



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2017 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

## Agate

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

As discussed in last month's Chip and Chatter, quartz is the second most common mineral in the Earth's crust. To reach this distinction, one must include all varieties of quartz including the cryptocrystalline members that includes agates and jaspers. The crystal structure of cryptocrystalline rocks and minerals is, by definition, microscopic crystals that are generally only visible in thin sections using a polarized light source.

Although agates and jaspers are composed of the same materials, agates are transparent or translucent while jaspers are opaque. Thus, a rock that is composed of crypto-crystalline quartz but does not let light pass through it would be jasper; if it lets some light pass through, it is classified as an agate.

Most agates are banded and form in nodules. Agates are often formed in volcanic materials such as basalt, rhyolite, and andesite, but can form in sedimentary rocks such as limestone. It is thought that silica-rich gels with other minerals in the mix are deposited layer by layer on the inside of the voids left by gas bubbles in the original volcanic flow. As a layer is deposited, it depletes the concentration of the other minerals so that an area of the band is clear or more translucent than the initially deposited material. The question that is yet to be answered is whether the

bands are deposited slowly over thousands of years or if they are deposited much more rapidly, perhaps in a matter of minutes. This question is one that geologists are trying to solve.

It is interesting to note that quartz macro-crystals varieties (quartz, amethyst, citrine, etc.) can be made in a lab or on a production line, but they have not yet been able to produce a cryptocrystalline quartz such as agate or jasper. At least for now, you can rest assured that your agate formed naturally. However, agate can be dyed. When you see the pink, neon blue, and bright purple agates from Brazil and other locations, they are likely colored by a dye.



Agates can be found in most parts of the world. Many agates from Brazil and Mexico are noted for their brightly colored banding. Agates can form without bands and often have mineral inclusions such as dendrites or moss.

### References:

Geology In, How Do Agates Form, <http://www.geologyin.com/>  
Minerals.net, The Gemstone Agate, <http://www.minerals.net/>  
Wikipedia, Agate, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

Picture by Hannes Grobe, from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>, used under Creative Commons Attribution – Share Alike 2.5 Generic license.

Visit our web site, [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org), to view the Chips and Chatter in color!

## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- Jun 1 - 3, Tulsa, OK, Gem Faire, Inc, Expos Square, <http://www.gemfaire.com>
- Jun 29 - Jul 1, Farmington, NM, San Juan County G&MS, McGee Park, San Juan County Fairgrounds, [torycbonner@gmail.com](mailto:torycbonner@gmail.com)
- **Jun 30 – Jul 1, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, [show@agemclub.org](mailto:show@agemclub.org)**
- Jun 30, - Midlothian, TX, POGMC Field Trip to Martin Marietta cement quarry.
  
- Aug 11 - 12, Gonzales, LA, Baton Rouge G&MC, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, [www.brgemandmineral.org](http://www.brgemandmineral.org)
- Aug 18 - 19, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, [www.larockclub.com](http://www.larockclub.com)
  
- Sep 1 - 3, Silver City, NM, Grant Count Rolling Stones G&MS, Grant County Veterans Memorial Conf. Center, [www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com](http://www.rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com)
  
- Oct 5 - 7, Albuquerque, NM, Jay Penn, NM State Fairgrounds, [www.albfallshow.wix.com/abq-fall-show](http://www.albfallshow.wix.com/abq-fall-show)
- Oct 12 - 13, Mount Ida, AR, Mount Ida Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 31st Annual Amateur World Championship Quartz Digging Contest, [www.mountidachamber.com](http://www.mountidachamber.com)
- Oct 27 – 28, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma City M&GS, Oklahoma State Fair Park, [www.OMGS-minerals.org](http://www.OMGS-minerals.org)
  
- **Nov 17-18, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, [www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org)**

Ref:

- March - April 2018 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

## Editor and Author Contest Results for POGMC

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The results for the 2018 Editor and Author Contest are in. The AFMS results were published in the April-May issue of the AFMS Newsletter, and the SCFMS results were presented at the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters at the SCFMS Convention in Lubbock. I am please to say that, based on our number of entries, we did quite well. Here is a summary of the results for POGMC:

- Mini-Bulletins: First place for the “Chips and Chatter”, Don Shurtz editor, in the SCFMS competition. The Chips and Chatter was not eligible for AFMS Competition as it had won first place the preceding year.
- Adult Articles: First place for “No Fooling, It’s Iron Pyrite” by Cheryl Ogletree. Cheryl’s article place second in the AFMS Competition.
- Adult Articles: Third place for “Rhodochrosite” by Don Shurtz. Don’s article placed fourth in the AFMS competition
- Features: Eighth place for “Editor’s Corner – Be a Volunteer” by Don Shurtz

We only had four items entered in the contest and three of them were awarded plaques. Two of these items were forwarded to the AFMS competition and one of those was awarded a plaque.

Now if the Editor could just figure out how to get more club members to write something for the Chips and Chatter.

### Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm  
[Cowntown 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](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth  
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 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 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

## Convention Report

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

Another South Central Federation of Mineral Societies annual convention has come and gone. This year's convention was in Lubbock, TX hosted by the Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society. The Lubbock G&MS was celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Our convention experience started on May 4 with the long drive to Lubbock. We arrived at the Lubbock Memorial Convention center around 3:30 PM, early enough to check in and pay for parking of our RV. Construction workers had all the RV spots tied up for personal parking, but by 5:30, they were gone and we had our spot.

Saturday morning was the Breakfast with the Editor and Webmasters starting at 8:00, see the article on page 2 for our results. The highlight of the Breakfast was the Keynote speaker, Lori Coleman. Lori is the owner of Spanish Stirrup Rock Shop and a Thunderegg fanatic. Finding Thundereggs started as a hobby, but Lori is now an active Thunderegg miner owning several claims and active mines. She was featured in the April 2016 Rocks and Gem magazine and has twice been a speaker at the Denver Show. Her talk about how she got started, some of the legal requirements, and the operations of her claims and mines was fascinating.

The SCFMS General Meeting started at 1:00 PM; our delegate was Ling; Don is the SCFMS Treasurer. About the best thing we can say about this meeting is that it was shorter than last year's meeting in Clear Lake. It generally consisted of calling for reports, statements that the reports were in the packets, and a voice vote to accept each report. Some reports were given verbally. The budget for 2019 was passed (important for the Treasurer), and all the existing officers were voted in for another year. The next convention will be in January 2019 – very early in the year. Federation officers for 2020 will be voted in at that meeting, but will not take their offices until January 1 of 2020 – a twelve-month waiting period.

Next on the agenda was the Award's Banquet starting at 7:00 PM. As with the Breakfast, the highlight was the Keynote speaker. The Keynote Speaker was Helen Serras-Herman, an acclaimed gem sculptor for 35 years. Her passion is working with opals. Helen talked about the different types of opals throughout the world. She talked in depth about opals found in the United States and detailed which opals were stable enough for carving and lapidary work. She also talked about some myths associated with opals, particularly the myth that opals are bad luck and that opals are too fragile to work. There were actually very few awards at the meeting. The Scholarship Honoree, Dr. Darrell J. Henry of Louisiana State University, was introduced but was not at the banquet. Similarly, the scholarship winners, Larry Tuttle and Kyle Tollefson, graduate students at Louisiana State, were introduced but both were out working in the field. There were no past officer awards, no Cheesecake award, and no Gold Spark Plug award. Still, the dinner was good and the keynote speaker made it a worthwhile experience.

Sunday morning started with annual Rollin' Rock Club meeting. The only "official" Rollin' Rock Club meeting each year is held at the SCFMS Convention Show – all other club meetings are unofficial. The existing officers were railroaded in for another term. After the meeting, it was another long drive from Lubbock back to home.

The Lubbock Gem and Mineral Society did have a good show. There were about 20 vendors at the show; they all seemed to be having good sales. The club had a silent auction table, a demonstration table, and a table for club sales (T-shirts, hats, grand prize tickets, etc.). The silent auction was quite popular with sales closing every 30 minutes. Demonstrations included cabbing, faceting, and sphere making. There was also an area for flint knapping, and even though I did not see any knapping demonstrations, but there were knapped items for sale. Finally, the club had about 30 display cases and a fluorescent mineral display tent. The fluorescent minerals were very nice. Many of the display cases seemed competition ready, but none were entered into competition.

### Field Trip Notice

David Dobson has arranged a **Martin Marietta Midlothian Field Trip to hunt Fossils and Pyrites for June 30, 2018**. If interested, contact David at [rocktrading@aol.com](mailto:rocktrading@aol.com). If you do not have email, contact me at 469-688-2821 and I will relay the info to David

## President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The Annual SCFMS Convention is over; please see the Convention Report on page 3. At our June meeting, former POGMC member Dr. Mark Carter will give a presentation about Agates. Finally, we will discuss our July meeting – our traditional BBQ dinner either at the July meeting location (potluck) or at Spring Creek BBQ.

## Club Officers for 2018

President: Ling Shurtz  
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
2nd VP, Field Trips: David Dobson  
Secretary: Lee Elms  
Treasurer: Del Grady  
Editor: Don Shurtz  
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,  
[L.SHURTZ@gmail.com](mailto:L.SHURTZ@gmail.com)

## Meeting Minutes

### March 2018

The March 1, 2018 club meeting was called to order at 7:25pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Ling.

Quorum: We have a quorum. The Club's Constitution and By-Laws defines a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting to be those in attendance at the meeting.

Sunshine Report: Warner is feeling better health wise. Butch and Patti were able to make the meeting tonight.

Visitors: There were not any visitors this evening.

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were published in the March Chips and Chatter. A motion was made by Don to accept the minutes as printed in the Chips and Chatter and it was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Cheryl. The motion was seconded by Don. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- IGEM- set-up I on Wednesday, April 18. The show is April 20-22.
- STEM Fair in Coppell April 27.

New Business:

- Presentation-The April presentation will be about Wonderful Gem Opal by Donnette Wagner. She will have many samples to show us.

- The May presentation will be about Quartz Crystals by Warner. He always has many samples to show us.
- Break: We had a wonderful chili dinner thanks to Ling and Cheryl and Carol.

The presentation was a continuation of the DVD we have been watching about rocks and minerals. This chapter covered the igneous rock.

After the DVD, we had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

### April 2018

The April 5, 2018 club meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Donnett Wagner.

Quorum: We have a quorum. The Club's Constitution and By-Laws defines a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting to be those in attendance at the meeting.

Sunshine Report: Butch and Patti wanted to be at tonight's meeting but just couldn't make it.

Visitors: Donnette and Scott Wagner, former POGMC members.

Minutes: The minutes of the March meeting were not available to be published in the Chips and Chatter. They will appear in a later Chips and Chatter issue.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Carol. The motion was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- GEM will be April 20-22nd with the set-up on Wednesday, April 18.
- Tickets from the January show are good for the April show, and we have received additional tickets.
- We need maximum attendance, even if it is just to operate the booth and talk about the club.

Old Business from the floor: There was none.

New Business:

- The May meeting will start at 7:00pm and we will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo with a Taco Bar.
- The SCFMS Convention is May 5, 2018 in Lubbock, TX. Our delegate will be Ling Shurtz.
- Shows:
  - Apr 4-8, Raleigh, NC, AFMS Convention
  - Apr 7-9, Siloam AR, Northwest AR G&MS,

- Apr 14-15, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center
- Apr 13-15, Colorado Show
- Apr 18, IGEM set-up at Market Hall, Dallas, TX.
- Apr 20-22, Dallas, TX, International Gem & Mineral and Jewelry Show Inc, Market Hall
- Apr 28-29, Waco, TX G&MC, Extraco Event Center

New Business from the floor: No new business.

Break: We had chocolate chip muffins, popcorn and chips to munch.

