major difference is the meeting starts at 7:00 PM –30 minutes earlier than usual. Wanda Fitzgerald was our hostess and we want to thank her for serving the club in this capacity. Wanda has been the hostess of our Christmas Party since forever. She did miss last year, but we are very glad to have her back. It is always a pot-luck dinner where the club provides a meat dish. Fellow members bring a dish to share, such as a salad, appetizer, vegetable, bread, dessert, or whatever, and it always works out. We always love to share recipes and taste the different twist to other member's recipes.

Editor's Corner

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Happy New Year, I hope you had a marvelous Christmas and that 2010 will be everything you desire and then some. May we as a club have many field trips and grand presentations and get to know each other through sharing and caring. I am trying to get the January Chips and Chatter ready for print this Sunday evening and as you can see, is not an eight page newsletter this month. I am ahead of my regular print time as I will be out of town starting Monday December 28 due to unforeseen circumstances and will not return until Friday January 1, 2010. But keep those articles and minutes coming in. May this issue of Chips and Chatter be a good read for you and a fuller read in February.

Area Clubs

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
Dallas Paleontological Society, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm
Dallas Bead Society, Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3rd Thursday each month at 7:30 pm
Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets 4th Tuesday each month at 7 pm
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Refreshment Volunteers

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

January.....Ice and Drinks.....Open Smacks.....Lee Elms

Show Dates

2010

JANUARY 2010

1--GLOBE, ARIZONA: 53rd annual show; Gila County Gem & Mineral Society; Gila County Fair Grounds, 3 miles north of Junction US 60-70; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4; adults \$3, students with ID and children with adults free; live demonstrations, door prizes, displays, minerals, jewelry; contact Jim Mills, P.O. Box 487, Miami, AZ 85539, (928) 701-1712; e-mail: oldulking57@hotmail.com

1-10--QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA: Show, "Tyson Wells Rock & Gem Show"; Tyson Wells Enterprises Inc.; Tyson Wells Show Grounds, 100 W. Kuehn St.; 9-5 all days; free admission; contact Kym Scott, P.O. Box 60, Quartzsite, AZ 85346, (928) 927-6364; e-mail: tysonwells@tds.net; Web site: www.tysonwells.com

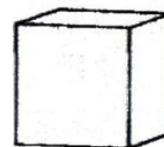
16-17--FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS: Show, "Hill Country Gem & Mineral Show"; Fredericksburg Rockhounds; Pioneer Pavilion, Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park, 1606 S. Hwy. 16, south of downtown Fredericksburg; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; Rollin' Rock meeting Sun., hourly door prizes; contact Jeff Smith, 208 Castle Pines Dr., Kerrville, TX 78028, (830) 895-9630; e-mail: jeffbrenda@windstream.net; Web site: www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org

22-24--TYLER, TEXAS: Show, "Gemstone and Jewelry Showcase"; East Texas Gem & Mineral Society; Rose Garden Center, 420 Rose Park Dr.; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$3, students \$1; exhibits, demonstrations, fluorescent mineral display, geode cracking, dealers, rocks, minerals, jewelry, fossils, supplies, Wheel of Fortune, silent auction; contact Keith Harmon, 8316 Oxford Dr., Tyler, TX 75703, (903) 581-4068; e-mail: kharmon1219@sbcglobal.net

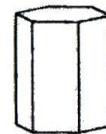
Question of the Month: What is a Mineral?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

At the last Earth Science Day at Brookhaven College, one of the students was out looking for various mineral specimens. Apparently they got extra credit for going to the show, additional extra credit for finding all or some of the minerals on a list provided by their instructor, and still further extra credit for answering a list of questions. One of the students asked me if I knew of a rock that was not a mineral. Thus, this article – what is a mineral, or perhaps more properly, what is a substance with rock like properties that is not a mineral?



Cubic



Hexagonal

Step 1 is to identify a consensus definition of “what is a mineral”. The website Mineral Definitions seemed to be a good starting place. Their earliest definition is from 1898 reads “Every distinct chemical compound occurring in inorganic nature, having a definite molecular structure or system of crystallization and well-defined physical properties, constitutes a mineral species” (Brush & Penfield). The next definition on the website dates to 1932 and reads “A mineral is a body produced by the processes of inorganic nature, having usually a definite chemical composition and, if formed under favorable conditions, a certain characteristic atomic structure which is expressed in its crystalline form and other physical properties (Dana & Ford)”. A later definition by John Sinkankas from 1966 reads “These... minerals ...can be distinguished from one another by individual characteristics that arise directly from the kinds of atoms they contain and the arrangements these atoms make inside them” Another definition from around the same time, 1968 is “A mineral is a naturally occurring homogeneous solid, inorganically formed, with a definite chemical composition and an ordered atomic arrangement” (Mason)”. From 1990 a definition reads “Minerals are naturally-occurring inorganic substances with a definite and predictable chemical composition and physical properties (O’ Donoghue)”. The latest definition dates to 1995 and reads “A mineral is an element or chemical compound that is normally crystalline and that has been formed as a result of geological processes (Nickel, E. H)”. Putting these together I came up with the following:

- A mineral can be an element (from the periodic table – e.g., crystalline gold) or a chemical compound such as Silicon Dioxide (SiO₂)
- The substance is non-organic in nature
- The substance has a definite ordered arrangement and constant physical properties
- The substance has a crystalline structure.

Note that not every definition from the website is consistent with the list I have developed. For example, the last definition by Nickel allows substances of an organic nature to be classified as a mineral, and Nickel does not require that the substance be crystalline. Thus I am calling my list a consensus of what constitutes a mineral, but perhaps because I am not fully accepting Nickel I am showing my age.

With the consensus definition, we finally come to the real question that was asked – what is an example of a substance with rock like properties that is not a mineral. My first thought deals with the organic and inorganic aspect of the substance – I do not believe coal would qualify as a mineral. It has certain properties of a mineral (e.g., a consistent chemical composition), but it is derived from an organic process. My next thought dealt with the thought of crystalline structure, and based on that quality, I do not believe that precious opal would qualify as a mineral. Precious opal is solid, has a consistent chemical composition, is nonorganic, but it does not have a definite crystalline structure. And as I thought about precious opal, I also thought of glass substances, both natural and man-made. Again because of the lack of a definite crystalline structure, I do not believe obsidian or man made window glass would qualify as a mineral. I suspect that there are others out there, probably even members of our club, who would disagree with me. I am certainly not a mineralogist – I would like to hear from some of those who are in the profession to see if they agree or disagree with me. Further, I would challenge them to put it in the form of an article for the Chips and Chatter. Just think – a real interchange of ideas with some promising educational aspects in our very own newsletter – I bet the editor would love it!

Reference:

Mineral Definitions, http://webmineral.com/Mineral_Definition.shtml
Crystal Structure, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Crystal_structure

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

January 7, 2010 7:30 PM, 713 Austin, Garland Women's Bldg, TX

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX
(Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

MEMBERSHIP

Single Adult: \$16.50,
Junior: \$5.00; Family: \$27.50
(plus badge fee for new members)

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies