



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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

Danburite

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Danburite, is it an all-American mineral? No, not really, but Danbury, Connecticut is the type locality for danburite. The type locality indicates where the mineral was first found – i.e. its home location. So at least it started in the United States.

Danburite was identified by Charles Shepard, an American mineralogist, in 1839. The mine where Mr. Shepard found the danburite is now covered over by the City of Danburite. Today the best specimens come from Mexico, but it is also found in Russia, Madagascar, Japan, Burma, and Bolivia. A new source for danburite was discovered in 2015; an eluvial deposit with ruby, sapphire, spinel, and tourmaline in the Luc Yen mining area of Vietnam. Before the identification, danburite was considered a “Leaverite”.

Danburite is calcium boron silicate, $\text{CaB}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_2$ and has a Mohs hardness of 7 to 7.5. It is found as a clear, pink, yellow, or brown crystal



References:

- Danburite, Mindat.com. <https://www.mindat.org/>
- Danburite, Wikipedia.com, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danburite>
- DuBrul, Maja, What is Danburite and Why do I use it? <https://www.majadubrul.com/blogs/around-town/>
- Huong, Le Thi-Thu; Otter, Laura M.; Häger, Tobias; Ullmann, Tim; Hofmeister, Wolfgang; Weis, Ulrike; and Jochum, Klaus Peter, Luc Yen Minin Area, Vietnam, <https://www.gia.edu/gems-gemology/winter-2016-danburite-luc-yen-mining-area-vietnam>

Picture: Danburite from Mexico. Picture by Don Shurtz from a specimen on display at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Federation News

From the Desk of the AFMS President

Margaret Kolaczyk President
From the February 2022 AFMS Newsletter



I hope everyone had a safe and relaxing time over the holidays. Now is the time to start thinking about the upcoming AFMS Convention and Show in New Orleans, LA. This year there is time to work on stuff for the competitions. All American, Bulletin & Editors, Programs, Website and Competitive Displays. If your club or you have not competed but are thinking you would like to, please reach out to the committee chairs. They are happy to help. Everyone has to start somewhere and now is a great time to do just that.

The committee working on revamping the AFMS Website is moving right along. I am so impressed with how this committee is building the website. Once the updated website is launched, I believe everyone will be pleased. Just remember that when anything is first started, there might be a few bumps along the way, so please be patient.

As **Suzanne Webb** and **Pat LaRue** will tell you, writing the President's Message each month is very difficult for me. I struggle with what to say. But as president, it is one of the things I must do. My challenge is to all my AFMS committees. If I can take a couple of hours out of my day to write for the newsletter, please do the same. Even if each committee wrote 1 article a year, the editors would have a much easier time putting the newsletter together. Yes, I know there are some committees that do write articles almost every month, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. The newsletter is an important way to communicate with the clubs.

This is the start of 2022 and I am hoping for a new beginning for the clubs to start having meetings and shows.

From Roger's Desk

Roger Buford, SCFMS President
From the Jan – Feb 2022 SCFMS Newsletter

Hello from the bayou also known as the Boot. I write this at the beginning of January as I again take the office as your President and want to encourage all of our members to help out our Federation and clubs by volunteering to take on one of the open positions we have and provide your input on ways we can improve and grow our clubs again after all of our COVID issues. Membership in our clubs has decreased greatly due to the lack of ability to meet in person for so many of us. I encourage you to stay in contact with other members of your club by phone or

email. Remember those members who you have not seen for a long time and make sure they know that your club still exists even if you cannot meet in person, you can always have a Zoom meeting and for those who do not use computers, make sure they have the information to join in by phone so they do not feel neglected.

Liz and I are getting ready to head to Quartzsite, Arizona for a few weeks and see what new finds there are and I encourage everyone to make that trip at least once, it is not as fancy as going to Denver or that other show in Arizona but if you are looking for the best prices Quartzite is the place to go and not just for rocks, you can find anything under the sun there.

Have a happy New Year, 2022 “will” be better than the last two!

WHAT I LEARNED— VOLUNTEERS

Jerrold Simpson
SCFMS Past President

As Past President of the SCFMS, I thank everyone for their support. As all of you who volunteers know, serving in such a position is a learning experience. I learned several things during my service as Vice-President and then President of the Federation, which is one reason to volunteer. It is not always easy to volunteer for any position because of the time it takes from your regular life. I find it easier to make it a part of my regular life. One of the hardest jobs of an organization President is to get folks to volunteer. It is generally easier to get volunteers in your local societies because you have frequent contact with each other. It is different from the Federation. Contact with fellow volunteers is normally by email, phone call, text, and personal contact once a year. As President, you call on people you know to fill positions, and normally these are people that are already volunteering. If you will review the present list of officers, you will note that many of them have been involved in the same position for several years. The Federation needs volunteers to continue serving the member societies. It is my hope that the Federation members continue supporting Roger Buford, President, and Don Shurtz, Vice President in the coming year. Try something new & different, volunteer for a federation position, or a local Society position. Who knows, you could learn something new.

Bench Tip from Brad Smith

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Comments below by Edutir,

Last month, Brad Smit provided two Bench Tip Articles. The first was a short article about Magnetic Tool Bars. The second was a much longer thesis about soldering discolorations. In addition to being long, it was confusing. Originally it was written for 2 or 3 monthly articles that got combined into one article. The process of combining the articles resulted in editing issues and confusion. However I am not going to belabor the issues, just mention that a GGB (Great Big Bunch) of good information is presented. It takes up a lot of page real estate that our Mini-Bulletin can't afford. I will post the article on the web at

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Please note that many shows are being canceled in response to health concerns associated with COVID-19
Check with the show contact to verify the show status

March 2022

- 5 – 6 March, Robstown, TX, Gulf Coast G&MS, Richard M.Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, gulfcoastgemandmineralsociety@gmail.com
- 10 – 13 March, Deming, NM, Deming G&MS, Inc. Southwest NM State Fairgrounds. Website TheDGMSclub.com
- 18 - 21 March, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo State Fairgrounds Website: timprocks.weebly.com

April 2022

- 2 - 3 April, San Antonio, TX, SW G&MS 60 Fiesta of Gems, Morris Center @ Joe Freeman Coliseum, Website: SWGMS.org
- 2 - 3 April, Truth or Consequences, NM, Sierra County R&GS, Sierra County Fair Barn, Website: scraggs.org
- 9 - 10 April, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Building, Email: delanec3@earthlink.net
- 30 April – 1 May, Waco, TX, Waco GMS, Waco Convention Center, website www.WacoGemandMineral.org

May 2022

- 28–29 May, Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MS, Will Rogers Memorial Center, website: <http://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org>

June 2022

July 2022

- 1–3, Farmington, NM, San Juan County G&MS, McGee Park, Email: torycbonner@gmail.com

August

- 20 – 21 August, Bossier City, LA, Arklatex G&MS, Bossier Civic Center

September

- 24-25m Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, website: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

October

- 14 - 16 October, Westwego, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, The John A Alario Event Center. SCFMS & AFMS Show and Convention, Contact: J. David Cope, (504) 214-6754

November

- 19 – 20 Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, website: dallasgemandmineral.org

December

Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Ref: January – February 2022 SCFMS Newsletter

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 see website while we work to find a new home.
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30, Wild Beads, 2833 Galleria Dr., Arlington, TX

Our Next Meeting

President's Message

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Our next meeting will be on March 3, 2022. We will meet at the Bradfield Recreation Center in Garland in the Game Room (The room will be ours for the meeting duration). The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and end at 8:30 pm. The start and stop times need to accommodate room setup, tear down, and clean-up. Once we determine the desired orientation, the setup, tear down and clean-up should be about the same as the Garland Activities Building room.

The Bradfield Recreation Center is located at 1146 Castle Road. It is just west of the intersection of Castle Road and N Country Club Road. If you are going east on Castle Road, look for the entrance on the right just before the start of the metal road guards. If you are coming from the west, look for the metal road guard on the left (south) to end just before you reach the Rec Center access road. I am not the best person to consult for directions in Garland, but Castle Road does have a red-yellow-green traffic light with left-turn arrows where you turn towards the east from State Highway 78. In addition to the traffic light, there is a SHELL Gasoline station on the southeast corner and a 76 Gasoline station on the northeast corner. It should be hard to miss that intersection, but your friendly editor managed to miss it on his first try. I didn't know about the traffic lights or gasoline stations, and the GPS seemed slow to announce the turn so I breezed right through the intersection and had to make a U-Turn to get back on track.

During the meeting, we will discuss a permanent meeting location, then press on to a DVD presentation from the Great Course Series or a DVD from the Dallas Mineral Show a few years ago. This will allow us to see how the light reflects from the Recreation Center walls.

When we meet, I hope for some strong opinions about meeting places. If a location is in a less favorable part of town causing some to be concerned – please SPEAK UP. If you have some other place in mind, please share your thoughts. We need a home, but we don't need a bad home.

Jewelry Wearability Thought

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

For this month's lead article about Danburite, I investigated the topic of "wearability" on the GIA website. I had never thought about it, but dust is composed of microscopic particles of the most common materials in the environment. Silicon Dioxide (quartz) and similar silicate minerals are some of the most common items in the earth's crust and a lot of them end up as dust in our homes, shops, etc. So our polished stone stands a good chance of being exposed to and eroded by common dust. If the stone you are wearing is a diamond or corundum (ruby, sapphires, etc.) or other stone with the same or greater hardness of silicon dioxide, then the dust is not going to do any significant damage. But if the stone you are wearing is softer (opal, fluorite, calcite, malachite, amber, etc.) you should not be surprised if the polish seems to get dull over time. It is AMAZING what a little dust can do. So stones that have the same or greater Mohs hardness should be just fine in jewelry. Of course, dust is not the only thing that can damage your jewelry. Bumps, dropping, exposure to household chemicals, etc. can damage most stones. Strong prongs can help protect a stone from bumps that could split your stone. A low dome cabochon in a recessed finding or the center of a wide finding could also help with bumps. This will help with not only harder stones, but softer stones.

So what about the wearability of Danburite. It may not be the most wearable of all stones, but with a Mohs hardness of 7.5, it does fit into the good wearability category.

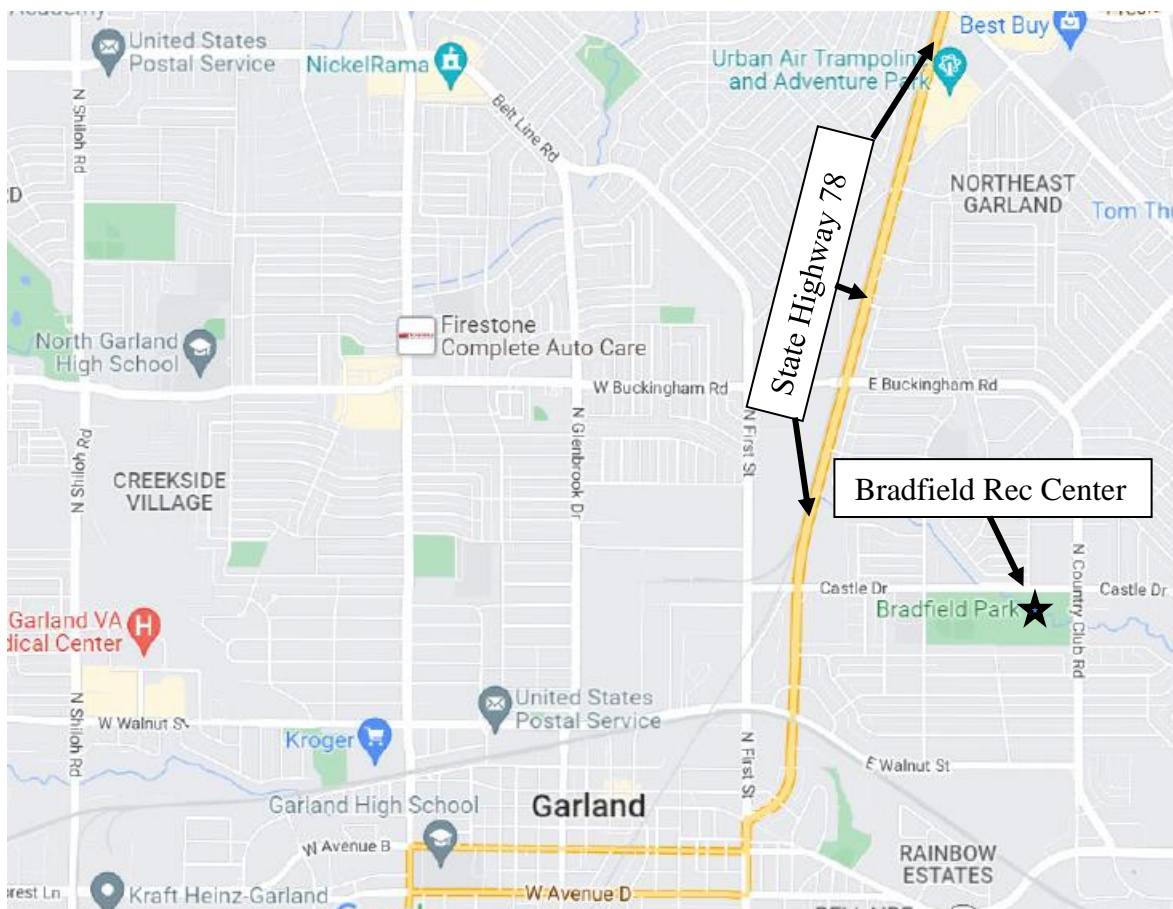
CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2022

President: Don Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Judy Wilson
Secretary: Amy Vulk
Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
Editor: Don Shurtz
Contact us by e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com or
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

Minutes

There were no minutes for February. A few days before the meeting it became apparent that the weather was going to be cold and nasty. Icy roads throughout the DFW area were forecast with a lot of the nasty weather centered on our meeting time. We took a proactive approach and canceled the meeting well in advance of the scheduled time. There isn't

Here is an extract from Google Maps showing some of the details to get to Bradfield Park and Recreation Center. The Recreation Center is located at 1146 Castle Drive. Our meeting time is from 7:00 to 8:30 – please try to be on time as we have to pay extra if we run over.



any need to go out there and bend up a car, or worse, bend up your body for a hobby meeting.

MARCH MEETING
March 3 starting at 7:00 PM
Bradfield Recreation Center
1146 Castle Drive
Permanent location discussions and
Video from the Great Courses Series.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings
First Thursday of each month, time and location to be determined. Next meeting on March 3 is at the Bradfield Recreation Center

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. Our next meeting will be on **March 3, 2022, starting at 7:00 PM.**
We will meet at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Dr. (also, see pages 4 and 5)

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Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX