

# Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

## *Chips and Chatter*



March 4, 2010  
Vol. 44, Issue 3

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### Meeting, etc.

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Check our website [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org)  
 for past months issue of the  
[Chips and Chatter](#)

### 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

POGM meet the First Thursday each month. 7:30 pm at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX, (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook).

### Presentation

As of print time, I did not have the information. Sorry.

### Club Officers for 2010

President: Del Grady  
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223  
 Secretary: Lee Elms  
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821  
 Editor: Anita Dresner (972) 475-5828 X 1  
 E-mail: ..... [anitadresner@rocketmail.com](mailto:anitadresner@rocketmail.com)

**Chips and Chatter Deadline:**  
**The 3rd Thursday of each month**

## February 2010 Minutes

Lee Elms: Secretary, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The February meeting of the Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club was called to order at 7:35 pm with our president, Del Grady leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Treasurers' Report:** Don Shurtz passed out a copy of the beginning and ending balance. The report was approved, seconded and accepted.

**Secretary Report:** Discussed the minutes of the January meeting in the Chips and Chatter. The minutes were approved by all.

**Sunshine Report:** Warners' wife Cindy has been ill, and Mark Carter had to leave the meeting with a bad case of hives.

### **Old Business:**

- 1.) Dues are past due.
- 2.) The Science Fair will be on Saturday 2/27/10 and we now have enough judges.

**New Business:** No new business this month.

**Field Trip Report:** No report this month.

**Visitors:** Carolyn and David Abbott, form the “new rock shop” Artisans' Gallery in Ridgemar Mall in Ft. Worth, came to share the shop information with us. It is a unique set up done in antique furnishings that rent to the artisans from \$20 to \$100/month. It is conveniently located on the west end of Ft Worth off Hwy I-30, albeit a fair drive from our side of Dallas.

**Program:** The program for the evening was a DVD presentation on The Crater of Diamonds in Arkansas; “How to find Diamonds in Arkansas”.

The narrator spoke on the different ways you can go about hunting for diamonds once you get into the park. You can find gems on the surface of the soil or dig in appropriate areas then taking your bucket of soil to the sleuths to wash it and look for your treasures. You may find diamonds, or other rocks or gems. The narrator also spoke of the history of the park, how it was dug by machines and mined professionally; only to go bankrupt and be sold again to individuals who wanted it to be a park.

There have been a lot of diamonds found at the park, and most of them were found by pure chance...no digging involved. I am sure several of us are going to be heading over there this year to try our luck just for the fun of it.

### **Raffle:**

After the program we had our raffle and then the meeting was adjourned.

## Area Clubs

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm  
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 pm  
Dallas Paleontological Society, Dallas Museum of Natural History, Fair Park, meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm  
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm  
Dallas Bead Society, Walnut Hill Rec Ctr, NW corner Walnut Hill & Midway, Dallas, meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 7:30 pm  
Oak Cliff Gem & Mineral Society, Renaissance Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Road, Dallas, TX, meets 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month at 7 pm  
Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm

## *POGM Tasty Corner*

**Tis' the month of the lucky Irish. What better time to offer a simple and quick recipe or two, concocted from the land of the Leprechaun.**

### *Irish Stew*

**Irish stew is easy to make and if cooked slowly will be both flavorsome and tender**

2½ lb boned Mutton (optional)  
2 large Onions  
sprig of Parsley  
Salt and Pepper



4 large Potatoes  
3 or 4 med Carrots  
2 cups Vegetable Broth  
(serves four)

If using mutton cook 2 ½ hours. If using lamb cook 1 ½ hours. Cut the meat into bite size chunks. Peel the vegetables and slice rather thickly. Coarsely chop the parsley. Select a pot with a well-fitting lid. Starting and finishing with potatoes, place meat and vegetables in layers, into pot. Pour in the vegetable broth and season to taste. Cover with lid and cook on a very low heat for allotted time of selected meat, or until the meat is tender and the potatoes can be pierced with a fork.

Mutton, being meat of a mature sheep, has more flavor than lamb but does need to be cooked for a couple of hours over a low heat with liquid. It should not be allowed to boil as the flavor will be spoiled. Brown the meat, don't brown the meat. Use carrots, don't use carrots. Use mutton, lamb, beef, bacon or even kid be used? The dish will be hearty and nourishing and traditional enough, whatever ingredients you decide to use.

### *Irish Coffee*



#### **Ingredients**

¼ cup hot, strong, black coffee    1-2 tsp Sugar  
1 large measure Irish Whiskey    1-2 tbsp Double Cream

#### **Directions:**

- 1.) Fill your Irish coffee mug with hot water to warm it, toss out the water. This will temper the mug.
  - 2.) Refill the mug with boiling water, and then throw it out.
  - 3.) Fill the mug just more than half way with coffee and add sugar to taste. Stir to dissolve.
  - 4.) Add Irish whiskey.
  - 5.) Pour cream onto the surface of the coffee, using the back of a spoon to pour onto so it will not break the surface of the coffee. If double cream is not available use lightly-whipped (whipping) cream.
- Drink this delightful coffee through the cool cream.

## Show Dates

### 2010

#### MARCH 2010

**6-7 BIG SPRING, TX:** Big Spring Prospectors Club, 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Show; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5; dealers, demonstrators; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662 or (432) 263-3340.

**11-14 DEMING, NM:** "Rockhound Roundup Gem & Mineral Show, 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Show"; Deming Gem & Mineral Society; SWNM Fairgrounds, Raymond Reed Blvd; Thur thru Sun 9-5; Free Admission; more than 100 dealers, demonstrations, displays, field trips, jewelry, rocks, drawings, cash raffle, silent auction Fri, live auction Sat; contact Jerry & Carolyn Abbey, PO Box 1459, Deming, NM 88030, (575) 543-8916; e-mail: theDGMS@gmail.com; Website: dgms.bravehost.com

**12 HOUSTON, TX:** "Rings & Things Bead Tour Show"; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn Southwest, 11160 Southwest Fwy; Fri 12-4; Free Admission; gemstones, bead, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; e-mail: drobertson@rings-things.com; or [www.rings-things.com/Show/city.php?city=Houston](http://www.rings-things.com/Show/city.php?city=Houston)

**13 BATON ROUGE, LA:** "Rockin' at the Swamp Show"; The Recreation & Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC); Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, 10503 N Oak Hills Pkwy; Sat 9-4; Adults \$5, Seniors (65+) \$4.50, Children (2-17) \$4; gem and mineral exhibits, vendors, crafts, rock wall, special presentations, mobile gem mining, treasure hunting trail hikes, children's "Gold Rush", Fossil Quarry; contact Claire Coco, 10503 N Oak Hills Pkwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 757-8905; email: ccoco@brec.org; Website: [www.brec.org](http://www.brec.org)

**13 SAN ANTONIO, TX:** "Rings & Things Bead Tour Shows"; Rings & Things; Aggie Park & Banquet Hall, 6205 West Ave; Sat 2-6; Free Admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; email: drobertson@rings-things.com; Website: [www.rings-things.com](http://www.rings-things.com)

**14 AUSTIN, TX:** "Rings & Things Bead Tour Shows"; Rings & Things; Crowne Plaza Hotel - Austin, 6121 I-35 N; Sun 1-5; Free Admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; email: drobertson@rings-things.com; Website: <http://www.rings-things.com>

**16 DALLAS, TX:** "Rings & Things Bead Tour Show"; Rings & Things; Best Western Dallas Hotel & Conference Center, 8051 LBJ Fwy; Tue 12-4; Free Admission; gemstones, bead strands, wholesale prices, findings, stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (800) 366-2156; email: drobertson@rings-things.com; Website: [www.rings-things.com](http://www.rings-things.com)

**20-21 LIVE OAK, TX:** "Fiesta of Gems Show"; Southwest Gem and Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; Adults \$5, Students & Seniors \$3, Children \$.50, military discount, special school group rate; minerals, gemstones, fossils, jewelry, lapidary, demonstrations, exhibits; contact Robert Bowie, (830) 935-3373; email: krbotx@gvtc.com; Website: [swgemandmineral.org](http://swgemandmineral.org)

**26-28 ADA, OK:** "The Rock 'n Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show 2010"; Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, NE corner of SH-99 & Richardson Loop Bypass; Fri 10-6, Sat 9-5 & Sun 10-5; Free Admission; demonstrators, fluorescent displays, dealers, kids' fossil dig, spinning wheels; contact Ed Vermillion, PO Box 782, Purcell, OK 73080, (405) 527-6431; email: okieed42@windstream.net; Website: <http://www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm>

#### MARCH 2010

**9-11 ALBUQUERQUE, NM:** "Treasures of the Earth" 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Show Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; Creative Arts Center, New Mexico State Fairgrounds (Expo NM), San Pedro entrance, across the street from the Lujan Bldg.; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$1 Fri, \$3 Sat & Sun, children under 13 Free; more than 40 dealers, displays, door prizes, kids' booth, silent auctions, faceting demonstrations, gold panning, gem setting, free mineral/gem identification; contact Paul Hlava, (505) 255-5478; email: hpf5@qwest.net

**17 NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR:** Central Arkansas Gem, Mineral & Geology Society Annual Show; Burns Park, Elder Johnson Pavilion, I-49 Exit 150, Military Drive; Sat 8-5; Free admission; bring your own table or tailgate; contact Pat Kissire, 4900 Sparks Road, Little Rock, AR 72210, (501) 821-2346; e-mail: pkissire@sbcglobal.net; Website: [www.centralarrockhound.org](http://www.centralarrockhound.org)

**24-25 WACO, TX:** 50th annual show; Waco Gem & Mineral Club; TSTC Industrial Trade Center; Sat. 10-5:30, Sun. 10-5; adults \$5 (both days), students \$1; contact Kay Coleman, 118 County Rd. 540, Fairfield, TX 75840, (903) 389-8311

**30-2 HOUSTON, TX:** "Houston Fine Mineral Show" 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show; Fine Mineral Show; Embassy Suites Hotel, near The Galleria; Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun. 10-5; more than 50 dealers; contact Dave Waisman, PO Box 8543, Spokane, WA 99203; Website: [www.finemineralshow.com](http://www.finemineralshow.com)

#### MAY 2010:

**1-2 LUBBOCK, TX:** Show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$4, students (6-12) \$2, children under 6 free with adult; door prizes, children's "Spinning Wheel", demonstrations, sphere making, wire wrapping, silent auction, club displays, dealers, beads, jewelry, minerals, carvings, rough and polished rocks; contact Archie Scott, 2709 Belvedere Road, Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 894-1584; email: archie.scott73@yahoo.com; Website: <http://lgmstx.org>

**29-30 FT WORTH, TX:** "Fabulous Fossils" 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Show; Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club; Will Rogers Memorial Center, Amon G. Carter Exhibit Bldg, 3401 W Lancaster; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Children under 12 Free; 30 dealers, kids' games, hourly door prizes, grand prize, silent auction, exhibits; contact Steve Hilliard, PO Box 418, Decatur, TX 76234; (817) 925-5760; email: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Website: [www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org](http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org)

# Article of the Month: Texas Rock Collecting Site – La Grange, TX

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

As a starting point for this month’s article, I have again returned to The Texas Road Runners, or you may follow the link from the POGMC “Good Stuff” page. Personally, I am more interested in agates, flints, and jaspers than fossils, so I went for the description of the La Grange Agate field trip. La Grange is near the middle of the triangle formed by Houston, Austin, and San Antonio. The collecting site is actually about midway between Giddings and La Grange. Directions from the website tell you to follow US 77 about 7.5 miles south from Giddings until you reach Owl Creek Road, also labeled FM 3011. They must have started their mileage counter on the outskirts of Giddings – my map program indicates you should go 9.3 miles south on US 77 from US 290. The website indicates they collected along Owl Creek Road at road cuts and a creek bed along the road. Owl Creek Road turns to the east from US 77. A little over half way along the 3.2 mile stretch, Bear Creek Road and FM 3011 splits with FM 3011 branching to the east and Owl Creek Road to the south – “gotcha” to watch out for. They indicated you could collect until you reach Bear Creek Road, a distance of about 3.2 miles. When you reach Bear Creek Road, you can follow it west back to US 77. Just as a side thought: the only creek bed that crossed Owl Creek Road also crossed US 77 about 1.4 miles south of the junction with Owl Creek Road (or 1.0 miles north of Bear Creek Road).

There is a photo of their collected treasure on The Texas Road Runners website. It appears that the pieces are tumbling size. Most of the pieces were grey, brown, or red flint or agate. Still, it would be a worthwhile trip.

The material the Road Runners found at La Grange looked very similar to the material I found south of Falls City. When I check my Geology of Texas poster, I found both areas in the Jackson Group formation, just to the east of the Catahoula formation that I discussed in a previous topic. In fact, the Catahoula formation is close enough to their recommended collecting site that when I go there, I plan to take an additional search just a few miles to the west and see if any petrified wood, particularly Palmwood, pops up.

I plan to take a one day trip down to the La Grange site and do some rockhounding later this winter or early spring (probably April). If you are interested, maybe we could make this into a club exploration trip. Are there any takers out there?

Ref:  
1. The Texas Road Runners, <http://www.txroadrunners.com/RockHoundPages/TexasRockHuntingSites/TexasRockAndFossilSites.htm>  
2. The University of Texas, Bureau of Economic Geology, Geology of Texas 1992

## Refreshment Volunteers

*Chips and Chatter* Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

**March - Ice & Drinks....Mark Carter**

**Snacks.....Donnette Wagner**

**April.....Ice and Drinks..... ? ? ? ? ?**

**Snacks..... Paul Sawyer**

**May.....Ice and Drinks.....Lee Elms**

**Snacks..... ? ? ? ? ?**

## *Birthstone: March, Aquamarine*

*Chips and Chatter* Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club



Aquamarine is closely related to the emerald, it is a gemstone, transparent, and of the beryl family. Mostly, we think of it in shades of aqua blue.

However, it is found to be more commonly in a delicate blue or turquoise, reminding one of the seas. It is also found in varying color shades of greenish, to yellow, even in a gorgeous rosy pink. This gemstone can range from \$120 to \$500 a carat or more at its most intense color.

Not every buried treasure has been discovered. Mother Earth still holds a vast quantity of quality treasures at Gem Mountain in North Carolina. Aquamarine can be found here as you are treasure hunting. At Gem Mountain you find it – you keep it. What great fun, to find a nice piece of aquamarine.

Rock hounding for aquamarine you will first need good eyes. Then you will find picks, brushes, small pneumatic drills, and shovels very useful. When rock hounding, you get to meet so many other hobbyist and share stories and locations to practice your hobby, in beautiful and gorgeous outdoor settings. Gem Mountain, for example, is located in the outdoors of beautiful Mitchell County, North Carolina. Admission is free and all tools are provided.

Being born in March makes you a fortunate person indeed, because this gemstone, aquamarine is your birthstone. The folk-lore has it that when wearing the aquamarine it gives you the ability to see into the future, have courage, and happiness; which in turn could make for you being smarter and have the appearance of being more youthful. The pale blues are said to be very calming and sooth ones anxiety.

Whatever you're reason for aquamarine treasure hunting, you are sure to have a fun time at North Carolina's Gem Mountain. They will also inspect all of your gem stones you unearth at no extra charge. Gem cutters are on hand to cut and polish your gemstones. Happy Treasure Hunting!

Aquamarine is composed of an irregular superposition of alternate lamellae of right-handed and left-handed quartz, which may be due to mechanical stresses. Amethyst is suitable for use in jewelry due to its hardness of seven on the Mohs Scale.

There are many locations to find amethyst in the United States. Among these: Amethyst Mountain, Texas; the Mazatzal Mountain region in Gila and Maricopa Counties, Arizona; Yellowstone National Park; Delaware County, Pennsylvania; Haywood County, North Carolina; Deer Hill and Stow, Maine and in the Lake Superior region.

Ref: <http://knol.google.com/k/david-cowley/treasure-hunting-for-aquamarine/2shwmptmdn16/19#>

Ref: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amethyst>

## *Editor says, Dues are Past Due*

*Chips and Chatter* Editor, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

It is that time of the year again, sorry to say. I hate to acknowledge *this will be the last issue of the Chips and Chatter for those whom have not paid their 2010 membership dues.* If you still are planning on making that payment here are the numbers you may need to know: Single Adult: \$16.50; Junior: \$5.00; Family: \$27.50.

If there are any updates to your Email addy, snail mail address or phone number, please see that the secretary gets the changes. Also, make sure I, your editor, get any Email changes as we encourage you to be green as well as save the club a few dollars over the year by having the *Chips and Chatter* emailed to you. If we may start emailing you the *Chips and Chatter* just email the editor Anita Dresner at: [anitadresner@rocketmail.com](mailto:anitadresner@rocketmail.com), and ask her to please put you on the C&C Email list. That is all there is to it.

## *Out and About - Locally*

Editor: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

### *Dallas Gem and Mineral Society's Semi – Annual Rock Swap*

DGMS Spring Rock Swap; SATURDAY, May 1, 2010 starting at 8:00 am until. Food and drinks provided for a donation of \$ 5. There will be many different dealers, including but not limited to, rocks, fossils, slabs, minerals, and gem stones, etc. If you care to set up at the swap, please contact Shop Secretary Mollie Cutting at: mollie\_cutting@sbcglobal.net. Please forward this announcement to friends, relatives, whomever. The swap will be at our club house at 635 & Plano Road. Signs will be at the corner of Plano Road & Plano Road (no mistake, our street is also named Plano Road) for those not familiar with the location.

## *Feature Article: Out and About - Waco*

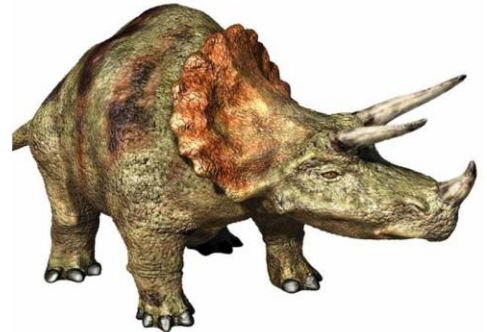
Editor: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

### *Prehistoric Colombian Mammoth Nursery*

Opened in December, The Waco Mammoth Site attraction at 6220 Steinbeck Bend Rd. has been well guarded since its discovery in 1978. Remains of a prehistoric Colombian mammoth nursery met its fate in the Bosque River. Visitors can view the dig site through a protected glass floor. Collections Manager Anita Benedict says the group consisted of female Colombian mammoths and juveniles that formed a defensive circle when they were overcome by a mudslide — the largest concentration of prehistoric mammoths, 19 in all, to die in a single event. Notable is one mammoth found with a baby mammoth in its tusks, believed to have been an attempt to lift it to safety.

According to the National Park Service, this is “the nation’s 1st and only recorded discovered nursery herd of Pleistocene mammoths”. There is hope this distinction will help the site become Waco Mammoth National Monument. Other creatures discovered during the dig are believed to have died at the site at different times; a bull mammoth, an extinct camel and a saber-toothed tiger. The Waco Mammoth Site is managed and staffed by the City of Waco. Mayborn Museum Complex at Baylor University will continue research, projects, and protect the collection. For more information, call (254) 750-7946 or visit [www.wacomammoth.org](http://www.wacomammoth.org).

Dinosaurs Unearthed is debut at San Antonio’s Witte Museum March through September. It boasts the latest technology in animatronics, the latest paleontological discoveries, and features the largest and most advanced animatronic dinosaurs, full skeletons and fossils, and a life-sized model of a recently discovered feather-covered dinosaur. For more information, call (210) 357-1900 or visit [www.witteuseum.org](http://www.witteuseum.org).



Animatronics dinosaurs, like this triceratops, will be part of the upcoming Witte Museum exhibit.

Ref: <http://www.texashighways.com/images/PDFs/travlogfeb10.pdf>

Photo from article from Witte Museum.

Texas Highways the Travel magazine of Texas, February 2010 Travelog:

A Newsletter for the Texas Travel Industry

visit [www.witte museum.org](http://www.witte museum.org).

PS: This would make for a marvelous day field trip.

Approximately a 2 hour drive, to take in and see “the nation’s 1st and only recorded discovery of a nursery herd of Pleistocene mammoths”, and it is right here in our own back yard. Why not appoint a “leader” to figure out a day and meeting place to drive down and take in this event? Maybe even have lunch together and get better acquainted with one another. I mention appointing a leader as I have not heard from the Field Trip coordinator. C&C Editor.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

**March 4, 2010 7:30 PM, 713 Austin, Garland Women's Bldg, TX**

## ***PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB***

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

### **MEMBERSHIP**

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

5<sup>th</sup> Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins  
1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2006 small bulletins  
9<sup>th</sup> place AFMS 2006 small bulletins  
3<sup>rd</sup> place SCMS 2005 small bulletins  
3<sup>rd</sup> place, AFMS 2005 small bulletins  
1<sup>st</sup> place SCFMS 2004 small bulletins  
HM AFMS 2004 small bulletins  
2<sup>nd</sup> place SCFMS 2003 small bulletins

### **Member of**

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

### **Affiliated with**

American Federation of Mineral Societies