

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

March 2014
Vol. 48, Issue 3



1st Place, 2013 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
2nd Place, 2013 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Member of
SCFMS



Affiliated with
AFMS



Feature Articles

Birthstone for March, Aquamarine	4
Birthstone for March, Bloodstone.....	4
Dallas Region Science and Engineering Fair.....	3
The Miner – Miscellaneous Stories	5

Monthly Columns

Minutes of the February, Meeting.....	2
Recipe – Stir Fry Garlic Chicken.....	2

Notices

Meeting	1
METROPLEX Clubs	6
Show Calendar	2

Federation Information

Highlights of the March 2014 AFMS Newsletter	3
--	---

Copyright Information

This issue of the Chips and Chatter is copyright © by Don Shurtz. 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

Our next meeting will be March 6th starting at 7:30 PM. Mark has arranged for a DVD presentation on the Pedernia Tourmaline Mine in Brazil.

Club Officers for 2014

President:	} A new nominating committee is ready to present a new slate of officers at our next business meeting
1st VP:	
Secretary:	
Treasurer	
Editor (acting):.....	Don Shurtz
Asst. editor (acting):	Ling Shurtz
E-mail:	don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

**Membership Dues for 2014 are now due,
see web site for form**

**VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND
CHATTER IN COLOR**

Minutes of the February 6, 2013 Meeting

The February meeting was the second meeting of the season to be wiped out by weather. The icy roads in some areas and the potential for a lot of icy roads later in the evening cause the meeting to be cancelled; as a result there were no minutes required. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2014

Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for March - April 2014

MAR 01-02, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard County Fair Barn
MAR 01-02, Robstown TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Regional Fairgrounds, www.gcgms.org
MAR 06-09, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM State Fairgrounds, nbound@gmail.com, DGMS.bravehost.com
MAR 07-09: Ft. Worth, TX, The Bead Market, Cendera Center, rebekah@thebeadmarket.net, www.thebeadmarket.net
MAR 08-09, Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake G&MS, Pasadena Convention Center, sara_chelette@swbglobalnet.com, www.clgms.org
MAR14-16, Albuquerque, NM, GEM, Mineral, and Jewelry Expo, NM State Fairgrounds, paulhlava@q.com, www.agmc
MAR 15-16, Live Oak (San Antonio), TX, Southwest G&MS, Live Oak Civic Center, krobotx@gvtc.com, www.swgemandmineral.org
MAR21-23, Richardson, TX, The Bead Market, Richardson Civic Center, rebekah@thebeadmarket.net, www.beadmarket.net
MAR 28-29, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, Pontotoc Cnty Agri-plex, okieed42@windstream.net, www.gfrweb.com/agmsfc/index.htm

APR 12, North Little Rock, AR, Central Arkansas G&MS, Burns Park, steelpony@aol.com, www.centralarrockhound.org
APR 12-13, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center, kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net, rockclub.txol.net
APR 12-13, Siloam Springs AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Community Bldg, hulagrub@aol.com, www.nwarockhounds.org
APR 12-3, Waco, TX, Waco GL&MS, Extraco Events Cntr, <http://www.wacogemandmineral.org/>
APR 18-20, Alpine, TX, Chihuahuan Desert G&MS, Alpine Civic Cntr, paulgraybeal@moonlightgemstones.com
APR 24-25, Houston, TX, Fine Mineral Shows, Embassy Suites, 2911 Sage Rd, www.FineMineralShow.com
APR 26-27, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/56th-annual-show

Ref:

January / February 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

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

From Ling's Kitchen - Stir-Fry Garlic Chicken

Ingredients:

- One cup rice
- One Chicken Breast cut into thin strips
- One teaspoon Minced Garlic
- ¼ head thinly sliced cabbage
- 3 green onions
- ½ onion cut to thin strips (optional)
- A few broccoli heads (optional) – precooked (this can be a good use for leftover broccoli)
- 1 small shredded carrot (option)
- 2 tablespoons corn starch
- 4 tablespoons soy sauce



Preparation:

- Cook rice in a rice cooker prior to starting the chicken
- Coat chicken in corn starch
- Cook garlic and chicken in oil in a non-stick frying pan or wok. When chicken is thoroughly cooked, move it to the side or remove from the pan/wok. Add a little more oil and cook the cabbage and green onions until soft (add the onions, carrots, and broccoli at this stage if desired). Add the garlic - chicken back in, pour on the soy sauce and cook for a minute or so at high temperature. If possible, use a second wok that is pre-heated to a hot temperature for combining the garlic chicken with the vegetables and soy sauce.

Serve with rice and enjoy.

Federation News – Highlights from the March, 2014 AFMS Newsletter

Compiled by Don Shurtz

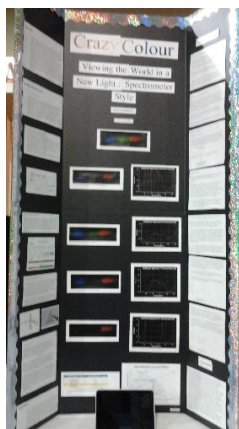
By time you read this article, the March 2014 edition of the AFMS Newsletter will be available on the web at <http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>. Here are some of the highlights from the newsletter:

- In an article “Thaw Out and Support the AFMS Endowment Drawing by Donna Moore, there is an appeal to buy Endowment Fund raffle tickets and, if possible, donate an item for the raffle. In the SCFMS we can obtain tickets from Catherine Rochon, 5845 Winchester Ln, Clinton, LA 70722.
- In an article “What Does the AFMS do for You and Your Club?” by Carolyn Weinberger, there are 17 items listed and amplified. Below is a list of the items, but you will have to read Carolyn’s article for the details:
 - 1 Slide programs for club meetings
 2. Awareness of Federal Legislation that may impact the hobby
 3. Bulletin Editors Contest
 4. All American Club Award Program
 5. Scholarship Awards to Graduate Students
 6. Inter-Regional Field Trips
 7. Junior Activities
 8. Uniform Rules (for competitive display cases)
 9. Judges Training Program (for competitive cases)
 10. Web Site Competition
 11. Club Member Recognition (Club rockhound of the year)
 12. Annual Convention
 13. Endowment Fund
 14. Commemorative Stamp Project
 15. Public and International Relations
 16. AFMS Website
 17. AFMS Newsletter
- An article describing S.C.R.I.B.E, an organization that assists experienced and “nugget” editors in putting together a quality newsletter
- A listing of all currently scheduled Federation Conventions for 2014, 2015, and 2016
- A list of all AFMS Officers and Committees with contact information

This is not a description of all articles in the current AFMS newsletter – I encourage you to follow the link above to read the entire newsletter. Bookmark the web site URL and visit it frequently for updated newsletters. While you are at it, check out the SCFMS newsletters at http://www.scfms.net/newsletter_page.html

Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair

by Don Shurtz



Project Board
Picture by Ling Shurtz

The Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair has come and gone. As in past years, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club sponsored a Special Award, a One Hundred Dollar Gift Certificate to Natures Gallery plus two Honorable Mentions for the best project related to the Rockhound hobby. The projects this year were evaluated by Carolyn and Del Grady and Ling and Don Shurtz. We looked for projects in both the Junior and Senior divisions, starting with projects in Earth Science, which this year was grouped with Physics and Astronomy. After looking at the initial Earth Science projects, we expanded our search to look at projects in other categories. We found our winner and one honorable mention in the Physics category and the other honorable mention in the Chemistry category.

This year’s winner was Yashas Manjunatha from Allen High School for his project Crazy Colours – Viewing the World in a New Light Spectrometer Style. Yashas built a simple, yet effective, spectrometer with a digital camera and software to measure absorbed light.

Although he was using fluids as his test media, I would imagine that he would get similar results for light passing through a mineral. I trust Yashas will enjoy his \$100.00 gift

certificate to Natures Gallery. One Honorable Mention went to Deanna Shea from Shepton High School (Plano). She measure the heat transfer effects for rough versus smooth surfaces by using rough and then polish (tumbled) stones. A second Honorable Mention went to Ruquia Shah from the Islamic School of Irving for her project about the effects of cooling rate on crystal growth using crystals from a laundry detergent solution. In addition to our Special Award gift certificate, the Special Award and Honorable Mentions will also be offered a one year club membership. We pass on our congratulations and thanks to our winners and all the other projects we evaluated.

Chips and Chatter

Page 3

March 2014

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Visit our web site: www.pogmc.org, “Like” us on Facebook

Birthstone for March – Aquamarine

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Aquamarine is one of the March birthday stone. The name “Aquamarine” is derived from an old Latin expression which means "sea water" The best quality of Aquamarines are clear, transparent gems. They can be faceted and cut as cabochons. Aquamarines - Beryl are well-suited for rectangular or square cuts. The most favored cut for aquamarine is an emerald step-cut. Brilliant cuts with long or rectangular shapes are also very popular. The chemical formula for Aquamarine Beryl is $Al_2Be_3Si_6O_{18}$, Aluminum Beryllium Silicate. Some of the physical properties of Aquamarine are:

- Crystal structure: Hexagonal, Hexagonal Prisms.
- Color : Light blue to Dark blue, Blue-Green
- Refractive Index: 1.564-1.596.



The leading producer of Aquamarine is Brazil, with many mines spread throughout the country. Other deposits of Aquamarine are sourced from Australia, Burma, China, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe, as well as in several U.S location. Karur, India recently has become one of the biggest suppliers of aquamarine.

Ref:

Gem Select, <http://www.gemselect.com/gem-info/aquamarine/aquamarine-info.php>

Pictures: Faceted aquamarine by Ling Shurtz, necklace with non-crystalline aquamarine by Don Shurtz

Birthstone for March – Bloodstone

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Bloodstone, a more common name for heliotrope, is the traditional birthstone for March. It is a deep green form of chalcedony with red inclusions of Moganite (a red chalcedony) or iron oxide. The red dots in the green jasper resemble blood, hence the name. Legends tell that bloodstone, also called “the martyr’s stone” was formed when Christ was being crucified and his blood stained the green stones on the ground near the cross.



There are many ancient beliefs associated with bloodstone. As mentioned above, some legends tell how bloodstone was created when Christ’s blood fell on green stones at the foot of the cross. Bloodstone was also believed to be able to stop bleeding; many ancient warriors carried a piece of bloodstone to help them recover from wounds. Bloodstone was also believed to have magical properties and the ability to amplify a person’s own magic; ancient Egyptians used the stone to “magically” defeat their enemies. Other properties attributed to bloodstone include the ability to make a wearer invisible, to increase personal strength, to increase courage, to ease a broke heart, to bring good fortune, to drive away negative energy, to clear one’s thoughts, and to cause dreams. In India, ground and powdered bloodstone is still used as an aphrodisiac and in traditional medicines.

Ref:

The Meaning and Properties of Bloodstone, <http://www.bloodstonemeaning.com/>

Heliotrope, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wik>

March Birthstones, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wik>

Picture from Wikimedia Commons, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>, used under terms of the GNU Free Documentation License

The Miner—Miscellaneous Stories

by John Anderson, Member of the Houston Gem & Mineral Society

From the *Backbender's Gazette* (Houston Gem and Mineral Society), March 2014 edition

Memory One

On this trip we drove about seventy miles from the City of Billings, Montana, and started asking many different people, "Where do you think that we might find or buy some Montana agate?" We had some success with a name that kept coming up—the "Walter Brothers." There was a tavern owner in the area who would give liquor in trade for Montana agate rocks. This was a big tavern with a full basement where the owner put the agate he received in trade for drinks. When the tavern owner died, his estate sold the contents of the basement—the Montana agate—to the Walter Brothers. They were two bachelor brothers who were about 70 years old and raised crops on their big ranch. We reached the Walter Brothers after a big mule buck deer almost jumped into our car. When we arrived at their ranch, they were very hospitable, and we asked about the story about the Tavern and whether the story was true. They both said, "Oh yes, the story is true." When they said yes, we wondered where the big deposit of agate was now. We were standing on a somewhat grassy hillside, and the Walter Brothers kept telling us more and more of the story. We started to get antsy about where the agate was. Finally, in unison the Brothers said, "You are standing on the agate." The agate was what the hill was made of, so we decided to stay a while because the agate was 50 cents a pound. Needless to say we did buy a lot of good agate at a reasonable price. If you went and priced the agate sold in Yellowstone National Park, you would have to pay six times that amount or more.

Memory Two

The Miner made a trip back there a few years later by himself when coming back from his position as a Miner for the Sunshine Mining Company. The Miner went back to the Walter Brother's home, but one of the brothers had died. I bought some agate and was thinking about leaving for the long drive to my home in Los Angeles, California. Mr. Walter went into his house and brought out two small boxes about six inches square. They contained nothing that I would have expected. The first box held a round-shaped item that he said was his gall stone removed six months ago by an operation. The second box contained a piece of Montana agate about 3" x 3" that looked like any other good-quality Montana agate with some good dendrites showing everywhere. I wondered, "What is so special about this rock," until he turned the rock over. The rock was river polished only, but it had the most beautiful display of color that I ever had seen in the finest fire agate specimens. The colors were so intense that it was more like a great black and blue fire opal from Australia and not like fire agate. Needless to say, Mr. Walter was not interested in selling the fabulous Montana Fire Agate, but I still was able to purchase some good Montana agate at a good price.

Memory Three

On this trip I still was not satisfied with the amount of agate that I was able to buy, and I wanted to be able to find some of my own. So I stopped at a gas station that had a garage and asked the attendant if he knew where we might find some agate. The owner's name was a gentleman that I will call "David." David owned the gas station, and he knew everyone in the town and in the surrounding territory

because his was the only gas station around. But he also was the town's mayor which was an honorary position—he received no money for holding that position. David knew everyone, and he was a big agate collector. He could go on any land because he knew everyone, and they allowed him to collect. Most of the farms and ranches in this area were very big, and he loved to go and collect agate. David told the gas station attendant that he was going to collect some agate, and that was it. We collected in many places that day, and at the end of the day, he invited me in for dinner with his wife and daughter. After dinner, he offered me a house that he owned and that was vacant. Such hospitality was admirable anywhere—even in Texas. The next day he said that he thought that he knew where we might find some sapphires, so off we went the next day. We looked and looked but found none. **A side note:** David sent a package to my home about a month later. It held about 30 clear sapphire crystals and a note saying he went back to the exact place where we had tried to collect with no luck, but he talked to a collector at that spot who showed him how to find them. He immediately started to find the sapphires. He only found clear crystals and none with any color. Now back to my story. That day when we returned to his house, I noticed that the drainage ditch in front of his house was filled with some kind of rock, and I asked him, "What is that for?" David said that is where I dump all of the Montana agate that I don't like. I asked is there a possibility of me taking some of the agate out from there? He said, "Sure, and you can have all of the agate that you want." I had hit a bonanza; he had so much good agate anyway, and he did not have any difficulty in collecting more from so many different places. He was glad to get rid of his unwanted Montana agate because it was filling up his drainage-ditch. I was driving a Plymouth four-door passenger car with five brand-new tires with warranties. I had picked up nephrite jade in Landers, Wyoming, some petrified wood which I can't remember where, and a lot of Montana agate. This brought my total weight package of rocks to 1,200 pounds. I had rocks on the floor of the passenger's seat, rocks on the back seat, rocks on the floor in the trunk, and rocks anyplace where I could find space. I had my tire iron and my tire jack, which I need if I had a flat tire—and did I have flat tires—even though they were new tires because of the weight of rocks that I was hauling. I had just passed Los Vegas, Nevada where I had to replace a blown out tire and was heading towards Los Angeles when I had another blowout with the tire that I had just replaced in Los Vegas. I had only driven about 50 miles on my new tire when I had a blowout with that tire. The gas station attendant said he didn't know if he could actually do anything concerning the warrantee because the paper was still attached to the blown tires tread. I said, "I am just going to take a nap, so wake me when you get it figured out," because it was about 3 a.m. in the morning. I made it home about 10 a.m. that morning, and weighed the rock load I had been hauling. I don't believe that automobiles have a personality that can talk, but when I finished unloading my car, I am sure I heard it or someone say, "Wow, what a load!"



PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

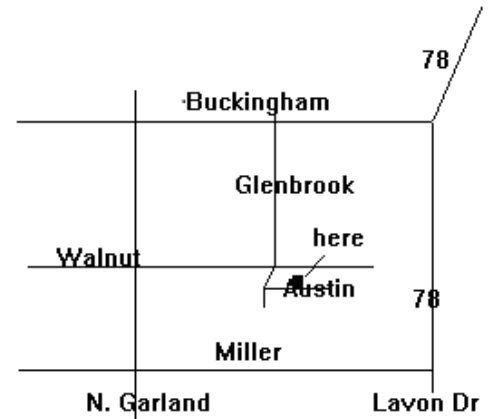


Meetings

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

Membership

Single Adult: \$16.00,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)



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

To:

Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Dallas Bead Society, The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
Dallas Gem & Mineral Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209
Dallas Paleontological Society, 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven Geotechnology Institute, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
Ft. Worth Gem & Mineral Club, meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth, TX
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, South Hampton Community Hospital, 2929 S. Hampton Rd, Dallas, TX
Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,