

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter

January 2015  
Vol. 49, Issue 1



1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Member of  
SCFMS



Affiliated with  
AFMS



## Feature Articles

January's Birthstone, Garnet.....4

## Monthly Columns

Minutes .....2  
President's Message.....3  
Editor's Corner – Happy New Year.....4

## Notices

Meeting .....1, 6  
METROPLEX Clubs .....6  
Show Calendar .....2

## Federation Information

Safety Matters - The Trouble With Research .....3  
Lolo National Forest – An Update.....5  
AFMS Code of Ethics.....5

## Copyright Information

This issue of the Chips and Chatter is copyright © by Don Shurtz. Unless otherwise noted, permission granted for non-commercial 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 reference provided citation is given.

## 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.

## Monthly Meeting

Our normal meeting date would be on 1 January 2014. Rather than interrupt any holiday plans, we have canceled the January meeting. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

## Club Officers for 2015

President: .....Ling Shurtz  
1st VP, Programs:.....Mark Carter  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Field Trips: ..... David Dobson  
Secretary:..... Lee Elms  
Treasurer.....Del Grady  
Editor: ..... Don Shurtz  
E-mail: ...don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

**VISIT OUR AWARD WINNING WEB SITE TO  
VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR.**

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

## Minutes

The December 2014 meeting was held at the Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson. A lot of conversation, but no club business was discussed so there are no minutes, just this short report. It was just good food, good friends and a friendly get together. Bob and Jerrye Parker were able to attend the dinner. Warner won the door prize – a set of blue agate bookends. Hat got the booby prize – a couple of fist size pieces of obsidian (not a bad booby prize). Del also donated a prize, a book which was won by Jerrye Parker. Our thanks go out to Del for donating the gift. Our thanks also go out to our leader, Ling, for picking a familiar place for this nice get-together.

### Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Jan 5 – 25, Quartzite, AZ – numerous rock, craft, and RV shows in and around Quartzite

Jan 17 – 18, Fredericksburg TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, fredericksburgrockhounds.org

Jan 23 – 25, Tyler Texas, East Texas G&MS, Rose Garden Center, [keithharmon19@yahoo.com](mailto:keithharmon19@yahoo.com)

Jan 29 – Feb 15. Tucson shows – numerous shows in Tucson area,

Feb 14 – 15, Georgetown, TX, Williamson Co. G&MS, <http://www.wcgms.org/>

Feb 14 – 15, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center,

Feb 21-22, Las Cruces, NM, Friends of the Museum, NM Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum, [www.lcmuseumrocks.com](http://www.lcmuseumrocks.com)

Mar 7 -8, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Co. Fair Barn, [lsimp@swbell.net](mailto:lsimp@swbell.net), [www.gcgms.org](http://www.gcgms.org)

Mar 7 – 8, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Regional Fairgrounds

Mar 7 – 8, Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake G&MS, Pasadena Convention Cntr.

Mar 12 – 15, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM Fairgrounds, [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com), [www.thedgms.com](http://www.thedgms.com)

Mar 14 – 15, Live Oak, TX, Southwest G&MS, Live Oak Civic Cntr.

Mar 20 – 22, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, NM Sate Fairground, [pualhlava@q.com](mailto:pualhlava@q.com), [agmc.info](http://agmc.info)

Mar 21-22, San Antonio, TX, San Antonio G&MS, [krbotx@gvtc.com](mailto:krbotx@gvtc.com), [www.swgemandmineral.org](http://www.swgemandmineral.org)

Mar 27 – 29, Eastern Federation, Hickory, NC

Mar 27-28, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, [okieed42@windstream.net](mailto:okieed42@windstream.net), <http://www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm>

Apr 10 – 12, Northwest Federation, Ogden, UT

Apr 11-12, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Cntr., [kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net](mailto:kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net), [rockclub.txol.net](http://rockclub.txol.net)

Apr 16 -19, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MS, Alpine Civic Center, [jbrueske@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbrueske@sbcglobal.net)

**Apr 24 – 26, Dallas, TX, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc., Dallas Market Hall, <http://www.intergem.com/shows/>**

Apr 25 – 26, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Events Cntr, [babydocmac@aol.com](mailto:babydocmac@aol.com)

May 2 – 3, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Civic Cntr., [walt@lubbockremandmineral.org](mailto:walt@lubbockremandmineral.org), [www.lubbockgemandmineral.org](http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org)

May 23 – 24, Ft. Worth, TX, Ft. Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Memorial Cntr.

May 23 – 24, Midwest Federation, Wheaton, IL

Jun 12 – 15, California Federation, Lodi, CA

Jul 16 – 18, Rocky Mountain Federation, Cody, WY

August 08 – 09, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Fraternal Order of Police

Aug 15 – 16, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Cntr.

August 22 – 23, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, Events Cntr

Sep 26 – 27, Dallas, TX, Dallas G&MS, Restiol Expo Cntr

Oct 10 – 11, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Cntr.

**23-25 Oct 2015 – Austin G&MS show, SCFMS Convention, and AFMS Convention**

Ref:

December 2014 – January 2015 AFMS Newsletter

November / December 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

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

## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Hope you had a Merry Christmas and will have a Happy New Year. Our January meeting has been canceled as it falls on January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day, so I hope to see you at the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### Safety Matters – The Trouble With Research

By Ellery Borow, Chair

From the December 2014 – January 2015 AFMS Newsletter

I have a bone to pick with research. Take coffee and caffeine for example. At one time research seemed to indicate it was bad for us. Later, additional research indicated it may be good for us (or at least not quite as bad as previously thought). Now I'm hearing that it is once again bad for us (or bad in some instances). Well, what is one supposed to do?

Research has for quite some time indicated that, during our long season of holidays around this time of year, there are more accidents in one's home, more health related issues, more traffic accidents, and so on. There is an old joke about the fact that most traffic accidents happen within a few miles from home. As the joke goes, the solution to the traffic accident problem is to simply move several miles away. Anyway, research once indicated this time of year was more problematic for accidents, now it seems to indicate that such is not the case. What is one to believe?

No matter what research indicates, I'm a firm believer in, no matter what, if any, holidays one celebrates this time of year, it behooves one to stop, think, and act to insure ones safety.

It is perhaps a good idea this time of year, especially with many folks planning more family related activities, to perform some safety checks around the home. Consider changing the batteries in those smoke or carbon dioxide detectors; have fireplaces, furnaces, chimneys, heat pumps, and wood stoves serviced; have your vehicle checked for the upcoming winter driving season; establish and practice a family evacuation plan in case of emergency.

With food playing a big part in many festivities this time of year, consider making sure foods are thawed, washed, prepared and cooked per instructions on the package. Don't leave cooking food unattended. Quickly refrigerate leftovers. Use designated drivers when advisable. And, for the smokers among us, ensure all smoking materials are completely extinguished and check for embers in furniture and trash containers.

Trimming a tree or putting up decorations? There are a great many one, two or three step stools out there that offer no hand hold protection. Consider a step stool that offers grab bars for balance. We are not all well trained and graceful ballet dancers. In my case, think graceful as a baby elephant seal, waddling across a beach - not a pretty sight, believe me.

Consider checking out electrical circuits and chords. Repair or replace as needed. All cords should be Underwriters Laboratory (UL) rated and exterior cords should be waterproof. Be safe and try to keep from leaving decorative lights on when one is away from home. Ornamentation should be fireproof and kept away from small children and pets. Carefully monitor the use of candles and keep them away from combustible materials.

There are dozens and dozens of additional safety considerations to mind during this busy season of holidays. This gist of this article is however, to get one thinking safety. Sure, have a lotta fun this time of year, but be safe in the process. Great, accident free holidays give one more time to enjoy the things we like to do best - such as lapidary work, and planning digs and field trips, and trimming specimens, and enjoying shows, and collecting fossils, and...

Please be safe and keep your family and friends safe. You don't really have to move several miles away to be safe. Have a great and safe season of holidays.

## January's Birthstone: Garnet

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

January has only one birthstone, and it is Garnet. However, garnet is not a single gemstone, but a group of gemstones. The chemical formula for the Garnet class of minerals is  $X_3Y_2(SiO_4)_3$  where the X component is Calcium, Magnesium, Iron, or Manganese and the Y component is Aluminum, Iron, or Chromium. With such a diversity of possible chemicals, it is not surprising that Garnet comes in different colors including red, orange, yellow, green, purple, black, and clear. Some garnets also exhibit color changes depending



on the source of illumination. Garnets also vary in their Moh's hardness ranging from 6.5 to 7.5. They are generally found in the dodecahedron (12 sided) crystal shape, a variation of the basic isometric (cubic) crystal system. The major types of Garnets are Pyrope, Almandine, Spessartine, Andradite, Grossular, and Uvarovite. In total there are 32 varieties of natural garnets. In addition, there are a number of man-made garnets. Probably the best know is Yttrium Aluminum Garnet (YAG) which was used as a diamond simulant. YAG was also used in some of the early lasers

This article could go on for pages and pages about the scientific intricacies of the various garnet types including the formula and individual properties for each of the 32 varieties. A whole book could also be written about the different crystal shapes and variations. However, the most important thing is that they are beautiful crystals and cut gemstones (most garnets) and cabochons (Idaho star garnets). The name "garnet" is from the Latin word "granatum" which



means pomegranate – it was thought that they looked like red pomegranate seeds. The most common colors of garnets are red and orange and are generally associated with the Spessartine, Almandine, and Pyrope varieties. Almandine is also known as carbuncle which comes from Latin meaning small coal or ember (the red color of a burning coal). Carbuncle appears in 4 passages of the English translation of the Bible – twice naming it as the third stone in the Breastplate of Hoshen. Green garnets of the variety Uvarovite are also gaining popularity.

Garnets are the state gemstone of New York and the state mineral of Connecticut. A purple garnet with rutile inclusions that form stars (asterism) is found in Idaho and is their state gemstone. Garnets are found in a variety of locations in the United States and throughout the world. Mindat.org list seven locations for finding garnets in Texas

Ref:

- Mindat.org, <http://www.mindat.org/min-1651.html>
- Mineral Education Coalition, <http://www.mineraleducationcoalition.org/>
- Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

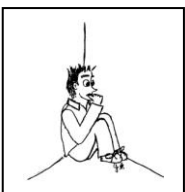
Pictures: Picture from Wikimedia, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>

- Green wire wrapped Garnet: Photo by Adrian Pingstone, released to public domain.
- Orange Garnet: Picture by U.S. Geological Survey, released to public domain
- Red cut Garnet: Photograph by Wela49, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution - Share Alike 3.0 Unported
- Star Garnet: Photograph by Patellison42, released to public domain

## Editor's Corner

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Have a Happy New Year. See you at the February meeting. Bring a rock or mineral for show and tell, and if you can, bring a new member for our club!



***Chips and Chatter***

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Page 4

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

January 2015

"Like" us on Facebook

## Lolo National Forest - An Update

By Shirley Leeson, ALAA President  
From the December 2014 – January 2015 AFMS  
Newsletter



If you or your club had thoughts of a field trip, or if this was on your

personal 'bucket list' here is a warning about LOLO NATIONAL FOREST, close to Lolo Hot Springs, on the border of western Montana. The collecting site is CLOSED and will remain in effect until rescinded.

I bring this important information to you because the area is being patrolled by the Forest Service Patrol Unit and the local Sheriff's Department. There are penalties and fines.

This area has been a favorite collecting site for quartz crystals going back many years before the ALAA President Forest Service had jurisdiction. This is one of those 'land transfer' deals.

Unfortunately, rockhounds have not lived up to the AFMS Code of Ethics and the place looks like a WWII war zone. Let me be frank here, many of those were commercial entrepreneurs who were 'out for a buck', but we're all painted with the same dirty brush.

In speaking recently with the Forest Service Office that oversees the area we were informed that the closing was because of concern for the public safety, not animals, but humans. It seems the soil is granitic in nature with only a little topsoil, with the removal of the overburden the topsoil is either washed away or blown away, leaving the granitic material. This is susceptible to cave-in or undercutting.

We have begun preliminary work with the Forest Service office out of Missoula and will keep you informed as to any progress in the re-opening of this area. In the mean time, stay out or face the consequences...

### Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## AFMS Code of Ethics

- ◆ I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- ◆ I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- ◆ I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- ◆ I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings.
- ◆ I will leave all gates as found.
- ◆ I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- ◆ I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- ◆ I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- ◆ I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.
- ◆ I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- ◆ I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- ◆ I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- ◆ I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- ◆ I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- ◆ I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- ◆ I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

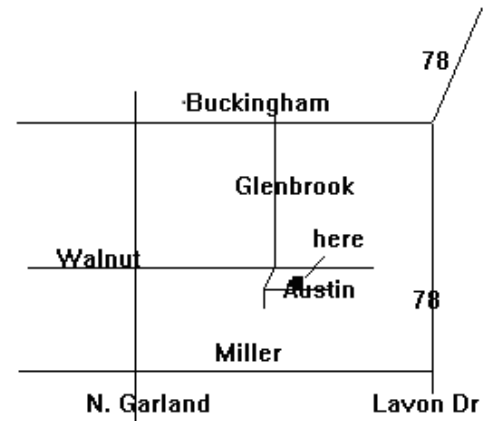


## Meetings

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:

**January Meeting – Canceled due to New Year's Holiday**

**February Meeting – February 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 PM at Garland Women's Activities Building**

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, VFW Hall, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas TX (next to their shop)  
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX  
CERA (Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, 3024 Acme Brick Plaza, Ft. Worth (formerly LM Stone Steppers)  
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX  
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,