Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter

Member of SCFMS

Affiliated with AFMS

October 2015
Vol. 49, Issue 9

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

Feature Articles

Monthly Columns

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Federation Information

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.

Monthly Meeting

The October meeting will be at the Garland Women's Activities Building, Thursday, 1 October at 7:30 PM. Del Grady will continue his presentation and video on jewelry making.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Club Officers for 2015

President:	Ling Shurtz
1st VP, Programs:	Open
2nd VP, Field Trips:	Open
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

President's Message

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

This month we will receive a report from the Nominating Committee and electing new officers for 2016. The new officers will be installed at the November meeting.

Dallas G&MS has moved the date of their rock swap to Saturday, 10 October.

IGEM is also in October. The show dates are Friday – Sunday, 16 – 18 October. Set up will be Wednesday afternoon, 14 October.

See you at the October meeting

Minutes of the September 2015 Meeting

The September 3rd, 2015 club meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by president, Ling Shurtz.

The Pledge to the flag was led by all of us.

Sunshine Report: Patti Mitchell is still having health problems and it makes it very difficult for her to walk. Don Shurtz had to visit a Dermatology surgeon this week because of skin cancer on his nose.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the August meeting that were printed in the Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn Grady and was seconded by Ling. The motion was voted on and passed.

Treasurers' Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurers' Report. A motion to accept the Treasurers' Report was made by Carolyn and was seconded by Don Shurtz. The motion was voted on and passed.

New Business: A nominating committee of Carolyn and Don was appointed. The committee shall submit their list of nominees at the October meeting.

New Business from the floor:

The InterGem show is October 16th, 17th, and 18th.

Don and Ling will be going to Austin for the SCFMS and AFMS meeting in late October.

After our refreshment break we had our presentation, a DVD about soldering basics. It was very informative about all the tools you need and safety first with the torches. We watched the first 3 parts of the DVD and we will watch the other half of it at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

A,B,C'S OF WHAT ONE CAN DO WITH ROCKS

Author unknown, from SCFMS Newsletter, May-June 2008 and republished Sep-Oct 2015

A - Admire Them
B - Brag about them
C - Cut and cab them
D - Display them
E - Enjoy them
F - Facet them
G - Gloat over them
H - Hunt them
I - Idolize them
J - Just enjoy their beauty
K - Kick them
L - Lick them
M - Make something with them
N - Never tire of them
O - Ogle them
P - Polish them
Q - Quick - collect them
R - Roam for them
S - Stumble over them
T - Trade / Tumble them
U - Unable to resist them
V - Vastly enjoy them
W - Wonder about them
X - X-ray them
Y - Yearn for them
Z - Zoom to collect them

Show Calendar - Upcoming Show Dates

Oct 3 – 4, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas GM&GS, Jacksonville Community Center, thom61847@yahoo.com
Oct 3 – 4, Fort Worth, TX, Cowtown G,M&Glass (CERA), 3300 Bryant Irving Rd, steve.L.shearking@Lmco.com
Oct 9 – 11, Mount Ida, AR Montgomery Cnty. Fairgrounds, director@mtidachamber.com, www.mtidachamber.com
Amateur World Championship Quartz Digging Contest on 9 and 10 October,
Oct 10 – 11, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Cntr., burnette@aceweb.com
Oct 16 – 18, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall
Note: Club helps with set up on Wednesday, 14 October
Oct 23 – 25, Austin G&MS show, SCFMS Convention, and AFMS Convention,
Showchairman@austingemandmineral.org, www.gemcapers.com
Oct 25 – 26, Glen Rose, TX, Paleo Society of Austin, Somervell Expo Cntr
Oct 31 – Nov 1, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, OK State Fair Park, halffull101-rockngem@yahoo.com

Nov 7 – 8, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Cntr, finfran@midplains.coop
Nov 7 – 8, Midland, TX, Midland G&MS, Midland Cntr
Nov 14 – 15, Round Rock TX, Paleo Society of Austin, Old Settlers Park
Nov 20 – 21, Enid, OK, Enid G&MS, Hoover Building, leon.walters@att.net, www.enidgemandmineral.org
Nov 21 – 22, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Rodeo Cntr Exhibit Hall, bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net, www.dallasgemandmineral.org

Dec 4 – 6, El Paso, TX, El Paso M&GS, El Maida Auditorium, gemcenter@aol.com

Jan 16 – 17, Fredericksburg, TX, Fredericksburk Rockhounds, Lady Bird Johnson Park, gedeonjim1@gmail.com
Jan 20 – 24, QIA Pow Wow, Quartzite, AZ. Many other shows in area from Jan 1 – Feb 14
Jan 30 – Feb 14, Tucson, NM, numerous shows in Tucson area.

Feb 11 – 14.

Ref:
July-August 2015 SCFMS Newsletter
Rock & Gem Show Calendar, http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL

Austin Gem and Mineral Society / AMFS & SCFMS Show and Conventions

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

This year the AFMS and SCFMS shows and conventions will be held in conjunction with the Austin, TX Gem and Mineral Society Show – Gem Capers.2015. The show starts Friday, 23 October and runs through Sunday, 25 October. Friday and Saturday the show will be from 9:00 AM to 6:00 pm and on Sunday from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. In addition to the AFMS and SCFMS conventions, there will be meetings of the ALAA (American Land Access Association) and S.C.R.I.B.E (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors). The AFMS Convention and Delegates meeting is on Thursday at 9:00 AM followed by the AFMS Scholarship Foundation Meeting. The Judges & Clerks Meeting will be at 10:00 AM on Friday. The S.C.R.I.B.E meeting will also be on Friday starting at 11:00 AM. Saturday morning starting at 8:00 AM is the SCFMS / AMFS Editors Breakfast. The SCFMS Convention and Delegates meeting is Saturday at 1:00 PM followed by the ALAA meeting. The Rollin' Rock Club meeting will be Sunday starting at8:00 AM. Also on Sunday at a time to be determined will be a Field Trip to Emerald Ridge. Even if you don't need to attend the convention or meeting, it will still be a great show and since it is so close you should plan to attend. One word of caution – Hotel and Motel rooms and RV spaces are at a premium due to the Formula One race. You should reserve now and probably look for a place within comfortable driving distance of Austin rather than Austin itself.

By the way, look to the left for the beautiful Grand Prize. You don't have to be present to win, but you do have to attend to get a ticket for the drawing.

October Birthstones, Tourmaline and Opal

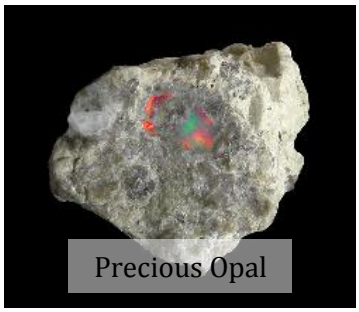
Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

There are two birthstones for October, tourmaline and opal. Opal is one of two month birthstones that is not a mineral. Opal is not considered a mineral as it does not have a definitive crystalline structure. For many years it was considered as a glass, but in more recent years it is considered a mineraloid – a substance which exhibits some but not all the characteristics of a mineral. For the record, the other non-mineral birthstone is Pearl for June.

Opal comes in many varieties with various names, but there really are three major classifications. First there is common opal. Common opal may be white or colored (e.g., East Texas opalized wood), translucent or opaque, and does not have any play of color. Next is fire opal. Fire opal comes from many areas of the world but the best material seems comes from Mexico and Brazil. Fire opal is translucent to clear, yellow to orange to red in color, and does not have the play of color. It is called fire opal as its color resembles the colors of a fire. Finally there is precious opal. Precious opal comes in many colors ranging from white to black with black opal being the rarest. Precious opal comes from many areas but the best material seems to come from Australia and Ethiopia. Some precious opal is found in the United States in Idaho and in Nevada. Precious opal is translucent to clear and when you look into precious opal you will see spots, small areas, or ribbons of color which shift and change as the stone is moved to a different viewing angle. Many people call the play of color as fire and precious opal is often called fire opal which only adds to the confusion as to the type of opal. Opal is composed of $SiO_2 \cdot nH_2O$ (hydrated silica). As most of us know, some varieties of opal can lose some of their water content and become crazed (numerous small cracks which cause the opal to appear cloudy). The Mohs harness of opal is 5 to 5.5, softer than quartz but still suitable jewelry if properly mounted to protect the stone.


Common Opal


Fire Opal


Precious Opal


Tourmaline variety Elbaite

Tourmaline comes in a variety of colors including clear, green, red, purple, blue, yellow, and orange, black, white plus others. Most of the tourmaline used for jewelry is of the variety Elbaite. Considering the chemical composition of elbaite, $Na(Li,Al)_3Al6Si_6O_{18}(BO_3)_3(OH)_4$, it is a wonder that it ever forms. For the record, the general chemical composition for tourmaline is much more complicated, $(Al,Fe,Li,Mg,Mn)_3(Al,Cr,Fe,V)_6(BO_3)_3(Si,Al,B)_6O_{18}(OH,F)_4$. However, tourmaline does form and it forms in many locations throughout the world including Brazil, Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Afghanistan. In the US, tourmaline has been extensively mined in Maine and California. Brazil is the major producer of tourmaline today, but a century ago the majority of the world's supply of tourmaline was from the United States, primarily from California. The Mohs hardness for tourmaline is 7 to 7.5, slightly harder than quartz and very suitable for jewelry. As mentioned, the primary variety of tourmaline used in jewelry is elbaite. Other varieties which are sometimes used include schorl, dravite, and rubellite. Schorl is a black to brown variety of the tourmaline group and constitutes about 95% of all natural tourmaline.

