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Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



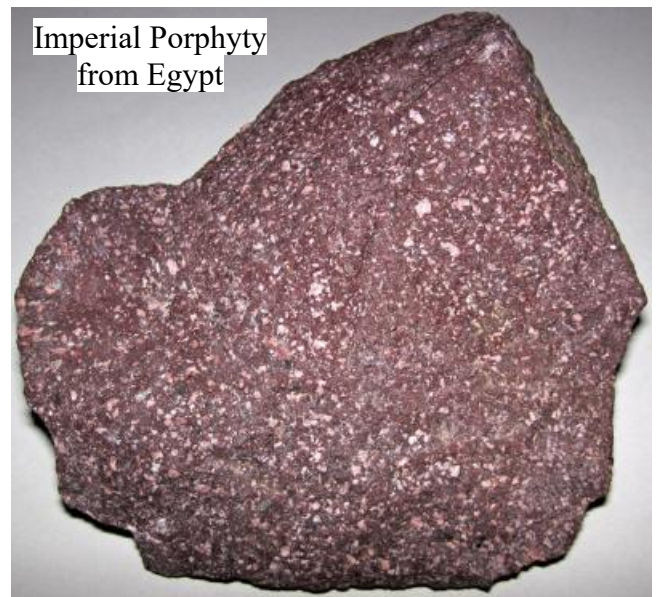
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1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Porphyry – What the Heck is That?

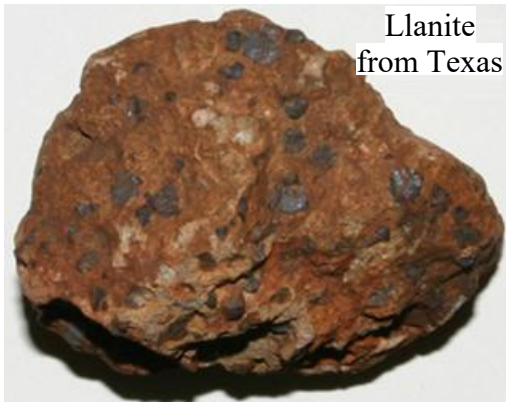
Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

The other day, I was browsing social media (not sure if it was Facebook or Instagram) and I watched a video clip of a guy wading in a stream. He had a bucket with a glass bottom so he could partially immerse it and have a clear view of the stream bottom. He stopped and picked up a fist-sized rock that had some interesting marks on the outside. It didn't look like much to me, but the guy seemed excited. He extracted the rock from the stream and washed the mud and sand off. He was then even more excited – He exclaimed that he had found a porphyry. OK – he was excited, but I had no idea what a porphyry was. I continued watching the clip, and towards the end, they showed the rock sliced in half. The flat side looked fantastic – but what the heck was it? It had a smooth background, with larger crystals growing within the background material. Some of the larger crystals were exposed on the rock's outer surface.



Imperial Porphyry
from Egypt

My next step was to Google porphyry. I read the AI summary and found that a porphyry is a rock characterized by larger crystals surrounded by a fine-grained matrix. A porphyry is typically an igneous rock. For those found in a lava flow, the rock starts growing as large crystals, typically feldspar or quartz, that are formed underground in the lava bed. As lava enters a lava tube, it cools much more rapidly as it approaches the surface. The crystallizing rock has less time to grow crystals. Hence, the crystals decrease in size, eventually becoming microscopic crystals that form the background for the larger crystals, typically basalt or rhyolite. Then came the kicker: The rock that should be the Texas State Rock, because it is uniquely Texas, Llanite, is a porphyry. At that point, you could have knocked me over with a feather.



Llanite
from Texas

Porphyry originally referred to a specific rock type, Roman Imperial Porphyry. The fine-grained portion of the rock is a deep purple. The large crystals in the Imperial Porphyry are plagioclase, a feldspar mineral group. Imperial Porphyries are found in the Red Sea Mountains of Egypt. Porphyry derives from the Greek word “porphyra,” meaning “purple.” And remember that purple is, or at least was, the color of royalty. Only the highest-ranking officials could wear purple clothing.

From its beginnings as a royal Roman rock, porphyry has been generalized to include any igneous rock with coarse (larger) crystals in a fine-grained background. Most porphyry is either granite, basalt, or rhyolite. In addition to purple Imperial Porphyry, some of the other colors of porphyry include red, green, black, tan, rust,

and grey. Some of the common porphyry rocks used in lapidary work include Chinese Writing Stone (a black basalt porphyry), Birds Eye Porphyry (a quartz porphyry), Chrysanthemum Stone, also known as Flower Porphyry, and our Texas favorite, Llanite (blue quartz crystals in a pink to brown silicate rhyolite).

References:

- Porphyry, Google AI (Gemini), 2006
- Porphyry, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- Porphyry, Sandatlas, <https://sandatlas.org/porphyry/>

Pictures

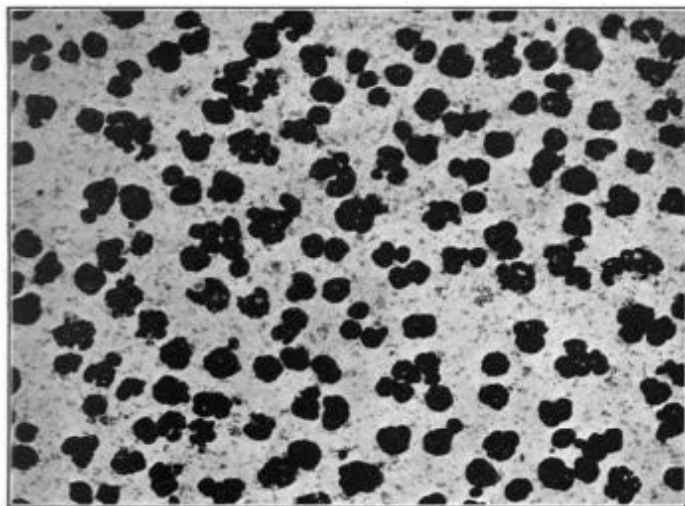
- Imperial Porphyry, Picture by James St. John, CCA2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> Wikimedia Commons
- Llanite, Picture by Jstuby, Released to Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/> Wikimedia Commons.

More Porphyry Pictures

All images from Wikimedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>



Red Porphyry from Dalarna County, Sweden, Picture by Gunnar Reis, CCC-SA 2.5



Leopardite, photo by Thomas Watson, Public Domain



Quartz Porphyry, from Alnö Island, Sweden, photo by Mikenorton, CCA-SA 3.0



Porphyry, from The Black Sea, photo by Hannes Grobe, CCA-SA 4.0

From the Federations

AFMS Code of Ethics

—**I will** respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

—**I will** keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

—**I will**, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

—**I will** use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

—**I will** cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.

—**I will** leave all gates as found.

—**I will** build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

—**I will** discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.

—**I will** fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.

—**I will** not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply

—**I will** cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

—**I will** practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.

—**I will** support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

—**I will** cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.

—**I will** report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

—**I will** appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

—**I will** observe the “Golden Rule,” will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with show contact to verify show status

May 15-17, Plano, TX, Texas Mineral & Fossil Dall/Plano Show, Plano Event Center, <https://www.rmgmpromotions.com>

May 23-24, Fort Worth, TX, Fort Worth G&MC, Will Rogers Memorial Center, <https://www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org/show.html>

June 27-28, Tyler, TX, East Texas G&MS, Typer Rose Garden Center, https://www.etgms.org/annual_show_-_redesign

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,

[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm, UNT Health Center, 3500 Camp Bowie, Blvd,

Carl E. Everett Education and Administration Bldg, Room 255, Ft. Worth. Free parking off Clifton Street, Lot #6, 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 Monday of each month at 6:00 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland,

[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

Cinco de Mayo, Facts or Fiction

Fact or Fiction: Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day?

Fiction – Cinco de Mayo celebrates the victory of the Mexican army over the larger French Army at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Fact or Fiction: Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in the United States?

Fiction – Although many areas throughout the United States have Cinco de Mayo celebrations, it is not a Federal Holiday. But on June 7, 2005, the U.S. Congress passed a "concurrent resolution" calling upon President George W. Bush to issue a proclamation urging the people of the United States to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Fact or Fiction: The purpose of Cinco de Mayo is to celebrate the Mexican Army's victory in the Battle of Puebla?

Fact, but... – Cinco de Mayo's initial purpose was to celebrate the victory, but it has become more of a celebration of Mexican Culture and Heritage. Unfortunately, the food and drink conglomerates have commercialized the objectives to celebrate Mexican Food and Drink, especially Alcoholic Drinks. Many are now protesting the extensive commercialization, calling it "Drinko de Mayo." They feel that commercialization is destroying the Cultural and Heritage aspects of the celebration.

Fact or Fiction: More money is spent on beer for the Super Bowl than on any other celebration?

Fiction – In 2013, more than \$600 million was spent on beer for Cinco de Mayo. This was more than either the Super Bowl or St. Patrick's Day.

Fact or Fiction: Mexico's largest Holiday is Cinco de Mayo?

Fiction – Cinco de Mayo is a minor celebration in Mexico, except for some activities near Puebla.

Fact or Fiction: The Army of Mexico's victory on Cinco de Mayo was their first victory over the French and led to the ultimate victory by Mexico's Army?

