

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



June 2016
Vol. 50, Issue 6

1st Place, 2016 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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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, 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.

Alexandrite, a Stone for June

Cheryl Ogletree, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

All my life I was informed that the pearl was the birthstone for June. Pearls have never been my forte, even though I have a few cherished ones. Then a few years ago, maybe 30 or more, I saw the name alexandrite tacked on the list after pearl, so I'm opting to give you the "scoop" on alexandrite as well as learning something new myself.

The alexandrite stone, a very rare variety of chrysoberyl, was discovered in the 1830's on the future Czar Alexander the Second's Birthday and was named alexandrite in his honor.

It was found by emerald miners in the Ural Mountains of Russia where the deposits are now largely worked out. Today it is mined in Sri Lanka, Brazil, Zimbabwe, Burma, and since the 1990's between the border of Tanzania and Mozambique. The largest stone was found in Sri Lanka, weighing 1876

ct; the largest cut stone weighs 66 ct and is in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C.

The alexandrite is prized for its optical properties. In day light, which has light with more shorter wave lengths, it looks bright green. In the

warmer, longer wave lengths of candles and artificial lighting it takes on a rich red or brownish red color. The color change is due to chromic oxide which, in alexandrite, partially replaces the aluminum oxide that occurs in the chemical composition of chrysoberyl.



Attempts have been made in the past to imitate alexandrite using synthetic spinel and corundum that have been marketed under the name of alexandrite despite their lack of similarity to the natural stone. Recently a violet colored synthetic has been marketed under the name of alexandrite "type". The

Continued on page 2

Alexandrite, a Stone for June

(continued)

manufacturer applies this name as they do change colors under different lights.

Synthetic alexandrite has also been produced, but mostly for industrial use. For now it is rarer than the natural stone, and the natural stones are rare enough.

Since I've found more about alexandrite than I have ever known, I know that, alas, I now possess a synthetic purple "alexandrite type" and will never be

able to afford a "real" alexandrite stone. However, that's O.K., for I will treasure it and all the beautiful memories that it brings to mind – isn't that why we keep things anyway?

Credits:

Cipriani, Curzio; Simon and Schuster's Guide to Gems and Precious Stones; 1986, pgs 114-116

Oldershaw, Cally; Firefly Guide to Gems; 2004, pg 59
Shumann, Walter; Gemstones of the World; Pg. 114

Picture

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Texas Turritella Field Trip Report

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



At the last IGEM show, Mr. Billy Proffitt stopped by our booth for a nice chat. Billy was wearing a golden colored turrillite bolo. Billy is with the Cowtown Gem, Mineral, and Glass club (formerly the Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers). He wondered if anyone was coming on the next turrillite hunt – he thought all the clubs had been notified. I contacted the Cowtown club and found that the trip was scheduled for April 30th. A quick email to our club members did not draw any response, but I decided to give it a try. We met at the Coffee Shop Café in McGregor, TX at 10:00. McGregor is a few miles southwest of Waco – I allowed 2 hours for the drive but got there in about 1 hour 40 minutes. There was rain forecast for the early morning hours, but by time I arrive around 9:40 it was overcast but dry. I found a few people in the parking lot who were waiting for the trip. Billy was leading the trip and arrived a little

after 10:00. Around 10:30 everyone started lining up and off we went. About 20 minutes later we arrive at the promised road cut. Shortly after 11:00 the first piece of turrillite had been extracted, and everyone was diggin' in. My first piece came from the side of an existing cut so I only had to dig down about 1 – 2 feet. A lot of digging and the end of a pick got the first piece out. The next piece I tried for was a dud, so I change to a different spot in the same cut, but this time I had to remove about 4 – 5 feet of limestone overburden. I worked around the piece as best I could, but it eventually took a big pry bar (about 5 ft long, 2 inch diameter steel bar) to get the piece removed. By that time everyone (about 12 people) had found turrillite and it was getting time for lunch. Most everyone formed up again for a short trip over to Mother Neff State Park. The access to the desired picnic area was closed due to recent rains and flooding, but we eventually found a table at a play area. After some food and a lot of talking, we finished lunch. Some went over to the Waco G&MS Show, and others, me included, took off for our return trip home. I got two nice pieces (I hope, haven't cut them yet) of turrillite and now know the location for a great field trip. I do not have any pictures from the site, but I can show it to anyone on Google Maps. I can also print out directions to the site, or if anyone is interested I can lead a group there. It was a lot of work, but when you end up with over 50 lbs of rock for a couple of hours work, it can't be all bad.

As I indicated, I have not yet tried to cut into the turrillite. I am told that you should soak the piece in water to help keep the limestone out of your cutting oil, and to cut parallel to the top (bedding plane) of the stone. I will probably have to section the stone into smaller pieces before I try the parallel cuts.

Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Jun 17 – 19, Carlsbad, NM, Carlsbad G&MS, Living Desert Zoo & Gardens State Park, www.carlsbadgms.org

Jul 1 – 3, Farmington, NM, San Juan County G&MS, Civic Center, hthrwoods@gmail.com

Jul 2 – 3, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, <http://www.agemclub.org/>

Jul 23 – 24, Mountain Home, AR, Ozark Earth Science, GM&FC, Baxter Cty Fairgrounds, info@gemfaire.com

Jul 30 – 31, Farmers Branch, Cowtown GMGJA, Brookhaven Geotechnology Inst., steve.l.shearin@lmco.com

Aug 13-14, Gonzales, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, www.brgemandmineral.org

Aug 20-21, Bossier City, LA, Ark-La-Tex G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, www.larockclub.com

Aug 27-28, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, The Events Center, www.pinecountry-gms.org

Ref:

March – April 2016 SCFMS Newsletter

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

Convention Report

Ling and Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The SCFMS Convention was a long drive to and from Lubbock with meetings sandwiched in between. We drove out on Friday and arrived at the KOA Campground around 7:00 in the evening. Saturday morning started with the Breakfast with the Editor and Webmasters. Matt Charsky, President of the AFMS was at the Breakfast (and the convention, Awards Banquet, and Rollin' Rock Club meeting). Pleasant Oaks' Chips and Chatter again won 1st place in the Mini-Bulletin newsletter category. Don placed 6th in the Adult Editor category for his story Amazing Feldspar in the October Chips and Chatter. As Don was running the Web Site contest, it was not appropriate for our web site (www.pogmc.org) to be entered.

Following the Breakfast it was time for the Show. There was a room full of Vendors and two sides of the hall were lined with display cases. There were a lot of very nice display cases, but none of them were entered into the Display Case Judging – a real shame as there were cases that would place high (including some cases which had won at other shows).

After lunch it was off to the Convention. There were quite a few topics for discussion, including a new Constitution and Bylaws change that requires SCFMS Clubs to participate in the SCFMS Insurance Program to be a member in good standing. It turns out that clubs that had previously opted out of the Insurance Program were still covered, so henceforth the insurance will be mandatory. Another hot topic was the status of pay and taxes for the current and past Executive Secretaries. As our constitution and bylaws specifically state that the Executive Secretary is an employee of the Federation, the taxes need (and in the past needed to be withheld and paid to the IRS. We are currently working with a CPA to get our books and procedures in proper order. A final hot topic was the SCFMS Endowment Fund. One of the founders and chair of the fund since its inception was Ed Reis who passed not long Convention. There was a lot of discussion as to the purpose of the Fund and its Interest which is available, but lately not used, for the SCFMS Budget. After many examples of what the Fund has been and may be used for in the future, there was a suggestion that we somehow honor Ed Reis. A motion was made that the Fund be renamed to the Ed Reis Memorial SCFMS Endowment Fund. Ling provided a rather compelling argument against the motion and after further discussion the motion was withdrawn. The SCFMS will look for other means on honoring Ed for his work with the Endowment Fund. Note that the Convention Minutes have been published in the May – June SCFMS Newsletter, http://www.scfms.net/Newsletters/2016_MAY_JUN_SCFMS_NEWSLETTER.pdf

After the meeting is was back to the show for a short while, and then it was time for the Awards Banquet. At the Banquet, Dr. Cal Barnes of Texas Tech presented the two AFMS Scholarship winners in the SCFMS. More details will be in a later Chips and Chatter. The highlight of the Awards Banquet was the awarding of the Gold Spark Plug Award. The Gold Spark Plug award honors individuals each year for their exemplary service to the SCFMS. This year the Golden Spark Plug award was presented to Kimberly Brannon, the SCFMS BEAC and Executive Secretary. It would be hard to point to one thing that stands out in her works – her efforts are tireless and just totally awesome. Congratulations to Kimberly!

AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle

Tickets for the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle can still be purchased. The number of raffle items has grown to 25 (as of the June 2016 AFMS Newsletter. If you want tickets, contact Joyce Speed at 4680 Wysteria St. Dallas TX 75211. Also you can check the SCFMS web site (www.scfms.net) for her email and phone number – use the “Committees” tab.

Chips and Chatter

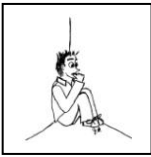
Page 3

June 2016

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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Editor's Corner – A Blast from the Past

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Deconstruction and construction projects have resulted in me moving a lot of boxes and material around in my barn. In the process I have come up with some of the old POGMC newsletters. It seems that some things never change. The May 1967 issue of the Pleasant Oaks Rock and Mineral Club Newsletter (Vol. I, NR. 4) indicates only 15 members were present at the April meeting. Now we just wish we could get 15 members to a meeting. The newsletter relates that the April Presentation was “an excellent Slide program presented by none other than “Jerry Parker” about a vacation to Canada. I wonder if the slide program is still available. The “blast from the past” also presents an interesting idea. It seems the “Recreation Center” asked the club to set up a display in the Rock Case. The club decided to put up a new display each month with different club members responsible for the display on an assigned schedule. I wonder if a display case in the GWAB or the Garland Library would help attract new members.

