

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

October 2014
Vol. 48, Issue 10



1st Place, 2014 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin
1st Place, 2014 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

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Federation Information

Sorry, none for this issue

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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

October 2nd, 2014, 7:30 PM
Garland Women's Activities Building
713 Austin Rd, Garland

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Club Officers for 2014

President:Ling Shurtz
1st VP:Mark Carter
Secretary: Lee Elms
Treasurer.....Del Grady
Editor: Don Shurtz
E-mail: ...don.shurtz@gmail.com, l.shurtz@gmail.com

**VISIT OUR AWARD WINNING WEB SITE TO
VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR.
www.pogmc.org**

Minutes of the September 4th 2013 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by President Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

Sunshine Report: A long time member, Jessie Davis, died yesterday after a long illness. The visitation is tomorrow from 6 to 8pm and the funeral is Saturday at 10am.

The minutes of our August meeting as printed in the Chips and Chatter were discussed. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mark Carter and seconded by Carolynn Grady. The motion was passed.

The Treasurers' Report for August was presented by the Treasurer Del Grady. A motion to accept the Treasurers' report was made by Mark Carter and seconded by Butch Mitchell. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Don and Ling went to the SCFMS meeting last month. The club website and bulletin won both SCFMS and AFMS awards. Club members Mark, Ling and Don got awards for their articles and Carolynn and Lee got Honorable Mention for their articles.

Field Trips: The trip to TXI in Midlothian is this Saturday. Please contact David Dobson if you want to go. You can find some really nice pyrite nodules and sharks teeth out there.

Visitors: Tonight Nikki Rotman was visiting with us. She is a school counselor and will be retiring soon and wants to learn more about rocks, minerals and fossils.

Show and Tell: Mark Carter brought some Thunder Eggs he collected from Montana. He had cut them open so we could see the beautiful patterns formed inside, and why people collect them.

The presentation tonight was a DVD that Mark brought titled Lassen Volcanic National Park, in Northern California. It told us about the different times the volcano had erupted and about the different formations each eruption left around the volcano. We also learned that there are 4 different types of volcanoes.

After the presentation we had our raffle and then the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted, Lee Elms, Secretary

Denver Shows

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



Odds and Ends at the Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, Gem, and Jewelry Show



Cases at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show (Denver Mart Show)

President's Message

Ling Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The nominating committee will recommend a slate of officers. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor, and please feel free to nominate yourself if you are willing to serve. We will then hold the officer elections with the new officers to be installed at the November Meeting.

Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

October 3-5, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, showchairman@austingemandmineral.org, www.gemcapers.com

October 4-5, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas GM&GS, Jacksonville Community Center, thom61847@yahoo.com,
www.centralarrockhoud.org

Oct 10-12, International Gem and Jewelry Show (IGEM) Dallas, Market Hall, <http://www.intergem.com/>

Oct 10-12, Metairie, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, gemshow2014@gmail.com

Oct 11-12, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Center, burnette@aceweb.com, www.tricitygemmineral.org

Oct 17-18, Victoria, TX, Victoria G&MS, Community Cntr, www.victoriagemandmineral@yahoo.com

Nov 1-2, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Center, finfran@midplains.coop

Nov 7-9, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center, show@hgms.org, www.hgms.org

Nov 15-16, Round Rock, TX, Paleo Society of Austin, Old Settlers Association Hdqtrs, www.austinpaleo.org/fossilShows.html

Nov 22-23, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, mark_a_hall@yahoo.com, www.DallasGemAndMineral.org

No local December shows found.

29 Jan – 15 Feb. Tucson shows – numerous shows in Tucson area,

23-25 Oct 2015 – Austin G&MS show, SCFMS Convention, and AFMS Convention

Ref:

January / February 2014 SCFMS Newsletter

Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

TXI Field Trip September 6th

David Dobson, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

Well, we had another great field trip Saturday September 6th, 2014. Our destination was the TXI Cement Plant Quarry in Midlothian, TX. The company's new name is Martin Marietta.

Looking at my schedule I wanted to get a TXI/ MM trip in as soon as possible, but wanted to wait as long as possible to keep out of the summer heat. It was hot, but could have been worse. I always tell everyone to bring water and this day it was needed. Again it was hot.

Here are a few words from some who attended:

1. Thank you for setting up and letting us join the trip to TXI/MM. We both enjoyed our first trip to the quarry/mine and hope you will keep us in mind for the next trip.

We gathered across from the TXI/MM office where everyone mingled and visited. Steve arrived along with our company escort, led us to the guard house where we received safety equipment (hard hats and goggles). We proceeded to the fossil location where most of the group stayed while several cars continued on to the "pyrite" location.

We were told the normal pyrite location was closed. By this time it was getting hot and I was glad we had partly frozen water bottles handy. Pickings in this parking lot were limited. The "pyrite" I say were more weathered marcasite and tended to crumble. We were directed to a ditch and berm areas and began searching. I found some pyritized burrow fillings (photos), one ping pong ball sized pyrite cluster (picture), a flattened 6 inch nodule and some thumb nail sized black balls that tended to erode out and remain on high places in the ditch. A couple of us also found some nice calcite pieces in the bank along the ditch.

After collecting we returned our safety equipment and both groups gathered back at the main parking lot. Several people found some very nice sharks teeth but one of the nicest finds was a great matrix piece with a pyritized ammonite segment and pyrite cluster from the fossil location. (*Editor's note – see pictures on next page*)

Thanks, Charles and Lynda Ehlers

(Continued on page 4)

TXI Field Trip September 6th (continued)



Sharks teeth

Septerian Nodules

Pyrite



Calcite

Weathered Pyrite

More Pyrite

2. Our group was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. at TXI (now Martin Marietta) in Midlothian. About six cars gathered on the side of the road, and waited for our LEADER. Unfortunately, David was detained with an earlier group, but he sent a substitute for us, and off we went. After passing through the guard station, handing in our papers and making sure everyone had hard hat and safety glasses, Ron headed us off to the collection locations. Upon arriving at the first stop (fossils) Ron explained the procedure, and then led those of us who wanted to look for pyrite to our hunting grounds. Unfortunately, the spot where we had hunted in the spring was not available this time, but hey! Any hunt is better than no hunt.

By this time, the sun was really bearing down on us (so much for the possibility of rain), and it was really hot! Nevertheless, my daughter, Barbara, and I started out with our collecting bags, water and picks. John stayed to protect the car and scout the parking lot. :) The pyrite was not nearly so plentiful this time out, but about the time we were thinking of meandering back to the cars, some sparkly, shiny something near the top of the gulley we were in caught my eye, and you know ladies are attracted to sparkly shiny stuff, so up I went. There was a protruding rock, and wow, was it pretty! After that first find, we gathered several more nice specimens. Another member of our group, (sorry, can't remember his name), found some really big pieces, I mean, really big – and was a happy camper. He said calcite is not normally found at this location. These samples were so nice it more than made up for not finding pyrite. It was nearing the time for Ron to come back for us, so we headed back. Along the way, found some intriguing fossil ‘somethings’. Maybe Shauna will help identify!

Thank you again, David, for including us in this trip

John, Jonnie and Barbara Goodwin, Dallas Gem & Mineral Society



To the left are two pictures of pretty, sparkling rocks!! The left side appears to be small shell fossils. The right is part of a clam fossil.

The container to the right is about 14” round, and the contents about 4 lbs of beauties. The top and side pieces are calcite. The bottom center pieces appear to be more shell fossils.

P.S. – Dairy Queen on 67 has Really Good Blizzards!



Thank you everyone! Let's keep on ROCKin! Hope everyone can make next trip

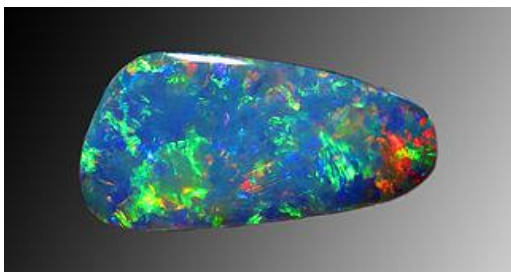
October Birthstones, Tourmaline and Opal

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Tourmaline is not really a single mineral, but a mineral series or group with 30 identifiable mineral. The chemical formula is very complex, $(Ca,K,Na)(Al,Fe,Li,Mg,Mn)_3(Al,Cr,Fe,V)_6(BO_3)_3(Si,Al,B)_6O_{18}(OH,F)_4$ where the elements inside the parenthetical brackets can be present as a single element, two of the elements, or even all of the elements. The tourmaline group has such a complicated chemical composition, it is a wonder that all those elements can get together in the same place and time in order for a mineral to form. The member of the group that is generally used for jewelry is elbaite, or elbaite variety tourmaline and comes in a variety of colors including blue, purple, red, pink, green, yellow, orange, and black. The chemical formula for elbaite variety tourmaline, $Na(Li_{1.5},Al_{1.5})Al_6Si_6O_{18}(BO_3)_3(OH)_3OH$, is still complicated, but a little more manageable and will be referred to as tourmaline for the remainder of this article. The tourmaline used in jewelry is almost always mined from pegmatite, an igneous rock with crystals of 2.5 cm (1 inch) or bigger in size. Black tourmaline, called schorl, is the most common variety of tourmaline, but until recently was rarely used in jewelry. When green and pink are found in the same crystal (zoned) it is called watermelon tourmaline and is popular in both tourmaline specimens and jewelry. Tourmaline has a Mohs hardness of 7 to 7.5, hard enough for rings and pendants. Tourmaline is found in a variety of places. One of the major producers of tourmaline is Brazil. It is also mined in Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Afghanistan. In the US, tourmaline has been extensively mined in Maine and California. In the early 1900s the US was the world's largest producer of gem quality tourmaline.



Opal is the second birthstone for October. Opal is amorphous (no definite crystalline structure) so it is not properly classified as a mineral. In recent years it has been grouped in a new classification – mineraloids (lacking crystalline structure but exhibiting other mineral like characteristics). Opal is a hydrated Silica, chemically defined as $SiO_2 \cdot nH_2O$. The water content of opal can vary between 3% and 21%. There are several different types of opal including common, fire, girasol, blue, and precious. Common opal is found in many locations and does not have any color play. Fire opals (think Mexican fire opals) are translucent to transparent and generally red, yellow, or orange in color but do not have a color play. They are often faceted and may exhibit a green flash due to prismatic effects. Girasol opal has a blue sheen that tracks the light source; it does not have a color play. Blue opal (Peruvian opal) is a semi-opaque stone of a soft blue or green color. Finally, there is precious opal, the stone that all of us would love to have an unlimited supply of. It varies from opaque to translucent in a variety of colors and has flashes of red, green, orange, purple, blue, and other colors. High quality precious opal, both rough and finished, can be extremely expensive. Precious opal is generally cut as a cabochon. In many cases, an opal will be backed with a dark stone (doublet) to simulate black opal. Many opals



will also have a clear quartz top (doublet or triplet if the stone is backed) as the color play often occurs in a narrow band which need a clear top to form the cabochon dome. Most of the finest precious opal comes from Australia. Other sources include Ethiopia, Brazil, Honduras, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Turkey, Hungary, Slovakia, and Czech Republic. In the US, precious opal is found in Nevada and Idaho. Still another variety of precious opal is found in Louisiana and is called Louisiana Sand Opal. It is primarily sandstone that is the

“glue” for the Louisiana Opal.

Reference:

- Tourmaline, <http://www.mindat.org/min-4003.html>
- Birthstones for August, <http://www.americangemsociety.org/august-birthstones>
- Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tourmaline>, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pegmatite>
- Geology.com, <http://geology.com/gemstones/states/louisiana.shtml>
-

Pictures from Wikimedia, <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

- Tourmaline: Rob Lavinsky/iRocks.com-<http://www.mindat.org/photo-165197.html>, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
- Opal doublet: Dpultzter, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

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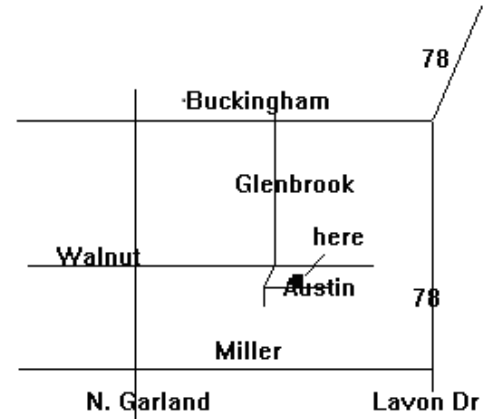


Meetings

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: \$16.00,
Junior: \$5.00, Family: \$27.50
(Plus badge fee for new members)



CHIPS AND CHATTER

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club

PO Box 831934

Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

October Meeting: October 2nd, Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX

November Meeting: November 6th, Garland Women's Activities Building, 713 Austin, Garland, TX

December Meeting: December 4th, our annual Pot Luck Dinner and Christmas Party

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, VFW Hall, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas TX (next to their shop)

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

CERA (Cowtown G,M, & Glass Club), meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, 3024 Acme Brick Plaza, Ft. Worth (formerly LM Stone Steppers)

Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:30 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,