Fiction – The victory by the Mexican Army was short-lived. The Mexican Army was defeated at the Second Battle of Puebla the following year, and the loss opened the way for the French Army to eventually occupy Mexico City.

Fact or Fiction: The largest Cinco de Mayo celebration is in Mexico City?

Fiction – Cinco de Mayo is a relatively minor celebration in Mexico City. The largest Cinco de Mayo celebration is in Los Angeles, California. Many large cities in the United States have Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

Fact or Fiction: Cinco de Mayo is basically a Mexico and the United States "thing"?

Fiction – Cinco de Mayo events extend well beyond the United States and Mexico. Canadian pubs offer Mexican food and drinks on May 5, and Vancouver hosts a Cinco de Mayo skydiving event. In the British sphere of influence, celebrations are held in Australia, England, New Zealand, and South Africa. Celebrations can be found in Lagos, Nigeria, Paris, France, and even in Toyoko and Osaka in Japan.

OFFICERS FOR 2025 – 2026

President:	Joe Vulk
1st VP, Programs:	Amy Vulk
2 nd VP, Field Trips:	Julie Wilson
Secretary:	Johnny Rhodes
Treasurer	Ling Shurtz
Editor	Don Shurtz

Contact us by email: don.shurtz@gmail.com

Minutes of the March 2, 2026 Meeting

Call to Order: President Joe Vulk called the April 6, 2026, POGMC meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: Joe led the Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum: A quorum was present.

Visitors: None.

Minutes: The Minutes of the March 2026 meeting were published in the April 2026 Chips and Chatter. Hatt made a motion to accept the Minutes as published. Eden seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Treasurer's Report: Ling presented the Treasurer's Report for January through March. Cheryl made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Brenda seconded the motion. The motion passed

Old Business:

- Please pay your dues if you haven't yet.
- There were no reports on rock swaps or shows.

New Business:

- Joe called for Volunteers to man the club table at the IGEM show this Saturday, April 11. After the discussion, Johnny and Choice will cover the 10:00-2:00 shift, and the Vulks (Joe, Brenda, Amy, and Eden) will cover the 2:00-6:00 shift
- The May meeting will be our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration and Potluck Taco Dinner. Those signing up to bring items included Carolyn (ground beef for Tacos and Spanish rice), Carol (chopped onions), Johnny and Choice (lettuce and tomatoes), Joe and Brenda (Taco shells), Amy and Eden (grated cheese), Carole (Dessert), and Don and Ling will bring refried beans. *[My apologies if I got anyone's sign-up wrong – I was working from 3 sheets with conflicting information].* If you are not listed above, please bring an item to share.

Raffle: We held the raffle. Everyone got two nice items.

Presentation Review

We spent more time discussing the May meeting. Amy had the projector set up, so we used some of the remaining time to view a Video segment of the Dallas Mineral Symposium. We chose the topic of Minerals and How They are Colored. Many minerals have trace amounts of other minerals that absorb certain frequencies of light. The non-absorbed frequencies form the mineral color. For example, trace amounts of iron in the mineral's crystalline structure give Topaz (Blue Topaz) and Beryl (Aquamarine) their blue color. Another method is color centers, in which an atom is missing from the crystalline structure, causing the crystal to absorb certain light frequencies. Most colored Diamonds are due to color centers.

President's Message

The International Gem and Mineral show (IGEM or InterGem) took place from 10 to 12 April. Our club had a booth at the show. Julie and Warner used 75% of the booth and club sales used the remaining 25%. Don covered Friday and Sunday. The Rhodes and the Vulks covered Saturday. It was very well attended, but it was a bit difficult to enter the building because of the crowd. I was amazed by the vendor displays, mostly gems, jewelry, and beads, with a few booths featuring mineral specimens. It was overwhelming with acres of the stuff. If you've never attended, I highly recommend it. Our club accepted donations in exchange for our specimens, slabs, etc. We made hundreds of dollars each of the three days, and I can't wait to see the total income. Thanks to Johnny and Choice, and Julie and Warner, and many thanks to Don, especially for doing all the setup and lugging hundreds of pounds from our club collections stored in his barn.
Joe Vulk

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be Monday, May 4, 2026, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX. We will start at 6:00 PM. This will be our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration and potluck Taco dinner. Please bring a food item to share.

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Thursday of each month. Please check website, www.pogmc.org, for updates.

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 that involve the art of cutting and polishing gemstones, the science of gems, minerals, and metal crafts, and related fields. Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas is a 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: Monday, May 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM. This will be our annual Cinco de Mayo celebration and Potluck Dinner. Bring a food item to share. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus, Council 6402 Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX 75042

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