



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



July 2023  
Vol. 57, Issue 7

1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

## Red, White, and Blue

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

July 4<sup>th</sup> is a celebration of our country. Parades, flags, booths with bunting, and fireworks were everywhere. As a kid, my family would spend most of the day at the town's elementary school. In the morning the town hosted a small parade down the main street with bands, colorful floats, and cars from the size of go-carts to the newest road cars, with flags in almost every group. After the parade, the schoolyard had food vendors, carnival booths and rides, and just a ton of things to do and see. Hot dogs were the lunch of choice. As the day progressed, the crowds grew larger and larger. We had a late picnic dinner on a blanket spread out on the ground, and as the sun set, the fireworks erupted. At first, it was kids waving sparklers, older kids shooting off firecrackers and bottle rockets, and finally, the town's firework display started. For what seemed like forever, the fireworks would be launched from the home-plate area of the baseball field. The fireworks were launched individually from reloadable tubes buried in the ground. You could see them light the fuse, the glow of the fuse as it burned down to the rocket, and then off it went. Arching high in the sky, it would erupt into a flower or spray of individual colors, almost always accompanied by a loud BANG, but every once in a while, they would shoot one that just created a really bright flash and a HUGE BANG. Flags, banners, and fireworks with color everywhere, but Red, White, and Blue were the most common. Have a Great, Happy, Red, White, and Blue 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

I want to share my favorite Red, White, and Blue stones and minerals for July. For Reds, there are numerous choices from Rhodochrosite, Vanadinite, Ruby, Agates, Jaspers, and a host more, but for me, a nice red jasper is the stone of choice. Although some red jaspers are nice enough to be display items, most are tumbled or cut



and polished. A nicely finished red-tumbled Jasper is one of my favorites. Blue also has a ton of choices. Blue minerals include Aquamarine, Tanzanite, Sapphire, Blue Topaz (the Texas state gemstone), Zircon, Lazurite, Cavansite, Shattuckite, Blue Diamonds, plus more. Blue stones include Turquoise, Lapis Lazuli, Blue Agate, plus others. In the Blue category, my favorite is Shattuckite. White minerals include Aragonite, some Calcites, White Quartz, Scolecite, Halite (salt), Albite, Cleavelandite, Barite, Moonstone (Feldspar) plus many more. White stones include Limestone, Agate, Jasper, Chalk, and Gypsum. Of the white stones, my favorite is Scolecite.

Pictures:

Red Jasper from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>. Used by Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International

White Scolecite from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>. Used by Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0

Shattuckite picture by Don Shurtz of a specimen displayed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

## SCFMS President's Message

Roger Burford, from the May-June SCFMS Newsletter



Our convention will be held in New Orleans (actually in Westwego) again this year on October 13 – 15. Please remember, the host clubs spend a great deal of time trying to make each convention special for the attendees. Why not reward them with your presence? There will be a lot of business to attend to and we need all club presidents and regional VPs to attend to vote and help make our Federation even better than it already is because of the input of members like you!

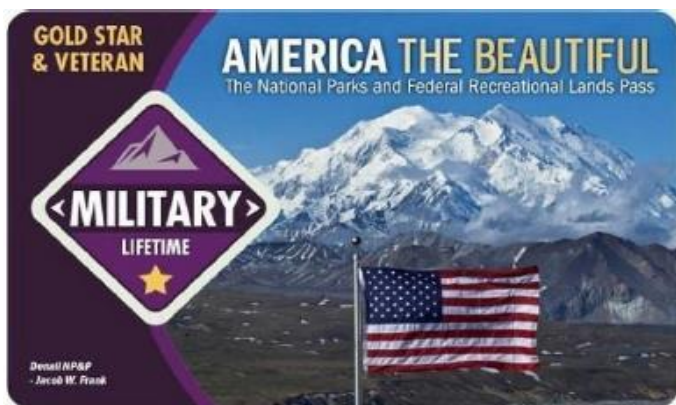
Spring has sprung and when it isn't raining the weather has been really nice in most of our areas making rock-hounding opportunities more pleasant. I trust that everyone has had the time to get out to your favorite gathering spot to find some really nice specimens. When you are getting ready, why not contact other club members to come along and make it a field trip for your club? Every time we get out with others it always makes the trip more interesting.

The same goes for shop time. Is there another member who would like to learn how to cut a rock or how to polish a cab, make a necklace, or a ring? You don't have to have a formal class to teach others our lapidary trades or how to identify great rocks to collect.

Spring is also the time that gem shows start popping up all over. There have already been several in Texas. Grapevine's (Arlington G&MC) show is June 18 – 19, Baton Rouge August 20 – 21, Bossier City (ARK-LA-TEX G&MS) August 20 – 21, Lubbock September 24 – 25, San Antonio (Southwest G&MS) September 24 – 25 just to name a few. There are also shows going on all over the country. You can check out the AFMS website as well as our SCFMS website for dates and locations of many of the shows going on.

Last time I let you know again that there are many open positions that need to be filled and the most important one at the moment is the nominating committee. I need some volunteers by the end of May or I will appoint people to the positions. I don't want to have to do that. I would rather have people who want to get the job done. There are numerous positions like Regional VPs, Executive VP, Secretary, and President. I currently have no names for these positions except for President and need to get a committee working on this ASAP. Please remember all club presidents are required to attend the annual meeting; you are the voice for your clubs in the Federation and without our clubs, there would be no Federation. Please make plans to attend our convention which will be held October 14 – 16 in Westwego, Louisiana with most meetings being held on the 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to attend, please assign a delegate to attend in your stead. Delegates must be assigned in writing. More information will be distributed later, but please mark your calendar and make plans to attend.

And a final note, there is a:



**New lifetime public lands pass available for Veterans and Gold Star Families**

Veterans of the U.S. Armed Services and Gold Star Families can now obtain a free lifetime pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation sites spread out across more than 400 million acres of public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. (DOI News)

# RED, WHITE, AND BLUE MINERAL AND ROCK WORD FIND

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

This month's Feature Article was about my favorite red, white, and blue rocks or minerals and the Fourth of Jul. As this is the July issue of the Chips and Chatter, it all seemed to fit. In the article, there were a bunch of minerals and rocks listed. I hopefully have successfully incorporated all those named items into this Word Find. The names can be forward or backward, can be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. All of the lines should have the same intensity, but a feature of Microsoft products is that the line intensity can vary from line to line. It is not intentional; it is just a Microsoft Feature that we have to live with. Have Fun!

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V	A	B	R	T	Z	D	T	W	B	J	O	K	I	H	H	A	L	I	T	E	E

### Word List

Miscellaneous Words

FOURTH  
OF  
JULY  
RED  
WHITE  
BLUE

Red Rocks and Minerals

RHODOCHROSITE  
VANADINITE  
RUBY  
AGATES

White Rocks and Minerals

ARAGONITE  
CALCITE  
QUARTZ  
SCOLECITE  
HALITE  
SALT  
ALBITE  
CLEAVELANDITE  
BARITE  
MOONSTONE  
LIMESTONE  
CHALK  
GYPSUM

Blue Rocks and Minerals

CAVANSITE  
SHATTUCKITE  
DIAMOND  
TURQUOISE  
LAPIS  
LAZULI  
SAPPHIRE  
TOPAZ  
ZIRCON  
LAZURITE  
AQUAMARINE  
TANANITE

Answer on Page 5

## Presentation Review

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The June Presentation was about Precious Coral. The presenter was Bob Huntington of the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society. I was ready for a presentation on the cutting, polishing, and mounting of precious coral. WHAM! POW! – DID I GET THAT WRONG! Bob is a Marine Biologist and for years was the Dallas Zoo Aquarium Educator. HIS PRESENTATION WAS ABOUT CORAL AND CORAL REEFS! Corals are members of the Phylum Cnidaria which includes corals, jellyfish, and sea anemones. Corals come in two varieties, soft corals which do not form reefs, and stony corals, which are a colonial species that do form coral reefs. Coral reefs occupy less than 0.1% of the world's ocean surface area, but the coral reef ecosystem supports more than 25% of the ocean's species. Coral reefs are being threatened from many different sources. The number of coral reefs has diminished by 50% since 1950. Issues causing the reefs to shrink and die include excess nutrients being dumped into the oceans, primarily nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural fertilizers, global warming causing the temperature of the oceans to increase, and acid rain causing an increase in the Ph levels of the ocean. Precious Corals are characterized by a red to pinkish-orange color. They are generally found a greater depths and darker conditions such as a cavern. Black coral is even rarer than precious choral. Black coral is formed from soft deep-water corals. The chitin skeleton is black to dark brown in color. Black corals grow in water deeper than 160 ft.

## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

### July 2023

- 17 – 18 July, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS, Exchange Center at Expo Square, [www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org](http://www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org)

### August 2023

- 3 – 6 August, Billings, MT, 2023 AFMS Convention and Show, Billings Hotel and Convention Center, [BillingsGemClub.com](http://BillingsGemClub.com)
- 19 – 20 August, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier Civic Center, [larockclub.com](http://larockclub.com)

### September 2023

- 23 – 24 September, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Wonderland of Americas, [www.swgms.org/](http://www.swgms.org/)
- 23 – 24 September, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, [www.lubbockgemandmineral.org](http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org)

### October 2023

- 13 – 15 October, Westwego, LA, G&MS of Louisiana & SCFMS Convention,
- 14 – 15 October, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Frank W. Maborn Civic and Convention Center, [lorlston@hotmail.com](mailto:lorlston@hotmail.com)
- 14 – 15 October, Fort Worth, TX, CERA (Cowtown G&MS), 3300 Bryant Irving Rd, [steve.l.shearin@lmco.com](mailto:steve.l.shearin@lmco.com)
- 20 – 22 October, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, [www.agms0tx.org](http://www.agms0tx.org)
- 27 – 29 October, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma G&MS, Oklahoma State Fair Park, [omgs-minerals.org](http://omgs-minerals.org)

Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Ref: May-June 2023 SCFMS Newsletter

## NEXT MEETING, JULY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2023

The next meeting of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club will be our annual Spring Creek BBQ dinner. There will be fun, a door prize, talk, and food, but no club business. The meeting will be at the Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson, 270 North Central Expressway, just north of the Main/Belt Line exit on the east side of the service road. We will meet at 7:00 and plan to enter the serving lines around 7:15. Try to be on time. We will have buy one, get one free coupons to pass out. The coupon says it is for the Rib dinner plate, but you can get any item you want and the same or less expensive item will be free. See you there!

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth  
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)  
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth  
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 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 7:15 PM, Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Dr, Garland,  
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

*Chips and Chatter*

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

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Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2023

President: Joe Vulk  
 1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
 2nd VP, Field Trips: Julie Wilson  
 Secretary: Amy Vulk  
 Treasurer: Ling Shurtz  
 Editor: Don Shurtz  
 Contact us by e-mail: [don.shurtz@gmail.com](mailto:don.shurtz@gmail.com) or  
 L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

## Minutes of the June 1 Meeting

**Call to Order:** POGMC President Joe Vulk call the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

**Snack time:** Thanks to Carole and Hatt for bringing snacks for the meeting. We had Poppables, Cookies, and Tea.

**Visitors:** Mary Ann (Carolyn's sister-in-law) and Bob Huntington, who gave the meeting presentation, were visitors. Thanks for coming. Also, Mary Vickory and her son, Ryan, who visited in April, were back to join us as new members. Welcome back

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the April meeting were published in the May Chips and Chatter. Carolyn made a motion to approve the April minutes as published. Hatt seconded the motion. The motion Passed. There were no minutes from the May meeting as it was our Cinco de Mayo potluck dinner and no business was transacted.

### Old Business:

- Club "Direction" Questionnaire" results will be reviewed at a later meeting
- Participation in IGEM show: The next IGEM is Friday to Sunday, June 9 to 11 at Market Hall. The setup will be Wednesday after 12:00. POGMC will have a booth. Please join us for setup or to help at the show
- Swap Meet: The next DGMS Swap meet will be Saturday, May 3 starting at 10:00. Don will be there selling POGMC amethyst clusters, geodes, and obsidian.

### New Business:

- The July meeting celebrating the 4th of July will be at Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson. We will start eating at 7:00. Buy one – get one free coupons will be available.
- August Meeting Snacks: Amy will bring snacks and Hatt will bring tea

Presentation: Mr. Bob Huntington from the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society gave a presentation about Coral and Precious Coral. See the Presentation Review on page 4.

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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## July Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 6th at the Spring Creek BBQ in Richardson (Central Expressway just north of Main/Beltline Rd. We will start to congregate at 7:00 and enter the serving lines around 7:15 PM. DON'T BE LATE. We will have some buy one–get one of the same or lesser price for free coupons to pass out.

## July 6<sup>th</sup> MEETING

**SPRING CREEK BBQ**  
**270 North Central Expressway**  
**Richardson, TX, 75080**

**Meet at 7:00 – Eat at 7:15**

**Food**

**Talk**

**Fun**

**Door Prize**

**BE THERE!**

### Word Find Solution

E	J	L	I	T	V	H	H	I	K	O	R	B	L	G	Z	L	R	B	V	A						
J	L	A	E	A	O	R	C	V	D	G	C	H	V	T	K	H	L	E	L	I	B	V				
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# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



## Meetings

First Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be April 6 at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX 75040

## 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 not-for-profit organization

## CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club  
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.  
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 6, 2023. Our meeting will be our annual dinner at **SPRING CREEK BBQ** in RICHARDSON, see pages 4 and 5

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Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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