



May 2019

Vol. 53, Issue 5

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

Stibnite, Beauty and the Beast

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Stibnite is one of the most sought after mineral specimens. The long slender crystals with metallic luster are absolutely stunning. Some of the larger specimens are highly desired by museums. The American Museum of Natural History has a specimen of about 1000 lbs and the Perot Museum has a specimen on display of over 200 lbs. Smaller specimens are plentiful and reasonably priced for private collectors.

Stibnite, also known as Antimonite, is composed of Antimony and Sulfur (Sb_2S_3). The name stibnite comes from Latin stibium, the Latin name for Antimony. Stibnite is quite soft having a Mohs hardness of only 2 (can easily be scratch by a fingernail). In addition to having beautiful radiating cluster crystals, it is found in massive and granular form. The massive and granular forms are the primary ore for the metal Antimony. Antimony is used in batteries, bullets, bearings, and microelectronics.

However, stibnite and antimony have bad sides. We now know more about their bad effects, but that was

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

not the case in history. The Egyptians and other Middle East countries used stibnite as a cosmetic. The stibnite was ground to a fine powder and mixed

with fats to be used as eye shadow, eye highlighter, and to darken the eyebrow. The stibnite, which is even more toxic than antimony (and antimony is stronger than lead) was absorbed through the skin where it worked as a strong neurotoxin. Pliny described the cosmetic uses of stibnite in his writings, and also described other medical uses including using stibnite as eyewash. As a finely ground powder, it is easy to

understand that it could be ingested though the lungs, the skin, and though the digestive system as it is being made.

Ref:

- Stibnite, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org>
- Antimony, <http://www.pewterbank.com/ANTIMONY.pdf>
- Antimony Poisoning, <https://www.seeker.com>

Picture by Don Shurtz, Stibnite on display at Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, Texas



Stibnite on Display at Perot Museum of Nature and Science

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

- May 4-5, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Events Center, <https://wacogemandmineral.org>
- May 25-26, Ft. Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Cntr., www.forthgemandmineralclub.org
- Jun 1-2, Lubbock, TX Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, www.lubbockgemandmineral.org
- Jun 6-9, Austin, TX Natures Treasures of Austin, Norris Conf. Center, <https://ntrocks.com/international-exposition-of-agate>
- Jun 29 - 30, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, www.agemclub.org

Ref:

- March-April SCFMS News
- Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Internet Posting – You Need to Check the Facts First

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

As I scrolled through my Facebook postings, I ran across something really newsworthy. The link led me to a Post by Geology In, posted at 1:59 PM (time zone not specified) – “World’s Second Largest Meteorite Discovered in Argentina.” Now that would be something to mention in the Chips and Chatter. The strange thing about the posting was that it had only the time -no date or year! The posting indicated the meteorite had been named “Gancedo”, so I typed that into my search engine (Google) and it led me to an article in Wikipedia. The article confirmed that “Grancedo” was a large meteorite found in Argentina. It was estimate to weigh 30,800 kilograms (about 67900 lbs) which would be the second largest meteorite found if the estimated weight was correct – a meteorite from Greenland weighing 30,700 kilograms named “Anighito” would be displaced to the third largest. The largest know meteorite, weighing in at about 60,000 kilograms, is the “Hoba Meteorite” found in 1920 in Namibia.

So was the Internet posting correct? Yes, but deceptive. The “Gancedo Meteorite” was found **September 10, 2016**. Give them a couple of months to dig the meteorite out of the ground (the picture in the posting shows the meteorite suspended by a crane) and you see that the posting is well over two years old. For what looked to be a current or new posting, it was deceptive! Unfortunately, it is not hard finding postings that were originally posted multiple years ago. Before you jump to conclusions from a posting, check the facts first. In two years, a lot can happen. In this case, it was interesting, but perhaps not so newsworthy.

Ref:

- Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/>
- Geology In, <http://www.geologyin.com/>
- Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

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

Five Strange Rocks of New England

From Rock Trails Jan. & Feb 2019, from The Rockpile April 2019, from The Backbender's Gazette April 2019

Man.-Eating Stone of Cilastonbery



Between 1945 and 1950, five people disappeared on Glastonbury Mountain, four without a trace: Middle Rivers (1945); Paula Jean Weldon (1946); James Tedford (1949); Paul Jephson (1950); and Frieda Langer (1950). Rivers was an experienced hunter who knew the area. Weldon was a Bennington College sophomore who disappeared while hiking the Long Trail. James Tedford was a veteran who vanished on a bus exactly three years after Paula Weldon disappeared. Jephson was an eight-year-old boy who disappeared from the family truck while his mother fed some pigs. Langer disappeared on a hike near the Somerset Reservoir; her body was found seven months later in an area that had been carefully searched. In 2009, a writer named Joseph Citro suggested in his book, *The Vermont Monster Guide*, an explanation: The man-eating stone of Glastonbury Mountain. In it, he wrote, "No one alive has seen this dangerous anomaly on Glastonbury Mountain. Native Americans knew of it, and warned people away. We can only imagine it as a sizable rock, large enough to stand on. But when someone stands upon it, the rock becomes less solid, and, like a living thing, swallows the unfortunate trespasser. A number of disappearances have been reported on Glastonbury Mountain. Could all these vanished folks have stepped inadvertently on this hungry stone?" Citro dubbed the area, part of the Green Mountains, the Bennington Triangle.

Dighton Rock



Dighton Rock has been mystifying people since before America was colonized. The rock is an 11-foot-high

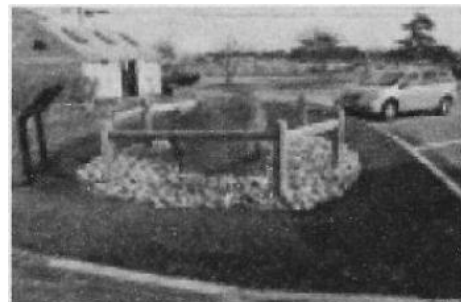
boulder covered with ancient petro glyphs of an unknown origin. It was once on the shore of the Taunton River, but it's now been given its own museum (operated by appointment only) in Berkley, Mass., which was once part of Dighton, Mass. Visitors to the strange rock will be in good company as Cotton Mather, George Washington and dozens of scientists have attempted to decode the meaning behind the writing on it. Some theories: A message left by Norse explorers, Native American symbols and a message from God. So far, there's no consensus as to the rock's significance, and its meaning remains a mystery.

Lake Winnepesaukee Mystery Stone



Seneca Ladd was many things: piano maker, carriage maker, mill owner, banker (he was one of the founders of the Meredith Village Savings Bank), amateur meteorologist, and geologist. His legacy is well remembered in New Hampshire's Lakes Region. But his most unusual accomplishment remains a mystery. One day while workmen were digging on his property in Meredith sometime in 1872 or earlier they uncovered an egg-shaped object buried at a depth of two feet and encased in clay. The object, by far the smallest of our mystery stones, is a carved stone bearing markings that remain unidentified. Ladd himself thought his "egg" was Native American in its origins and he displayed it for the curious for much of his life. The egg still baffles scientists as to what exactly it is. Ladd's daughter gave the object to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1927, which, displays it in its Museum of New Hampshire History in Concord.

Quidnessett Rock



Quidnessett Rock, also known as the Narragansett Runestone, is a strange rock in North Kingstown, R.I., with a somewhat shaky pedigree. The 2.5 ton rock was

first called to the attention of Rhode Island historians around 1984. The rock bears a series of unusual markings that some claim are reminiscent of, markings made by the religious sect known as the The Knights Templar. This faction claims the stone is a marker, probably documenting a land claim that dates to before the arrival of Christopher Columbus. However, Edward Brown of Providence has come forward to clarify that he and his brother made the markings on the rock as young boys in 1964, though not as a hoax. They did it just for fun, he says. To others, the rock is a nuisance. A resident of Pojac Point in North Kingstown caused a kerfuffle when he lifted the rock and dropped it farther out to sea to slow the onslaught of visitors who were making pilgrimages to the stone. When he was caught he retrieved the stone, which is now on permanent display in Updike Park in the Village of Wickford. It makes as good an excuse as any for a trip to the charming village.

Devil's Footprint



Next to the meeting house in North Manchester, Maine, lies a cemetery surrounded by a wall with a strange rock in it. The rock, in the corner of the wall, has three imprints said to be the devil's footprints. One looks like a cloven hoof, the other two look human. Someone conveniently spray painted them red. There is a story that goes with the rock, which may or may not be true (probably not). Years ago, a crew of construction workers was clearing a path for Scribner Hill Road when they came upon a boulder that could not be moved. One of the workmen exclaimed he'd sell his soul to the devil to move the rock. The next day, the rock was moved and the construction worker gone. The devil left his footprints on the rock as a reminder of the deal. The North Manchester Meeting House, built in 1793, is still used as a church.

