

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

March 2008
Vol. 42 Issue 3

Features

Feature Article5&6

Monthly Columns

Minutes	2
Refreshments.....	2
POGM Show Report.....	2
Editor's Corner.....	3
Special Message.....	3
1 st VP Report.....	4
Class Schedule Report	4
Field Trip	4
Sunshine Update	6
Question of the Month	7
Shop Calendar	8
Metroplex Clubs.....	8

Workshop, Meeting, etc.

- Check out our website for a color version of the Chips and Chatter
- Open Shop: Each Monday - 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm, and each Saturday - 9:00 am – Noon
- Check the calendar for class schedule.

March issue 2008 by Anita Dresner. Unless otherwise noted, permission granted for non-commercial reproduction of articles provided they remain essentially intact and credit is given to the author and original source. Where noted, the author retains the copyright and must be contacted for permission to reproduce the article. All articles may also be used as reference provided citation is given.

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

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 6 at 7:30 pm
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin, Garland, TX

Presentation

Making a Gem tree. Material needed: 24 gauge gold wire (Hobby Lobby or Michael \$3.00 or less), E6000 clear glue, favor rock (pretty), wire cutters, round nose pliers, toothpicks, small polish gem stone or pebbles, enough to make a Gem tree (I have supply on hand, cost is \$2.00 dollar).

Club Officers for 2007

President:	Donnette Wagner
1st VP:	Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
2nd VP:	Donna Mallory
Treasurer	Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
Secretary:	Nell Black
Editor:	Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828
	E-mail: andresner@verizon.net

Minutes – February, 2008 General Meeting

Minutes as compiled by Secretary, Nell Black, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charles Black.

Minutes of the January meeting were printed in the February 2008 Chips and Chatter. At the end of the meeting, it was announced that the POGMC Executive Board had appointed Jessie Davis to fill the vacant Treasurer position and appointed Donnette Wagner to fill the vacant Executive Board Member at Large position. Motion to accept given by Donna Mallory and Donnette Wagner made second to the motion. Motion passed.

Treasure's Report – Don Shurtz

Motion to accept both Jan. reports. Moved by Mark Carter and seconded by Wand Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

Sunshine Report

Anita Dresner, the editor for the Pleasant Oaks club, husband died on 2/08/08. If you would like to send her a card, her address is as follows: 3809 Skyline Dr., Rowlett, TX 75088.

Roland Hall, one of the original members of the Pleasant Oaks club, announced that he is moving and needs to clear out a large pile of rocks from his house in Mesquite. Fee is as desired. Contact Roland Hall at 214-695-4511 or rosahalle@swbell.net.

President's Report – Don Shurtz

Highlights of executive meeting:

- Accepted the resignation of Jessie Davis as Treasurer due to health concerns.
- Appointed Donnette Wagner as President and resignation as Executive Board Member at large, appointed Don Shurtz as the Treasure and resignation as President and appointed Scott Wagner as Executive Board Member at Large. All changes to be effective following the February meeting.
- Voted to add Ling Shurtz, Donna Mallory and Mark Carter as signatures on the Pleasant Oaks checking account, and approved ordering of new checks that would require two signatures on all checks.
- Voted to obtain a second key for the P.O. Box, Donna Mallory to hold the second key.

Meeting adjourned.

Refreshment Duties

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

<u><i>Month</i></u>	<u><i>Ice & Drinks</i></u>	<u><i>Snacks</i></u>
<i>March</i>	<i>Anita Dresner</i>	<i>Anita Dresner</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	<i>Need Volunteer</i>

POGM Show Report

Ling Shurtz, Chairwoman, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

The confirmed show dates for 2008 is September 19, 20, 21 at the EMGI on the Brookhaven Campus.

Editor's Corner

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Hello Club,

When I wrote last month's EC, little did I know what I was talking about "... when you stop trying so hard God just opens your pea brain up and you jump up and say, "what were you thinking so hard for,....." and this comes back to haunt me now. Not in a bad sense, but in a great sense. I reiterate this statement from last month "There are so many members we have not seen for such a long time. Each one brings something special to the club and yet we have not reached out to them for a "hug or smile" or to say we miss you. Why not come to the meeting and ask for a couple of phone numbers or addresses and contact a member. Let them know they are valuable not just to the club but to you for the knowledge they carry and can share. Run to the window, run to get and give those hugs and smiles before we lose them to destiny, before we lose our club."

Just as in our home and family, you do not know what you have that means so much until it slips away. Life is for the living and we need to support each other with laughter, sharing, knowledge and acknowledge that is the path our club should want to direct it's self. Enriching each other with what God has given us to share. Not only the rocks, gems and minerals; but, the selfless acts of sharing knowledge and experiences with each other. Enjoyment and sharing of life and acquaintances' is the key, for anything less is a waste.

Anita Dresner

Special Message

Don Shurtz, Outgoing President's Message

Greeting from the land of hula dancers, endless surf, and sunsets and sunrises that are beautiful. As I write, I am in the middle of a two week business trip to Hawaii. About the sunrises and sunsets, I get to see them both every day on my way to work - and I do mean every day! But still, this is Hawaii. I generally have the early afternoon hours free, and I am using them to hike some of the trails. I keep my eyes open for any unusual rocks, but it is pretty much lava or broken up coral. Some of the lava is unusual, but I am not sure if I would want to suffer the wrath of the Volcano Gods by removing any of the lava from its natural environment!

If you missed the last meeting, you missed some significant changes in the club organization. The executive committee accepted my resignation as President, Donnette Wagner's resignation as Executive Board Member at Large and Jessie Davis's resignation as Treasure. The board then appointed Donnette as the President, Scott Wagner as the Board Member at Large, and appointed me, Don Shurtz, as Treasurer. I think, we finally have reached a point where we can have some stability in the officers of the club. I would like to thank everyone in the club for their support during my term and a half as President. I would ask that everyone contribute their support to Donnette.

We still have a lot of unfinished business that needs to be taken care of. With termination of the Open Shop agreement with the Dallas G&MS, we still have to pick the direction for our club. Are we going to be a jewelry crafting club, a mineral club, a rock club, or what? We all have a chance to contribute to where we would like the club to go. Also, we are starting our plans for the show in September. It would sure be nice if every member of the club could contribute time and effort to make this show work. Right now, we need to get more attendance at the show. Last year, we just barley broke into the positive side of the accounting ledger. If our attendance does not improve, we are going to need to consider whether a show is needed, or if we need to re-think our show format. It is just one of the many things hanging out there - we as a club need to decide where we want to go, and then go there. Hope to see you at the next meeting, and again, thanks for you support.

Don

1st Vice President Message

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Missed Opportunities

We all look back at times when we've missed out on an area that once was a prolific collecting site and later, either years or months pass and the site is no longer available. I reflect on several episodes recently over the past where sites are gone.

When I was a youngster, I collected many crinoids and other fossils at site only three miles from my childhood home, the ranch where the outcrop occurs has been bought by a large cooperation which no longer allows collecting.

During my college years one of my internships was in Pine Bluff, Arkansas which is only a short distance from Magnet Cove at a time when many great specimens were being collected. Now that site is virtually closed to all collectors.

I spent 7 years in Stillwater, Oklahoma and never once did I venture to the Salt Plains to collect Selenite, twenty some years later I made my first trip with my son and we had a great day in 2006. In early 2007 some vials of WWII chemicals were discovered in the digging site and the area was promptly closed and will remain that way until at least 2009.

My mining partners unfortunately missed in guessing what the public would bid for a property in Utah and our claim was swept up by savvy speculators. That was really unfortunate.

Once productive agate fields are totally collected, quarries are filled in, housing developments cover other areas, properties are acquired by liability conscious entities, guides grow old and are lost, and we move to new areas. We speed down highways passing areas known to be good site saying, "We'll stop here next time". To top that off ,the worst part is we often can no longer walk, climb, hike, hammer, and carry like before.

This all being said is meant to inspire us to take advantage of even the simple trips and sites. Being a significant distance from any collecting areas we must plan our trips and research in order to gain the most from our outing. Share trips with young collectors, it s through young members we grow our hobby and spread our passion. Document your trips and share those memories at socials and bring you memories to life for other rockhound friends. At every site you visit, enjoy it, savor the moment, and be a responsible collector. Don t let collecting sites go by unnoticed. Don't miss those opportunities.

