



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



July 2017  
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1st Place, 2016 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



## A Blast from the Past - July Birthstone, Ruby

Anita Dresner, former POGMC member  
From the July, 2011 Chips and Chatter

The fiery red ruby has been known as “Drop of the heart’s blood of Mother Earth” and symbolizes the emotions of power and love. According to birthstone enthusiasts, the ruby stands for freedom, goodness, respect and dignity. It comes from family of corundum gems, and its closest cousin is the Sapphire. The ruby is a rare gem; the reason is that the chromium pigments that are embedded in the earth’s crust are not very plentiful. In addition, the chromium had to meet up with the element alumina at the exact moment that crystallization actually occurred. Without these two elemental factors, the ruby might not sport a rich red color. In addition, other elements and natural processes played a role in ruby formation. Basalt marble, metamorphic rock and pegmatite are principal parts of the final product.

The Mogok mine in Burma (modern day Myanmar) in the Far East is known for the location of the world's finest rubies. Here gems are found connected to dolomite limestone marble that has been identified as crystalline schists that are 500 million years old.

Most rubies have a similar appearance externally, but on the inside, the inclusions and trace elements are

different. Pure rubies, with rare inclusions or have a total absence of them are difficult to find. Almost all rubies retain small amounts of foreign crystals inside them; it is assumed that these crystals formed at the same time as "rutile needles." These needles are formed by the intersection of the inclusions and their reaction to light. This light refraction forms a mirage of a star when it is cut, a phenomenon known as an "asterism," and appears in both rubies and sapphires. Other inclusions are identified as liquid drops, and are used to identify genuine rubies from those artificially produced. Large ruby crystals are hardly ever found; when discovered

elite oriental families usually end up with them and hide them away in dynastic vaults.

### References:

- <http://www.geminfo.com/ruby.html>
- Gems: A Lively Guide for the Casual Collector, by Daniel J. Dennis Jr., Henry N. Abrams, Incorporated, New York, New York
- Gemstones: Symbols of Beauty and Power, by Eduard Gubelin and Franz-Xaver Erni, Geoscience Press, Tucson, Arizona



## Show Calendar – Upcoming Show Dates

**Jul 01 – 02, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MS, Grapevine Convention Center, [www.agemclub.org](http://www.agemclub.org), [show@agemclub.org](mailto:show@agemclub.org)**  
Jul 08 – 09, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa Rock and Mineral Society, Tulsa County Fairgrounds, [m\\_rongey@sbcglobal.com](mailto:m_rongey@sbcglobal.com)

Aug 12 – 13, San Antonio, TX, Peppers Gems, Crystal Mystic, 4703 Shavonao Oak, ste. 100, [jspeck2@att.net](mailto:jspeck2@att.net)  
Aug 12 – 13, Gonzales, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Lamar Dixon Expos Center – Trademart Bldg, [www.brgemandmineral.org](http://www.brgemandmineral.org)  
Aug 19 – 20, Bossier City, LA, ARKLATEX G&MS, Bossier Civic Center, [www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)  
Aug 26 – 27, Jasper, TX, Pine County G&MS, The Event Center, [www.pinecountry-gms.org](http://www.pinecountry-gms.org)

**Nov 10 – 12, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS and SCFMS Convention, Humble Civic Center**

**Nov 18 – 19, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, [www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org), [case53d@yahoo.com](mailto:case53d@yahoo.com)**

Ref:

- May - June 2017 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

## Book Review, “A Guide to Fossil Collecting

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

“A Guide to Fossil Collecting” was written by “the Dallas Paleontological Society”. OK, it really was not the whole society, but the book does list 24 contributing authors with short biographies. The final version was edited by Dr. George Maxey, Ph.D. and Roger Farish. Many of the contributing authors are professionals in Geology and Paleontology, but some are true amateurs and hobbyists.

From an editing perspective, there are a few minor issues. In the introduction biographies, all the authors who have earned a doctorate (Ph.D.) should have the honorary title of Dr. listed with their name. Unfortunately, the honorary title was not listed for Dr. Bonnie Jacobs in the introduction to her biography, but fortunately, within the biography she is addressed as Dr. Jacobs. Also, in almost all technical writing formats (and a large portion of this book is of a technical nature), acronyms should be spelled out on their first use. As an example, the book refers to a CCC campground. As old as I am, I was not around in the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), but I am old enough to have encountered many of their works and am familiar with what CCC means. I am guessing that most of the younger generations would either have to look up CCC on the internet or, more than likely, just give it a shrug and move on. I noted several occasions where only the acronyms were listed.

Now on to the good news. If you live or want to hunt fossils in the north Texas area, this is a “must have” book. The first half of the book is more a history of paleontology, the Dallas Paleontological Society, and the geology of North Texas with emphasis on the DFW area. The geology gets quite technical, but it builds a great foundation for the age of the rocks and the fossils we find. The last half of the book is more “hands-on” with chapters on equipment needed, documenting a fossil’s location, excavation techniques (I sure would love to find a fossil that required excavation), fossil preparation (including techniques for removing some or all of the fossil from its matrix), displaying your fossil finds, and fossil photography, and concludes with a Field Trip Collecting Equipment Checklist. This checklist should probably be listed as a chapter in the book. However, it is shown in the table of contents as an addendum or something associated with the Documenting a Location chapter. The final part of the book includes a chapter on education and teaching paleontology in the general science programs in local schools, and chapter on dealing with museums and schools of higher education.

If you are a rockhound in DFW, you should know about fossils; they are a lot more common than minerals and cutting material in this area. If you want to know about fossils, the book is a great starting point. Even if you know a little or a lot about fossils, this is an invaluable guide. The technical content is of the highest level, and the “hands-on” sections are very educational. I would highly recommend this book. My only wish – that the book were available in an electronic format. That would make it more portable, easier to search, and easier to update in the future.

## Article/Picture/Story

### This Space Reserved for Club Member Articles, Pictures, etc.

Editor's Note: Last month I mentioned how well (or not so well) we were doing on contributions of articles to the Chips and Chatter. I hear there are a couple of articles being worked. One is about pyrite, and other is possibly an article about micro or thumbnail minerals. There are many other options than articles. Last year we had a word find puzzle. Rock related puzzles are always nice. I bet there are a ton of shop tips and tricks that our members are using that could be shared. In addition, pictures are also nice. As a challenge for the August Chips and Chatter, how about sending me the latest picture you took of a rock, gem, or mineral. To get the ball rolling, here are the last two pictures of rocks, gems, or minerals that I took:



The first picture is “The Heart” – a beautiful, heart shaped amethyst crystal. The second picture is a close up of a Danburite specimen showing an inclusion. Both pieces were photographed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science.

## Safety Matters - World Domination Made Easy

AFMS Safety Chair, Ellery Borow

Did you see that? World Domination Made Easy - just the title draws attention.

Now, if only I might draw your attention with the actual title of this article - which is: "How to promote and Promulgate Safety Matters articles to those in our hobby who might most benefit by their content". The actual title just does not have the same potential to draw attention.

Truly, safety messages are not the prettiest marbles in the bag. But, they sure can win the game.

How does a club safety chair, or field trip coordinator draw the attention of members when important safety measures are discussed? The use of attention drawing titles, humor, pounding a gavel first, or making messages personal (as in how the matter effects each member personally), all good ways.

Member's attention often drifts away from safety messages-think of the safety talk given by the head flight attendant just prior to a jet's take off. Messages must often be repeated - think of the person who has never been on a jet plane before. When one is delivering a safety message and most of the members are glancing down into their lap, one might well imagine they are, instead of listening, texting. Lap looking -- it's a sign you've lost them.

Gaining and keeping members' attention for safety messages is important - we all know that. Now, how do we manage that trick of legerdemain? Here are some ideas - try using an authoritative tone of voice, engage the members, keep the topic relevant, tell stories to illustrate your message, during the talk ask if the members have questions, mix repeat messages with

new material, ask members if they can think of how they might apply the topic to what they do in the hobby, try keeping discussions relatively short (try not to overload the members), try approaching a repeat topic in a new manner, ask (if they are texting) if they are texting about safety (that's humor there and, yes, I know it's lame humor but that's what I do.

How does one know if members are engaged? Ask. If asked, and a member can repeat what has just been discussed, and how it can be applied not just to the topic being discussed but how it might also be applied to other situations - you've got one engaged member there!

If so, pat yourself on the back and offer yourself a high five on a talk well presented!

Safety does not have to be boring, but it does take a certain engagement to keep it from being so. Telling stories about the more repetitive messages helps make them more memorable.

Certainly one would not refer to world domination in a safety message title. But you get the idea, I'm sure you can think of some more suitable catch phrase to draw attention. Gaining and holding member's attention when delivering safety messages are good things.

My hard hat is off to you dedicated safety and field trip chairpersons. Thanks for doing such a great job in getting those safety messages out to your members. Oh, and lastly, while speaking of world domination, it sure would be nice if safety messages were more often featured in our club newsletters and bulletins - just sayin'.

Editor's Note – Just listenin'

### Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm  
[Cowtown G. M. & Glass Club](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth  
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX  
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)  
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth  
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,  
[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,

## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Our July meeting will start at 7:00 and will feature a potluck salad bar. Bring a favorite item to add to the salad (the salad lettuce base will be provided by the club). Remember that in August we will be starting an emu egg project (kaleidoscope of jewelry box).

## Club Officers for 2017

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

## Minutes of the June 1st 2017 Meeting

The June 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 meeting of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club was called to order at 7:40 PM by the President, Ling Shurtz.

Sunshine Report: Patti Mitchell went into the hospital today.

Visitors:

- Mark Sutton
- Robert Martinez, POGMC Special Award Winner
- Robert Martinez (father)
- Roger Farish of the Dallas Paleo Society

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the May 2017 meeting as printed in the June 2017. Carolyn made a motion to accept the minutes as published. Casey seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del read the Treasurer's Report. Don made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Carolyn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- New name tags have been ordered
- July meeting will be at the normal location but will start 30 minutes early at 7:00 pm. Bring an item for a potluck salad bar
- 

New Business:

- We discussed an August hands-on-project of making a jewelry box or kaleidoscope from an emu egg. Everyone preset though the project would be interesting, so we will proceed.

Robert Martinez, our 2017 Science and Engineer Fair winner of the Pleasant Oaks Special Award gave an overview and demonstration of his winning project, "Frack Quakes, Does Fracking Cause Quakes". To simulate the shifting of a fault and the resultant earthquake, Robert used sandpaper covered wooden block drug over a sandpaper track. An electric motor was attached to the wood block by a spring. As the motor ran, the spring stretched until the block slipped. He used several lubricating materials between the blocks to simulate Fracking and Fracking waste products. By recording amount of movement by the block for each slip (simulating earthquake magnitude), and the number of times it slipped as it moved down his track (simulating earthquake frequency), Robert was able to see how Fracking waste can change the frequency and magnitude of earthquakes.

After the break, Roger Farish of the Dallas Paleo Society gave a quick introduction to their new book, "Guide to Fossil Collecting" Roger also talked briefly about the Dallas Paleo Society, the number of members, their activities, and their history.

## Meetings

Our July 6<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at 7:00 (Note the early start time) at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Bring an item for a potluck salad bar. After the salad and business meeting we will be entertained by a DVD – The Nature of Earth; the Hawaiian Islands and Yellowstone Park

## SHOW and TELL

**Bring: (1) a MINERAL with an INCLUSION, and / or (2) the July Birthstone (Ruby).**

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

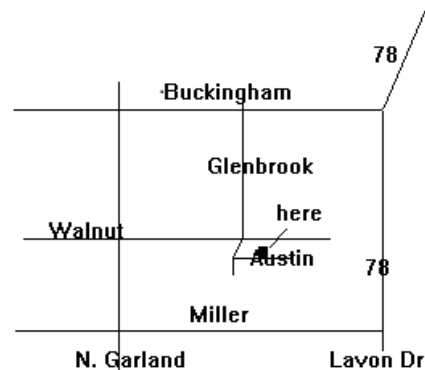
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**PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas**



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.

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

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**  
**Next Meeting: July 6, 2017**

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