Speaking of new members and things that never change, in the June and July 1968 issue (Vol. II, NR 6) issue of the Chips ‘N Chatter (note the name change of the newsletter, but the club was still a Rock and Mineral Club), the Membership Committee decided to “sponsor a contest with the aim of increasing our membership total to 35 members”. A member would receive 1 point for getting a visitor to attend a meeting and 3 points for getting someone to join the club. The contest was to run through December and the one with the highest number of points would receive a prize at the Annual Christmas Party. Wouldn't it be nice if we could grow our club's membership.

I am not sure when the name changes occurred, but I do know that by the late 1970's the CHIPS ‘N CHATTER had morphed to the Chips and Chatter and the club's name had morphed from Pleasant Oaks Rock and Mineral Club to Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club. If I can fill in any of the history of the name changes I will certainly let everyone know.

THIS MONTHS MINERAL

Author unknown, from the June and July 1968 issue of the CHIPS ‘N CHATTER

MOLYBENITE (Mo S₂)

Hardness	1 – 1.5
Color	Lead Gray
Luster	Metallic
Streak	Bluish-gray on paper * Greenish-gray on porcelain
Specific Gravity	4.7 – 4.8
<i>Characteristic</i>	Opaque, greasy feel, laminae very flexible, inelastic, sectile

Main sources of Molybdenum. Largest known source of *Molybdenite* is a deposit located at Climax, Colorado

Editor's Note: Original spelling from earlier newsletters retained, even if in error (*see italicized words*)

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 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#), meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,



President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

We all enjoyed the discussions with Larry Akins at our May meeting – thanks go out to Carolyn for her efforts in getting Larry to speak. The weekend after our last meeting, Don and I attended the SCFMS Convention in Lubbock. In addition to the Convention, we participated in the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters, the SCFMS Awards Banquet, and the Rollin' Rock Club. A report of the meeting is on page 3. At our next meeting we will have a “hands-on” project of making a Gem Tree led by me. Also, we need to discuss our July meeting. We traditionally have our July meeting at Spring Creek Barbeque.

Club Officers for 2016

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd 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 May 2016 Meeting

The May 5th 2016 club meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Don.

Sunshine report: Butch is scheduled for surgery on the 25th and 26th for Cancer and Back issues.

Visitors:

Lesla Haggard
Cheryl Ogletree

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

Treasurers' Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurers' report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' report was

Chips and Chatter

Page 5

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

made by Warner. The motion was seconded by Carolyn. The motion passed.

Old Business: IGEM show went well

New Business:

AFMS Endowment Fund tickets can be purchased from Joyce Speed, or Don and Ling will purchase tickets at the Convention. An IGEM committee consisting of Ling, Warner, and Del was formed to review club requirements for booth space at future shows.

After the break we had a round-table question and answer session with Larry Akin of the Prospector Show. Larry related how he got started with the show – back-packing equipment (cameras, supplies, etc.) into remote locations for show productions. Later he was asked to join the show staff. He also discussed some of his other jobs that he has held. Larry also showed many of the quartz specimens that he has collected.

After our presentation we had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

From notes by Don and Ling Shurtz

Meetings

The June 2nd 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. We will have a “hands-on” learning activity of making a Gem Tree.

The July 7th meeting, subject to discussions at the June meeting, may be our annual Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson starting at 7:00 PM (note earlier start time).

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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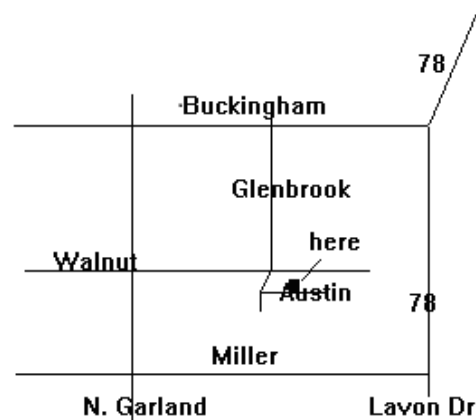
June 2016

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



<p>Meetings First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM Garland Women’s Activities Building 713 Austin St., Garland, TX (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)</p>
<p>Membership Single Adult: \$16.50, Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50 (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>



The June 2nd meeting will be at the Garland Women’s Activities Building. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm. We will be having a “hands-on” session on making Gem Trees led by Ling Shurtz.
 The July 7th meeting, subject to discussions at the June meeting, may be our annual Spring Creek Barbeque in Richardson starting at 7:00 PM (note earlier start time).

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Feature Articles

Alexandrite, a Stone for June 1 - 2
 Texas Turrillia Field Trip Report 2
 This Month’s Mineral..... 4

Monthly Columns

Club information 1, 5
 Minutes 5
 President’s Message 5
 Editor’s Corner – A Blast from the Past..... 4

Chips and Chatter Page 6
 Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Notices

Meeting Info 5, 6
 Show Calendar 3
 Visit an Area Club..... 4

Federation Information

Convention Report 3
 AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle..... 3

June 2016
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