

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

January, 2012
Vol. 46, Issue 1

Feature Article

Article of Interest.....2

Monthly Columns

Area Clubs5
 BirthStone of the month.....3
 Bench Tips4
 Editors Corner4
 Field Trip Report.....X
 President's Message.....X
 1st VP.....X
 Refreshments *Christmas Announcement*.....2
 Recipe4
 Secretary Report.....X
 Up-Coming Shows... Will return in January.....X

Meetings etc.

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

Club Officers for 2012

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

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

Article of the Month: Annual Quiz

Don Shurtz: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

If you are a regular reader of the Chips and Chatter you should be able to score well on the following quiz based on articles in 2011 editions of the Chips and Chatter. I have arranged the questions so that the most recent articles are referred to first:

1. Can a natural crystal be five sided (December)?
2. In a crossword puzzle, the clue was “What are fake, glittery gem stones (October or November – take your pick)?
3. What sort of fossils can you find at dam at Lake Benbrook (August)?
4. Are the conical shaped structures near Quanah, TX volcanoes (July)?
5. What is a “wadi” (June)?
6. What is a “senile plain” (May)?
7. What is the connection between the “Bandelier Tuff deposits from the Valles Caldera” and Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club (April)?
8. What rock type forms the rounded hills at the Texas Enchanted Rock State Park (March)?
9. What is Eroze (ih-rohs) (January)?

So what was your score – take 11 points for every correct answer. Answers are located after Editors Corner.

January Birthstone: Garnet

Editor

The birthstone for January is the Garnet. From the oranges to the reds, pinks and even browns they are all gorgeous. Maybe their name came from the pomegranate fruit with it's skin of these many varied colors and hues. It belongs to a gemstone group which has both color and mineral differences such as the rhodilite and almandine. The most popular of these are the rhodilite. Garnets can be scratched, cracked or otherwise damaged due to its hardness range from 6 to 7. Try cleaning it with an ultrasonic brush rather than steam.



Garnets have a role in history, culture and religion. It is said that Garnet jewelry has been found dating back as far as the Bronze Age, most of which was found in burial grounds. It is popularly believed to have been placed in the tombs to protect and give light in passage to that soul during the after death. They have been often mistakenly identified as Rubies. As recent as the 400 BC, signet rings were found in the area of Greece, where it is believed to have been the first place to have used Garnets in such jewelry.

There are thoughts taken from the words of the bible that Noah used the garnet as his light source for the Ark and was believed to have been used in the breastplate of Aaron; which was said the design came from divine instructions to Moses during his forty days in the wilderness. Somewhere around 1300 BC a stone for each tribe of Israel was selected; amongst those was the Garnet, chosen to represent the tribe of Judah.

It is believed, as there are records throughout time, the Garnet served assorted medicinal purposes. They served to protect one from the like poisons and to cure blood infections. The medical or “curing huts” in the Middle Ages were believed to carry garnets.

http://www.jewelrystore.com/2_garnet/garnet_history.htm
<http://lapidarywow.info/garnets>

Secretary Report of November 3, 2011

Lee Elms; Pleasant Oaks Gems and Minerals Club

President: Del Grady called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

Secretary: The minutes for October were voted and unanimously accepted as printed in the Chips and Chatter.

Treasurer: The Treasurers' report was discussed including some expenses for last month. We voted unanimously to accept the report.

No old business

New business: 2012 dues of \$16.50 are now due and should be remitted to our Treasurer Don Shurtz.

Our Christmas party will take the place of our December 1st meeting at 7PM. We will meet here at the Womens' Building, have "pot luck" and also exchange presents. The meat will be provided by the club.

We have a new club member. His name is Al Gibson and he sells purple jewelry cleaner.

November program: Our guest Russell Ferrel speaker is also the author of several books which address the topic of finding the fossils of the dinosaur Acrocanthosaurus. The fossils were found in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.

We had our raffle drawings and the meeting was adjourned at 10pm.

Follow-up information on our guest speaker Russell Ferrell:

Russell Ferrell has an academic background, as a teacher of history and science. He came across the story of the finding of this fossil, and he wanted to write a book about it. His son and grandkids stopped by a rock shop in Broken Bow and met Sefis Hall, the owner of the shop. Sefis told them about finding a fossilized dinosaur. Russell's son came back and told his dad about it and that's how Russell came to meet with Sefis. He spent about 3 1/2 years talking with Sefis before he was satisfied he had enough information for his book.

The story starts off with two amateur rockhounds, Sefis Hall a hillbilly, and his friend Sid Love an Indian; they all were out looking for fossils. They had heard there were fossils over in Beavers' Bend on land owned by Weyhauser.

They ended up digging for one of the most famous, valuable dinosaur finds in North America. The excavation lasted 4 years. The dig was founded on the edge of the Mountain Fork River and the first bone found was a big femur bone. The bones were of a theropod, an apex predator of the food chain. This was an acrocanthosaurus and he was carnivorous. He fed on the sauropods, huge herbivore dinosaurs that were almost twice as big as him.

These creatures were on the earth in the Cretaceous period about 110 million years ago, and it ranged across the whole North American continent. Sefis the shop owner and Sid started digging in 1983 and recovered about 63% of the skeleton.

The skull was the best preserved skull ever found and it had all of its teeth intact. There is a full skeletal replica in a museum in Idabel, Oklahoma at the Beavers' Bend Park. This was the first time that two amateur rockhounds had dug up an intact dinosaur. It was eventually sold for 3 million dollars to the museum in Raleigh, North Carolina. Sefis still does quartz crystal hunting tours up in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Sounds like a future road trip!!

The Tasty Corner

Editor POGM Club

Creamy Potato Soup With Ham:

//southernfood.about.com/od/potatosoups/r/r90510b.htm

This is a great soup to serve for lunch or supper along with a tossed salad and crusty bread.

Ingredients:

1 C chopped celery	2 Tbsp butter	1 1/2 to 2 C chopped onion
1 clove garlic, minced	2 lg carrots, peeled, chopped	2 to 3 C diced ham, about 1lb.
4 to 5 C peeled potatoes, diced	2 C vegetable broth	1 C water
salt and pepper, to taste	1 C heavy cream	3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
	1 C half-and-half or whole milk	

Optional: 2 Tbsp chopped fresh parsley, sliced green onions. Shredded Cheddar or Jack cheese blend

Preparation:

In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium-low heat. Add onion, celery, carrots, and ham. Stirring frequently, cook until onions are tender, about 5 minutes. Add garlic, cook about 1 minute longer. Add vegetable broth, water and potatoes; cover, cook about 25 minutes until potatoes are tender. Whisk flour into the heavy cream until smooth; stir into the hot mixture. Stir in the half-and-half or milk. Gently mash to thicken, add more milk if needed. Add salt and pepper, as desired. Garnish with your options.



Serve garnished with parsley, sliced green onions, or a little shredded cheese. Serves 6.

Editor's Corner

Chips and Chatter Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Greetings and I hope one and all had a great New Year 2012 celebration.

I want to apologize for the tardiness of this newsletter. No excuses just too many arms in the fire with travel and merriment this past week. I will put on my best armor and charge ahead in hopes I will deliver the newsletter in a timely fashion the rest of the year.

Happy 2012 to you and may each of you give me a tid bit of desired articles/reading matter you would like to see in the Chips and Chatter.



Answers:

1. There are no 5 sided "natural" crystals, but 5 sided quartz-crystals exist.
2. Rhinestones. The original rhinestones were not fake – they were pieces of quartz found in the Rhine River and valley
3. Ammonite fossils can be found near the dam at Lake Benbrook. Gastropod fossils were also found in the immediate vicinity.
4. No, the conical shaped structures near Quanah are not volcanic in origin. They are composed of massive dolomite while the surrounding rock is limestone. The dolomite erodes more slowly, so they now look like small volcanoes sticking up. Their conical shape is also due to natural erosion
5. A "wadi" is a stream bed that only has water during the rainy season. A "wadi" is normally a dry stream bed
6. A "senile plain" is a flat, featureless plain that has eroded to the base level. The base level is not necessarily sea level, an example being the Salt Flats around the Great Salt Lake in Utah – their altitude is nearly a mile higher than sea level.
7. The Pleasant Oaks Special Award at the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair was awarded to a project which examined the Bandelier Tuff deposits from the Vallas Caladera.
8. Enchanted Rock is formed from Granite.
9. "Erose", means jagged or uneven, as in the jagged edge of a slab

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

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Richardson, TX 75083-1934

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Area Clubs

Arlington G&M Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thur. 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 Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tue. of each month at 7 pm

Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dls, TX, 4th Tue. 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

Dallas Paleontological Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244), 2nd Wed. ea. month at 7:30 pm

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)

Program Presentation

It is always a great time at our POGM meeting.
Please come join in the fun and learning about
Rocks, Gems and Minerals and Fossils.

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies