



Scolecite

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Scolecite is a member of the zeolite family. Zeolites are aluminum silicate minerals that are often used as catalysts, filters, and absorbent. Zeolites porous structure allows them to hold cations (positively charged ions) including K^+ , Mg^+ , Na^+ , and Ca^+ . The cations are loosely held in the zeolite and can easily interchange with other cations when in solution. There are over 40 naturally occurring zeolites and other man-made zeolites have been produced.

Scolecite's chemical composition is calcium aluminum silicate, $CaAl_2Si_3O_{10} \cdot 3H_2O$. It has a Mohs hardness of 5 to 5.5. It generally forms in long acicular (needle-like) clusters that are normally clear to white, but rarely found in pink, salmon, red, yellow colors. The prized mineral specimens have enough clusters originating from the same point that it almost looks like a ball of needles. The best mineral specimens come from India and Iceland. Some scolecite mineral specimens come from California, Scotland, and Brazil. Scolecite has been found on all 7 continents – Anartica, South America, North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia.



There are very few commercial uses for scolecite. It can be used as a catalyst for the production of triphenylimidazole, a chemical used in herbicides, fungicides, therapeutic and agents anti-inflammatory agents. However, if you believe in the healing properties of crystals, scolecite has many uses. It is said help circulation, heal bruises, help with intestinal issues, and help clear the lungs. It is also said aid meditation and act as a guide for astrav travel. It can also enhance awareness and brings forth a feeling of serenity.

References:

- Healing Crystals, <https://www.healingcrystals.com>
- Gadekar, Lakshman & Mane, Shivshankar & S. Katkar, Santosh & Arbad, Balasaheb & Lande, Machhindra. (2009). Scolecite as an efficient heterogeneous catalyst for the synthesis of 2,4,5-triarylimidazoles. Central European Journal of Chemistry, <https://www.researchgate.net/> Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/>

Picture: Photo by Don Shurtz, Scolecite specimen on display at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, TX

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- **Jan 11 – 13, 2019, Dallas, TX, IGEM, Market Hall, <https://www.intergem.com/all-upcoming-shows/>, club show set-up on Wednesday, January 9, 2019**
- **Jan 19 - 20, 2019, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburg Rockhounds and SCFMS Convention, Lady Bird Johnson Park**
- Jan 25 – 27, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Tyler Rose Garden Center, www.etgms.com/annual_show.html
- Feb 16-17, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, Georgetown Comm. Cntr., sparkaustin@outlook.com
- Feb 23, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center, bobcat22@suddenlink.com

Ref:

- September - October 2018 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

A SHOCKING EXPERIENCE?

by Mel Albright - AFMS Safety Chairman, From the AFMS Website, http://www.amfed.org/a_safetyAFMS1.htm

Imagine that you are working away in the shop. As usual around lapidary work, there's a little water on the floor. As usual, you pay little attention. You reach over to turn the switch on your equipment. ZAP!

Would you rather

1. Your family learned CPR so that they might rescue you when you are electrocuted?

OR

2. You felt a short tingle, the electricity turned off, and you went to work to find and repair your machine's electrical short?

One doesn't have to be a genius to know you'd prefer number 2. But, have you prepared so that number 2 is assured. If not, read on.

There is a device called a ground fault interrupter (GFI). If answer number 2. appeals to you, you should learn about them and get some installed. What does the GFI do for you? GFIs detect the flow of current when something (perhaps you) in the circuit is grounded and, in a millisecond, turn off the current. If you are in the grounding circuit, it happens so fast that it will be over before you realized that you were in the circuit. Your life is spared. No sparks fly. No fire starts. Just, suddenly, the electricity is off.

GFI's come in a couple of forms. One is as a unit to fit into your master electrical panel board. It will protect all the electrical equipment plugged in that circuit. The other is as a replacement in your wall plug-in box. It protects everything plugged into that one box. Neither is expensive (\$12 to \$25). But, most of us don't want to (and shouldn't) fool around with the back of our master panel board, So, it is best to have an electrician install GFI's there. You can install one in the wall box yourself IF you know what you are doing. If you don't, call an electrician for that, too.

The saddest feeling known is to say to yourself "If I had only done that first." Get your GFI's and install them now!

Side thought - It is an excellent idea to put these on any circuit near a water faucet - especially around the bathroom, the kitchen, and the laundry.

Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown 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 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 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 Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

AFMS Endowment Fund

By Cheryl Neely, AFMS Endowment Chair

From the November-December 2018 SCFMS Newsletter. Original article from December 2018 AFMS Newsletter
Additions from AFMS Endowment Fund, http://www.amfed.org/2019_AFMS_Endowment_Fund_Drawing.pdf

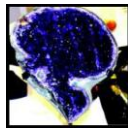
Why contribute to the Endowment Fund? Simply, your donation of either an item donated to the fund or the purchase of tickets helps tremendously with this important fundraiser for the Federation. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, to name a few. Tickets for the drawing are \$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00. You may purchase your tickets from your Federation's representative:

Joyce Speed
4680 Wisteria St.
Dallas, TX 75211
llispeed2@gmail.com

At this time we have several donations from various Federations. Don't miss the opportunity to have your Federation, Club or Member mentioned as a donor for this great fund!

The items donated to date are as follows:

#1 Amethyst Plate and holder donated by Doug True. Estimated value \$375.00 (NFMS)



#2 Kambaba Jasper Sphere, Madagascar donated by Lavin Gems & Jewelry - Estimated value \$85.00 (MMF)



#3 Snowflake Obsidian Sphere donated by R.M.Kapta, Decatur, IL - Estimated value \$85.00 (MWF)

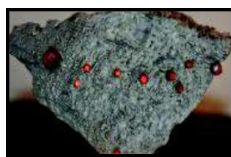


#4 Golden Sheen Obsidian Sphere donated by R.M. Kapta, Decatur, IL - Estimated value \$85.00 (MWF)



#5 10.64 T.O. of silver was donated by Sue Dale Miller. Estimated value is \$175.00 (SCFMS)

#6 Carolyn & Steve Weinberger – Almandine Garnet in graphite, Red Embers Mine, Erving, MA. Estimated value is \$100.00 (EFMLS)



#7 Mexican Geode donated by the Long Island Mineral & Geological Society. Estimated value \$75.00 (EFMLS)



#8 Jasper Sphere donated by the Suffolk Gem & Mineral Club. Estimated value \$90.00 (EFMLS)



#9 Quartz, Mt. Ida Hot Springs, AR donated by the Island Rock Hounds. Estimated value \$365.00 (EFMLS)



#10 Vanadinite, Morocco Donated by Southern Gems, Minerals & Fossils – Est. value \$350.00 (EFMLS)



#11 Half of Brazilian Geode donated by Gangi Gems. Estimated value \$75.00 (EFMLS)



#12 TBD

#13 Painting on Brazilian Agate – Donated by Richard Jaeger



All pictures of the items and any new donations will be listed on the website and where possible, in this Newsletter. If interested in donating an item, please ensure that the minimum value is \$75 and not heavier than five (5 pounds). Please contact me in advance if you have a donation (ciervo.neary@gmail.com) Thanks again for your support!

Remember, the Endowment Fund helps support the future of our organizations and our hobbies, including minerals, fossils and geology to name a few!

Happy New Year

AFMS Code of Ethics

From the December 2019 AFMS Newsletter

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.

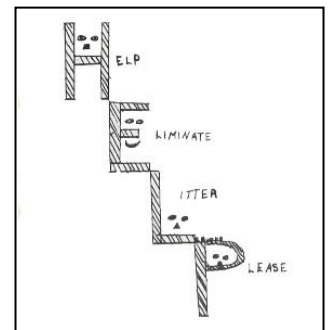
I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

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.

Editor's Note: The AFMS Newsletter publishes the AFMS Code of Ethics in every issue. They are also posted on the AMFS. They are, for the most part, just common sense. In fact, if you subtract the specific wording about rockhounding, they still represent a good code to live by.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The January IGEM is just around the corner – January 11 – 13 with set up on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. Tickets will be available at the next meeting. That meeting will be January 3, 2019 (Happy New Year). January 19, 2019 will be the SCFMS Convention in Fredericksburg, TX in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Rockhounds show.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

MEETING MINTUES

The December 6, 2018 Meeting was our annual Christmas Potluck dinner and Party. There was not

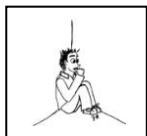
business conducted at the meeting and no minutes were taken. However, we did have two visitors at the dinner, Sergio Garcia and Debbie Morgan. They were actually a week early for another meeting, but did accept our invitation to join us for dinner.

MEETING

Our next meeting will be January 3, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM. Our presentation will be given by the President of the Dallas Paleo Society, Mr. Tom Dill. He will be talking about fossils. Our February meeting will be on the seventh. Stand by for details.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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Editor's Corner, How Are We Doing? (or Doom and Gloom)

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

The good news is that we are still alive and having fun. The bad news is that we are stagnating. We have had the same officers for at least 4 years, and our membership has slowly dwindled. We do not have a show or a shop to help generate income and new member interest, so we rely on our dues and the raffle table for income, but those sources do not match our expenditures. As the treasurer in 2013, I generated a budget report input for FY14. In that report I compared the club income and expenses (as now, the expenses exceeded the income) and projected that our treasury would drop to \$0.00 in about 2021. Recently I made another estimate of our expenses and income (I would have used the current budget, but there has not been one since my FY14 input). We have lost expected revenue as our membership has dropped, but we have also trimmed some expenses; we no longer support a Special Award at the Dallas Regional Science and Engineer Fair, and our Chips and Chatter mailing expenses are down (unfortunately because of lower membership). My projection is that we will deplete the treasury in 12 to 15 years.

Our largest expense is for our meeting room. The room has recently changed from the Garland Women's Activities Building (GWAB) to the Garland Activities Building (GAB). The GWAB has been giving us a grandfather rate – about half what they normally charged for the room. It will be interesting to see if the GAB increases the rate. If they do and if we continue to meet there, our treasury will be depleted in about 7 years. A potential source of new revenue could be our tables at the IGEM show. Our booth at the show has eight tables and has a little over 50 ft of frontage. We could charge a small amount, say \$1.00 per foot of frontage and forestall the depletion of the treasury for about 19 years (or 9 years if the room rate goes up). A higher price for foot and we could even balance the budget (if we had one). Something to think about.

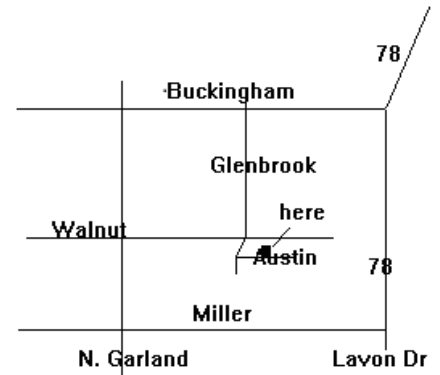
So how are we doing? My impression is that we are not doing well. We need to grow and we need to find more revenue (show, shop, tables at IGEM, etc.). Alternatively, we could let it go; disband the club and donate the balance of the treasury to the AFMS Scholarship Fund or a similar cause where we could leave a parting impact.

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: \$16.50,
 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 Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be January 3, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM. Tom Dill, President of the Dallas Paleo Society, will give a presentation about fossils

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