

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## Chips and Chatter

June 2014  
Vol. 48, Issue 6



1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2013 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, 2013 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Member of  
SCFMS



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AFMS



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## 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

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Garland Women's Activities Building  
713 Austin, Garland at 7:30 PM.

The presentation will be the DVD "The Gemstone Journey" from Butch and Patti's collection

VISITORS WELCOME

## Club Officers for 2014

President: ..... Ling Shurtz  
1st VP: ..... Mark Carter  
Secretary: ..... Lee Elms  
Treasurer ..... Del Grady  
Editor: ..... Don Shurtz  
E-mail: ..... don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

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

## Minutes of the May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 Meeting

The May 1st, 2014 club meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

Sunshine Report:

- A friend of the club, Chuck Finsley, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and is in serious condition. Our thoughts and prayers go out to him and his family. *[Editor: We have since been informed that Chuck Finsley has passed away, a huge loss for the Paleo and Rockhound communities]*
- Contact with Dianne and Keith Brownlee has been re-established. She and Keith are doing well.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the March meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter. A motion was made by Mark Carter and seconded by Warner Ragan to accept the Minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurers' Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurers' Report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' Report was made by Lee Elms and seconded by was seconded by Mark Carter. The motion passed.

Old Business: Ling discussed our meeting location because we were concerned about the cost of the room rental. We decided that we would stay in the big room there at the Garland Women's Activities Building. The contract is \$500 per year.

Charter and By-Law: Mark Carter and Don Shurtz have been going through the by-laws and have recommended some changes and updates. They recommended changing the age for Junior members from 16 to 18 years. They also recommended changing the duties of the 2nd Vice President from Shop Coordinator to Field Trip Organizer. Other changes were also discussed. Mark made a motion that we accept these changes and it was unanimously accepted.

AFMS Raffle Fund: The tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. The money goes to the endowment scholarship fund *[Editor: Contact Catherine Rouchon at [rouchonc@starbanc.net](mailto:rouchonc@starbanc.net) or 225-683-9264]*

New Business: SCFMS Regional Meet is Aug. 9th and 10th in Baton Rouge, La. President Ling Shurtz will go and also Don. The club will sponsor their travel expenses.

Presentation: Mark Carter brought a high speed sander and showed us what you can accomplish using dry sanding. The grit you can use goes from 60 to 600. The main thing is you have to not use a lot of pressure (pushing the stone up against the sandpaper) and not to do it too long because of the heat buildup. You have to have knowledge of what type of material you are working with and if it can take the heat and the pressure. Some material is very fragile, and will fracture easily from an increase in temperature. That is why they should be polished on a wet grinder; the heat is dissipated by the water. This sander was purchased from Richardson Rock Ranch in Oregon (<http://richardsonrockranch.com/>). It had a vacuum system set up to capture as much dust as possible from the sanding process. Also, always remember to wear protective eyewear and a mask or respirator. Mark says if you work on several items, you can let one cool off while you are working on the next piece, and you can accomplish polishing several items in one sitting.

We had our raffle, thanks everybody for contributing specimens for the raffle table. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Sincerely,  
Lee Elms, Secretary

## Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for June and July 2014

MAY 31-JUN 1, DeRidder, LA, DeRidder G&MS, Beauregard Parish Frngds, [avalin1@bellsouth.net](mailto:avalin1@bellsouth.net), [www.lutheransonline.com/gems](http://www.lutheransonline.com/gems)  
MAY 31 – Jun 1, Tulsa, OK, Gem Faire Inc., Expo Square, [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com), [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)  
JUN 7 - 8, Grapevine TX, Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, Grapevine Conv. Cntr, [Krisk@kirstnerphotogry.com](mailto:Krisk@kirstnerphotogry.com),  
[www.agemclub.org](http://www.agemclub.org)  
JUN 13 – 15, Ft. Smith, AK, Exhibit Group International, Ft. Smith Convention Center, [egi168@hotmail.com](mailto:egi168@hotmail.com), [www.egishows.com](http://www.egishows.com)  
JUL 4 - 7, Farmington, NM, San Juan County G&MS, San Juan Civic Center, [mickie2@earthlink.net](mailto:mickie2@earthlink.net)  
JUL 11 – 13, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS & RMFMS & AFMS Convention, Tulsa Fairgrounds, [www.ttownrockhound.org](http://www.ttownrockhound.org)  
JUL 25 – 27, Ft. Worth, TX, The Bead Market, Cendera Center, [rebekah@thebeadmarket.net](mailto:rebekah@thebeadmarket.net), [www.thebeadmarket.net](http://www.thebeadmarket.net)  
JUL 26 – 27, Farmers Branch, TX, Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, Brookhaven College, [steve.l.shearin@lmco.com](mailto:steve.l.shearin@lmco.com)  
AUG 9 – 10, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS & SCFMS Convention, Marriot Hotel (on Hilton Avenue),  
[www.brgemandmineral.org](http://www.brgemandmineral.org), [www.scfms.net](http://www.scfms.net)

