

Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Chips and Chatter



September 2013
Vol. 47, Issue 9

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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

Our next meeting will be September 5th at the Garland Women’s Activities Building. The presentation will be a Mark Carter special, but I bet it will be good.

Club Officers for 2013

- President: Del Grady
- 1st VP: Mark Carter, (972) 680-9223
- Secretary: Lee Elms
- Treasurer: Don Shurtz, (972) 509-2821
- Editor: Don Shurtz
- E-mail: don.shurtz@gmail.com

VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO VIEW THE CHIPS AND CHATTER IN COLOR

Check our website, www.pogmc.org for prior month issues of the Chips and Chatter

Chips and Chatter Deadline:
The 3rd Thursday of each month

August 1, 2013 Meeting Minutes



The meeting was called to order at 7:40pm by Del Grady.

The Pledge to the flag was led by Mark Carter.

Sunshine Report: Patti Mitchell is supposed to have knee replacement surgery. Del said his back is doing much better since his surgery.

We discussed the June minutes as published in the Chips and Chatter and unanimously approved them. There were no minutes for July because that is our annual get together at Spring Creek Bar-B-Q. We all had plenty to eat and a good time.

The Treasurers' Report was unanimously approved.

New Business:

- We appointed Don Shurtz to be the delegate to the Federation Show in Bossier City. We also approved the club covering Dons' travel expenses to the show.
- We asked for volunteers for a nominating committee. Mark Carter, Ling Shurtz and Mike Kuhn volunteered.
- Don discussed if we wanted to volunteer at the Perot Museum, working with the kids in the Earth Sciences. Mark and Don are going to discuss this with the museum.

Field Trips: The Federation Show in Bossier City.

Check the Chips and Chatter for upcoming local shows.

Anita Dresser was able to attend our meeting tonight. We were so happy to see her again.

After our refreshment break, Mark Carter announced our program for the evening. It was a DVD titled "New Crystal Hunters". It was about Tourmaline mines in California and how three young teenagers were allowed to mine for Tourmaline crystals. The owner of the mine explained to the kids how he followed the veins of crystals through the mountain, and how the crystals formed in the shifts and upheavals of the earth's crust. I envied those kids being able to dig out those crystals. Some of those crystals were huge, and some had double points.

After the presentation we had our raffle, and then the meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Elms, Secretary

Show Calendar - 2013 Show Dates for September - October

AUG 31-SEP 2, Silver City, NM, Grant County Rolling Stones, Business and Conference Cntr, rollingstonesgmsshow@gmail.com
SEP 7, Tulsa, OK, Indian Nations Artifact & Fossil Show, Willard Elsing Museum, Mabee Center, Oral Roberts University, harvesims@hotmail.com
SEP 14-15, Grapevine, TX, Arlington G&MC, Grapevine Convention Center, show@agemclub.org, www.agemclub.org/events.php
SEP 18-22, Jacksonville, FL, Jacksonville G&MS, Morocco Temple - **AFMS Convention and Show**
SEP 21-22, Austin, TX, Austin Bead Society, Travis Cnty Expo Center, austinbeadsociety@yahoo.com, <http://austingbeadsociety.org>
SEP 21-22, Dennison, TX, Texoma Rockhounds, Denison Senior Center
SEP 28-29, Dallas, TX, Dallas G&MS, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, Mesquite, TX, bravo1bravo@sbcglobal.net, www.dallagemandmineral.org
OCT 4-6, Albuquerque, NM, Albuquerque G&MC, Fairgrounds Creative Arts Cntr, amypenn246@gmail.com, www.agmc.info
OCT 5-6, Jacksonville, AR, Central Arkansas G&MS, community Center, thom61847@yahoo.com, www.centralarrockhound.org
OCT 11-13, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, www.intergem.com
OCT 11-13, Metairie, LA, G&MS of Louisiana, Best Western Landmark Hotel, gemshow2013@gmail.com
OCT 11-13, Mount Ida, AR, Annual Quartz, Quiltz, & Craftz Show, Montgomery Cnty Fairgrounds, www.mtidachamber.com
OCT 12-13, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Mayborn Civic Center, ddunn2199@yahoo.com, www.tricitygemmineral.org
OCT 12-13, Fort Worth, TX, Lockheed Martin Stone Steppers, LMRA Picnic Area, steve.l.shearin@lmco.com
OCT 18-20, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, www.austingemandmineral.org
OCT 18-20, Victoria, TX, Victoria G&MS, Community Center, <http://www.victoriagemandmineral.com/annual%20show.htm>
OCT 19-20, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread G&MS, Amarillo Civic Center, finfran@midplains.coop