Ref:

The American Gem Society, Birthstones by Month, http://www.americangemsociety.org/birthstones

Wikipedia,

Pictures from WikiMedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki:

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Tourmaline variety Elbaite, Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

Amazing Feldspar

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Feldspar, like tourmaline, is not a single mineral. Rather, it is a family of minerals. The general formula for the Feldspar family is $KAlSi_3O_8$ – $NaAlSi_3O_8$ – $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$. Feldspar is primarily of an igneous origin, but it is also found in metamorphic rocks. It is estimated that feldspars compose 60% of the earth's crust. Most of the feldspar in the earth's crust is in rocks, a rock being a solid substance composed of one or more minerals. Rocks are generally thought of as a multi-mineral conglomeration without a definitive crystalline structure. However, many of the varieties of feldspar do form crystals.

One of the feldspar crystal varieties is amazonite. Some early members of our club had a mine in Colorado and often met there to mine amazonite. Amazonite is the green to blue variety of microcline, a variety of feldspar. It has the chemical formula $KAlSi_3O_8$. It was originally found in an area near the Amazon River, hence its name. With a hardness of 6.0 – 6.5 on Mohs scale it is hard enough for jewelry, but it does have a tendency to fracture easily. The green color is caused by a small amount of lead finding its way into the crystal matrix.

Another variety of feldspar which is popular with rockhounds is labradorite. Labradorite was named for the Labrador, Canada; the first location that the mineral was found. Feldspar variety labradorite has the chemical composition $(Ca,Na)(Al,Si)_4O_8$. Rockhounds are most interested in labradorite that exhibits iridescence, also known as labrodorescence. The iridescence effect is caused by reflected interference of light reflected from sub-microscopic planes. Like other feldspars, labradorite has a hardness of 6.0 to 6.5. Many beautiful stones for jewelry and carvings have been made from labradorite.

Still another type of feldspar that is of interest to rockhounds is moonstone. Moonstone is composed of feldspar varieties orthoclase and albite. Orthoclase has the chemical composition of $KAlSi_3O_8$and Albite is $NaAlSi_3O_8$. As the two minerals cool, they form stacked alternating layers of the orthoclase and albite. Light reflecting from the different layers causes an effect called adularescence which is described my many as luster or glow originating from beneath the surface of the stone. The glow is generally white but orange and blue are sometimes (although rarely) seen.

Yet another variety of feldspar that is of interest to rockhounds, primarily to those who facet stones, is bytownite. Bytownite was named for the area of its original discovery, Bytown Canada. Bytown is now known as Ottawa! The chemical composition of bytownite is $(Ca,Na)[Al(Al,Si)Si_2O_8]$. Gem quality bytownite is transparent with a color of pale yellow to light brown. As with other feldspars, it has a Mohs hardness of 6.0 to 6.5.

As Feldspar is so common, it is often found as a matrix in mine pockets (vugs) on which other minerals sit. Albite and orthoclase often associated with tourmaline minerals and with varieties of beryl, quartz, and topaz. A visit to the Lyda Hill Hall of Gems and Minerals at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science will demonstrate how common these varieties of feldspar can be found.

Ref:

Merriam-Webster Dictionary, http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/rock
Mindat.org, http://www.mindat.org/
Wikimedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/

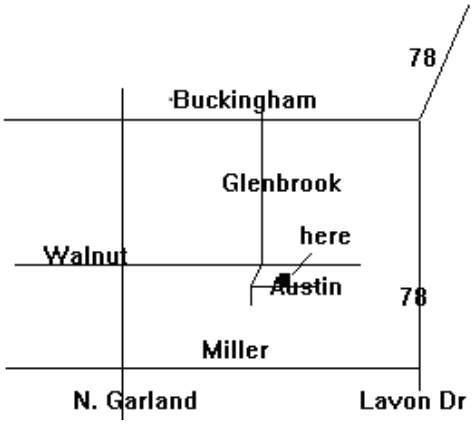
Pictures:

Amazonite: Eric Hunt, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic
Labradorite, Prokofiev, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
Moonstone, Didier Descouens, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International
Bytownite, Don Guennie, licensed under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International

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: $16.00,
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:

The October meeting will at the Garland Women's Activities Building on Thursday, October 1st at 7:30 PM
Del Grady will finish the presentation and video on jewelry making – primarily soldering.

The November meeting will at the Garland Women's Activities Building on Thursday, November 5th at 7:30 PM

Don't forget – IGEM Show SET-UP on Wednesday, October 14th starting in the afternoon

Visit an Area Club

Arlington Gem & Mineral Club, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Cowtown G, M, & Glass Club, meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth
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, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (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,
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 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,