Mark Carter
1st Vice President

Class Schedules

Brenda Dowell, DGMS 2nd VP

Anyone interested in any class needs to contact Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM or her home number (972) 771-9502. If you are interested in teaching a class, you can reach Brenda at the same contacts as above.

Field Trip

Donna Mallory, 2nd VP

TXI Field Trip, Midelothian, TX, Saturday May 24th. Contact David Dobson or Brenda Dowell for sign up and more information. This is a 1st come list. If you have to bow out please inform David or Brenda so they may contact the next person on the list. Brenda at: SMILEYJEEP@AOL.COM or 972-771-9502; David at: DDobson268@aol.com.

Feature Article

By David Dobson

Quartzsite and Tucson, AZ Rock Shows or bust (2008 Journal)

Well, we made it back from our rock journey almost unscathed.

Quartzsite is a small town in Arizona and a great place to find rough rock and a little bit of everything in between. This year the Pow Wow was held Jan 23rd to 27th. They have over 500 rock vendors selling everything from rough rock to diamond rings. The Desert Gardens Rock Show is another good show to visit. It runs from Jan to May. People just park their tent, van, or RV next to their displayed minerals for everyone to see and buy.

The Tucson, AZ rock show is a conglomerate of rock shows and is the rock show of all rock shows. It started a couple of days later this year than last. It went from Feb 1st to mid Feb., but some shows go for the whole month.

Here is a daily journal of our trip:

Jan 23 – Day one dropped 30 lb piece of petrified wood on foot. Decided to change into steel toe shoes that were less than 10 feet away. Loaded truck with rhyolite, obsidian, and other minerals for bartering in Quartzsite. Limped around until truck was loaded.

Jan 24 – Can walk on foot without limping. Close call. Big toe bruised with several blood blisters under nail. Another mental note to get smarter. Left for Quartzsite at 3:25pm. Encountered sleet and snow. Spent the night in Odessa, TX. Visited Core Craft Rock Shop in Midland, TX (1112 North Big Spring St). Larry the owner makes lamps from four inch cores drillings. The cores are from oil well exploration drillings between 1,500 and 14,000 feet below the Earth's surface. www.Corecraft.net

Jan 25 – Drove to Phoenix to spend the night. On the way there saw signs for fireworks year round. I wanted to show my 4yr old son what firecrackers were. Stopped in and bought 87 cents worth of firecrackers and proceeded to the parking lot to set them off with permission. Returned to the store to buy a \$1.05 lighter when discovering that cigarette lighter in truck didn't work. Drove five more miles stopped again and bought \$10 worth of firecrackers. Went to the parking lot with permission to set off with new lighter. I was able to get my firecracker fix and proceeded to Phoenix.

Jan 26 – Woke up with butterflies in stomach will be in Quartzsite in 2 ½ hours. Arrived in Quartzsite about 10:30. Visited with old friends and made some new acquaintances. Unloaded all the rocks brought for Quartzsite by 3:00pm and was able to do some rock shopping. I got a nice piece of rainbow fluorite from Argentina. We spent the night in Blythe, CA and went swimming in hotel pool. Blythe is the closest city to Quartzsite with a good variety of hotels. Drive distance is about 25 miles.

Jan 27 – Woke to light drizzle. By the time we arrived in Quartzsite we had a good rain coming down. I would guess about one inch an hour. Today is the last day for the Pow Wow rock show. Because of the rain, only about 20 of the 500 vendors were open and many had decided to leave early. Of the vendors that were open many were offering last day rain out specials. One vendor was offering some Variscite from Utah at half price so I bought two pieces. Also got some nice pieces of watermelon, black, and green tourmaline. By 2:00pm all of our Quartzsite money was gone and we were all wet. Even the 24 lb baby was now 30 lbs. We changed a diaper and were back on our way for our last deal of the day. The remaining rocks were being negotiated for Lepidolite.

Jan 28 - Went rock collecting for Blue Calcite. Collected about 1000lbs. Last year collected about 2500lbs, but that was without the heavy rains that California is getting. Changed into some clean clothes and did the LA tourist thing. Toured the La Brea Tar Pits Museum. Then walked stars on Hollywood Boulevard starting at Man Chinese Theater. Had the kid's pictures taken at Steven Spielberg's and Britney Spears's star. Not proud of the later, but it is a conversation starter.

Jan 29 – Returned to Quartzsite and did some more shopping. Drove to Tucson for the big one.



Jan 30 - Last year when we made this trip it was timed perfectly. Did Quartzsite, went to LA, Drove to Tucson for the show. Well this year the Tucson show started several days later. So when we arrived practically no vendors were open. Watched vendors set up and took a long lunch.

Jan 31 – Vendors still setting up, but was able to find some good deals. April was on the look out for some rough Rutilated quartz and amethyst for me to make her a sphere. Rutilated quartz is now unbelievable in price so bought her a sphere already made.

Rutilated quartz sphere



Gryposaurus duckbilled dinosaur vertebra



Feb 1 – Show is now open. Shopped until all the Tucson money was gone. The deal of the show for me was a Gryposaurus duckbilled dinosaur vertebra. It was on a mix and match table for \$10. The vendor was in the business of selling fish fossils and just had that laying around. I snatched it up like a Chinese guy catching flies with chop sticks. Left the last show for home at 5:00. Stopped at one more show, now spent money that we didn't have, but got some good deals.

Feb 2 – Arrived home in one piece.

Two and half weeks later the truck is still only half unloaded.

The trip to Tucson, AZ is only 15 hours and Quartzsite is only an additional four hours. If you can make the trip, I highly recommend it. Hope to see you there next year. I will have some Tucson Rock Show magazines at the next meeting.

Sunshine Update

Anita Dresner, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Anita Dresner and Family

Thank you one and all for the support, Emails, cards and phone calls in behalf of my Allan passing. Your personal attention to me and my family in the last few weeks has been of great value. It means so much to call you friend. With out the support of friends, organizations, clubs, families, and church families, I really can not imagine how one goes through trying times such as we have experienced. I do know with the help of my God and Father Jesus Christ and all the wonderful families of friends and relatives He has given me over the years, my family and I will triumph. Thank you for being amongst these families of mine. Anita Dresner

President's Message

Donnette Wagner, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

2nd Vice President Message

Donna Mallory, Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

Question of the Month - What is Lava ???

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks G&MC

When I think of lava, I think of the Hawaiian Islands since they were formed by the lava erupting from their volcanoes. Since I am in Hawaii for work as I write this, what would be a more natural topic than lava? Lava is molten rock flowing from an erupting volcano. To be lava, it must be on the surface and molten. Molten rock that has not reached the surface is called magma. Once it cools and hardens, it is an igneous rock. But for a very short while, it is molten and on the surface and is called lava. During its lifetime, lava can have a different color due to its temperature. As it erupts from a volcano it is typically bright orange with a temperature of 1000 – 1200 degrees Centigrade (C). As it cools to 800-1000 degrees C it becomes bright red. As it cools further to 650 – 800 degrees C it becomes dark red. At 650– 00 degrees C it is brownish-red. Below 500 degrees, it becomes black and solidifies.

The two most common types of basalt lavas have Hawaiian names, pahoehoe and 'a'a. Pahoehoe is a smooth, glassy basalt flow while 'a'a is a rough, spiny looking basalt flow. Other flows tend to be named for their chemical composition such as andesite flow, dacite flow, and rhyolite flow. Pillow lava, which most of us have heard about, is not a type of flow, but more descriptive of how it looks when it is cooled. Pillow lava forms under water or ice. The cool water causes the lava to form a thin skin. Then a hot area under the skin breaks through and starts to form a flow that covers a relatively small area and thickness before it also form a thin skin. The result is a flow that looks like a bunch of pillows stacked on top of each other.



'A'A Lava Flow, Kilauea, Hawaii



PAHOEHOE Lava Flow, Kilauea, Hawaii

To a rockhound, what are we looking for when we think of lava? Obsidian is the first think that comes to my mind. Obsidian is a volcanic glass. It forms when the lava flow cools rapidly which prevents crystallization. Obsidian is generally associated with a rhyolitic or dacitic lava flow, both of which are rich in silica, aluminum, potassium, sodium, and calcium.

The other thing that a rockhound thinks about when pondering lava is the gas bubbles (properly called vesicles) that are trapped in the lava as it cools. Sometimes the gas bubbles eventually get filled up with silica gels that harden to from agates. Many of the agates from northern Mexico come from the rhyolitic lava flows that cover the area. More than once we have had a presentation at the meeting which discussed the various means by which the rhyolitic lava is broken up in the process of finding the agate nodules.

Ref:

Lava, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lava>

Questions about Lava, http://volcano.und.edu/vwdocs/frequent_questions/group1_new.html

Wikipedia Commons, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/>

Question of the Month for April: What is?

March 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	2
3 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	4	5	6 7:30 pm Pleasant Oaks Club Mtg	7	8 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	9
10 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	11	12	13	14	15 8:00am – until Rock Swap 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	16
17 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	18 7:00 pm Dallas Gem Club Mtg	19	20	21	22 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	23
24 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop	25	26	27	28	29 9:00am – Noon Open Shop	30
31 4:30–9:30 pm Open Shop						

Show Dates

A work in progress.

Metroplex Gem and Mineral and Related Clubs

Texas School of Earth Science (Arlington G&M Club) meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 1408 Gibbins, Arlington
Pleasant Oaks G&M Club meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland.
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 PM, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, TX
Dallas Paleontological Society meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 at Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park.
Dallas G&M Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Ridgewood Rec. Cntr, 6818 Fisher Rd, Dallas.
Dallas Bead Society meets the 3rd Thur. of each month at 7:30 at Walnut Hill Rec. Ctr., NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas
Oak Cliff G&MS meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd., Dallas, TX., 75224
Fort Worth G&M Club meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at 3545 Bryan Avenue, Fort Worth, TX.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

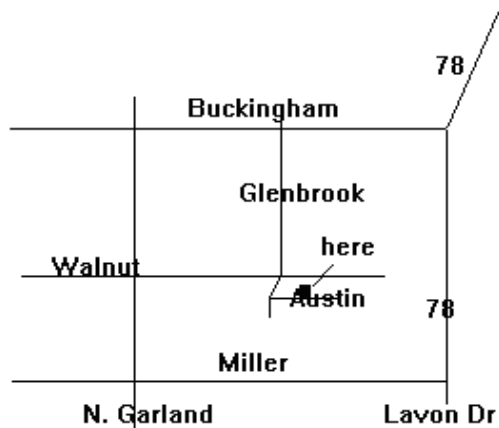
To:

1st place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins
9th place AFMS 2006 small bulletins
3rd place SCMS 2005 small bulletins
3rd place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins
1st place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins
HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins
2nd place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

Next Meeting: March 6, 2007 at Garland Women's Activity Building, 7:30 PM

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB OF DALLAS

Meeting Map



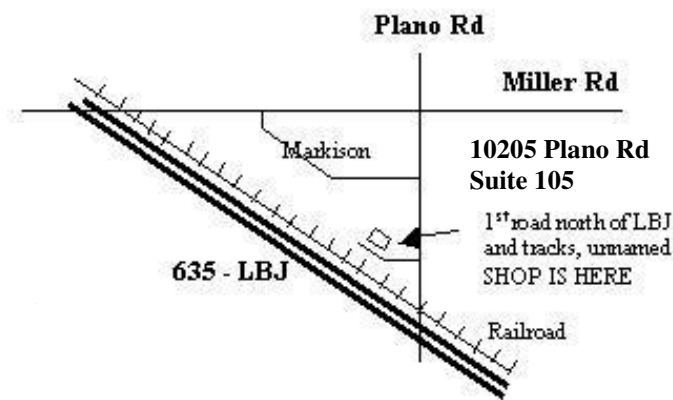
MEETINGS

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

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Club Shop Map for Classes



MEMBERSHIP

Single Adult: \$16.50, Junior: \$5.00
Family: \$27.50
(plus badge fee for new members)

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies