

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



March 2011
Vol. 45, Issue 3

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Check our website 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 at 7:30 pm at the Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX, (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook).

Presentation

Club Officers for 2011

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

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

February 2011 Minutes from the Secretary

POGM Secretary: Lee Elms

The February 2011 meeting was cancelled due to in-climate weather. There are not any minutes to report.

Area Clubs

Arlington G&M Club, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
 Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club, Garland Women's Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland, meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm
 Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm
 Dallas Gem & Mineral Society, 10205 Plano Rd, off of Plano Rd, Dallas, TX, meets the 3rd Tue. of each month at 7 pm
 Dallas Bead Society meets 3rd Thur. each month at 7:30 pm Address pending
 Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dls, TX, 4th Tue. each month at 7 pm
 Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft Worth, TX, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
 Dallas Paleol Society, EMGI (Bldg. H, Brookhaven College, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244), 2nd Wed. ea. month at 7:30 pm

Editor's Pen

C&C Editor, Anita Dresner

Greetings Chip Chatters,

You have been privy to some reading material sent out by those who love the land and want to keep all rockhounds aware of the very real possibility of our rights to use these lands are a very real possibility. These articles are not just for a rockhounds reading entertainment but for you to become educated on the fact each of us need to become an active participant in blocking this land bill. You can go to the sights listed within the article/s and use your computer, telephone, or write to the address given or easily found; to let the house know we as citizens are getting a bit annoyed with more and more of our rights being taken away. I urge you to become more active than just reading the material so we will have rights left to our children and grandchildren.

As I stated in the December C&C, we will be having some great articles and trip information coming up in the 2011 Chips and Chatters. They are most interesting and I am looking forward to publishing them. Not to repeat myself, as I always do in the Editors Pen; I look forward to having other articles submitted by you, to publish in your Chips and Chatter. Remember the most important thing about the Chips and Chatter is it is your newsletter and I am but the editor. You may submit your article/s by sending them through email me at: anitadresner@rocketmail.com or snail mail to: 3809 Skyline Drive, Rowlett, TX 75088

Refreshment Volunteers for March

Snacks Don Shurtz

Beverage/Ice Ling Shurtz

April Volunteer/s

Snacks ?????

Beverage & Ice

?????

SCFMS Alert/Discussion

Submitted by Editor

Our Partner in Saving Our Public Lands

by Dick Pankey, President, ALAA

The Blue Ribbon Coalition just issued an 8 page "Insider Report". The main thrust of the BRC is to affect legislation and regulations that effect off highway vehicle use, but most of the legislation and regulations that affect off highway use and access also affects access and use by rockhounds and the general public that use our public lands for recreation. The "Insider Report" listed the pending and proposed bills that would create more wilderness land and national monuments that greatly restricts our use and collecting rights. The BRC is concerned there will be a "lame duck" Congressional session and that these bills will be rolled into another all-or-nothing omnibus bill rather than each bill being considered on its own merits. Their call to action is for all concerned citizen to contact their senators and representatives to oppose this ill-conceived legislative tactic. The current administration is pushing two public lands initiatives: "The Treasured Landscape Initiative" and "The America's Great Outdoors Initiative". The "Treasured Landscape Initiative" includes plans for new Wilderness areas, expansion of National Parks and the addition of 14 National Monuments across nine states affecting over 35 million acres. A leaked document proposes the abandonment of the BLM public lands management principles of Multiple Use and Sustained Yield. The new agency's new management guidance will be about "ecosystem-service value of BLM land" and makes no reference to recreation or multiple use.

The "America's Great Outdoors Initiative" has three components: outreach, coordination and reports. Outreach is primarily about pushing a legislative agenda. It has already been used to push several Wilderness bills. The second goal directs EPA, CEQ and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior to "identify existing resources and align policies and programs to achieve goals." The U.S. Forest Service is beginning the process of revising how the agency prepares Forest Plans known as Planning Rules. These rules will guide management plans for 155 national forests and 20 grasslands. We are still waiting for the draft proposal.

The way to affect the future use of our public lands is to become informed and to get involved. Write letters and e-mails to your elected representatives; attend meetings and becoming involved in the legislative and regulatory process. Would you like to be more informed about these issues and become more involved? Please contact me for details and more information. The Blue Ribbon Coalition (BRC) has a great and informative web site <www.sharetrails.org>. This site is easy to read and easy to use and navigate. The BRC magazine is available on line as are the Alerts and the Insider Reports. You can sign up to receive all Alerts directly to your e-mail in box. The main thrust of the BRC is for Off Highway Vehicle users, but what affects them also directly affects us rockhounds and all people who recreate and use our public lands. And while you are at it be sure to check out the American Lands Access Association web site – <www.amlands.org>. You'll find an enrollment form there plus updated information about various legislative proposals.

