

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

Member of
SCFMS



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AFMS



March 2016

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1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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.

March Birthstone, Bloodstone

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Aquamarine is one of the March birthstone; Heliotrope (Bloodstone) is the second March birth stone. Bloodstone is a variety of jasper or chalcedony which is a

cryptocrystalline mixture of quartz.

The "classic"

Bloodstone is green jasper (chalcedony)

with inclusion of red colored hematite. The red

inclusions are supposed to resemble spots of

blood; hence the name "Bloodstone".

The name

"heliotrope" derives from various ancient ideas about how the

minerals reflect light. Heliotrope

was also known as the "Stone of

Babylon" (Albert the Great, 1193-

1280).in which he attributes several magical properties to the stone. Pliny the Elder (1st century) mentions first that the

magicians used it as a stone of invisibility. Damigeron (4th century) wrote about its property to make rain, solar

eclipse and its special virtue in divination and preserving

health and youth. Other mythical properties are associated with Bloodstone. Some believe blood stone bring change. Some used to stop nose bleeding. Bloodstone is use to

circulating energy in the body and remove blockage of energy in the body. Bloodstone has been use to protect against the "evil eye."

Bloodstone is also the symbol of Justice.

The chemical formula for bloodstone is SiO_2 ; the crystal system is

Trigonal and the Mohs hardness of 6.5-7. The refractive index is 1.53-

1.54 and Specific Gravity is 2.61. Heliotrope

(Bloodstone) is sometimes used in carved signet rings and is the traditional

birthstone for March.

References

Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>

The Crystal Vault, <https://www.crystalvaults.com/>

Picture:

Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

March 2016

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Rockhound Soapbox

by John Martin, Conservation & Legislation Chair – from the February 2016 AFMS Newsletter

Grass Roots! Those two words are now the most important words in the Rockhound vocabulary at this point in time. Without the grass roots effort of Rockhounds, Fossil and Mineral Collectors collecting areas will soon be swallowed up in Wilderness, National Monuments, and Environmental Study Areas and maybe even by Wind and Solar generating facilities. The Rockhounding Organizations do not have the financial resources, personnel or legal representation needed to wage the struggle contrary to the groups opposing open access to public lands. These opposing groups advocate the closing of access to collecting areas whether in the US Forest System or the BLM. The only way to keep collecting areas open is with grass roots effort by all Rockhounds that may collect or have collected in these areas of concern. The voice of the Rockhound needs to be heard and as loud as possible. If our voices are not heard in the location where the Rules, Regulations and Legislation are taking place the voices will not be heard and if we are not heard we, the Amateur Collectors of rocks, minerals and fossils, will lose access now and for Future Rockhounds.

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS (From the Wilderness Act of 1964)

hereby recognized as an area where the Rockhound Soapbox by John Martin, Conservation & Legislation Chair earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have

has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific,

USFS and BLM Public Lands which have roads(Logging, Recreational, access to collecting sites, grazing access, etc.), Mines(Active or inactive), Transmission lines, Microwave, Communication and cell phone Towers, do not meet the definition of a wilderness area as defined in the statement above. Man has left his imprint on the land and therefore it can no longer be considered as a wilderness or wilderness study area by their own definition. (The full text and additional reference may be found on the ALAA Website near the bottom of the Active Access Issues page)

Here are some Grass Roots thoughts that may help.

Tell all of the city and county officials how much tax money they will lose if the wilderness is created and withdrawn from the tax rolls. Remind the Forest Service and BLM that it is against the law to include roads and active mines in a wilderness area. You collect there, that makes it an active mine. Tell the Forest Service or BLM how many members are in your club and how many members from your area that uses the mine. Numbers speak so do not be afraid to mention them. Use dollars to estimate the cost lost to restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores will lose. Remind the sheriff that he is the legal law officer and that only he can arrest people. If you have the resources or funds send a fact sheet by mail to everyone in the counties where the wilderness is proposed, especially the property owners who will share their property lines with the wilderness. Send speakers to other service clubs and present your view. Have a booth or table set up at other public events or gatherings like your Rock Show and hand out your information. Get other organizations involved. Remind your club members that if they do not do it then who will. And when a Closure Activist says that ‘studies show that . . .’ call their bluff and demand that they show proof of that study, and do not ever let them off the hook. They made the statement now make them prove it.

Within the Rockhound Community the American Federation has the Conservation and Legislation Committee; Regional Federations may have a Public Lands Advisory Committee (PLAC) and the American Lands Access Association (ALAA) all may be able to assist you in making your voices be heard. No matter how one looks at it, saving your collecting areas for future Rockhounds will require a well organized Grass Roots effort.

The Helix, an Awesome Aquamarine

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The “Helix Aquamarine” is one of the most interesting mineral specimens on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in the Lyda Hill Hall of Gems and Minerals. The Helix was mined in the 1930’s in the Marambaia Region, Carai, Jequitinhonha Valley, Minas Gerais, Brazil. The specimen was originally owned by the family of Professor Doctor Hermann Bank of the famous Idar-Oberstein family of gem cutters. It remained in their private collection in its natural state, dirty and unprepared for 80 years. Very few photographs of the specimen were taken until recently. A photograph of the specimen did appear on the cover of Dr. Bank’s private book published in 1981, but had never been professionally photographed or cleaned and displayed for a public audience. The specimen is over 15 pounds in weight. It has never been heat treated – it remains the greenish-blue color for which Aquamarine was named.

Arkenstone of Richardson, TX helped broker the deal that brought the Helix from Germany to its new owner in Dallas. Arkenstone also cleaned and prepared the specimen for display. The Helix is on loan for display at the Perot Museum. Like all loaned specimens, the loan is for 3 years. I can only hope that this piece will remain on loan for longer than the nominal 3 year period.

The helical structure looks like a continuous spiral crack in the piece. However, it is not a crack, but a trace of the faces of phantom crystals inside the specimen. The exact reason the visible surfaces are spiral (helical) in shape is not know. Some speculate that the piece was rotating during formation; others believe that it is a physical property of crystal formation. The Helix is not the only aquamarine specimen to show a helical structure inside the piece, but it is far and away the most spectacular.

When I look at the piece I can see 6 cycles of the helix. I often think that I see 3 cycles and then 3 additional cycles, but I can’t determine if the cycle groups are attached. I would encourage you to make your own examination and see what you come up with.

Reference:

Beryl variety Aquamarine, <https://www.facebook.com/Arkenstone.iRocks>

The Earth Story, <http://the-earth-story.com/post/84667485805>

Picture by Don Shurtz of “The Helix” on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science



Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX,
[Cowtown G. M. & Glass Club](#), 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
[Dallas Bead Society](#), 1st Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (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](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Ave, Ft Worth,
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

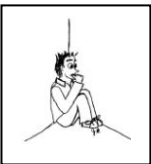
Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Mar 5 – 6, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M. Borchard Fairgrounds, www.gcgms.org
Mar 12 – 13, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center, www.swgemandmineral.org
Mar 10 – 13, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SW NM Fairgrounds, thedgms@gmail.com, www.thedgms.com
Mar 18 – 20, Albuquerque, NM, Alb. G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, paulhlava@q.com, www.agmc.info
Mar 19, Baton Rouge, LA, Recreation and Park Comm., Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Cntr, www.bred.org/swamp
Apr 1 – 2, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, Pontotoc Cnty Agri-Plex, okieed42@windstream.net,
Apr 9-10, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Ark. G&MS, Community Building, www.nwarockhounds.org
Apr 9 – 10, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Civic Center, www.new.calichetimes.com
Apr 15 – 17, Alpine, TX, Chihuahua G&MC, Alpine Civic Center
Apr 22 – 24, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, www.intergem.com/
Apr 22 – 24, Houston, TX, Fine Mineral Show, Embassy Suites Hotel, www.FineMineralShow.com
Apr 30 – May 1, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Event Center, www.wacogemandmineral.org
May 7 – 8, **Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS and the SCFMS Show and Convention**,
<http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org/57th-annual-show>
May 14, Arlington, Arlington G&MC Swap Meet, 1408 Gibbons Rd, www.agemclub.com
May 21 – 22, DeRidder, LA, DeRidder G&MS, Beaugard Parish Fairgrounds
May 28 – 20, Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Mem. Center, fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

Ref:

January – February 2016 SCFMS Newsletter

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



Editor's Corner – Tucson

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Considering how long I have been a rockhound, one would think I should be a seasoned veteran to the Tucson Gem and Mineral shows. However, February was my first trip to Tucson for the shows. We left Dallas on a Tuesday and two days and 975 miles later we arrived in Tucson. We took our RV and stayed at the KOA campgrounds in southern Tucson. The campground was in the area between Tucson International Airport and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The first morning at the campground I got to see a couple of F-22 fighters in the landing pattern – a good start. Unfortunately we did not have the time to tour the old aircraft bone-yard at Monthan-Davis – that will be near the top of the list on our next trip there. There were lemon, orange, and grapefruit trees in the campground and the fruits were ripe. Most of the oranges had been taken, but there were plenty of lemons and grapefruits to be had. There a gem shows virtually everywhere you turned. One of the small shows was in the enclosed patio area of the campground office, so that is where we started. After talking with the vendors (and a few small purchases) we were on our way to the show at the Kino Sports Complex. This is one of the larger shows and probably has the most “rough” material of any of the shows. The prices were good, so a lot of our purchases went to vendors in this show. In addition to rough material there were fossils, minerals jewelry, tools, and non-rock items (wooden carvings, clothing, etc). Although we returned to the Kino show several times, we also visited many other shows. The Main Street show was interesting – about 15 vendors spread out along a half-block of Main Street – as was the 22nd Street show. I found it somewhat amazing that there were so many vacant lots where could put up shows and parking. Most of the shows we visited, but we did visit one pay on entry show that had nothing but African Arts and Novelties. The very first booth did have a small table with some mineral specimens, but I was disappointed as that table was the only minerals in that particular show. So many fine minerals coming out of Africa, and none were at the African show. We missed a few of the bigger shows – they had closed the weekend before we arrived, but there were still plenty of them open. We did attend a couple of shows on their closing day and did find a few vendors dropping their price, but most just put their goods into storage and shipped them off to their next show. After several days of a lot of shows, it was 2 days and 975 miles back to Dallas. All in all, this was a good trip and I would like to try it again next year.



President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

February has come and gone very fast. POGMC participated in STEM fair (Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics) on the 20th and 21st of February. The STEM was very successful. The Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair is on the 27th of February at the Centennial Bldg in Fair Park. POGMC sponsors Special Award Prize and will have judges at the Fair.

Club Officers for 2016

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

Minutes of the February 2016 Meeting

The February 4th, 2016 club meeting was called to order at 7:40pm, by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lee.

Sunshine Report: Butch has had another small stroke.

Visitors: Scott Williams and Bruce. They brought rock specimens that were in his deceased wife's collection to see if any of us might be interested in purchasing any of them.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the January meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn. The motion was seconded by Warner. The motion passed.

Treasurers' Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurers' report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' Report was made by Lee. The motion was seconded by Linda. The motion passed.

Old Business: The Dallas Regional Science and Engineering Fair is coming up, and Ling has already

purchased the gift certificate and paid for the winner to attend the Awards Banquet.

New Business: For the March meeting we will bring green stones or jewelry for St. Patrick's Day.

Our Editor, Don, hopes that everyone read the Editors' Corner in the January Chips and Chatter. He really needs our help with articles for the March newsletter.

Warner's and Hat's birthdays are this month.

Warner brought a specimen called Havstack Amethyst and Epidote from a mine in Veracruz, Mexico. He said that the mine is still producing high quality specimens like this one.

Presentation: Linda Dallas showed us how to make Egyptian Chain Mail. Linda makes a jig that she uses to make the spirals of chain mail. She uses 18 gauge red brass wire. Each piece is 12 inches long. There are 31 pieces in the necklace. Once you get the 31 pieces you join them together with jump rings. The kit is priced at \$80 and includes the jig, wire, and jump rings. It makes a very pretty necklace and there is also a way to make the matching bracelet and, of course, earrings.

After the presentation we had our raffle and there were quite a few really nice specimens to be had. There was also a silent auction for an ammonite, and it was won by Don with the proceeds going to the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

Meetings

The March 3rd 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Don Shurtz will give a presentation titled "Birthstones, a History and Expose".

The April 7th 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building.

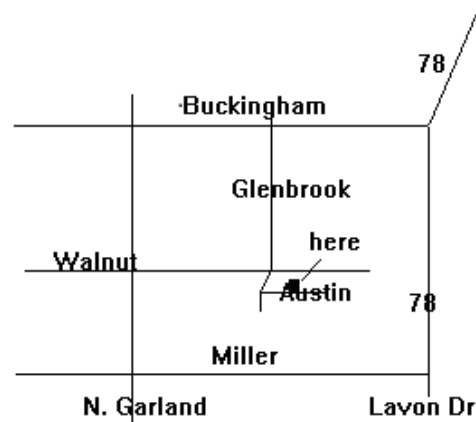
VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



<p>Meetings First Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM Garland Women's Activities Building 713 Austin St. Garland, TX (Northeast corner of Austin & Glenbrook)</p>
<p>Membership Single Adult: \$16.00. Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50 (Plus badge fee for new members)</p>



The March 3rd 2016 meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Don Shurtz will give a presentation titled "Birthstones, a History and Expose". The meeting starts at 7:30 pm.
 The April 7th meeting will also be at the Garland Women's Activities Building. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

CHIPS AND CHATTER

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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