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A Rock or Mineral for Spring

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Spring is the time of year when the earth revives itself from the cold winter. To me, the most prominent change is all the plants start to grow and turn green. The flowers start to bloom with a rainbow of colors. Still, it is the green leaves and grasses that catch my attention. We should, therefore, have a green rock or mineral to signify spring. The problem is, which green rock or mineral? Green rocks and minerals include Emerald, Serpentine, Chrysocolla, Jade, Prasiolite, Apatite, Aventurine, Chrysoprase, Chlorite, Green Agate, Malachite, Epidote, Olivine, Diopside, Fuchsite, Uvarovite, Variscite, Apophyllite, Kornerupine, Tourmaline, and a host of other rocks and minerals. Emerald's name also is the name for a particular shade of green – should that be the rock of spring? Chrysocolla was probably the first mineral that people learned that you could heat to a high temperature and extract a metal from (copper) – should that be the mineral of spring? The bottom line is that any or all of these could be the stone or mineral of spring. My choice would be Jade. It comes in many colors, but green is probably the color it is most often associated with.

Jade is actually two different types of rock, Jadeite and Nephrite. Nephrite is a calcium-magnesium-iron silicate of the amphibole family of minerals while Jadeite is a sodium-aluminum silicate of the pyroxene family. The easiest way to identify if a rock is nephrite or jadeite is to do a streak test. A clear streak indicates Jadeite while a white streak test result indicates Nephrite. Both Jadeite and Nephrite are often associated with oriental carvings. Nephrite was the most common stone used before 1870, while Jadeite was more popular after 1870. Both types of Jade were recognized by the artists and Jadeite was preferred but was not commonly available before 1870.

Nephrite is the more common variety of Jade and is found in many places in the world. Most Chinese Nephrite was found in northern China. It was also imported from the west coast of North America and Australia. Today the most prolific source of Nephrite is the West Coast of Canada. Jadeite is rarer than Nephrite. Jadeite became the choice of Chinese artists after 1870 when massive quantities of Jadeite were found in Myanmar (then known as Burma). Other locations for Jadeite include the Alps, Russia, and the West Coast of the US and Canada. Guatemala is known for its lavender shade of Jadeite. Today, Myanmar remains the most prolific source of Jadeite.

References:

- Wikipedia, several articles, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- Mindat.org, <https://www.mindat.org/>

Picture: Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Qing_Jade_Ding_02.jpg, public domain



FEDERATION PAGE

From the Desk of the AFMS President-Elect
JC Moore, AFMS President-Elect, from the May
2024 AFMS Newsletter

Due to Liz Burford's recent diagnosis of cancer, Roger is unavailable to do this month's President's message. We all wish Liz and Roger that treatment will be successful and will continue to hold them in our prayers during this time.

By the time you receive this message, our Convention will have been completed and everyone who attended will have had a wonderful time. Seven years have passed since I attended the Ventura site for a convention and a lot has changed in that time. Due to COVID-19, two years of our lives were totally disrupted. Meetings were zoomed and contact with friends was limited. Many clubs are still trying to recover, and some have dissolved. Since being involved with the AFMS and the MWF, I have looked forward to our annual conventions each year. It is like a big family reunion, reliving experiences with people we have not seen in a while, learning what other clubs do at their shows, and sadly remembering those who have passed away. Zoom has allowed us to participate without having to travel, but it only allows us to communicate for the time frame of the meeting instead of having the fellowship during the entire convention. I would like to encourage everyone to try to attend the regional conventions to interact with us "Old Timers" and see if there might be some knowledge we might be able to pass on to the next generation of Rockhounds as well as our learning

Keeping Kids Connected to Safety

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair, from the May
2024 AFMS Newsletter

Kids are different from adults. To young kids everything is new, exciting, curious, to be explored, tasted, touched, and tried. With luck, they will keep those traits and be well served by them as they mature. One of the things kids do not have in abundance is patience. How might a kid wait around while there is a huge world out there to explore to a long boring safety lecture either at a club meeting or at a mine or quarry collecting site. So, how are kids to be safe if the safety lectures are not reaching them? Parents do their very best to keep their kids safe, but

it is difficult to watch them every second of every hour.

One of the ways kids learn on their headlong race to adulthood is to watch the world around them. They watch other kids, they watch strangers, they watch their parents, they watch everything, everyone, all the time. Now, if what kids see are other kids, strangers, their parents, and everyone wearing their safety goggles, wearing safety gloves, not tossing rocks downhill toward other collectors, and in general being safe and respectful, kids will take note of this. Kids need to learn, want to learn, struggle, and strive to learn to be the adults they are destined to become. To help them toward their goal, we all need to set examples of how to be safe.

Here is an example to which many can relate – before taking off, the airline cabin crew gives a brief safety lecture. In the lecture, mention is made that, in case of loss of cabin pressure passengers are to put the oxygen masks on themselves first, before putting the masks on their kids. To protect our kids why aren't we told to put the masks on the kids first? One answer is, that if kids see their parents putting their masks first, then kids will know it is safe and necessary for them as well to put on a mask. Kids learn from the real-world examples displayed by all the adults around them

Don't have kids of your own, or are your kids all grown up and moved away? Kids will still look at you as an adult and a role model of what to do to be an adult. As adults, aware of this or not, kids are watching everything we do. We need to be setting the best examples of what it means to be an adult. And, one of the examples we need to be setting is with the need to be safe. If we keep ourselves safe, kids will see this and respond by modeling their behavior, it is what they do.

All that said, kids travel their own path to adulthood. They sometimes need to break things to see what happens. They need to test limits. They need to be curious. They need to make mistakes to learn. So, parents still need to maintain vigilance while keeping everyone safe. We all need to be watchful and help kids learn the correct ways to be safe. We can do this. After all, everyone's, that's kids and adults alike, safety matters.

POGMC Rock, Mineral, and Miscellaneous Collections

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

I am sure you know how it goes (or maybe grows would be a better choice of words). If you live in one place, things tend to accumulate. Many years ago, Pleasant Oaks G&MC dropped out of the Joint Shop with Dallas G&MS. In the process, we lost our storage space in the attic of the Joint Shop. Ling and I had just completed the construction of a 3-bay outbuilding (call it a barn or an outbuilding for the city code, but the primary intention was to build a covered space for our motorhome. The center bay became the motorhome's parking place. The back portion of the left bay evolved into a rock shop while the front portion became a place to park a car. The right bay became storage. At the time, there was plenty of storage space. The club had a couple of display cases that needed to be relocated. The POGMC President asked if we could store them, and while we were at it, could we also store the club's Christmas supplies from the attic of the Joint Shop. Space was found. The next addition was a large television, video recorder, and a large roll-around metal cart to hold the recorder and TV used for club presentations. Then we began receiving donations of rocks from past club members. Six buckets of obsidian were first; they fit nicely on the bottom two shelves of the roll-around metal cart. Then we received 25 – 30 flats of minerals and lapidary items; they went on the top shelf of the cart. Two years ago, we received a donation of several amethyst flats, boxes of tumbled rocks, a 35-gallon metal barrel filled with geodes, and some used lapidary equipment. They would not fit on the cart, but I found shelf space for them. Recently, some concern was raised about what would happen to the collection if Ling and I should experience health issues. Joe and I talked about a commercial storage container (\$\$\$) or storing the items at the Knights of Columbus building. These were really not feasible, but I thought I could store all the items in one space and place a big sign on them indicating they were the property of POGMC and contact information. About this time, we got a call about another donation of some rocks and equipment. I thought if I could put the flats on a shelf that was over the top of the cart, we could store the rest on the cart. The shelf was there so I got out a ladder and started putting the flats on the shelf, centering the weight over the shelf supports. I was just about finished when the shelf made a weird sound and all the flats slid to the floor. My first thought was it was a total disaster, but it turned out to be a slipping fall rather than a crashing fall. Several of the flats remained closed, and most of those that did open up dumped their contents on the ground between the adjacent flats. It took a while to return the contents to their flat, and there was no guarantee that the minerals did not get mixed up and ended in the wrong flat. One thing that may help is putting the material into new flats – the others are falling apart.



The Crash

Continued on the next page

Then the next donation of rocks and minerals was received, and it became very clear that all would not fit on the single metal cart. After consultation with Joe, it was decided to buy an additional shelf set for the new and old collections. Here are some pictures of the final results.



Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

June 2024

- June 15-16, Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine, TX, www.agmc57.com

July 2024

- July 13-15, Tulsa, OK, Tulsa R&MS, Exchange Center at Expo Square, www.tulsarockandmineralsociety.org

August 2024

- August 10-11, Baton Rouge G&MS, Lamar Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, LA, brgem.min.input@gmail.com
- August 17-18, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Center, Bossier City, LA, larockclub@gmail.com

- Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>
- Ref: SCFMS Website, Local Shows, www.scfms.net/local_shows.htm

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#): 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
[Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#): 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#): 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#): 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 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane,
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#): 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Society](#): 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#): 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, Knights of Columbus Council 6402 Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland,
[Wild West Bead Society](#): 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

OFFICERS FOR 2023 – 2024

President: Joe Vulk
 1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
 2nd VP, Field Trips: Julie Wilson
 Secretary: Amy Vulk
 Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
 Editor: Don Shurtz
 Contact us by e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com or L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

MINUTES of the May 6 Meeting

Our May meeting was our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration with a Taco potluck dinner. No business was transacted – no minutes were required.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Thanks to our Editor, Don, for another exemplary newsletter, the May Chips and Chatter, sent out in late April. It featured a timely article on petrified wood. If you haven’t read it yet, take the time to do so - it is interesting.

We really enjoyed the Cinco de Mayo get-together in May. There was no club business. The dips, tacos, and desserts were outstanding and so delicious. Thanks to everyone for making it a great success. Thanks to Warner for sharing some of his mineral

collection. It was good to have Johnny’s mother visiting.

Our June meeting should be interesting. We no doubt will have another good program provided by VP-Programs, Carolyn. Hopefully, Don can give us a report on the American Federation of Mineral Societies convention which he attended recently in Ventura California. If time permits, we will discuss some old business regarding our club’s mineral collection. I believe Don will have some interesting input on this as well.

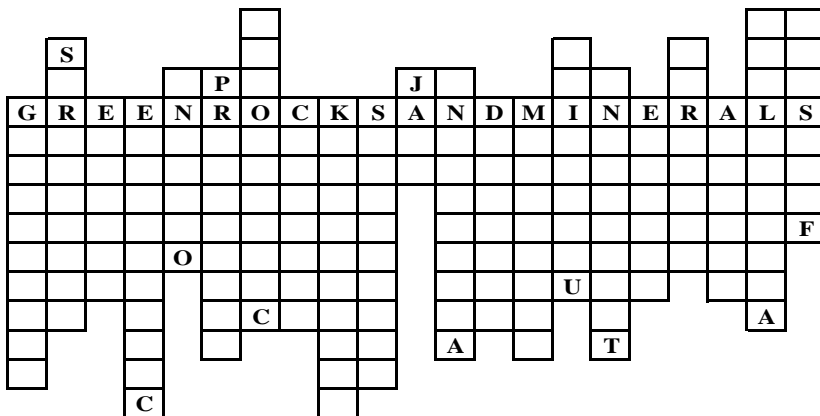
Joe Vulk NEXT MEETING

Our June meeting will be on June 3 starting at 7:00 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland. Our presentation will be a video from the Planet Earth series titled “From Pole to Pole.”

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Wordfall Puzzle – Green Rocks and Minerals

This month’s feature article was about Green Rocks and Minerals. The following is a wordfall puzzle. From the list of green rocks and minerals on page 1, which will be repeated below, you need to fill in the Rock or Mineral Name. You will find that the line titled Green Rocks and Minerals is filled in. Also, to make it easier, the first letter of each word is filled in. Often the first letter of a word is embedded in the Green Rocks and Minerals line. Enjoy!



- Rock/Mineral Names**
- Emerald, Serpentine, Chrysocolla, Jade, Prasiolite, Apatite, Aventurine, Chrysoprase, Chlorite, Green Agate, Malachite, Epidote, Olivine, Diopside, Fuchsite, Uvarovite, Variscite, Apophyllite, Kornerupine, Tourmaline,

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Monday of each month, KofC Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, TX. Please check website, www.pogmc.org, for updates.

Membership

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 not-for-profit organization

CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be on Monday, June 3, 2024, starting at 7:00. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Council 6402 Hall located at 3722 Cavalier Drive in Garland.

The presentation will be a video from the Planet Earth Series – “Pole to Pole”

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Chips and Chatter

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

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