Ref:

January / February 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

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

### Proposed Charter and By-Law Changes Summary

By Don Shurtz, for the Charter and By-Laws Revision Committee

*This is a repeat of an article from the May Chips and Chatter. The proposed Charter and By-Laws will be sent as a separate item (email or snail-mail) to each club member. The proposed changes will be further discussed at the June meeting and then voted on (with any redline changes) for acceptance or rejection.*

The following is a summary of the proposed changes to the Charter and By-Laws

- Article 2: Added IRS suggested information to Purpose
- Article 3: Changed age for Junior member from 16 to 18
- Article 3: Allow termination of membership by mail or email
- Article 4: Moved “purpose of dues” to first paragraph rather than last paragraph
- Article 5: Change nominating committee from elected to appointed with not specified number of members.
- Article 5: Changed quorum definition at a Special Meeting to those members present.
- Article 6: Changed name of Second Vice President in Charge of Shop to in Charge of Field Trips
- Article 6: Added the Editor as an Elected rather than Appointed Position
- Article 6: Adds Editor as member of Executive Committee
- Article 7: Designates President as the club’s representative at the SCFMS Convention (with power to designate an alternate)
- Article 7: Delineates duties of Second Vice President (Field Trip Coordinator) and Editor (Newsletter)
- Article 9: Allows Executive Committee to conduct business by email
- Article 10: Adds provisions and procedures for removal of an Officer
- Article 11: Establishes procedures for dissolution of the club including wording recommended by the IRS.
- Article 12: Established provisions and procedures for changes to the Charter and By-Law

The revision to the Charter and By-Laws were discussed at the May meeting and some suggests incorporated. Final approval will be voted on at the June or later meeting as determined by the President and/or Executive Committee

## Pearl, Alexandrite, and Moonstone June Birthstones

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Not one, not two, but three recognized birthstones for June. Now that is way too many to write about, but here goes.



Pearls are one of the few semi-precious gemstones that are not a mineral. Pearl is of organic origin, thus not a mineral. A natural (wild) pearl is formed by successive thin layers of nacre. The pearl starts as an irritant (sand, shell, organic matter, etc.) that gets trapped in the folds of the oyster or other mollusk. The nacre is secreted to coat the irritant. Nacre is composed primarily of calcium carbonate in the mineral form aragonite which is cemented together with a horn-like substance conchiolin. The successive, thin layers of nacre are what give the pearl its translucent quality. Nacre is also the substance which lines the shells in mother of pearl. A cultured pearl starts as a small round (or oblong) object placed in the folds of the oyster. The oyster treats this object in the same manner as a natural irritant; it secretes nacre to coat the object. Once the coating is completed, the pearl is harvested. When we think of pearls most will think of Japan. Japan is still the largest processing center for pearls, but the majority of the cultured pearls come from China and Australia.

Alexandrite is a variety of chrysoberyl with exhibits color change depending on lighting conditions. The favored alexandrite is one which is red in daylight conditions and red when illuminated by an incandescent light. Less favored varieties of alexandrite are yellow to pink in daylight and red with an incandescent light. The least favored variety of alexandrite will be yellow in daylight and turn brown with an incandescent light. Alexandrite may have been first identified by a Finnish mineralogist, Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld, and named for the Russian Tsar Alexander II. It was so named as the royal colors of the Tsar are green and red. The first deposits were from the Ural Mountains in Russia, but other sources have been found in other locations including India, Madagascar, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and Brazil. As with many gemstones, synthetic Alexandrite is made in labs. However, and more often, synthetic corundum treated to change colors, or color changing spinel is used to simulate the real alexandrite.



Moonstone is a variety of feldspar, or more properly, the combination of two forms of feldspar – orthoclase and albite. The minerals are intermixed as the stone forms, but as it cools, the orthoclase and albite separate into alternating thin stacks of orthoclase and albite. The iridescence observed in moonstone is light reflecting back from the alternating layers, a phenomenon known as adularescence. To some, it is the shimmering white light from the stone which reminds them of the moon, thus the name moonstone. Ancient civilizations used moonstone for jewelry. The Romans believed the stone was formed from solidified moon rays. Both the Romans and the Greeks associated the stone with their lunar deities. Sri Lanka and India are the major producers of moonstone, but it also has been found in the United States, Brazil, and Australia.

Ref:

- Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- American Gem Trade Association (AGTA), <http://www.agta.org/gemstones/variation-alexandrite.html>
- About dot com, <http://fengshui.about.com/od/Crystals/f/What-Is-Moonstone.htm>

Pictures:

- Alexandrite: Wikimedia, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>, Photograph by David Weinberg for Alexandrite.net and released to the public domain
- Pearls: Wikimedia, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>, photograph by "tanakawho"-<http://www.flickr.com/photos/28481088@N00/160781390/>, Free Content License.
- Moonstone: Wikimedia, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>, photograph by Wouten Hagens and released to the public Domain

### **2014 AFMS/RMFMS Convention and Show**

#### **Rocks and Gems of the Indian Territory**

**July 9th - 13th, 2014**

**Convention Location**  
**Hilton Garden Inn**  
4518 East Skelly Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74135-3225  
(918) 878-7777

**Show Location**  
**Tulsa Fair Grounds**  
4145 E 21st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74114-2108

## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

IGEM has come and gone. Pleasant Oaks was there to support the show. At our next meeting we will vote on the proposed changes to the Charter and By-Laws. Our presentation will be a DVD titled "The Gemstone Journey" from Butch and Patti's collection

## SAFETY REPORT

By Owen Martin, SCFMS Safety Chairman, from the May – June 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

### Safety Article, Hey! Are "Preppers" really that wrong?

OK- just to get things going I'm close to my annual "prepare for Hurricanes" article, but figured I'd take this opportunity to get a jump on the issue. Especially since "preppers" seem to be getting vilified by certain government organizations and media outlets these days.

As that old joke goes, "What do a tornado and an Arkansas divorce have in common? Either way someone's losing a mobile home!"

The last few years we've had some really nasty spring storms in the SCFMS areas and it poses the question what to do

Historically folks in our region would build storm cellars, but the nature of modern construction has turned it's nose up on the issue. That was at least until a few years ago when we experienced the disaster of the Tuscaloosa and Joplin tornados. Since then there has been a huge increase in the manufacture of "dig and drop" modular storm shelters. We've installed at least a dozen of these modular shelters at my work sites in the last two years. With purchase of the small shelters averaging less than \$4000 per unit and installation costs being minimal it was truly a "no brainer." Our shelters in the Fort Worth and Shreveport areas were used 5 times last year! The shelters worked great.

So I'm not saying that these modular shelters are for everyone, but if you can afford one and think you need one they are a great and overall inexpensive way to keep yourself and your loved ones safe.



Here's an example of one from the Hillsboro Storm Shelter website. There are lots of options out there and I only show this as an example of what some look like. Get online and do some research if you are interested. Happy hunting! As always, "BE SAFE" and I'll talk to you soon!  
Owen



## THE BATON ROUGE GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW SCFMS REGIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Location: Marriott Hotel on Hilton Ave

Show Times: **Saturday**, August 9<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 – 5:00 and **Sunday**, August 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 – 5:00

### SCFMS Activities: Saturday, August 9th in the Beauregard Room:

Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters: 8:00

SCFMS Meeting: 1:00

SCFMS Awards Banquet: 7:00

### SCFMS Activities, Sunday, August 10th in the Beauregard Room:

Rolling Rock Club Meeting: 8:00



# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

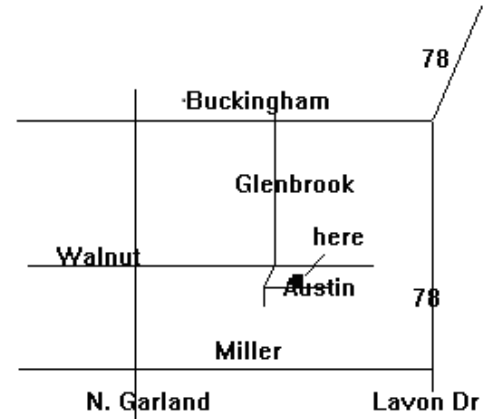


## Meetings

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:

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, VFW Hall, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas TX (next to their shop)  
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX  
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth  
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX  
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,