

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

March 2015
Vol. 49, Issue 3



1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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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.

Monthly Meeting

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 5th at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building
HANDS ON: CHIP INLAY led by DEL GRADY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Club Officers for 2015

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Open
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com,
l.shurtz@gmail.com

VISIT OUR AWARD WINNING WEB SITE TO
VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR.
www.pogmc.org

President's Message

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

February has been a busy month for the club with the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Fair at Brookhaven and the Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair at Fair Park. Due to the overlapping timeframes on the two fairs, Ling covered the Saturday morning STEM Fair while Caroline, Del, and Don were judging the Science Fair. Our March meeting will be a hands-on demonstration of "chip inlay" led by Del Grady. Mark your calendars for our April meeting – we will have a special guest speaker, Dr. Daniel W. Moulton, Ph.D., author of "Texas Nature and Environmental Centers Guide". Plan to be there and bring a couple of friends

Minutes of the February 5th 2015 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Carolyn Grady.

Visitors: We had a visitor, Brett Garland from Willow, Alaska and he is visiting down here in Garland.

The minutes of our November meeting were unanimously accepted as printed in the Chips and Chatter.

Del gave us the Treasurers' reports for November and December 2014 and January 2015. The reports were also unanimously accepted.

Old Business: The Dallas Regional North Texas Science Exhibition will be held on February 24th. That is also the day of the Science Show at Brookhaven College.

New Business: The Heard Museum is going to have a Spring Visit February 28th thru March 1st.

We are still talking about trying to have a club show at Brookhaven College. We will keep you informed if it will happen this year.

February's birthstone is the Amethyst and we had several club members bring some of their specimens for our show and tell table. Bob and Jerrye Parker brought in some specimens of Amethyst, Rhodochrosite, Fluorite and Pyrite and Petrified wood. Don brought some specimens of Fluorite and Quartz, and a beautiful chunk of Petrified Wood. Warner brought a chunk of Amethyst crystals and Amethyst and Citrine crystal from Brazil. Del brought a slab of cut coral and a slab of Quartz stalactite. Our visitor Brett brought a chunk of a possible meteorite he found up in Alaska. Patti brought a tray of faceted specimens of Amethyst.

Club dues are now due, so please pay your dues.

Our DVD for the evening was about digging up dinosaur bones in Wyoming. After our DVD we had our raffle of stone and mineral specimens.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Elms, Secretary

Sunshine Report

Please keep Butch and Patti Mitchell in your thoughts and prayers. Butch's mother, Hallie Barrett Mitchell passed away on Wednesday, the 18th February. She passed away peacefully from natural causes at the age of 91. The memorial service was held on the 24th of February.

Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Mar 7 -8, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Co. Fair Barn, lsimp@swbell.net, www.gcgms.org

Mar 7 – 8, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Regional Fairgrounds

Mar 7 – 8, Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake G&MS, Pasadena Convention Cntr.

Mar 12 – 15, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SWNM Fairgrounds, thedgms@gmail.com, www.thedgms.com

Mar 14 – 15, Live Oak, TX, Southwest G&MS, Live Oak Civic Cntr.

Mar 20 – 22, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, NM Sate Fairground, pualhlava@q.com, agmc.info

Mar 21-22, San Antonio, TX, San Antonio G&MS, krbotx@gytc.com, www.swgemandmineral.org

Mar 27 – 29, Eastern Federation, Hickory, NC

Mar 27-28, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, okieed42@windstream.net, <http://www.freewebs.com/agmfc/index.htm>

Apr10 – 12, Northwest Federation, Ogden, UT

Apr 11-12, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Cntr., kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net, rockclub.txol.net

Apr 16 -19, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MS, Alpine Civic Center, jbrueske@sbcglobal.net

Apr 24 – 26, Dallas, TX, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc., Dallas Market Hall,
<http://www.intergem.com/shows/>

Apr 25 – 26, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Events Cntr, babydocmac@aol.com

May 2 – 3, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Civic Cntr., walt@lubbockremandmineral.org,
www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

May 23 – 24, Ft. Worth, TX, Ft. Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Memorial Cntr.

May 23 – 24, Midwest Federation, Wheaton, IL

Jun 12 – 15, California Federation, Lodi, CA

Jul 16 – 18, Rocky Mountain Federation, Cody, WY

August 08 – 09, Baton Rouge, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Fraternal Order of Police

Aug 15 – 16, Bossier City, LA, ARK-LA-TEX G&MS, Bossier City Civic Cntr.

August 22 – 23, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, Events Cntr

Sep 26 – 27, Dallas, TX, Dallas G&MS, Restiol Expo Cntr

Oct 10 – 11, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Cntr.

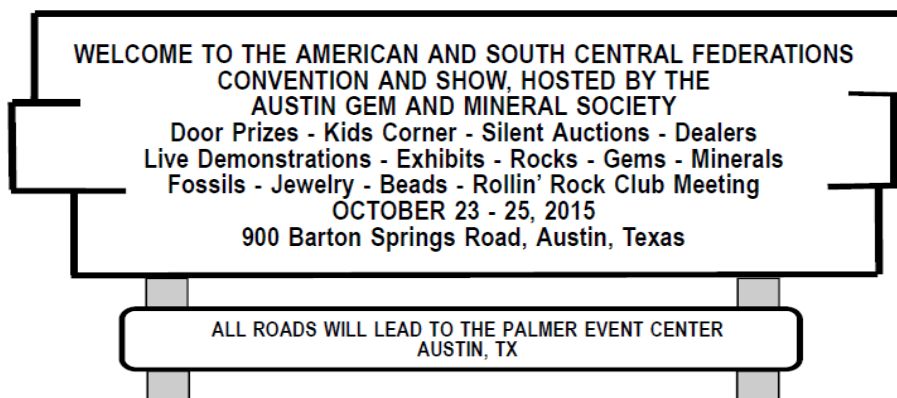
23-25 Oct 2015 – Austin G&MS show, SCFMS Convention, and AFMS Convention

Ref:

December 2014 – January 2015 AFMS Newsletter

November / December 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

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



March's Birthstones: Aquamarine and Bloodstone

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

March has two birthstones, Aquamarine and Bloodstone. Why two birthstones? There are more than one list of birthstones. The oldest of these lists is the mythical Tibetan list followed by the Ayurvedic birthstones from ancient India (about 1500 BC), then the Biblical birthstones associated with the breastplate of Aaron, and the zodiac birthstones used by astrologers. The modern birthstone list is derived from the stones in the breastplate of Aaron, but interpretation and debate of the stones used in the breastplate has resulted in many changes through the years. In an attempt to define common birthstones for each month, Tiffany & Company published a pamphlet with birthstones and a poem associated with each month. In 1912 the National Association of Jewelers adopted a "standardized" list of birthstones by month. They also strove to find stones that were more affordable and to that end they sometimes adopted two or more birthstones for a given month. The list was further refined and updated in 1952 by the Jewelry Industry Council. They also added more birthstones for some months. They also specified a color for those stones that have multiple colors (e.g., Topaz). The latest change to that list was the addition of Tanzanite as one of the birthstone options for December.

So now we know why March has multiple birthstones. If we went back to the list published by Tiffany & Company we would find that Bloodstone would be the only birthstone for March. We can guess that Aquamarine was added to the list as an option that could be more affordable, or at least more available. Bloodstone, also known as Heliotrope, is the



traditional birthstone of March. It is a green chalcedony with red inclusions of iron oxide or red jasper. It is often cut as a signet ring (a ring with a small seal). Bloodstone's chemical composition is Silicon Dioxide (SiO₂), the same as quartz and it has a Mohs hardness of 6.5 to 7 making it suitable for most any jewelry application. Most Bloodstone comes from India but it is also found in Brazil, China, Australia, Scotland and the United States. Aquamarine is the blue form of Beryl. The name means Water of the Sea. Beryl is a colorless gemstone, but trace amounts of iron in the plus 2

valence state (Fe²⁺) give the Beryl a blue color. Aquamarine is generally cut as a faceted stone. Aquamarine's chemical composition is Beryllium Aluminum Silicate (Be₃Al₂(SiO₃)₆, the same as all other forms of Beryl (clear, Emerald, Morganite, and Heliodore) and it has a Mohs hardness of 7.5 to 8 making it suitable for most any jewelry application. Aquamarine can be found in Brazil, Columbia Zambia, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, and the United States. The most predominate location in the United States is Mt. Antero in Colorado.



Ref:

Mathews Jeweler, [www://mathewsjewelers.com/guide/guiderright/guide-to-understanding-birthstones/](http://www.mathewsjewelers.com/guide/guiderright/guide-to-understanding-birthstones/)
 Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

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

Bloodstone picture by Blackoceanking, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
 Aquamarine picture by Rept0n1x, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

More information on Birthstones

Month	Mystical (Tibetan)	Ayurvedic (Indian)	Breastplate of Aaron	Modern
January	Emerald	Garnet	Onyx	Garnet
February	Bloodstone	Amethyst	Jasper	Amethyst
March	Jade	Bloodstone	Ruby	Bloodstone, Amethyst
April	Opal	Diamond	Peridot	Diamond
May	Sapphire	Agate	Emerald	Emerald
June	Moonstone	Pearl	Turquoise	Pearl, Moonstone, Alexandrite
July	Ruby	Ruby	Sapphire	Ruby
August	Diamond	Sapphire	Diamond	Peridot, Sardonyx
September	Agate	Moonstone	Jacinth	Sapphire
October	Jasper	Opal	Agate	Opal, Tourmaline
November	Pearl	Topaz	Amethyst	Yellow Topaz, Citrine
December	Onyx	Ruby	Beryl	Zircon, Turquoise, Tanzanite

Safety Matters – Got a Date?

by Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair from the February 2015 AFMS Newsletter

Got a date on any items in your field trip, show, or club meeting first aid kit? Many products now-a-days have not just manufacturer's lot numbers but product use by, or expiration dates as well. Such is the case not just for many food items, but medical supplies as well.

Even bottles of water have use by dates on them – not that water goes bad, but sometimes there is concern that the chemistry in the plastic of the bottle may migrate into the product. Thus if water needs a date, so do medical supplies.

Periodically, the person in charge of a club's medical or first aid cabinet should review the kits contents with regard to their expiration, or "use by" dates. While some folks play fast and loose with "best if used by" dates on food items, a medical supply item should really be kept up to date.

A couple safety people I know make reviewing supplies quite easy to accomplish because they maintain a list of all the first aid kit's supplies and contents as well as their respective expiration dates. Such a list makes periodic reviews easy – especially when listed in a computer data base and sorted by expiration date.

Now, while expiration dates are important, there are additional important facts to consider when making decisions to replace certain items. For example, adhesive bandages may be adversely effected by high heat (think something like noon day or desert sun here). Heat may also effect gel-caps, package seals,

and some meds. So one should not just go by the package expiration labels but also by the product storage and handling requirements.

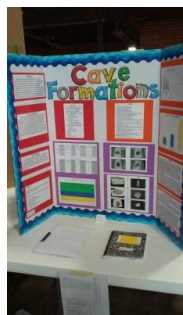
Another factor to consider is relative humidity or dampness. Be mindful to keep the items in the first aid kit protected from wet conditions as much as possible. Many store-bought first aid kits are sealed sufficiently well as to make them waterproof – some even have cases that float, which is quite handy in cases of venturing forth in, around, or on the water.

Some liquids such as hydrogen peroxide, alcohol, iodine may still be found in sealed glass containers. Needless to say, such containers should be well protected from accidental breakage.

Lastly, a note about cleanliness -- many first aid kits are taken right to the sight of a field trip and upon usage possibly exposed to dust, moisture, or other contaminants. First aid kits should be kept as clean as possible. It is not fun to open a kit and see the materials contained in it splattered or covered with dust and debris from the last trip. When items are dirt covered, one really must question the sterility of the contents. As they say, cleanliness is next to... well, cleanliness.

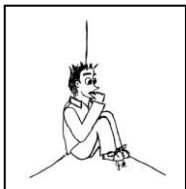
To start out the New Year, please, for safety's sake, make sure the products in your first aid kit are fresh, clean, and have their seals tight. Insure that the supplies that should be in the kit are indeed in the kit. Also, please be safe and consider getting those dates checked.

POGMC Special Award - 2015 Regional Science and Engineer Fair



Pleasant Oaks again sponsored a Special Award to be presented to the best Earth Science project related to our hobby at the 2014 Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair. This year Mr. Zachery Moore of Scoggins Middle School in Frisco was selected as our winner and will receive a \$100 gift certificate at Nature's Gallery. Zachery's project investigated the growth of cave formations. He investigated growing the formations in sandstone, granite, concrete, and limestone using vinegar as a weak acid. As expected, cave like formations grew from the limestone and concrete, but limestone produced the most cave-like formations. We also awarded two honorable mentions to Ms. Nameera Syeda and Ms. Navaz Alpaiwalla for their projects, Biodegradable Jewelry and Rocky Secrets – Where Does Oil Hide.



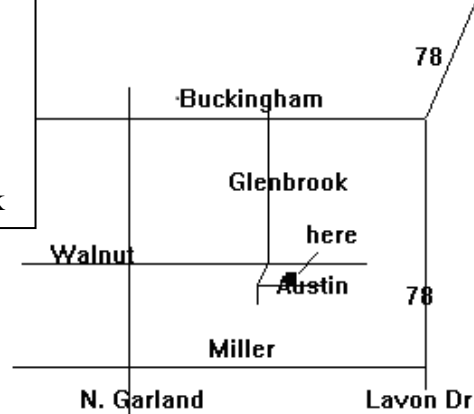


PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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: \$16.50
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:

March Meeting – March 5th, 7:30 PM at Garland Women's Activities Building Hands-On: Chip Inlay led by Del Grady

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, VFW Hall, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas TX (next to their shop)
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
CERA (Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, 3024 Acme Brick Plaza, Ft. Worth (formerly LM Stone Steppers)
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 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,