Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

June 2013
Vol. 47, Issue 6

Feature Articles

Monthly Columns

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Copyright Information

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

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

Next meeting will be Thursday, June 6th, 2013 at the Garland Women's Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. The presentation will be a PowerPoint Slide Show and CVD about Topaz Mountain.

Club Officers for 2013

President:	Del Grady
1st VP:	Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
Secretary:	Lee Elms
Treasurer	Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
Editor:	Don Shurtz
E-mail:	don.shurtz@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR

Check our website, www.pogmc.org for prior month issues of the Chips and Chatter

The Vice President Speaks

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

We are having a Topaz Mountain presentation (DVD and PowerPoint) with a neat door prize.

May 2nd, 2013 Minutes

The May 2nd, 2013 club meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mike Kuhn.

Sunshine Report: Del Grady had surgery on his back last week and he remains in recovery from the surgery.

Visitors: We had Ashton Shinedling visit us. He is studying Geology at Richland College and wanted to see what our club is all about.

We discussed the minutes of the April meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter and made a motion and seconded and voted unanimously to accept them as printed.

Don Shurtz gave the Treasurers' Report and we made a motion and seconded and voted unanimously to accept the report as presented.

Old Business: The IGEM show is complete now. We had quite a few members attending the show and selling their creations at out club's booth.

The Arlington Rock Swap Meet is this Saturday, May 4th.

The Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Show is May 25th and 26th at the Amon Carter Exhibition Building.

New Business: Don said we are just about out of our club tri-folds. He would like to design some new tri-folds that we can pass out at the different swap meets and club shows that we attend.

After our refreshment break we watched our presentation DVD titled "The Eruption of Mount St. Helens." The volcano blew out the morning of May 18th, 1980 at 8:32am. After the initial eruption there were two more eruptions that followed several weeks later. The film had the actual footage of the eruption and also revisited the area a decade later to show how the area is recovering from the destruction.

The club accepted Ashton Shinedling as a new member by unanimous vote. Welcome, Ashton.

We had the raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for April, May, and July

MAY 4, Arlington, TX, Rock & Gem Swap Meet, Arlington G&MS, 1408 Gibbons, Arlington, jlspinks@sbcglobal.net, agemclub.com
MAY 25-26, Ft. Worth, TX, Ft. Worth G&MC, Amon Carter Ex. Bldg, fwgmc@embarqmail.com, forworthgemandmineralclub.org

JUN 28-30, Grapevine, TX, EGI Show, Grapevine Convention Center, egi168@hotmail.com, www.egishows.com

JUL 5-7, Farmington, NM, San Juan Country G&MS, Civic Center, mickie2@earthlink.net

Ref:

March-April SCFMS Newsletter
Rock & Gem Show Calendar, http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/

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 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

Birthstones for June – Pearl, Alexandrite, and Moonstone

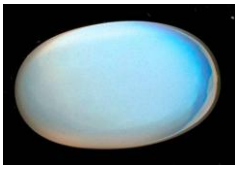
Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The birthstones for June are similar to the moon. The moon is white and seemingly iridescent as are pearls and moonstone. The moon is also know for color changes – white for a full moon, black for a new moon, red or orange for a harvest moon, and there is always the blue moon which is not really a description of the moon's color. The third June birthstone, alexandrite, is also know for color changing, or at least having a different color depending on the source of illumination.

June has 3 birthstones, or perhaps only 2 birthstones and the pearl. Pearl is of organic origin, thus is not a mineral, and a stone is composed of minerals. Thus, by logic, pearl is not a stone, and thus cannot a birthstone. However, the American Gem Society recognizes pearl as a birthstone, and although I disagree on technical grounds, who am I to argue?

A pearl is formed in the soft tissues of living mollusks, commonly oysters or muscles. A pearl is formed around some sort of material that is an irritation to the oyster, and it coats the source of the irritation with successive layers of calcium carbonate to alleviate the irritation. The layers of calcium carbonate are separated by conchiolin, a complex protein that glues the layers together. The combination of calcium carbonate and conchiolin is called nacre. The finest pearls have the thinnest layering creating more iridescence. Pearls are found in the wild (natural) but are relatively rare. Most pearls are cultured which means that a human introduces an irritant that the oyster starts to cover as a pearl, and are farmed. There are also imitation pearls, but most experts claim that imitation pearls do not have the same iridescence as natural or cultured pearls.

Alexandrite is the second birthstone for June. Alexandrite is a variety of the mineral chrysoberyl, chemically beryllium aluminate. As mentioned, alexandrite changes color depending upon the ambient lighting. It typically appears green in sun light and red in incandescent light. This change in color appearance is independent of the direction the crystal is viewed from. Alexandrite was originally only found in the Ural Mountains of Russia. However, it has since been found in Brazil and in smaller sized specimens from India, Madagascar, and Sri Lanka. Alexandrite is generally cut a faceted stones. One needs to be careful with alexandrite as many lab grown stones have been developed that simulate the color change of alexandrite. Color changing lab grown versions of corundum and spinel have been developed. These are really simulates rather than synthetic alexandrite.



Moonstone is a variety of feldspar and is chemically sodium, potassium, aluminum silicate. Moonstone is typically white with a sheen or iridescence cause by light diffracting from the thin layers of feldspar much as a pearl derives its iridescence from thin layers of calcium carbonate. Moonstone looks so much like the moon that early Romans believed it was solidified moon beams. Moonstone is typically cut as cabochons. Moonstone is found in Australia, Austria, Mexico, Madagascar, Burma, Norway, Poland, Sri Lanka, and the United States. In the United States, locations for moonstone are North Carolina, Virginia, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

Ref:

American Gem Society, http://www.americangemsociety.org/june-birthstones
mindat.org, http://www.mindat.org/min-2774.html
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/

Pictures:

Editor's Corner – CFL Bulbs

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

In cutting a rock, as with wood working, the time-honored adage is measure twice, then cut. In other words, check and recheck your work. I was about to run an article about a fire danger with Compact Florescent Light (CFL) Bulbs – you know, the curly new bulbs that are power saving replacements for our standard incandescent bulbs. The article was in another club's newsletter and referred to a picture – but the picture was not attached. I went on-line to see if I could enhance the article with some more facts and pictures. Indeed I did find a picture of CFL bulb with a major dark hole in the ballast (the base of the bulb has a ballast which allows the CFL to light up, just like the long florescent bulbs have a ballast). The Underwriters Laboratory ™ indicated that there could be smoke and blackening of the plastic when the bulb blows out, but rated the CFL bulbs as safer as our normal incandescent bulbs. The plastic used in CFL bulbs in flame resistant. The best article about the CFL fire risk was on the web site Urban Legends, http://urbanlegends.about.com/od/business/ss/Cfl-Light-Bulbs-Fire-Hazard.htm. However, the original article did have some safety topics for CFL bulbs, some of which I did not know about. Those tips include not using CFL bulbs in circuits that have dimmers (unless you buy special CFL bulbs designed for that application). Also, do not use CFL bulbs in recessed lighting fixtures and tract lighting with downward facing fixtures. So there you have it – check and recheck so that you get it right.

Federation News – AFMS Show and Endowment Fund Raffle

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The AFMS Meeting is being held in conjunction with the Southern Federation of Mineral Societies (SFMS) in Jacksonville, Florida with the show running from 18 to 22 September 2013. Details of the show can be found in the May AFMS Newsletter on the web at http://www.amfed.org/news/n2013_05.pdf. As part of the AFMS meeting, there will be the annual AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle. This year there are at least 22 items (and the list is growing) in the raffle, including:

1. Amethyst Necklace and Earrings donated by Betsy Oberheim (EMFLS)
2. Chalcopyrite Specimen from French Creek Mine in Chester County, PA, donated by RJ Harris (EFMLS)
3. Homelite and Jasper Necklace and Earring donated by Betsy Oberheim (EFMLS)
4. Float Copper specimen from the Keweenaw of Michigan's Upper Peninsula donated by Pam Hecht (MWF)
5. 1972 edition of Gem Cutting Shop Helps, donated by RJ Harris (EFMLS)
6. Caveman Clothes Pin made from eastern Washington Petrified Wood, donated by Michael Blanton (NFMS)
7. Jasper Necklace and Earrings, donated by Betsy Oberheim (EFMLS)
8. Fern Fossil from St. Clair, PA, donated by RJ Harris (EFMLS)
9. Fossil Fish in frame, donated by Richard Jaeger (RMFMS)
10. Stacked "Jerry Quartz" crystal from Arkansas, donated by Danny Griffin (SFMS)
11. Channel inlay piece in Scottish Victorian style of the 1800s, donated by Don Monrow (AFMS)
12. Acanthite specimen from Imiter Mine in Morocco, donated by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger (EFMLS)
13. Calcite specimen from Charcas, Mexico, donated by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger (EFMLS)
14. Clock made from Argentinian Rhodochrosite, donate by Matt & Jean Charsky (EFMLS)
15. One year membership in the Mineral of the Month Club
16. Framed print depicting a gold specimen, donated by Fred Schaefermeyer (EFMLS)
17. Framed print of a Rhodochrosite specimen from the Sweet Home Mine, donated by Fred Schaefermeyer (EFMLS)
18. Framed print of Aquamarine on Feldspar, donated by Fred Schaefermeyer (EFMLS)
19. Wire wrapped pendant made of Benite, donated by DeLane Cox, (RMFMS)
20. "Cauliflower" Calcite specimen from Mexico, donated by Irwin & Lorraine Hammer (EFMLS)
21. Anhydrite specimen from Naica, Mexico, donated by Irwin & Lorraine Hammer (EFMLS)
22. Quartz crystal with small Citrine crystal from Minas Gerais, Brazil, donated by K.C. Foster (EFMLS)

The SCMFS contact for Raffle tickets is Catherine E. Rouchon, 5845 Winchester Lane, Clinton, LA 70722 or by email at rouchonc@starband.net. Tickets are $5.00 each or 5 for $20.00. **Payment by check to AFMS Endowment Fund, and include a stamped, self addressed envelope for return of your tickets**. It is a good cause. For pictures and more info, see the AFMS Web Site at http://www.amfed.org/endow2013.htm

WORLD'S LARGEST ROSE ROCK CLUSTER

ARDMORE, OKLAHOMA

From the May – June 2013 SCFMS Newsletter

The world's largest single rose rock cluster known to exist weighs 788 pounds, is 62 inches long, 24 inches high and 18 inches thick. The barite rose rock can be found in an 80 miles strip which runs north to Guthrie, OK and south to Paul's Valley, OK. The Oklahoma legislature adopted the rose rock as the official State Rock in 1968. This cluster was named "Redwine and Rose" for it founders, Tom and Ann Redwine. It was discovered 20 miles southeast of Norman and required three months to excavate the rock through the use of small brushes to keep the cluster intact. The rose rock cluster required four men two days to extract and four days to remove sand and debris.

A rose rock cluster of this kind and quality are many times more rare than diamonds. Rose rocks grew from slow crystallization of sand and seawater supersaturated with barium sulphate resulting in tabular crystals. The rose rock is compose of numerous tabular crystals intersecting one another around a central axis which appear to rotate on the axis, the result is a rosette. It is this rare formation of tabular crystals that makes the rose rock unique. This took place under the Permian Sea 250 million years ago in what is today Oklahoma. Because barite is harder and more durable than sandstone, the sandstone eroded leaving the rose rock formation on exposed rock surfaces. Further weathering caused them to detach into individual specimens. Barite is just one type of mineral capable of forming rosettes. Others are hematite, aragonite, chalcedony and selenite. Oklahoma, however, is the only place in the world where barite rose rocks can be found.

This specimen is owned by LOVES. It is displayed at LOVES, 12th Avenue N.W., Ardmore, OK. (North of I-35 at exit 32). This cluster is on view for the public when LOVES is open for business. (Editor's Note: Information taken from printed pamphlet. Margaret and I were able to see this on display a few years ago. I just wish we had a picture of it.) Paul Good

Gemdat.org

by Carolyn Weinberger
from Gem Cutters News 4/2013
from The Backbender's Gazette, June 2013 (Houston G&MS

If you are interested in minerals, you already know the best source of information about them on the Internet is a site called <**mindat.org**>. Continually being up dated, this site contains a vast amount of information along with numerous photographs about almost all the minerals that have been identified (approximately 4,129 as of this writing).

Now there's a companion site, sponsored by the same folks as Mindat called <**Gemdat.org**> that's dedicated to providing information about gemstones and gemology.

I encourage you to visit the site. To date, 498 data pages on gemstones have been posted and the site is growing almost daily as additional information and photographs are added.

Interested in topaz? Type in the name and you'll be transported to a page showing information about it plus all the colors that it's available in. Click on a specific photo and you'll have an instant enlargement of a faceted or cabochon cut gemstone. Or just click on the "photo" button and you'll get a full gallery of the photos that have been posted thus far.

Scroll further down on the main topaz page, and you'll find some of the more technical data about the gem including chemical formula, optical properties, localities where the gems are mined, and the various treatments that have been given to the natural stones to enhance their beauty.

Like its companion Mindat, Gemdat.org is an interesting and useful site. One caution though—don't expect to take a quick peek and log off—you'll get hooked like I did.

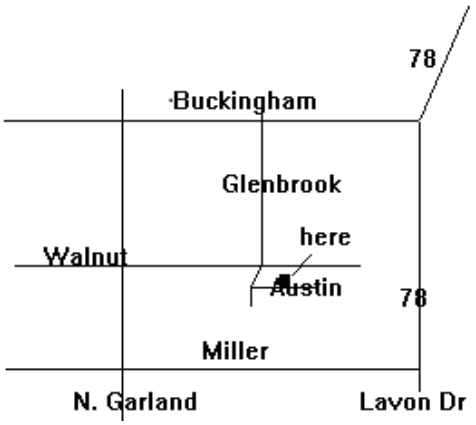
PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

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:

Coming Up

The May 2nd meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building. The program will be the pilot for the new series "Prospectors" and will be about Mt. Antero and Colorado Amazonite. Visitors are welcome.

The June 6th meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building.