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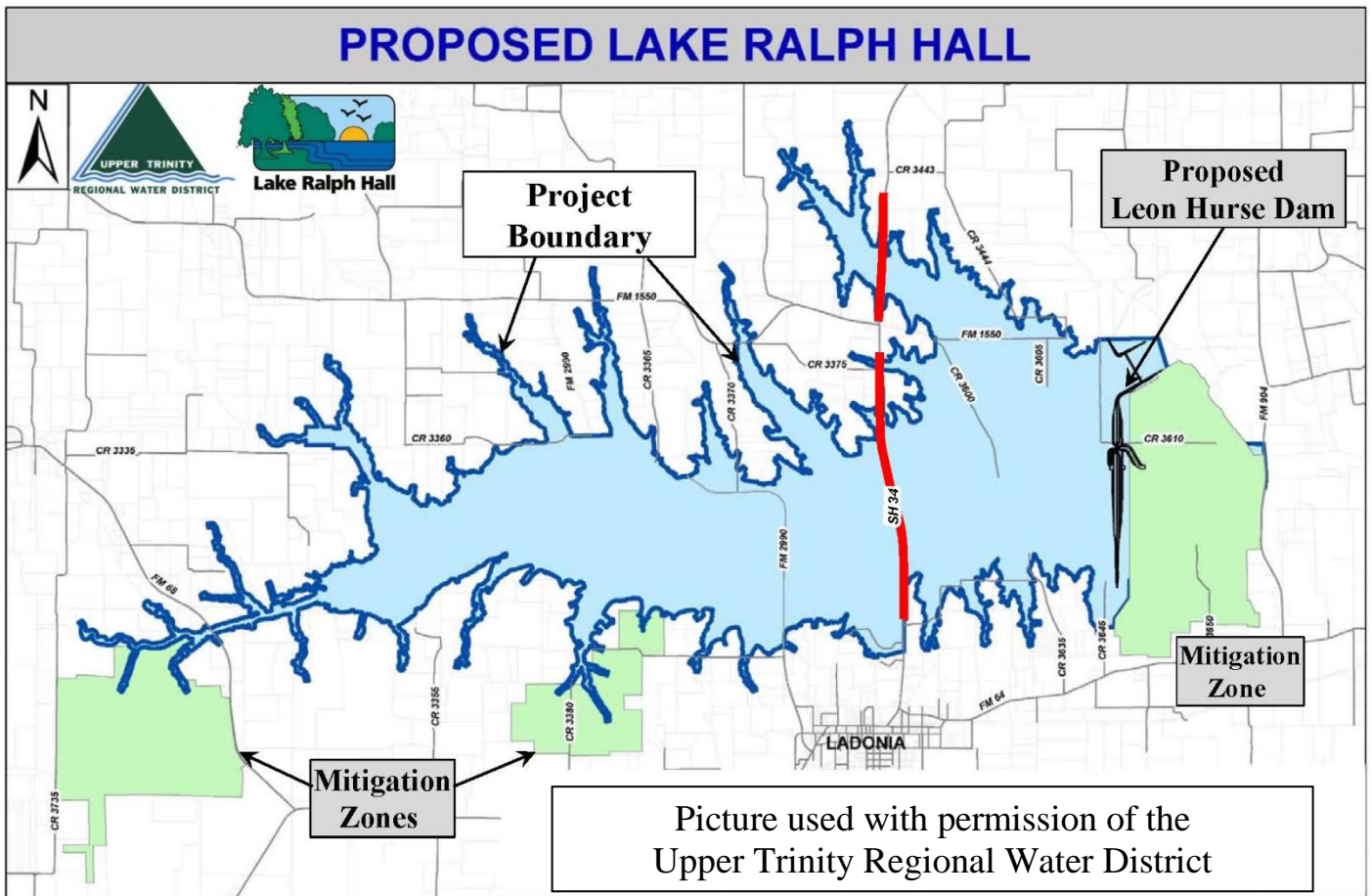
March 2020
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1st Place, 2019 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Ralph Hall Lake Update

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The Upper Trinity Regional Water District (UTRWD) has reported that they have received the final Federal Permit to build Ralph Hall Lake – the U.S. Army Corps of Engineering Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit. The lake will be just north of Ladonia in Fannin County. If you are wondering where that is, if you have ever hunted fossils in the North Sulphur River, you probably started your search in the area of the river that will become Ralph Hall Lake. The lake formed behind the Leon Hurse Dam and Spillways that will be about 1 mile north of downtown Ladonia. The lake will be about 8 miles long (west to east) and about 3.6 miles across at its widest point (north to south). The size of Ralph Hall will be about the size of Grapevine Lake but will produce about 30% more water due to greater rainfall in the Sulphur River drainage basin. The UTRWD estimates the project will produce, with reuse, about 54 million gallons of water per day.



In the 1920s, the Army Corp of Engineers dug a 20 ft. wide and 10 ft. deep channel to straighten out the North Sulphur River to help control erosion of farmland near Ladonia. The channel helped control the erosion of the farmland near Ladonia, but the straight channel allowed the rain drainage to flow down the river much faster. Faster flow equates to higher energy in the water resulting in higher erosion rates. The faster flowing water eroded a deep channel in the straightened river; the channel is now over 60 ft. deep and 300 ft. wide, and continues to grow. The erosion has exposed many fossils in the limestone sides and riverbed; it has become one of the most popular sites in Texas for amateur paleontologists and rockhounds to look for fossils. The Dallas Paleontological Society has published several books, papers, and updates over the years about the fossils from the river. A classic example of the fossils found there are the *Toxochelys* Turtle fossils displayed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. A five-year old girl found them in the North Sulphur River in 2006 when hunting fossils with her father! There were actually four turtles found stacked on top of each other – two remain at SMU.



The Upper Trinity Regional Water District started plans for the Ralph Hall Lake project about 17 years ago. With the final approval from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the dam construction will start later this year and the project completed in 2025. That gives us only a few more years to hunt fossils in the Ladonia area. The filling of the lake will likely slow the flow of water in the river to the east of the dam (my speculation). Look for fossil hunting east of the dam to be less productive (less water flowing, less erosion) until the lake is full. However, as they build the Leon Hurse dam there will be significant disruption to the limestone in the area. Hopefully that will dislodge fossils that will flow downstream and may make fossil hunting near FM 904 better. My very first trip to the North Sulphur River was a family hunt with access from FM 904 – it wasn't as easy to access the river there as at Ladonia Fossil Park, but it wasn't that difficult. Still, there are a few good years of fossil hunting the area near Ladonia. What was once the Ladonia Fossil Park has the easiest access. The parking is just north of State Highway 34 on the north side of the bridge and the west side of the highway. There were some tall stairs built down to the river, but there is about 20 feet of climbing down from the parking lot to the stairs. Once down to the riverbed the fossil hunting varies from good to almost nothing to be found depending on how recently it has rained and how many people have hunted since the rain. Another good place to access the river is where FM 2990 crosses the river. Parking is south of the bridge and you walk across the bridge to enter on the north side of the river and west of FM 2990. Hunting conditions are about the same as the State Highway 34 entry point. Anyone for a few more field trips! There are still a couple of years left.

References:

Ralph Hall Lake, Upper Trinity Regional Water District, <https://lakeralphhallinfo.com/>

Ralph Hall Lake Press Release, Upper Trinity Regional Water, received by email

Ralph Hall Lake Update, Don Shurtz, May 2016 Chips and Chatter, http://www.pogmc.org/newsletter/May_2016_Chips_and_Chatter.pdf

Pictures:

Ralph Hall Lake Map from Ralph Hall Press Release, used by permission

Toxochelys Turtle Picture by Don Shurtz of specimen on display at Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- MAR 5 -7, Murphy, TX, David Dobson Rock Sale, 1409 Oak Hill Ln, rock@rocktraiding.org
- MAR 7-8, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Cnty. Fair Barn, lolobellelamb@yahoo.com
- MAR 7-8, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, RMB Fairgrounds, gulfcoastgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com
- MAR 12-15, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SW NM Fairgrounds, thedgms@gmail.com
- MAR 14-15, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center, krbotx@gvtc.com
- MAR 20-22, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, paulhlava@q.com
- MAR 27-28, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC, bfreeman.1966@yahoo.com
- APR 10-12, Dallas, TX, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Market Hall, <https://www.intergem.com/>
- APR 11-12, Abilene, TX, Central Texas G&MS, Abilene Convention Center, www.new.calichetimes.com/page13.htm
- APR 25, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Wonderland of the Americas mall, www.swgms.org

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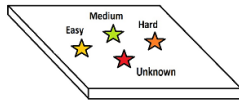
- January February 2020 SCFMS News
- SCFMS Local Shows, www.scfms.net
- Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Reprinted by permission of the author, Brad Smith. Received as an email from Brad Smith

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. As an example of the components, see items # 43060 and # 47887

File the tip of the soldering iron into the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

A tip design that I find ideal for some work is a length of small gauge wire that lets me reach in around the model to melt some wax. The wire is 18 gage and about 15mm long. I use Sterling wire to conduct heat easily to the tip, and I silver solder it into a hole on the end of a copper or brass rod that fits into the soldering iron.

INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering

Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How-To" Jewelry Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



VISIT AN AREA CLUB

- [Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX
- [Cowtown Gem, Mineral, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, CERA 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
- [Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1st Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX
- [Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)
- [Dallas Paleontological Society](#), meets 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244
- [Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth
- [Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,
- [Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland
- [Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

From the Desk of the President

David Wayment, AFMS President, from the February 2020 AFMS Newsletter



Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a splendid holiday season. At this time of year, besides making a resolution to exercise and lose weight that we never quite accomplish, most of us look forward to learning new things. I recommend getting involved with displaying cases, for competition or not, and judging classes.

Leslie and I were involved in our local federation, but not involved at the American level until we took a Judging Class in Reno, NV. We had family living there, and it seemed like a good way to take a vacation and learn what competitive cases were all about. When we had asked before, all we were told was read the rules, but they seemed too complicated to understand. When we attended the class, we were the only students from east of the Mississippi River. Walking into the class we were treated as long lost relatives, not strangers. That began our many friendships with fellow rockhounds from all across the country. We have attended all the AFMS shows since that time, both to judge cases and more especially to see friends.

The judging classes are very beneficial to anyone wanting to display cases, whether you want to learn to judge or not. Over the last 20 years a great effort was made to remove any personal bias from the rules, so a case would be judged the same no matter which federation it is judged in. One thing I have noticed in traveling to the different regions is the variety of focus of the cases depending on the region. While mineral collecting is big in some federations, jewelry making is big in others. It is good to see the differences.

There is a judging class scheduled for the NFMS show in Ogden, Utah this April. We also hope to be able to schedule a second class at the AFMS show in Knoxville, Tennessee this October. Even if you have been a judge for a long time, it is good to renew your skills, especially if you are not familiar with the rules for our newest divisions, Beading and Meteorites.

Safety Matters—The Season of Giving

Ellery Borow, AFMS Safety Chair, from the February 2020 AFMS Newsletter



Yes, it's the season of giving, but giving to whom? Everyone is well aware of the spirit of giving woven into the fabric of the season. In this day and age we now have this thing called the internet that makes giving even easier. The question is, with the giving spirit all around us, giving to whom?

Internet scams are targeting most everyone and everything—including rock clubs. The latest scam comes from what reads as a reputable person, organization, or member of a rock club and directs the recipient to purchase gift cards of various sorts and asks they be sent to some address so that a needy cause can be supported by you or your club's generosity. It is difficult to be specific with the details because the scams are presented in many flavors, with numerous wordings. The theme, however, is the same: a scammer ends up with money and not a deserving cause or charity.

With the giving spirit all around us and our generosity in high gear, it is sometimes easy to become lost in the spirit and thus devote insufficient attention to the details of that giving. Truly, the scammers are adept at making the request appear to be sound and the giving most appreciated. So with the season full of worthy charities, please be mindful of the diligent effort Scammers use to part us from our hard earned funds. We want our giving to be given to the desired charity or cause, and not to line the pockets of those nefarious internet charmers.

Best wishes to you and yours in 2020. Remember that your safety matters.

POGMC March Meeting

Our March meeting will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Corned Beef and Cabbage potluck dinner. The club will provide the Corned Beef and Cabbage – you should bring a dish (appetizer, vegetable, desert, etc.) to share. We will start at 7:00 PM and start the dinner shortly thereafter. Following the dinner, we will have story telling (with Show and Tell if you can). We will also hold a short business meeting. Do not forget to color in your entry for the coloring contest – the winner takes home an Amethyst specimen.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The March meeting will again celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a Corn Beef and Cabbage Potluck Dinner. For the meeting, we should continue our discussion of meeting format and location. Do not forget to start planning for the April 2020 International Gem and Jewelry Show – dates are April 10-12. Plan for set-up on Wednesday, April 8.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2019

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

MEETING MINTUES for February 6

POGMC President Ling Shurtz called the February 6, 2020 club meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Ling led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Sunshine Report:

- Butch has suffered another heart attack but is back home now – still planning to move to Canton
- Del has had eye surgery on one eye and is preparing for surgery on the other eye

Visitors: No visitors

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the January meetings as printed in the February 2019 Chips and Chatter. Cheryl made a motion to accept the minutes. Vicki seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave Treasurer's Reports for January 2020. Vicki made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports. Hatt seconded the motion. The motion passed

Old Business:

- The January IGEM is over. Lots of rain on day 1, but Saturday and Sunday had good weather and sales improved.
- There was no old business from the floor.

New Business:

- April IGEM show is April 10 -12 at Market Hall. Plan for set-up on Wednesday, April 8.
- Don made a motion to accept Vicki Ewing as a new member after a 1-year absence. Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- March meeting will start at 7:00 featuring Corned Beef and Cabbage (club provided) Potluck dinner.

- The coloring contest will be judged in March – the prize will be an Amethyst specimen.

Area shows:

- FEB 15-16, Georgetown, TX, Williamson County G&MS, San Gabriel Park
- FEB 22-23, Pasadena, TX, Clear Lake G&MC, Pasadena Convention Center
- FEB 22-23, Plainview, TX, Hi-Plains G&MS, Ollie Liner Center
- MAR 7-8, Big Spring, TX, Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard Cnty. Fair Barn
- MAR 7-8, Gulf Coast G&MS, RMB Fairgrounds
- MAR 12-15, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, SW NM Fairgrounds,
- MAR 14-15, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, San Antonio Event Center
- MAR 20-22, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds
- MAR 27-28, Ada, OK, Ada GM&FC

Break

Presentation: "The Galapagos Rift" video: This was a video from the Great Course series that dealt with the geologic history of the Galapagos Islands. The islands were formed from a hot spot – an area in the middle of a plate where lava rises to the surface creating volcanoes. Normally volcanoes only form at plate boundaries in subduction zones where plates come together or at ridges where plates move apart. Hot spots are generally found at mid-oceanic ridges. Sure enough, there is an oceanic ridge to the north of the Galapagos Islands where the Cocos and Nazca plates are moving apart. The video also detailed some of the environmental impact to the Galapagos Island due to human activity.

Raffle: We had the raffle

Ling adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

Minutes: From notes by Don Shurtz

MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 5, 2020 starting at 7:00 PM. We will have a Potluck Dinner and an opportunity to share stories. The subsequent meeting will be April 2, 2020.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

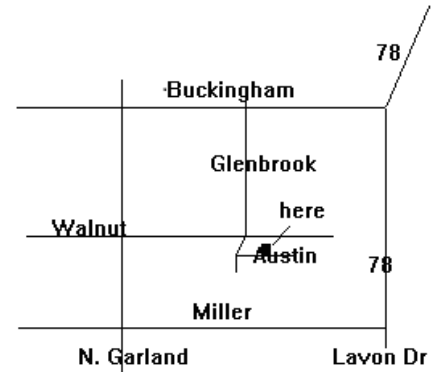
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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)



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. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

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

To:

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Meetings: First Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30 PM, Garland Activities Building, Garland TX
 Next Meeting: Thursday, March 5 **starting at 7:00 PM** featuring a Potluck Corned Beef Dinner

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