



Lazurite

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Lazurite is a popular blue mineral generally associated Lapis Lazuli. Lazurite will often have calcite inclusions and an affinity with pyrite to fill in any cracks, particularly in massive forms of Lazurite. It rarely forms crystals. Chemically Lazurite is Sodium Calcium Aluminum Silicate Sulfur Sulfate; it has a chemical formula of $(\text{Na}, \text{Ca})_8\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{24}(\text{S}, \text{SO}_4)$. Lazurite, when it does form crystals (which is infrequent), crystallizes in the isometric crystalline system generally forming dodecahedrons (12 faces) and, rarely, cubes (six faces). It is normally blue to greenish-blue in color. Lazurite has a Mohs hardness of 5 to 5.5. It belongs to a family of minerals known as feldspathoids and is a member of the sodalite group. A feldspathoids closely resemble feldspars but have significantly lower silica (SiO_2) content. Feldspathoids form in rare igneous rocks that do not have quartz.

Lazurite name comes from the Persian word *Lazhward* that means blue. It is interesting to note that the etymology of Azurite is also from *Lazhward*. Both Lazurite and Azurite are intensely blue minerals.

Mining of Lazurite in Afghanistan has been ongoing for 6,000 years. Since the 7th century CE, Lazurite has been ground up and used as a dye for clothing and painting. It was also used for jewelry. Crystallized Lazurite is a rare but popular mineral for collectors.

The type locality for Lazurite is the Sar-e-Sang District, Koksha Valley, Badakhshan Province, Afghanistan. This continues to be the most



Lazurite Crystals on Calcite with Pyrite

productive area for mining Lazurite despite being mined for 6,000 years. It is also found in Ovalle, Cordillera, Chile; near Lake Baikal, Russia; Mt. Vesuvius, Italy; Cascade Canyon, San Bernardino Mountains and Ontario Peak, California and in the Sawatch Mountains, Colorado, USA.

Lazurite is the key components of the rock Lapis Lazuli (also frequently called Lapis), a semi-precious stone that has been used since antiquity. Lapis is formed from Lazurite, Sodalite, Calcite, and Pyrite and sometimes with minor amounts of other minerals. The Lazurite content generally ranges from 25 to 40 per cent. As with Lazurite, the pyrite often appears as veins filling in voids in the Lapis. Lapis and massive Lazurite are very similar in appearances and are often confused with each other.



References:

- Lazurite, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>
- Lazurite, Minedat.com, <https://www.mindat.org/>
- The Mineral Lazurite, Amethyst Galleries' Mineral Gallery, <http://www.galleries.com/default.htm>

Pictures by Don Shurtz of specimens in a private collection

Bench Tips from Brad Smith

Reprinted by permission of the author, Brad Smith. Received as an email from Brad Smith

CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new X-acto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that, it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies. The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawksbill shaped. I find the hawksbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.

USING YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shafts sizes and of course the many different sizes of twist drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the hand piece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer-toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.



Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How-To" Jewelry Books

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



SCFMS Meeting

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club Delegate and SCFMS Treasurer

As many of you know, the host club for the SCFMS Convention had to cancel their show. After examining options for the Convention, it was decided to hold the SCFMS Meeting using Zoom software. The required Officers and Directors would not need to travel – it could all be done electronically. What could be easier? It turns out a lot of things would be easier, like jumping over the Moon or reading a book from 3,000 miles away without any aids. OK – it was not as hard as the examples, but it was not easy either. Of course we started out with the meeting packets before the meeting, the reports from all the Officers and Committee Chairs plus a new budget to be approved and Officers to be elected. The report was probably a little more complete than normal – to some extent because some committees actually had to write things down rather than give a verbal report. The Zoom meeting time arrive and I tried to log on – NOTHING. Turns out the meeting hosts were suffering power outages from a hurricane and had to move to a place with power. They finally “Started the Meeting” (meaning they brought the meeting on-line so people could log in) about 15 minutes late. As was expected, it took another 20 minutes or so before the meeting could actually begin. A roll call indicated we were a few short of a quorum, but they pressed ahead with the reports. “In the Packet”. “In the Packet”. Etc. The budget was approved, but it was planned to hold a vote for Officers by Email. At last report, we were three votes short of having a majority, and thus a valid election. That was a few days ago, and I suspect we now have new Officers voted in. The new Officers will take over on their new responsibilities. I hope that vote majority issue is corrected soon as it means someone else besides me will be the SCFMS Treasurer. I feel Roger Buford (President), Liz Buford (Secretary), and Kimberly Brannon (Executive Secretary) should be complimented for the way they handled the meeting. Except for the power issue at the start, everything went well, moving expeditiously through the reports, and overall had a successful meeting. Would I want to have the next (or all) SCFMS Meetings electronically? That is easy to answer – NO! However, it does offer the possibility of accommodating Officers and Directors, who may not be able to attend a live meeting, a chance to participate in the meeting. There are a few technical things to work out, but if it were put to a vote as a supplement to live attendance, I would vote yes.

AFMS Meetings

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas – AFMS Website Contest Chair

Like the SCFMS Meeting, the AFMS Board Meeting was held as a Zoom meeting. This meeting took 15 to 20 minutes to get everyone logged and signed in to the meeting, but the delay seemed to be expected and was acceptable. Also like the SCFMS meeting, it was preceded by gathering all the reports into packets that were distributed to all Officers, Committee Chairs, and others as requested. After the Pledge of Allegiance and an Invocation, the meeting started with introductions and a discussion of meeting procedures. Then it was basically “In the Packet” followed by “In the Packet”, and “In the Packet.” A few items required discussion and a vote. The vote was handled by a roll call of voting members. This added a few minutes of time (which improved as the meeting progressed) to those topics – but it did give people a chance to sneak away for a quick break or a glass of water. The business of the AFMS Board Meeting was completed in a bit over two hours, but at the end, everything was all wrapped up. I think the staff, headed by AFMS President David Wayment, should be complimented for the professional manner in which the meeting was conducted.

Later in the day, the AFMS had an Awards Meeting that included Awards that normally would have been presented at the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. I had the privilege to recognize the winners of the AFMS Website Contest. From the SCFMS perspective, Margaret Kilanski from the East Texas Gem and Mineral Club took second place, and Gordon Galligher from the Paleontological Society of Austin was an Honorable Mention. Margaret was first place and Gordon was second place in the SCFMS Website Contest.

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**

- NOV 2-4, Albuquerque, NM, Jay Penn Annual show, Expo NM State Fairgrounds, <http://abqfallshow.wix.com/abq-fall-show>
- NOV 6-8, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, hgms.org - **CANCELED**
- NOV 7-8, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Center, www.amarillotreasure.com/
- NOV 21-22, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, www.dallagemandmineral.org

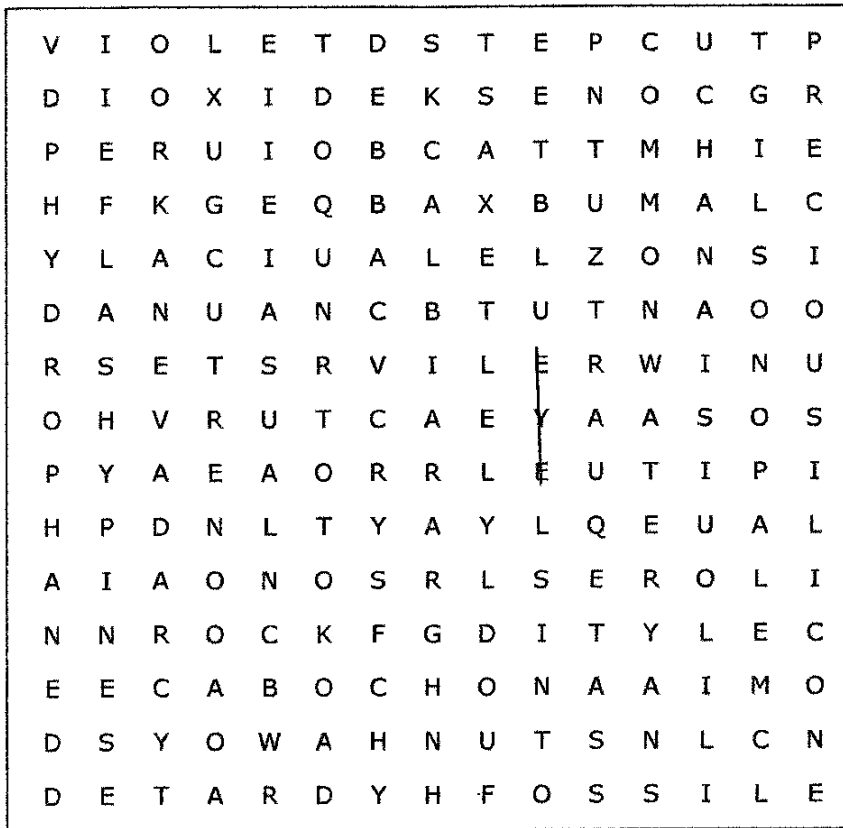
Ref:

- September - October 2020 SCFMS News
- Rock & Gem Show Dates, <https://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL>

Opal Magic Word-Find Puzzle, OPAL IS

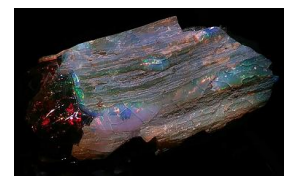
Del Grady, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

OPAL IS



Word List: After finding all the words, arrange the remaining letters from top-left to bottom-right to find the Magic Words Solution on Page 5

AUSTRALIAN, BLACK, BLUE, BOIL, CABBED, CABOCHON, CAT, COMMON, CONES, CONTRA LUZ, CRACKED, CRYSTAL, DIG, DIOXIDE, DRY OUT, EYE, FLASHY, FOSSIL, GILSON OPAL, HYDRATED, HYDROPHANE, ICE, LOUISIANA, MULTI COLOR, NEVADA, PERU, PINE, PRECIOUS, QUARTZ, RED, ROCK, SILICON, STAR, STEP CUT, TEXAS, VIOLET, VIRGIN VALLEY, WATER, YOWAH NUTS,



Precious Opal
from Nevada
Picture by Don Shurtz

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

The October IGEM show was small but went smooth. There is not an IGEM show scheduled for January. We are looking forward to the Sweet Home Mine video that Julie Wilson will present. Our December meeting will be a Pot-Luck Dinner and Party.

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

President: Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Open
Secretary: Cheryl Ogletree
Treasurer: Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com, L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

OCTOBER 1 2020 MEETING MINTUES

POGMC President Ling Shurtz called the October 1, 2020 club meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

We recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Sunshine Report:

- Warner is out of Rehab and doing well – he is at the meeting tonight
- Patti remains in a local nursing home

Visitors: There were no visitors

Minutes: We reviewed the minutes of the September meetings as printed in the October 2020 Chips and Chatter. Ted made a motion to accept the minutes. Warner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave Treasurer's Reports for October. Carolyn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports. Julie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business:

- The next IGEM is scheduled for 9 – 11 October at Market Hall. Set-up will likely be October 7 in the early afternoon.
- The Mineral Wells Crazy Fossil Dig is scheduled for **October 19, 2019**. As the date is a year old, if we want to do a field trip we are going to have to it as a club

New Business:

- The report from the nominating committee:
 - President: Ling Shurtz
 - 1st Vice President: Carolyn Grady
 - 2nd Vice President: No nomination
 - Secretary: Cheryl Ogletree
 - Treasurer: Del Grady
 - Editor: Don Shurtz
- Nominations from the Floor:
 - No additional nominations from the floor
- Don made a motion to accept the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee. Julie seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. New officers will be installed at the November meeting.

- Area Shows (note that dates subject to change or show cancellation):
 - OCT 9–11 Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall (main hall)
 - OCT 10, SCFMS Convention Meeting via ZOOM
 - OCT 31-NOV 1, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, State Fair Park, Modern Living Bldg, NOV 2-4, Albuquerque, NM, Jay Penn Annual show Expo NM State Fairgrounds
 - NOV 7-8, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Center

Break:

Presentation: The Great Course Video: Hawaii, Volcanic Island Beauty: This was a Geologic (and delightful) history of the volcanoes of Hawaii, the Hawaiian Islands, the Hawaiian Seamounts, the Emperor Seamounts, and related items. The Hawaiian and Emperor Seamounts are all the same chain, it's just that there was a turn in their track about 43 million years ago. The turn could have resulted from the Kula plate's total subduction, from a drift in the Hawaiian Hot Spot, or other forces deeper in the mantle or . Did you know that the tallest mountain in the world, from its base to top is not Mt Everest (29,035 ft), it is Mauna Kea at 33,500 ft tall, although 19,500 ft of that is below sea level. If you examine the Hawaiian Islands from east to west you start with rugged features and sharp cliffs from volcanic building to steep valleys with significant features from water erosion and less defined cliffs, to flatter islands with smoothed features and finally to atolls, sometimes surrounding flat, sandy island. These are the features of islands from young to older.

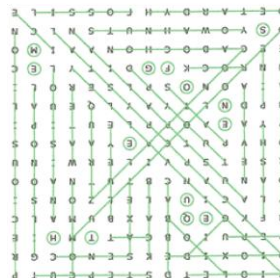
Ling adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

MEETING

The November meeting will be at the Garland Activities building on November 5 starting at 7:30 PM. The presentation will be a video about the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado. The subsequent meeting will be December 3 will be our annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner (club providing the meat dishes) and Party with gift exchange.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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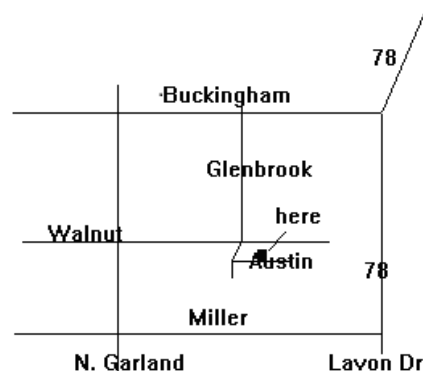
Solution to
Magic Word
Find Puzzle

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

The December 3 meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Activities Building. The presentation will be a video about the Sweet Home Mine. The mine is famous for Rhodochrosite specimens

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