Presentation; Donnette Wagner discussed the difference between precious opal, the ones with "fire" and the common opal that does not have any fire. She brought jars and boxes of samples of specimens we could pass around and inspect to see the differences. The different colors of fire in the precious opal range from sunset reds to shocking brilliant greens and then many colors in between. I thought the common opal was very pretty too as you find a lot of it in the fossilized wood and some ammonites. Donnette and her husband took a 5-day class in North Carolina. She said it was a very fun class and you learn a lot. The teacher was Sarah Lee Boyce and it is the William Holland Lapidary School of Arts. The classes are held from April thru October. The e-mail address is [www.lapidaryschool.org](http://www.lapidaryschool.org). Phone: 706-379-2126. Donnette said that a very important book to have is Paul Downing Identification and Value.

After the presentation we had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

## May 2018

The May 3, 2018 club meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by all of us.

Quorum: We have a quorum. The Club's Constitution and By-laws defines a quorum at a regularly scheduled meeting to be those in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting to be those in attendance at the meeting.

Visitors: Mark Carter and Rosella Dobson with her two daughters.

Minutes: We made a motion to defer the minutes until next month, and it was seconded by Carolyn.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's Report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Don. The motion was seconded by Butch. The motion passed.

*Chips and Chatter*

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Old Business:

- The SCFMS Convention will be in Lubbock, TX on May 5, 2018. Our delegate will be Ling. A convention report will be in the June Chips and Chatter.

New Business:

The June meeting will start at 7:30pm. Mark Carter will give a presentation about Agates.

• Shows:

- May 5-6, Lubbock, TX, SCFMS Convention at the Lubbock G&MC Show,
- May 24-26, David Dobson, Amethyst, Rock, and Fossil sale, 1409 Oak Hill Lane, Murphy, TX.
- May 26-27, Fort Worth, TX G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Center
- June 1-3, Tulsa, OK, Gem Faire, Inc.
- June 29-July1, Farmington, NM
- June 30-Jul 1, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center

- The Executive Board approved the purchase of 2 toner cartridges and 5 reams of printer paper

We had our Break: Tacos with all the fixings. Thanks to Carolyn for cooking up 8 lbs, of delicious taco meat.

Our presentation for the evening was Warner Reagan and his beautiful specimens of quartz from places around the world, He explained to us how quartz is formed, and how the colors and clarity come about in the specimens. He had beautiful Celestial Quartz and some of them were a smoky color or as clear as water. Some of the specimens had sand or clay in them. Many of the variations came about on how fast the quartz cooled or how slow it cooled while it was forming. Mark Carter brought a lab-enhanced green quartz crystal for us to look at.

After the presentation we had the raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

## MEETING

Our June 7, 2018 meeting will start at 7:30. Dr. Mark Carter will talk about Agates.

## VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

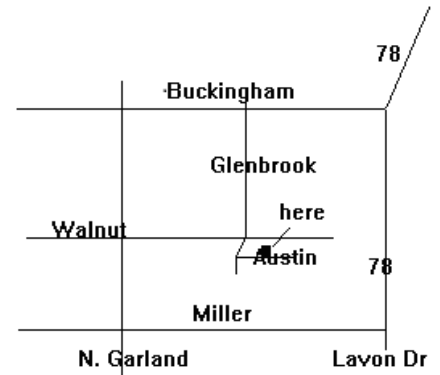
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**PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas**



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

Memberships  
 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 Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

**CHIPS AND CHATTER**

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

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

**Next Meeting: June 7, 2018 starting at 7:30 PM - Mark Carter will talk about Agates  
 Martin Marietta (Midlothian) Field Trip on June 30**

**Features**

Agate..... 1

**Notices**

Meeting Info ..... 4, 5, 6  
 Shows and Activities ..... 2  
 Visit an Area Club ..... 3  
 Field Trip Notice ..... 3

*Chips and Chatter*

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

**Monthly Columns**

Club Information ..... 1, 5, 6  
 President's Message ..... 4

**Federation Information**

POGMC Editor and Author Contest Results..... 2  
 Convention Report..... 3