Ref:

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/six-strange-rocks-new-england-eubrontes-man-eating-stone-glastonbery>,

BENCH TIPS BY BRAD SMITH

MAKE A TEXTURE HAMMER-An inexpensive hammer can be easily turned into a great texturing tool by grinding



a pattern of narrow lines into its face.

The tool I like to use to grind the pattern is a thin separating disc in a Foredom or Dremel. Be sure to hold the hammer

and separating disc steady as you carve, and wear those safety glasses to protect your eyes.

For the pattern to work well, a major part of the face needs to be ground away leaving only small areas of high points. That way the high points will have enough force to emboss the pattern into your sheet metal.

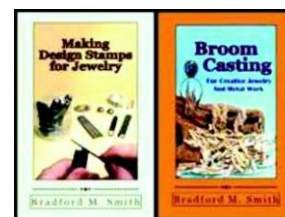
My preference is to use small ball peen or cross peen hammers. They are quite inexpensive from tool dealers at swap meets and rock & mineral shows. There is no reason to buy an expensive hammer to experiment with creating your own textures.

And BTW, if you don't like the first pattern you create, simply file or grind it off and try again.



This is just one of the many tips in the new book, "More Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" See a sample chapter at <https://amzn.to/2KCygh4>

Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

IGEM for April is over. From a dealer perspective, it was an OK show, but certainly not a great show. There are no major club activities planned for May, but do watch for the Ft. Worth G&MC show May 24 – 25 and the Arlington G&MC show June 29-30.

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

The April 4, 2019 club meeting was **called to order** at 7:30 pm by President, Ling Shurtz

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by all.

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Sunshine Report: Patty is still in Rehab

Visitors: Julie Wilson

Minutes: The minutes of the March 2019 meetings as printed in the April 2019 Chips and Chatter were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn and seconded by Hatt. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave Treasurer's Reports for February and March. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports was made by Don. The motion was seconded by Carolyn. The motion passed

Old Business:

- IGEM show 19 – 21 April at Market Hall. Set up on April 17 in the early afternoon

New Business:

- Area shows:
 - Apr 6, Rusk, TX, Keith Harmon rock and used equipment sale, 9116 US Hwy 84 West
 - Apr 13-14, Abilene, TX, Central TX G&MS, Abilene Convention Center
 - Apr 19-21, Alpine, TX, Chihuahuan Desert G&MC, Alpine Civic Center
 - **Apr 19–21, Dallas, International Gem & Jewelry Show, Market Hall**

- May 4-5, Waco, TX, Waco G&MC, Extraco Events Center
- **May 25-26, Ft. Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Center**
- Jun 1-2, Lubbock, TX Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center
- Jun 6-9, Austin, TX, Natures Treasures of Austin, Norris Conf. Center,
- **Jun 29 - 30, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center**
Note: Contact information in Chips and Chatter
- Julie Wilson and her father Ted Wilson accepted as new members by unanimous vote.

Break

Presentation: Video, The Minerals of Tasmania. It was interesting to learn about the diversity of minerals found in such a small area (a large Island just south of Australia) and to see the mining conditions and difficulties.

Raffle: We had the raffle.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. From notes by Don Shurtz

Federation Note

The results of the AFMS Editor and Author contest were published in the April-May AFMS Newsletter. Pleasant Oaks had two awards; Don Shurtz won 5th Place in the Written Feature category for "Quartz Crossword Puzzle" and an Honorable Mention in Adult Articles for "Blue Quartz."

MEETING

Our next meeting is May 2, 2019 at the Garland Activities Building, 713 Austin in downtown Garland. Our presentation will be a DVD, Introduction to Geology: Volcanic Activity from the Great Course Series.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

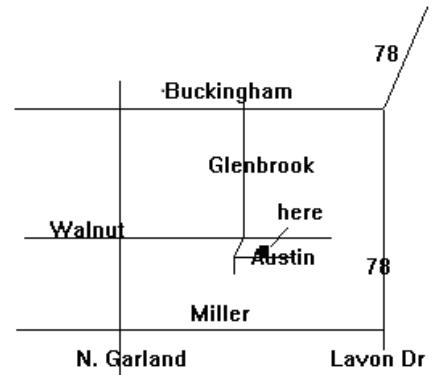
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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas



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

Next Meeting: May 2, 2019 starting at 7:30. The presentation will be a video, Introduction to Geology, Volcanic Activity.

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