Become a member! Be an involved member!

Ref: AFMS Newsletter Volume 64, Number 2 – December 2010 – January 2011 www.amfed.org

1st VP Notes and Program Information

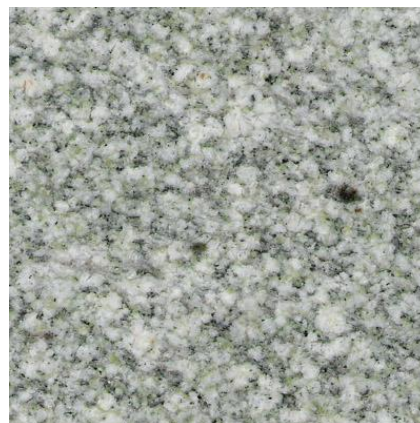
Mark Carter; Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

An old member's family has donated several Lapidary tools to the Club. You might think you know what they are. Want to try guessing? Del is servicing them now, but no fair to asking Del what they are. We will have some working exhibits of these pieces of equipment; who knows these may eventually be sold at auction? WOW now that would be a real treat to see. Right? Right! But you have to come to the meeting to find out what tools they are and if we are going to auction them off. See you March 3, 7:30PM at the meeting.

Article of the Month: What is Granite

Don Shurtz: Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

As I write this, I am on a business trip to San Diego, California. Due to a major convention in downtown San Diego, I had to stay about 10 miles north of town. For those familiar with the area, my hotel is just south of the Miramar Marine Corp Air Station. There has been a lot of liquid sunshine during the early part of my trip; but, yesterday it was real sunshine. The ground was drying out so I decided to take a walk around the area. As I walked along the side of the road next to an open field, I was watching the ground looking at the rocks. Many of them just screamed GRANITE. As I continued to walk, I noted several places that used crushed rock in the landscape, some with some larger pieces mixed in. I looked at the larger pieces and again they looked like granite. In fact, many of the crushed pieces looked like granite. Finally, back in the hotel, I looked at the lobby counter and the lobby tables and they also appeared to be granite (definitely not marble). I even went to the extreme of looking underneath to see if it was "a sprayed on" fake granite; but, they were solid. So, now you know why I decided to write a little about granite.



According to Wikipedia, granite is an intrusive igneous rock with medium to coarse grain texture. Granite is composed of "quartz, alkali feldspar (orthoclase, sanidine, or microcline), and plagioclase feldspar." One may ask how hard granite is on the Mohs scale, and the answer is basically undefined. The major component of granite is quartz and it has a hardness of 7, but some of the feldspar material can be as soft as 2, so the answer is that the hardness of granite varies.

Granite has been used for various construction purposes for a long time. The Egyptians used polished granite as a capstone of the Black Pyramid. The sarcophagus in the Great Pyramid of Giza was carved from Red Aswan Granite. Wikipedia also notes that many of the large Hindu temples in southern India were made of granite. Even today, granite is popular in the construction industry. Granite is used as the flooring material and the exterior facade of many buildings. It is also used extensively for countertops in kitchens and bathrooms.



A lot of pink granite is mined in Texas in the Llano Uplift region of Texas. Granite Shoals, Marble Falls, Burnet, Fredericksburg, and Llano are the centers of the granite mining. Granite is also the key element of one of the most popular Texas State Parks, Enchanted Rock State Natural Area. This is one of the largest batholiths (an intrusive flow of material which remains underground) of granite to have been exposed by erosion anywhere in the world. The park is so popular that on weekends in the spring and summer months, it has to close its gate in the late morning or early afternoon (before the park closes) because there is no more parking available.

References:

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite>

Answers.com, <http://wiki.answers.com>

Enchanted Park, http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/parkguide/rgn_hc_009.phtml

Pictures from: Wikimedia Commons, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wik>

2011 Show Dates:

Editor

Featured are show dates of locations deemed no more than an 8 hour drive from Lake Ray Hubbard. When requested, other clubs shows near and far, not necessarily sanctioned under AFMS/SCFMS, are listed:

MARCH 2011:

5-6 BIG SPRINGS, TX: Big Spring Prospectors Club 42nd Annual Show;; Howard County Fair Barn; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-5; free admit; gems, minerals, jewelry/repair, demonstrations, displays, spinning wheel, hr prizes, stone setting; contact Jerald Wilson, 707 Tulane, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432) 263-4662, or Lola Lamb, (432) 263-3340

