

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



June 4, 2009
Vol. 43 Issue 6

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Check our website for a color version of the Chips and Chatter

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

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, June 4, at 7:30 pm
 Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Club Officers for 2009

President: Donnette Wagner
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Donna Mallory
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
 E-mail: andresner@verizon.net

Metroplex Clubs

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
 Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
 Dallas Paleontological Society, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm
 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, Ridgewood Rec. Center, 6818 Fisher Road, Dallas, meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm
 Dallas Bead Society, Walnut Hill Rec Center, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
 Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday each month at 7 pm
 Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Hello Club,

As I was contemplating what I would like to address in this issue, and I know you know I contemplate a lot, it came to me like a speed racer. You know the feeling. You are thinking and thinking about just what you want to write about and so very many ideas come to mind. Yet you know you cannot talk about all of them so you start racking your brain as to which one you will expand upon. I must admit that once I get to this point I should give it a rest and come back to the "thinking" later. Why? Well, I will tell you why; when you stop trying so hard, God just opens your pea brain up and you jump up and say, "what were you thinking so hard for, it is right here in front of you".

I was out and about the other day, about to depart from one location to another, when a flash from the past happened. There was this vehicle I recognized from the past pulling in next to me. I turn around and lo and behold there sitting behind the wheel was a rock hound of the POGM club, all smiles and both of us reaching for a big hug, she from behind that wheel, me hopping towards her vehicle. Big hugs are so important among friends.

When you think about it, this is much like our club. So many members have not been seen for such a long time. Each one brings something special to the club, yet we have not reached out to them for a "hug or smile" or to say we miss you. Why not come to the meeting and ask for a couple of phone numbers or addresses and contact a member. Let them know they are valuable not just to the club but to you for the knowledge they carry and can share. Run to the window, run to get and give those hugs and smiles before we lose them to destiny, before we lose our club.

Congratulations!!!

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Congratulations are in order to Don and Ling Shurtz for a job well done in parenting a fine young lady and now Officer of the United States Army. Jessica Shurtz graduated from the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point on Saturday, 23 May 2009. Jessica graduated "with honors". Following the graduation ceremony, she received her commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Jessica will receive additional training at Ft. Sill, OK and Ft. Huachuca, AZ, prior to reporting to her initial assignment at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii." Congratulations to you too Jessica for a job well done and thank you for giving to each of us with your service of our country!

Show Dates

June 5-7 - Tulsa, OK: Gem Faire Inc.; Expo Square/Exchange Center 1, 4145 E. 21st Street; Fri 12-7, Sat 10-7, Sun 10-5; \$5 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: info@gemfaire.com; Website: www.gemfaire.com

June 26-28 - Grapevine, TX: AKS Gem Shows; Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main Str; Fri 10-6, Sat 10-6; Sun 10-4; adults \$5; classes in beading, PMC, chain maille, and more; contact Kay Schabillon, (504) 455-6101; e-mail: info@aksshow.com; Website: www.aksshow.com

November 13-15 - Houston Gem & Mineral Society presents 56th Annual HGMS Gem, Jewelry, Mineral, and Fossil Show Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5 Humble Civic Center 8233 Will Clayton Parkway Humble, TX 5 miles east of Bush International Airport 1 mile east of Hwy. 59

Happy Anniversary June Rock Hound!



Congratulations Kathy Toler

Question of the Month:- What is Aurum?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

If you ever took Latin then this is probably an easy question to answer. If you took high school chemistry, it may also be an easy question to answer. Many of the entries in the Periodic Table of Elements are represented by their first two letters. If Aurum were an entry in the Periodic Table, it would probably be represented by AU. Got it? Aurum is Latin for “gold”, and the Periodic Table entry for gold is AU.

So, we know that AU is gold and it is an element. We all know that gold is considered a precious metal and is often used in jewelry making. There are several characteristics which make gold a popular metal for jewelry making. First is its color – a fine yellow. It is also reasonably rare and considered valuable just for itself. Gold is a very stable chemical element – it does not easily react with other chemicals. It rarely oxidizes, so it retains its fine color. Additionally, because it is stable, when it is found it is in its natural form – it can be picked up and used without extracting it from some other mineral. Gold is soft (Moh’s hardness is 2.5) and is very malleable and ductile which means it can be easily worked. It is said that an ounce of gold can be beaten into a sheet of metal that measure 300 square feet (approximately 17 ft by 17 feet).

The purity of gold is measured in carats, abbreviated a “k” with 24k gold being 100 % pure. However, because gold is so soft and rather expensive, gold is often mixed with other metals to form alloys. 18k gold is 75 % pure gold and 25 % other metals. 18k gold formed with 75 % gold and 25 % copper is found in some of the older jewelry from Russia and is called “rose-gold” due to its reddish color. 18k white gold is formed with 75 % gold, 17.3 % nickel, 5.5 % zinc, and 2.2 % copper. Although I have never seen it, blue gold is formed by alloying with iron and purple gold is formed by alloying with aluminum. 18k, 14k, 12k and even 10k gold is frequently used in jewelry making. The silver, copper, and other metals that are alloyed with the gold result in materials that are still corrosion resistant and are stronger than pure gold.



Egyptian Gold Ring

Where is gold found? It can be found in many places. California, Colorado, and Alaska were places where there were Gold Rushes in the United States. Currently, mines in Nevada and South Dakota mine 75 % of the gold produced in the United States. In Texas, the most likely location would be around the Llano Uplift. If you want to try West Texas, gold mines, long since closed, were located near Van Horn and Presidio. Gold has been found by panning, but not in any economically productive amounts.

Ref:

Panning for Gold in Texas, <http://www.texfiles.com/features/gold.htm>

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aurum>

Wikipedia Images, http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Egypte_louvre_128.jpg

June Birthstone: Opals

Anita Dresner, Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



When an irritant such as a small parasite lodges in the flesh of an oyster, mussel, or clam a protective substance called "nacre" is produced. Over time, layer upon layer of nacre coats the irritant giving birth to a lustrous pearl. Pearls are rare, so man helps, by placing a piece of irritant inside a mollusk to help the production of nacre. This is called a cultured pearl, a gem of unsurpassed beauty and elegance. The Greek thought pearls were hardened tears of joy the goddess of love shook from her eyes as she was born from the sea. Arabian legend says pearls formed when oysters, lured to the near surface of the ocean by the beautiful moon, swallowed moonlit dewdrops.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

June 4, 2009 7:30 PM, Garland Women's Activities Building

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS MEETINGS

First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX
(Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)

MEMBERSHIP

Single Adult: \$16.50,
Junior: \$5.00; Family: \$27.50
(plus badge fee for new members)

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies