

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

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1st Place, 2013 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
2nd Place, 2013 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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333

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Merry Christmas in January

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

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

Our next meeting will be January 2nd starting at 7:00 PM (NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME) and will be our second attempt to hold our annual Club Christmas Pot Luck Dinner and Party – Christmas in January

Club Officers for 20

President: }
 1st VP: } A new nominating committee is ready to
 Secretary: } present a new slate of officers at our
 Treasurer: } next business meeting
 Editor (acting):..... Don Shurtz
 Asst. editor (acting): Ling Shurtz
 E-mail:don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

**Membership Dues for 2014 are now due,
see web site for form**

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND
CHATTER IN COLOR

Minutes of the December 5, 2013 Meeting

The December meeting was planned for our Annual Christmas Dinner and Party. However, Mother Nature did not cooperate, hitting us with freezing rain, sleet, and very slippery roads. The Christmas Dinner Party was canceled and is now rescheduled for January 2nd. No minutes would have been taken for the party, but the canceled meeting also prevented the need for any minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

Lake Ralph Hall Update

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

For years the North Texas Water District (NTWD) has been planning to build a new lake; the City of Flower Mound, one of the communities that would receive water from the proposed lake, has contended that the lake is not the most economical solution for the long term water supply. Flower Mound officials were ready to support the NTWD plans if the plans at least included provisions to examine more economical solutions, but the NTWD basically ignored Flower Mound's request and announced plans to continue the project **AS IS**. The proposed lake will be named Ralph Hall Lake, and will be built by damming the North Sulphur River near Pecan Gap. When built, this lake will destroy one of the best fossil areas open to amateurs in the United States. The lake will fill the North Sulphur River Bed from the start of its drainage area a little southeast of Gober to a new dam to be built northwest of Pecan Gap. The lake will be entirely in Fannin County and will cover 11,000 to 12,000 acres. For several years the Fannin County Commissioners opposed construction of the lake because of lack of economic development plans, poor plans for roads and infrastructure, a reduction in taxable land, and the poor distribution of the surface water. However, as reported by KXII television (Ardmore, OK and Sherman, TX), agreement on the four issues was reached in March 2013. The next hurdle to the process of approving the lake was approval from the state of Texas, specifically the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Regrettably, in September 2014 the Commission approved the water use permits. That leaves only one final hurdle, permission by the Army Corps of Engineers. It was the Army Corps of Engineers who took steps to help control flooding by straightening the meandering North Sulphur River. The straightening did help the flooding problems, but the faster flowing waters in the straighter river bed did what you may expect – the sped up erosion and resulted in basically a deep trench, but that trench exposed a lot of fossils and made the River a popular spot for fossil finding, both by amateurs and professionals. I think the Army Corps of Engineers will see this new lake as a way to hide some of their mistake of straightening the river in the first place and will give their approval. So if you want to go to the North Sulphur River for a field trip, do it soon.

Ref:

- Ralph Hall Lake, Daniel Gotera, KTII.com, 13 March 2013
- Ralph Hall Lake, Eric Nicholson, Dallas Observer Blogs, http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2013/09/lake_ralph_hall_texas_first_ne.php, 24 September 2013
- Flower Mound Asks Board to Reconsider Building Lake Ralph Hall, Wendy Hundly, Dallas News, <http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/flower-mound/headlines/20130112-flower-mound-asks-board-to-reconsider-building-lake-ralph-hall.ece>, 12 January 2013

Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

January Meeting - Christmas in January, Party and Pot Luck Dinner

The December ice storm (with all the bad roads, slipping, and sliding) forced cancelation of our December meeting which was to have been our annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck Dinner. Instead, we will have Christmas In January, our annual Christmas Part and Pot Luck Dinner. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM – That's 30 minutes earlier than normal.



First we will start with a Pot Luck Dinner. The club will provide the meat course, Barbequed Beef Brisket and Ham. Each person or family should bring a dish to share. You can bring an appetizer, a salad, a vegetable dish, a dessert, or whatever else tickles your fancy.



Then we will have a gift exchange. Each person should bring a hobby related gift with a value of \$10 to \$15. Each gift should be wrapped and placed under the tree. We will then have some form of gift stealing or gift passing which should almost guarantee that you will not end up with the gift you started with.



If you are stuck for a gift idea, you may want to try Half Price Books – they always seem to have a nice book, often new, in the correct price range. You can also find items at The Rock Barrel or Natures Gallery. Mineral specimens or slabbed rocks are also favorites.



Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for January 2014 – March 2014

JAN 1-28, Quartzite, AZ, annual show, www.desertgardensrvpark.net

JAN 18-19, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, gedeonjim1@gmail.com

JAN 24-26, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Rose Garden Center, http://www.etgms.com/annual_show.html

JAN30 – FEB 16, Tucson AZ, numerous shows, www.22ndStreetShow.com, www.mzexpos.com, www.finemineralsshow.com

FEB13-16, Tucson, AZ, Tucson G&MS, tgms@tgms.org, www.tgms.org

FEB 15-16, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center, josefcmacha@aol.com

FEB 15-16, Georgetown, TX, Williamson Co. G&MS, San Gabriel Park

MAR 01-02, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard County Fair Barn

MAR 01-02, Robstown TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Regional Fairgrounds, www.gcgms.org

MAR06-09, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM State Fairgrounds, nbound@gmail.com, DGMS.bravehost.com

MAR 08-09, Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake G&MS, Pasadena Convention Center, sara_chelette@swbglobalnet.com, www.clgms.org

MAR14-16, Albuquerque, NM, GEM, Mineral, and Jewelry Expo, NM State Fairgrounds, paulhlava@q.com, www.agmc

MAR 15-16, Live Oak (San Antonio), TX, Southwest G&MS, Live Oak Civic Center, krobotx@gvtc.com, www.wswgemandmineral.org

MAR21-23, Richardson, TX, The Bead Market, Richardson Civic Center, rebekah@thebeadmarket.net, www.beadmarket.net

MAR 28-29, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, Pontooc Cnty Agri-plex, okieed42@windstream.net, www.gfrrweb.com/agmsfc/index.htm

Ref:

November / December SCFMS Newsletter

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

FRIENDS AND GEMS

Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they have collected are the friends they have made along the way.

Some are still in the rough, some are highly polished, some are dull and colorless until view in the right light.

And like every gemstone in nature, they also have inclusions, sometimes referred to as flaws. If we enjoy them as they are, realizing that their warmth and beauty make up for their imperfections, if we concentrate on their better aspects, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality.

From Golden Spike News via the November – December SCFMS Newsletter

Birthstones for January – Garnet

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Garnets are the birthstone for January. Garnets are a nice looking gemstone that is often red or orange, but they are hard to describe in technical language because garnets refers to a group or class of gemstones with similar characteristics, but a bunch of different names. One thing that garnets have in common is that they are all silicates (having the silicate radical, SiO_4). Garnets have the chemical formula of $\text{X}_3\text{Y}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$. The “X” element is generally Calcium (Ca), Magnesium (Mg), Manganese (Mn) or Iron (Fe) in the +2 valence state and the “Y” element is generally Aluminum (Al), Iron, (Fe) in the +3 valence state, or Chromium (Cr). As you can see, this could get really complicated. So here we go. Garnets with Aluminum in the “Y” location are Pyrospite garnets and include $\text{Fe}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$ are known as Almandine, $\text{Mg}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$ are known as Pyrope, and $\text{Mn}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$ known as Spessartine. Garnets with Calcium in the “X” location are Ugrandite garnets in include $\text{Ca}_3\text{Fe}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$ known as Andradite, $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$ known as Grossular, and $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$ known as Ulvarovite. This could go on and on, but this list includes the most common garnets.



In general, garnets take on the shape of a dodecahedron – a solid with 12 faces. Garnets come in a variety of colors. Red and orange are common, but yellow, green, purple, brown, blue, black, pink, and colorless varieties are also found. In addition to being the January birthstone, garnets are the state mineral or

Connecticut, the state gemstone of New York and Idaho. My favorite garnets are the ones from Emerald Creek in northern Idaho. They are a deep purple in color and generally show a white, four or six-pointed star (asterism). However, the classic birthstone for January is red or orange in color. Garnets have a Mohs’ hardness of 6.5 to 7.5. Garnets are found in many locations throughout the world, and in many states.



For a list of states and general locations where garnets can be found visit the United States Geological Survey (USGS) website at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/gemstones/sp14-95/garnet.html>.

Although we are primarily interested in garnets as gemstones, a lot of garnets are used as commercial abrasives. Garnet sandpaper, or garnet paper, is a popular sanding paper for wood workers. Garnet sanding paper can be had in a variety of textures ranging from course to very fine. Garnet is also the most popular media for “sand blasting” to clean metal parts, and as the cutting media in high pressure water jets used to cut metal. The majority of the garnet used as an abrasive comes from Australia or India where sand with a high concentration of garnet can be found.

Reference:

- American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones>
- USGS, <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/gemstones/sp14-95/garnet.html>
- Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Pictures:

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Cartoons by Erston Barnhart, Rock Buster News, Central PA Rock and Mineral Club

SAFETY

by: George Brown

From the November/December SCFMS Newsletter

CAUSES: What causes us to do the often dumb and sometimes stupid things that may result in property damage, injury and “heaven forbid” fatalities? Well, unfortunately there is no single cause because if there was, then we could correct it and we would all be safe. In the real world, there are numerous causes which singularly or collectively contribute to our problem. Perhaps if we can identify some of them we can eliminate them and increase our chances of being safe.

The following is not a complete list. I’m sure you can think of additional items--and that is good. The purpose of this article is to make us think - safety - safety - SAFETY.

KNOWLEDGE: I think most rockhounds know how to be safe. It is your responsibility to be aware of the hazards associated with your equipment and materials you handle. It’s just dumb to get hurt because you didn’t read the instructions.

APATHY-ARROGANCE: Why do you think you are immune from injury? Perhaps if you thought about the bad consequence you would change your attitude. To become blind or lose a hand because you didn’t care or because you wanted to show how daring you are is absolutely stupid.

CARELESSNESS,INATTENTION: These are the most common causes of injury. You must be aware of what you are doing and how you are doing it. Pay attention, be aware, use caution. Keep your head in the game. A little carelessness can result in a lifetime of permanent disability.

AWARENESS: Know your surroundings, avoid dangerous areas, be alert for danger. You must admit it’s just dumb to pick up a piece of metal that you just heated with a torch.

These are just a few of the causes. The important thing is to constantly think about safety. Most injuries are caused by dumb acts. Before you do anything, determine if it is safe. Be sure you have the proper equipment. Develop a safety attitude, keep alert, practice safety until it becomes routine. Our hobby is much more enjoyable when it doesn’t hurt.

Ham, Broccoli, and Cheese Potato Casserole

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Ingredients:

- 1 cup ham cut into small strips or slices
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 package, Cheddar Cheese sauce mix (Southeastern Mills or similar)
- 1½ cup water
- 2 peeled, thinly sliced (1/8 – 1/4 inch) potatoes
- 1 head broccoli cut into stem and florets (the soft green end) pieces
- 1 tbsp olive oil

Directions:

- Prepare cheese sauce using package directions
- Spread olive oil into a fry pan (casserole dish)
- Combine all ingredients, including cheddar cheese sauce, into fry pan (casserole dish)
- Cover pan and cook at medium temperature until potatoes are soft (about 20 – 30 minutes). Alternatively, the ingredients can be combined in a casserole dish and bake at 300 degrees until potatoes are soft (20 – 30 minutes).

Serve warm as a main dish. For a little spice, add thinly sliced green onions just prior to serving. As a variation, delete the ham from the recipe and serve as a side dish. You may find that those who do not have a taste from broccoli will find them entirely satisfactory when cooked in the cheddar cheese sauce

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

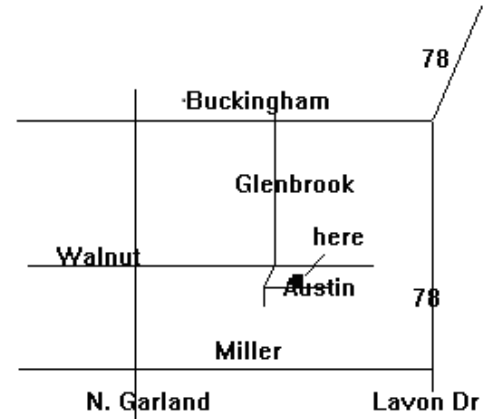


Meetings

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: \$16.00,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)



CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 831934

Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

Coming Up

The January 2nd meeting will be Christmas in January, the second attempt at our annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck Dinner (the club will provide the meat dish). Festivities will start at **7:00 PM** at the Garland Women's Activities Building. **Note that the time is 30 minutes earlier than normal.** See page 3 and page 1

The February 6th meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building