11-13 COTTONWOOD, AZ: “Verde Valley Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show”; Mingus Gem & Mineral Club; Verde Valley Fairgrounds, 800 E Cherry Street; Fri/Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; adults \$2, 13 & under free w/ paying adult; 30 + vendors, door prize raffles, educational displays, extensive children’s area; contact Sarah Knowles, PO Box 1284, Cottonwood, AZ 86326; email: Mingusgemandmineralclub@gmail.com

12 BATON ROUGE, LA: “Rockin’ at the Swamp” 2nd Annual Show; Baton Rouge Recreation Commission; Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, 10503 N Oak Hills Pkwy; Sat 9-4; adults \$5, kids \$4; activities, rocks, gemstones, minerals, fossils, vendors, exhibits, rough & polished mineral specimens, geode-busting; contact Claire Coco, 10503 N Oak Hills Pkwy, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, (225) 757-8905; e-mail: ccoco@brec.org

19-20 LIVE OAK (SAN ANTONIO), TX: “Fiesta of Gems” 50th Annual Show; San Antonio Gem & Mineral Society; Live Oak Civic Center, 8108 Pat Booker Road; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4; adults \$5, seniors \$3, students \$2, children 50 cents; 25 dealers; minerals, fossils, jewelry, gemstones, crystals, club exhibits, silent auction, games, hourly door prizes, silent auction; contact Robert Bowie, 1324 Kings Point Drive, Canyon Lake, TX 78133; email: krbotx@gvtc.com; Website: www.swgemandmineral.org

25-27 ADA, OK: “A Festival of Gems, Minerals & Fossils 2011” Show; Ada Gem, Mineral & Fossil Club; Pontotoc County Agri-Plex, Main Bldg. #1, NE corner of state Rte. 99/U.S. 377 and the Richardson Bypass/S. Hwy. 1/3E; Fri/Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admit; demonstrations, displays, fluorescent rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary, jewelry, silent auctions, raffle Sun., kids’ fossil dig and petting zoo, dealers; contact Ed Vermillion, PO Box 782, Purcell, OK 73080, (405) 527-6431; email: okieed42@windstream.net; Website: www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm

26-27 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK: The Bead Market Wholesale/retail show; Oklahoma State Fairgrounds Expo Hall 3, 3212 Wichita Walk; Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4; free admission; gemstones, vintage beads & buttons, pearls, glass, lamp work, tools, findings, silver, books; contact Rebekah Wills, (903) 240-7198; email: rebekah@thebeadmarket.net; Website: www.thebeadmarket.net

April 2011:

2-3 SILOAM SPRINGS, AR: Northwest Arkansas Gem & Mineral Society Spring Show; Community Bldg, Mt Olive Road; Sat 9-5, Sun 10-4; adults \$3, students \$1, children free; contact Charlotte Leininger, (479) 721-3882; email: TheSwankyStone@aol.com; Website: www.nwarockhounds.org

9-10 ABILENE, TX: Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Show & Sale; Abilene Civic Center, 1100 N 6th; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$3, children \$1.50; geode cracking, fossils, minerals, gems, jewelry, lapidary demonstrations, findings, beads, tools, supplies, rough; contact Betty Scarborough, 422 CR 606, Tuscola, TX 79562, (325) 668-2374; email: waltswife1029@yahoo.com; Website: www.txol.net/rockclub

15-17 ALPINE, TX: “Alpine Agate Festival” Show; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club; Alpine Civic Center, Hwy 90W & 13th Street N; Fri & Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5; free admission; South Central Federation convention, grand prize, door prizes, silent auctions, field trips, kids’ corner, demo dealers; contact Mary Brogan, PO Box 1111, Alpine, TX 79831, (432) 386-2340; email: marybrogan@rocketmail.com; Website: www.cdgm.org

16-17 WACO, TX: Waco Gem & Mineral Club Annual Show; Texas State Technical College, Industrial Tech Bldg, Crest Drive, off I-35, north of Waco; Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5; adults \$5 (both days); contact Karen Wood, 2315 Colcord, Waco, TX 76707, (254) 755-7274; email: kwood@hot.rr.com; Website: www.wacogemandmineral.org

23-24 JACKSON, MS: “Greater Southern Event” Show & Sale; Mobile Rock & Mineral Society, MS Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Nature’s Society of Majestic Arts; Trademart Bldg, Mississippi Fairgrounds; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; dealers, gemstones, minerals, fossils, beads, crystals, rare coins, rough and cut stones, finished jewelry, tools, lapidary supplies, stone carvings, loose precious stones, pearls, gem and gold mining, knapping, faceting, opals, jewelry repairs, demonstrators; contact Sharon McClanhan or Stan Bennett, (601) 898-0407; email: stan@tompkinsdesigngrp.com

23-24 MEMPHIS, TN: 32nd Show; Memphis Archaeological&Geological Society; Memphis International Agricenter, 7777 Walnut Grove Road; Sat 9-6, Sun 10-5; adults \$5, child 12 & under \$2, Scouts \$0; dealers, exhibits, kids’ area, speakers; contact W.C.McDaniel, (901) 274-7706; e-mail: info@theearthwideopen.com; Website: www.TheEarthWideOpen.com

30-1 LUBBOCK, TX: 53rd Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, 1501 MacDavis Lane; Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5; adults (13+) \$4, seniors (65+) \$3, ages 6-12 \$2, under 6 free with adult; wire-wrapped stones, precious stones, jewelry, minerals, fossils, rough rock, dealers, demonstrators, exhibits, hourly door prizes, silent auction, grand prizes; contact Archie Scott, 2709 Belvedere Road, Levelland, TX 79336, (806) 894-1584; email: archie.scott73@yahoo.com

Birthstone of the Month Aquamarine

Submitted by C&C Editor, Anita Dresner

Observing the aquamarine and its color, almost a sea water color, you can see where it gets its Latin name. It is a member of the beryl family, as is the emerald, and has a color range of blue green to faint light blue. Due to it being so pale of color, the expectations for its clarity is high. It is very rare to see a darker aqua than the Swiss Blue Topaz and then it is usually carefully cut to enhance the color and beauty of the stone. The color ranges of aquamarine lies in the trace amounts of iron impurities in the beryl structure, and are dependent upon the concentrations of Fe²⁺ to Fe³⁺, within the beryl crystal, and where the iron impurities are located. Inclusions, which beryl's and particularly aquamarine have, offer very interesting features: distinctive long, hollow tubes help you quickly identify it as a member of the beryl family. When enough of them appear in a stone, the "cut" can produce cat's eyes or stars, which collectors highly prize. Aquamarine has a hardness of 7.5 the Mohs scale of hardness. This beautiful stone is moderately priced.



Some of the folklore of this beautiful stone is; sailors belief in its power to calm the seas and help get them through the worst of storms; with this calming effect it is thought to give a soothing influence on relationships; also to bless the one wearing it with happiness and keep or make one youthful. As for its healing abilities, it is said to: reduce the effect of poisons, thrust out anger and negativity, give mental peace and clarity for emotional and mental balance, to aid in meditation, and help reduce dependence on drugs. Aquamarines are mined in a number of exotic places including Nigeria, Madagascar, Zambia, Pakistan and Mozambique, but most of the gemstones available today come from Brazil.



Ref: http://thebrazilianconnection.com/aqua_info.html
<http://www.bernardine.com/gemstones/aquamarine.htm>
<http://www.multicolour.com/gemstones/aquamarine.html>

Texas Treasure Hunting

Submitted by C&C Editor, Anita Dresner

Ref: author unknown

"Rockhounding in Texas is the best. We have great agate, jasper, chert, and petrified wood (particularly petrified palm wood) found here in Texas. Agates are found in Jeff Davis, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Presidio, Reeves, San Patricio, and Starr Counties. Petrified wood can be found in Amarillo, Bastrop, Brazo, Comal, Duval, Fayette, Gonzales, Lavaca, and Uvalde Counties, Live Oak and Webb Counties. Good-quality chert is found in limestone formations in McCulloch, Moore, and San Saba Counties. The material from Moore County also is called Alibates flint and was used by prehistoric and modern-day Indians to make weapons and tools. The quarry from which the Indians obtained their flint is now Alibates State Park. Blue banded moss, and red and black plume agates are found near Alpine in Brewster County."



Speaking of Alpine, why not get the club organized for a field trip to Alpine not only to do some rockhounding, but take in the SCFMS Annual Meeting. It is being sponsored by Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club City of Alpine. While there take in the "ALPINE AGATE FESTIVAL" 22nd Annual BIG BEND GEM & MINERAL SHOW ~ LOCATED AT THE ALPINE CIVIC CENTER; Hwy 90 W & 13th Street N in Alpine, Texas; Friday & Saturday, April 15 & 16, 2011, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm; Sunday, April 17, 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Ref: <http://www.sailorenergy.net/SellAgates/SellAgatesTexasRedPlumeSL03.html>

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

5th Place AFMS 2007 small bulletins
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

+++++++ **March 3, 2011; 7:30 PM** +++++++
Garland Women's Activities Building 713 Austin, Garland, 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)

Member of

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies

Affiliated with

American Federation of Mineral Societies