

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



May 2013
Vol. 47, Issue 5

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Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

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, in particular 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

Next meeting will be Thursday, May 2nd, 2013 at the Garland Women’s Activity Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX. The program will be the pilot for the new series “Prospectors” and will be about Mt. Antero and Colorado Amazonite.

Club Officers for 2013

President: Del Grady
 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
 Secretary: Lee Elms
 Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
 Editor: Don Shurtz
 E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR

Check our website, www.pogmc.org
 for prior month issues of the
Chips and Chatter



The Vice President Speaks

Mark Carter, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

I hope to have the pilot for the new series "Prospectors" collecting on Mt Antero and Colorado amazonite collecting.

April 4th, 2013 Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by President Del Grady.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter

Sunshine Report: Patty Mitchell is under the weather again. We hope she gets to feeling better soon.

We discussed the March minutes in the Chips and Chatter and unanimously approved the minutes as printed.

Don Shurtz gave the Treasurers' report and we voted unanimously to accept the report as given.

There was no old business to discuss.

Carol Tipp and Lee Elms brought some of the pyrite and shark teeth they had collected out at the TXI trip.

Upcoming shows:

Inter-Gem show is April 26th thru 28th. Set-up will be on Wednesday.

Dallas will be having a swap meet this Saturday.

Arlington Rock Swap meet will be May 24th.

Check our newsletter for other local shows.

Warner brought a real treat for our refreshment break - fresh, gigantic strawberries. They were so good. Several other people brought cookies. After the refreshment break Mark Carter told us that Warner was going to demonstrate how to wire wrap a stone. The beautiful stone he chose was a Mexican Crazy Lace Agate. He used 26 gauge wire, square and half round, and he used 6 strands of wire to wrap the stone. Each step of the way he showed us what the wire looked like as he bent it and twisted it to fit to the stone, and then where to place the wraps to hold all the wires. He also made the bail into a fleur-de-lis shape, with little rosettes on the end of the bail. It was a beautiful piece of work. He also showed us all of the tools he uses to straighten the wire, the then bend the wire, and how to hold the wire strands to wrap them tightly, so everything is uniform and precise. We really learned how to make a beautiful pendant.

After the demonstration we had our raffle.

The meeting was adjourned about 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted

Lee Elms, Secretary

Editor's Corner

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



I must be getting mellow in my old age – once again no soapbox speeches. I think we should all express our gratitude and thanks to the federal, state, and local authorities for their efforts in successfully capturing the Boston Marathon bombing suspects. I think we also need to open our hearts to those injured or killed in Boston and West.

Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for April, May, and July

MAY 4, Arlington, TX, Rock & Gem Swap Meet, Arlington G&MS, 1408 Gibbons, Arlington, jlspinks@sbcglobal.net, agemclub.com

MAY 25-26, Ft. Worth, TX, Ft. Worth G&MC, Amon Carter Ex. Bldg, fwgmc@embarqmail.com, forworthgemandmineralclub.org

JUN 28-30, Grapevine, TX, EGI Show, Grapevine Convention Center, egi168@hotmail.com, www.egishows.com

JUL 5-7, Farmington, NM, San Juan Country G&MS, Civic Center, mickie2@earthlink.net

Ref:

March-April SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates/>

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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Visit our web site: www.pogmc.org, "Like" us on Facebook

May 2013

Birthstone for May – Emerald

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Emerald is the birthstone for May. Emerald is a green colored species of the mineral beryl. Beryl has the chemical composition of $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_3)_6$ (Beryllium Aluminum Silicate) and has a Mohs hardness of 7.5 to 8.0. Trace elements in the crystal lattice provide different colors to beryl. Iron in the crystal lattice can produce blue beryl (Aquamarine) and yellow beryl heliodor. Manganese in the crystal lattice can produce pink beryl (Morganite) or red beryl (Red or Scarlet Emerald). Chromium in the crystal lattice produces green beryl (Emerald). Vanadium in the crystal lattice can also produce green beryl. In the 1960s the American jewelry industry changed their definition to include the classification of green vanadium beryl as Emerald. However, in Europe and the United Kingdom, only the green chromium beryl is recognized as Emerald. Don't you just love a controversy?

Emerald is known as an emblem for rebirth, hence being the birthstone for the first full spring month. Emerald is also believed by some as bringing its owner foresight, good fortune, and youth.

Emeralds are found in many localities. In ancient times emerald was mined in Egypt, India, and Austria. Today the largest producer of emeralds is Columbia, followed by Zambia as a distant second in production. In the United States, emeralds have been found in North and South Carolina, Montana, Connecticut, Nevada, and Alaska. Synthetic emeralds are also being produced with Russia supplying most of the synthetic emeralds.



Ref:

American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/may-birthstone>
Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerald>

Pictures:

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Federation News – Excerpts from “The Nash Rambler”

John Nash, SCFMS President

From the March – April 2013 SCFMS Newsletter

I have asked Virginia Adian if she would serve as Chair of the Scholarship Fund-AFMS and she agreed. Send your scholarship donations to Virginia and she will send them to Jon Spunaugle of the AFMS.

The Endowment Fund-AFMS is now being handled by Catherine Rouchon from the Baton Rouge Club. I am sure she will be sending information to your club soon. Help Catherine by contacting her for raffle tickets to sell at your club meeting.

Jonathan Moehring has given notice that he is retiring from his position as Executive Secretary at the end of this fiscal year in October. Jonathan has held this position for many years and now is running out of steam. Check his duties and you can understand why he is getting tired. Now comes the job of finding a replacement. Jonathan has agreed to train his replacement so one needs to be named now.

Wanda Reynolds is Chair of the Nominating Committee so if you want to volunteer, see Wanda.

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, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209
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
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 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,

Mineral Cleaning

Bridget Joubert
Central Louisiana Rockhounds

At a recent rock show (Clearlake, TX), we stopped by the Fender's mineral specimen booth to chat about their very fine Minerals. Jim asked him how he got such beautiful pyrite and galena specimens. He said it was all in the cleaning he did prior to displaying. Here is what he said:

Galena: Soak the specimen in warm "Iron-Out™" to remove surface iron and lead oxides. This may take an all day soaking if very "dirty". Rinse well and scrub lightly with a bristle bush, NOT a wire brush, it scratches! Spray well with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" (no bleach type) and give it a good scrubbing with a tooth brush. Rinse well and let the specimen air dry completely (a fan helps speed this up) before putting it away. By the way, are you wearing kitchen dish gloves? Some people are sensitive to the aggressive chemicals in these cleaners so put on those gloves and safety glasses!

Pyrite: One of the problems with many Pyrite (FeS) specimens is that they may be a mixture with Marcasite. (Marcasite (FeS₂) is an unstable "Pyrite" and will slowly deteriorate as it is stored, especially in the damp air of Louisiana. If you find your nice pyrite specimen sitting on a pile of sulfur smelling grey ash, it is a mixture specimen! The Marcasite slowly converted to sulfuric acid and iron, eating away at the whole specimen, cardboard box and all.

To clean up the specimens with Marcasite, use that wire brush that was forbidden above! Get rid of all the visible Marcasite with a good soap scrubbing. As always, be sure to wear safety goggle when scrubbing any specimen, fine particles will fly all about and love to land in eyes! Rinse well and let dry for a while

Ok, now spray the specimen with "Scrubbing Bubbles™" and use the tooth brush with vigor. The pyrite part will brighten up very nicely. For specimens that have pyrite on another mineral (i.e. dog tooth calcite), adjust your scrubbing to prevent damage to the other mineral. Dry completely before storage.

Chalcopyrite: This iron sulfide mineral containing copper is often misidentified as pyrite. Look carefully at the "pyrite" crystals and see if they are multi-colors showing, besides the plain 'gold' of pyrite. If so, this is probably chalcopyrite (peacock ore). Again, spray the specimens with "Scrubbing Bubbles™", and tooth brush scrub it. Though it will not be as bright as pyrite, it will shine up quite a bit, making your specimen come alive!

Other minerals: So far our experiences with cleaning other minerals have been that "Scrubbing Bubbles™" works on all minerals but not as dramatically as it does on Pyrite and Galena. What it has done, however, is show us the presence of pyrite, galena, and chalcopyrite where we did not see it before due to oxidation and / or dirt. Yes, plane ole soap will clean minerals but the "Bubbles" seems to put that shine on them that other cleaning agents do not!

No, we do not have any financial interest in Johnson's Company and their "Scrubbing Bubbles™" but we wish we did since it works so well on our specimens! Via Hunting & Diggin, Deridder G&MS, March 2013 via The Pineywoods Rooter, G&MS, April 2013

Pyrite Cleaning – an Alternate Cleaner

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

I recently collected a bucket of pyrite specimens at the TXI Cement Factory in Midlothian, TX. The condition of the collected specimens ranged from bright and shiny (just a few) dull. Many had limestone matrix still attached. Based on conversation with club members, I decided to try cleaning some in an Oxalic Acid wash. The pyrites were soaked in the a solution of oxalic acid (1 cup acid powder in 3 gallons of water) for 4 hours to several days depending on the initial condition of the specimen. The specimens were then thoroughly rinsed in water and dried. I am quite please with the result, see the picture at the right. The pyrite in the upper left was not cleaned (it represented one of the brighter specimens collected, the other 3 all cleaned. As you can see – the cleaned pyrites all came out with a great color and shine.



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



To:

Coming Up

The May 2nd meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building. The program will be the pilot for the new series "Prospectors" and will be about Mt. Antero and Colorado Amazonite. Visitors are welcome.

The June 6th meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building.

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)

MEETING MAP

