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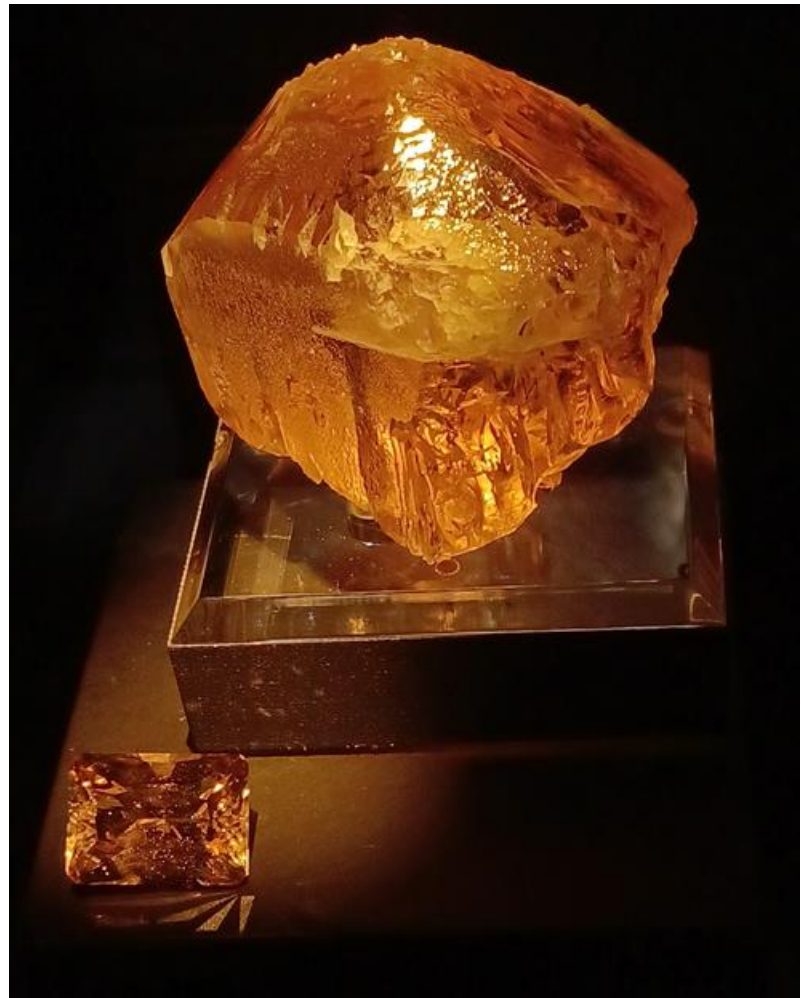
November 2023
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1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

Birthstones for November – Topaz and Citrine

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas
Updated, originally published in the November 2013 Chips and Chatter

November has two birthstones, Topaz and Citrine. The chemical composition of topaz is $Al_2SiO_4(F,OH)_2$ and is referred to as aluminum fluorosilicate. It has a Mohs' hardness of 8 (it is the defining mineral for the definition of Mohs' hardness 8), thus is suitable for most any jewelry application. Topaz, in a pure form, is colorless. However, topaz is found in blue, yellow, brown, orange, pink, red, and violet colors. Orange topaz is the traditional birthstone for November. Many topaz stones are treated with heat, electricity, and radiation to enhance or change their color. The pink, red, and violet colors are attributed to chromium impurities in the crystalline structure. The other colors are due to varying concentrations of the (F,OH) radical and color centers. Clear topaz that is treated with electron bombardment will turn sky blue; the blue color will remain unless the stone is heated to a very high temperature. Some topaz pieces are known to fade, some very rapidly. The sherry-colored stones from Topaz Mountain in Utah will rapidly turn clear if exposed to light.



As most of us know, blue topaz is the state gemstone of Texas. To be proper, the blue topaz must be from the Mason County area. Many will claim that the stone also needs to be cut into a 5-point star to qualify as the state gemstone. Orange topaz is the state gemstone of Utah. Topaz is found in many localities including Texas and Utah in the United States, Russia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Czech Republic, Germany, Norway, Pakistan, Italy, Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and Nigeria.

Citrine is the other birthstone for November. Citrine is the yellow to brown colored variety of quartz. Chemically it is identical to quartz, SiO₂, and is referred to as silicon dioxide. Citrine has a Mohs' hardness of 7, thus is suitable for most jewelry applications. The yellow coloring in citrine is due to the presence of trace amounts of iron in the plus 3 valence state in the crystalline structure. Naturally occurring citrine is quite rare; most citrine available on the market today is heat-treated amethyst (amethyst gets its color from iron in the plus 2 valence state, but heat can excite the electrons into the plus 3 valence state). The major source of citrine is from Brazil. However, Brazil is also a major source of amethyst, so one would be wise to buy citrine from well-known and trusted sources, otherwise one may get heat-treated amethyst. Other producers of citrine include Madagascar and Russia. In the United States, some citrine is found at Peterson Mountain, Nevada.



References:

American Gem Society, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/>
 Mineral Miner's Home Page, <http://www.mineralminers.com>
 The Quartz Page, <http://www.quartzpage.de/>
 Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Pictures by Don Shurtz of specimens displayed at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas, TX

Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

November 2023

- November 4-5, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread GM&TS, Amarillo Civic Center, www.facebook.com/goldenspreadgemmineraltreasuresociety
- November 4-5, Round Rock, TX, Paleontological Society of Austin, Old Settlers Association, 3300 E. Palm Valley Blvd., www.facebook.com/austinpaleo
- November 4- 5, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Bush Convention Center, <https://www.midlandgemandmineral.org>
- November 10-12, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, <https://hgms.org/annual-show>
- **November 18-19, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, www.dallasgemandmineral.org**

December 2023

- December 9-10, Leesville, LA, Deridder G&MS, West La Forestry Auditorium Bldg., www.rockngemswla.com

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

Ref: September - October 2023 SCFMS Newsletter

Special thanks to Del Glasner, the SCFMS District 8 Vice President for helpful information about SCFMS Club Shows.

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 7:30 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 Dr, Garland,
[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX

Federation News

SCFMS Delegate Meeting by Zoom, October 14, 2023

By Don Shurtz

The SCFMS Delegate meeting was held on October 14 via Zoom. Carolyn Grady was the Delegate for POGMC. The draft minutes of the meeting have not been sent out; I will cover only a few of the highlights. The Roll Call for the meeting still had a lot of non-responders. However, it was determined that we had a quorum for the meeting. Reports from the Committee Chairs were reviewed, mostly by stating that the Reports were in the meeting Packet. All the reports were approved. The budget for 2024 was passed. It will increase the amount authorized for SCFMS Officers and selected Committee Chairs by \$50.00. The new authorized amount is \$200.00 – still below what is needed to cover expenses, but working in the right direction. The Officers for 2024-5 were also elected. The new officers will take their position on January 1, 2024. The new SCFMS President-Elect is Don Shurtz (Pleasant Oaks G&MC), the new Executive Vice President-Elect is Segrid Stewart (Houston G&MC), the Treasurer-Elect is the incumbent, Henry Rojas (Gulf Coast G&MS), and the new Executive Secretary (appointed position) will be Liz Burford (Baton Rouge G&MS). Many of the District vice presidents will be returning, but several of the positions are currently blank and will need to be filled. **The major open position is the SCFMS Secretary.** It is recommended, but not required, that the Secretary reside in the same area as the President to facilitate coordination and communications. We need to fill the Secretary position as soon as possible, and if possible with someone from the DFW area. If any members, associates, or others reading this note are willing to fill that position, please let me know. PLEASE! Finally, a big plus for the DFW Area – the Dallas G&MS will be hosting the next SCFMS Convention in November 2022. They have requested help from other DFW clubs to help with the Convention – I hope that everyone from POGMC will step up to help out. Please let Joe Vulk know if you are willing to help.

From the Desk of the [AFMS] President

By Roger Burford, SCFMS President

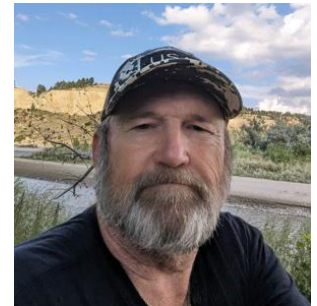
First, let me say what an honor it is to be selected to be the new President of such a great organization.

Now a little about myself. I was born in Mississippi but only lived there for about a year. At the time, my father was a student at Ole Miss. We moved to Illinois for him to get his Ph.D., which took about two years, and then to Georgia where he taught at Georgia State. Four years later my father got an invite to come check out LSU, and we moved to Baton Rouge in 1964. I consider Baton Rouge, Louisiana my home. I made the mistake of getting married right out of high school, was divorced three years later, made another mistake, and married again. When that one started going downhill fast, I decided I had better get out of town and enlisted in the Navy.

I was in the Navy for 20 years and moved around a bit -- Boot Camp in Orlando, School in Millington, Tennessee to study advanced Aviation Electronics, and then my first duty station was the USS Saratoga CV60. They were already deployed, so I flew to Rota,

Spain to meet the ship. It was a short cruise, and we ended up in the yards in Philadelphia for two and a half years. My time remaining until my next transfer was short, so they left me behind on the USS Forrestal for the remaining two months. I then transferred to NAS Millington, where I worked in Quality Assurance. I stayed in Millington for three and a half years and then transferred with my new wife and child back to the USS Forrestal.

I loved my time onboard the USS Forrestal and was promoted to Chief Petty Officer while onboard her. We had some really interesting cruise locations -- we went above the Arctic Circle and crossed through the Suez Canal four times. Our longest cruise at sea was 108 days, without stopping at any ports (unless you count our home port in Mayport, Florida). That also happened to be my favorite cruise because you get into



a steady routine that makes the time pass so much faster.

When I left Forrestal, I decided to try something different and went to an Instructor training school. I worked as an instructor in Mayport for three years and earned my Master Training Specialist certification during that time. Deciding to do something different, I took orders to the USS Nassau as the Aviation Electronics Division Officer, a rank normally held by an officer -- not enlisted personnel -- hoping to gain the rank of Senior Chief, but that was not to be. The Nassau gained the name "Never A Set Schedule Always Underway" because it seemed we were never in our home port for more than two weeks.

After that tour, I decided I wanted to be home and took orders to VP30, which is an air wing whose job is to hunt for submarines. I had never worked on or with any airplanes. I had always worked on the advanced electronics side to repair the boxes (radios, radar), not the planes, so they did not know what to do with me.

They ended up making me the Chief over their computer department since I had taught myself troubleshooting and repair of computers and had a security background. It was great that I could do something I loved, but there was another chink in the armor, another divorce. I ended up losing almost everything and had to move onto the base for living quarters. That wasn't too bad though. VP30 was kind enough to send me to Network Administrator school, and I got certified as a Novel Network Administrator. I was getting close to the end of my enlistment and had to think about what to do then. If I wanted to try to make Senior Chief, I would have to go back to sea duty; if I did not make it, I would be looking for a job as a civilian while at sea, or I could start looking now and not reenlist. I decided not to reenlist and landed a great job before I even retired.

When I retired, I decided to move back to Baton Rouge. I found a house and best of all, I found wife number four. Liz and I met through an online dating app. This was before all the ones you hear about now,

and neither of us can remember what it was. We knew the moment we met face-to-face that this was it, and we were married six months later. A few years later, following my second back surgery, Liz found out about the Baton Rouge Gem and Mineral Society and talked me into coming with her to check it out. At the first meeting, I asked if the club had any equipment and was told they had a saw, but it was broken. The mechanic in me said, "Bring it over to my house, and I will see if I can fix it." I had to go pick it up, but I got it home and checked it out, ordered the parts needed, and had it back up and running three weeks later. I had to make sure it would work so I gave it a try and I was hooked!!! Now some years later, the saw is still here. I am usually cutting something on one of the multiple saws we now have. I am also a self-taught cabber, and we have a rock business.

My rockhounding days are pretty much behind me after my third back surgery. I fell in the backyard and damaged my spine above the previous surgeries. We didn't know anything was wrong, so we packed up and headed to Quartzite for three weeks. By the time we got back home, I was completely paralyzed from the waist down. I had already made an appointment to see my surgeon, but I fell again before we could make the appointment. I could not get up. We went to the emergency room, and my surgeon just happened to be on duty. He checked me out, resulting in another surgery to try and repair the damage.

I was in the hospital for about three weeks, then on outpatient physical therapy, which lasted until COVID hit. Now I can walk again, but only for short distances without my rollator, or I can use my power chair the VA got for me.

So, hi! I'm your new President, and now you know all about me. I hope I can uphold the high standards set forth by those who served before me.

Roger Burford, our new AFMS President, is also the SCFMS Past President, having served multiple times as the SCFMS President
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Henry's Puns

Henry de Linde, a late member of the Hot Springs Geology Club, had emailed these to Mike Howard, a frequent contributor to the Hot Springs Bulletin, who published them in the October 2023 issue of the Hot Springs Bulletin

What kind of concert only costs 45 cents? A 50 Cent concert featuring Nickelback.

What did the grape say when it got crushed? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.

Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.

OFFICERS FOR 2023 & 2024

President: Joe Vulk
1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady
2nd VP, Field Trips: Julie Wilson
Secretary: Amy Vulk
Treasurer: Ling Shurtz
Editor: Don Shurtz
Contact us by e-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com or
L.SHURTZ@gmail.com

Minutes of the October 5, 2023 Meeting

POGMC President Joe Vulk called the October 5, 2023 club meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

Snack time: Until late-comers arrive. Thanks to the Shurtz, Carole, and Hatt for providing the snacks.

Pledge of Allegiance: Members recited the pledge.

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Visitors: There were no visitors

Minutes:

The Minutes of the September meeting were published in the October Chips and Chatter. Carolyn made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Ling seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Treasurers Report:

Ling presented the Treasurer's Report. Carolyn made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Hatt seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Old Business:

- Don reported on the rock swap - earning \$136 (\$63 to POGMC and \$63 to the scholarship fund).
- Carolyn will represent POGMC at the 14-15 October SCFMS convention via Zoom.
- Joe reported on recent communication about the Club display at the Arboretum on 11 and 12 November.

New Business:

- We held elections of officers for 2023 - 2024. Hatt and Ling made a motion to re-elect the current term officers by acclamation. The motion passed by a vote of members present. A list of officers is in the newsletter.
- It was mentioned that Don is running for president of the SCFMS.
- Don reported that the SCFMS convention may be hosted by the Dallas G&MS in 2024.

- The December meeting was discussed, having a Potluck Christmas snacks social and a \$15 gift exchange.

Presentation:

We finished watching the video of the volcanoes of Hawaii.

Raffle: Don conducted the raffle of materials from our Club collection. Everyone received an item.

Snacks for the next meeting: Ling and Hatt.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

President's Message

We returned from our week in Orlando and brought back more than a suitcase full of Disney souvenirs. I developed a severe case of strep throat and to this day it has not yet healed. Difficult to talk, drink, and eat. The only good thing about it is that I have lost over 15 pounds. On top of that, a couple days home and Brenda developed COVID. And then I had COVID symptoms a few days later. I have asked VP Carolyn to conduct our November meeting. I was so looking forward to the program on bracelet construction but there's a better chance that we won't show up at the meeting. If we do make it, rest assured that we will certainly not be contagious.

Joe Vulk

November Meeting

The October 2 Meeting will start at 7:15 at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX. We will be doing a Hands-On activity constructing bracelets.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

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PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



Meetings

First Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be April 6 at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX 75040

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 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, November 2, 2023
We will have a Hands-On project – constructing bracelets

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