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1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Devil's Tower

Cheryl Ogletree, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Devil's Tower, a strange and striking rock formation, rises out of the Wyoming plains, almost vertically, to more than 1200 feet above the area around it. Tall columns, some as much as 8 feet in diameter, taper from the bottom to top.



This strange shape was formed underground, entirely, when the area around it was at a much higher elevation. Devils Tower is made of a type of igneous rock called phonolite porphyry, which is between a granite and a basalt in composition. It has more quartz in it than typical basalt. Basalt erodes easily, but the granite and quartz in phonolite make it tougher and weathering resistant.

Very hot rock that liquified or magma from a volcano rose from the mantle to bulge out or erupt at the surface. The

columns, being phonolite, were more rugged than the surrounding sedimentary rocks such as sandstone, limestone, and shale. They withstood the forces of wind, water, and weather erosion to rise up as a sentry of the plains, held sacred to the Native Americans that live in the area.

Picture: Devils Tower National Monument picture by [jtstewart](#) and used under the terms of [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic](#)

Editor's Apology to Cheryl: This article was submitted several years ago. It arrived as an issue of the Chips and Chatter was being finished, so it was put aside for a future issue. The article got buried in a stack of papers and surfaced again last month during a deep cleaning. So here is the article – late and with my apology for being so late.

From the Desk of the President

Cheryl Neary, AFMS President 2022-2023



Beware the Ides of March” is a term that many of us know from history and associate with the day Julius Caesar was assassinated. Did you know, though, that there are several months with “ides” on the 15th day of the month, including March, May, July, and

October; the “Ides” in the other eight months is the 13th day of the month. The Roman calendar was connected to the phases of the Moon. The passage of time was marked by the following:

- “kalend” — the first day of the month
- “none” — the first quarter of the Moon, either the fifth or seventh day, and
- “Ides” — the full Moon, which is either the 13th or the 15th day.

March 15th was the first full moon of the new year in the Roman calendar. Ides is usually the middle of the month, the timing of the full moon.

The word “ides” is derived from a Latin word meaning to divide. In Roman times the Ides of March was also a deadline for settling debts.

Before his untimely death, Julius Caesar enacted a calendar that was similar to our modern calendar, with 365 days, 12 months, and even a leap year every few years, as the Earth's orbit around the sun is not exactly 365 days!

In our modern calendar, the months' names are from Greek or Roman gods. The exception is July, the month named after Julius Caesar, who was born in the seventh month.

Not all countries changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar when it was introduced in 1582. In the USA for instance, Texas, Florida, California,

Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico changed in 1582, as did Spain. Washington and Oregon changed, along with Britain, in 1752. Alaska changed in October 1867 when it became part of the USA. Many of the British colonies changed in 1751 due to an Act of Parliament of the United Kingdom specifying the use of the Gregorian calendar. Currently, no countries use the Julian calendar.

So, what does any of the above have to do with the AFMS?

It has to do with **your** calendar. It has to do with **you** — marking your calendars for meetings or field trips or deadlines. We live our lives around the calendar. We work and play based on the calendar we each create for ourselves.

Have you marked your calendars for your meetings so you don't miss out on them? Did you mark your calendar for deadline dates — perhaps for your own club's bulletin, your federation's newsletter, or the AFMS newsletter?

Did you mark your calendar to attend the AFMS convention in August? Or your own Federation's convention? Or your club's show? Be sure to check the calendar in the AFMS Newsletter and mark the dates of the conventions you plan to attend. **Note the CORRECTIONS to the calendar in this newsletter!** (*Editor – comment applies to AFMS Newsletter*)

While a calendar is a great tool to have, you need to follow it! Remember, your calendar is in a constant state of change — and you need to be flexible to have it work for you.

Talk about calendars: Most hotels require you to have your group reservation by a deadline date, usually a month earlier. Whether it is for your own Federation's convention or the AFMS convention — do not dally!

More about this year's AFMS convention will be mentioned next month — mark your calendar!

BIRTHSTONE WORD FIND

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Birthstones are always a fun topic, so here is the Birthstone List from the American Gem Society. In the puzzle, you need to find not only the birthstone names but the names of the months.

JANUARY:

GARNET

FEBRUARY:

AMETHYST

MARCH:

AQUAMARINE

BLOODSTONE

APRIL:

DIAMOND

MAY:

EMERALD

JUNE:

PEARL

MOONSTONE

ALEXANDRITE

JULY:

RUBY

AUGUST:

PERIDOT

SARDONYX

SPINEL

SEPTEMBER:

SAPPHIRE

OCTOBER:

OPAL

TOURMALINE

NOVEMBER:

TOPAZ

CITRINE

DECEMBER:

TURQUOISE

TANZANITE

ZIRCON

B	H	I	N	R	R	T	V	H	P	S	S	M	M	E	G	N	H	O	R	T	S	S
P	I	G	B	L	C	I	E	A	B	C	J	A	N	U	A	R	Y	J	U	N	W	Q
P	R	N	O	L	U	E	R	M	J	R	Q	R	T	R	R	Y	L	L	U	H	T	U
L	R	T	R	B	O	Q	Z	N	B	U	B	C	N	M	N	R	E	W	Q	N	R	M
O	I	T	E	K	U	O	U	V	A	B	L	H	K	F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y	A
A	F	L	U	J	Q	U	D	M	C	Y	A	Y	W	L	T	D	F	G	M	Z	M	R
R	G	L	T	E	A	S	A	S	Z	X	V	Q	S	I	A	S	F	H	E	X	N	E
Z	O	A	O	J	P	R	K	L	T	F	R	C	X	R	P	O	U	J	T	C	B	N
P	C	O	W	U	I	E	M	J	N	O	T	G	B	P	I	I	Y	K	H	V	E	I
C	L	K	P	N	R	G	H	O	H	D	N	O	M	A	I	D	T	M	Y	A	M	L
V	X	B	E	E	S	D	F	T	O	Y	H	E	N	J	Y	U	U	M	S	J	E	O
Q	W	Z	O	A	A	L	E	X	A	N	D	R	I	T	E	K	L	P	T	F	R	Y
T	R	I	R	P	C	R	Q	R	S	T	S	Y	Z	E	P	T	S	U	G	U	A	Y
E	Y	U	V	E	B	D	L	P	O	E	U	T	X	A	R	E	A	P	H	J	L	X
T	Y	X	U	T	B	A	E	F	P	N	V	W	O	O	U	Y	R	F	I	B	D	E
I	T	Z	W	S	U	M	A	T	G	H	M	L	C	N	B	U	D	I	V	N	N	R
N	U	R	L	R	Q	B	E	D	E	I	J	K	T	I	E	I	O	P	D	H	E	M
A	R	E	L	A	P	M	C	V	F	L	A	P	O	O	U	O	N	Q	O	O	V	L
Z	Q	B	N	O	B	M	K	G	O	E	G	O	B	F	U	P	Y	L	T	R	T	W
N	U	M	I	E	N	L	J	I	H	N	D	O	E	F	F	R	X	L	L	D	A	Q
A	O	E	R	I	H	P	P	A	S	I	M	E	R	O	G	B	M	L	K	H	F	D
T	I	C	T	E	F	L	U	O	T	R	N	T	O	C	M	T	O	A	R	A	I	F
Z	S	E	R	E	H	S	N	E	I	T	O	P	A	Z	E	Y	T	H	L	F	O	T
R	E	D	T	I	T	I	W	O	I	I	S	M	O	O	O	N	R	Y	N	I	E	H
T	L	L	F	I	Z	R	T	Z	R	C	U	E	H	O	S	N	R	A	U	O	N	I
J	A	R	O	E	M	G	H	I	T	T	E	R	I	X	Y	E	O	Y	J	C	R	E

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 the 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:00 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244

[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 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 7:15 PM, Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive,

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

March 2023

- 17 – 18 MAR, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, website: www.agmc.info
- 25 – 27 MAR, Truth or Consequences, NM, Sierra County R&MS, Sierra County Fair Barn, website: scrags.org

April 2023

- 1 – 2 APR, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Morris Center at Joe Freeman Coliseum, website: www.swgms.org
- 1 – 2 APR, Siloam Springs, AR, Northwest Arkansas G&MS, Siloam Springs Community Building, Facebook: NWAGMS

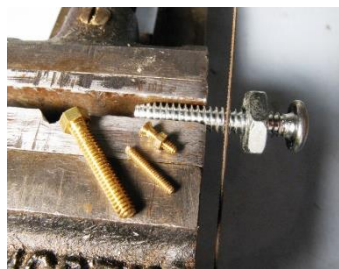
Ref: Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Ref: January-February 2023 SCFMS Newsletter

Bench Tip from Brad Smith

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CUTTING A BOLT



Whenever you have to cut a threaded bolt shorter, it's often difficult to get the nut to thread back onto it. And the smaller the bolt, the more difficult it is to restore any distorted threads. The problem is easily solved with the use of a nut. Here's how I do it.

First, screw a nut onto the bolt before cutting it. Grip the bolt by the threaded section that is to be sawed off. Then saw the bolt to the desired length, taper the end with sandpaper or file, and unscrew the nut from the bolt.

Unscrewing the nut over the freshly cut end of the bolt will straighten out any damage that sawing and filing did to the threads. Gripping the bolt by the piece to be sawed off localizes any crushing damage to the piece that will be thrown away.

DEPTH GAUGE FOR DRILLING



hole is deep enough.

Sometimes you need to drill a number of holes all to the same depth. One quick and easy way to do this is to wind some tape around the drill bit so that the tape just touches the part's surface when the

You can set the depth either by measuring from the tip of the drill to the tape or by drilling to the correct depth, leaving the bit in the hole, and wrapping tape around the bit at the surface level.

Note that a little extra tape left free on the end will blow away debris from the drilling.

Learn New Jewelry Tricks and Techniques with Brad's Jewelry-Making Books

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

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems



PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings
First Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX

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
c/o 4004 Dublin Rd.
Allen, TX 75002-6526

To

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 2, 2023, starting at 7:15

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