Ref:

July / August SCFMS Newsletter

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

Chips and Chatter

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September 2013

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Visit our web site: www.pogmc.org, "Like" us on Facebook

2013 SCFMS Convention Report

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The 2013 SCFMS Convention started for me on the Tuesday evening prior to the actual convention when I was asked to give the keynote address at the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. I quickly prepared two topics, the SCFMS Web Site and the Perot Museum. As I volunteer at the museum, I felt I should submit the presentation to the museum staff for approval. As I passed through the Tyler area on my drive to the convention on Friday, I received a phone call from the museum. Turns out they have a whole staff who can give presentations on behalf of the museum, other people associated with the museum can't. My presentation was basically shot – but the museum did say that I could use my own pictures (that were in my original presentation) and discuss them as though I were talking to museum visitors. My first action after arriving in Bossier City was to strip all the words out of my museum presentation so that I could use it – what a pain.

The Convention started Saturday morning with the Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters. Details of the Breakfast are shown in article below. Following the breakfast there was a 3 hour break, so I used the time to visit the show. The ARK-LA-TX club had a good show – a nice silent auction, demonstrations including knapping, sphere making, mini-classes on cabochon making and wire wrapping, and full time cabochon making for children. All these activities were conducted by ARK-LA-TX members, plus they were also manning the ticket booth, grand prize and door prize activities, and general announcements and maintenance that go along with running a show. There were plenty of dealers, most selling finished items but a few had slabs and other rough stones for sale. A few buys at the silent auction and from a couple of dealers killed the rest of the morning.

Early Saturday afternoon was the convention. I expected it to be dull and boring, and my expectations were generally met. About 2/3rds of the member clubs were present – more than enough to make the meeting official. Most of the reports were “in the convention packet” (which had been mailed out) or “on the table”. However, there was a lively discussion of changes to the SCFM Constitution and By-Laws. With some minor modifications, the changes were approved (pending final review of the real-time approved changes). After a few more “in the packet” reports, the 2014 officers were elected. The 2014 SCFMS are John Nash; Executive Vice-President – Bill Halepeska; Secretary – Ann James; Treasurer – Don Shurtz; Executive Secretary: No nominee; District Vice-Presidents: District I, Northeast Texas – Steve Hilliard; District II, Southeast Texas – Fred Brown; District III, South Texas – Joe Grimes; District IV, Central Texas – Chip Burnette; District V, West Texas – Herman W. Jones; District VI, Rollin' Rock Club – Edith Guenther; District VII, Arkansas – Raymond Lynch; District VIII, Louisiana – Jim Marler.

During the meeting the “hat” (actually, a box) was passed around for final donations to see if the Charlotte Harmon Memorial Fund to see if the total donation to the AFMS Scholarship Fund could be pushed past \$2500. \$139 was collected bring the total for the Memorial Fund to \$2585.

After the convention meeting, there were a few more hours to visit the show, and then it was time for the Awards Banquet. For me the highlight of the awards banquet is the awarding of the Gold Spark Plug award. Ike House, a prior SCFMS president, made the award. The winner of the award was sure that Ike did not have some of his facts straight, but as Ike continued, he finally realized that Ike was really talking about him. The winner was in a near state of shock by time the award recipient's name was announced. Virtually speechless (very unusual for this individual), he manage to stay on his feet and accepted the award saying “Thank you for this honor”. See Ike's award speech at the top of the next page to see who the winner was.

Although the convention officially ended after the banquet, there was still the Rollin' Rock Club (RRC) Meeting Sunday morning. As per usual, the raffle was exciting and brought in funds which were split between the SCFMS Endowment Fund and the ARK-LA-TX Scholarship fund – both extremely worth causes. The last “Reggie” had been auctioned at the 2012 banquet and has been officially retired. Now the RRC has a “Treasure Chest” that is auctioned off at each meeting. Treasure Chest #1 brought in about \$2000 for the AFMS Scholarship Fund in the first year. Each winner places an item in the treasure chest, and after the final auction, a final winner is randomly selected to permanently retain the Treasure Chest and contents. This is a great follow on to Reggie.

2013 SCFMS Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The SCFMS 2013 Breakfast with the Editors and Webmasters as held August 17th at the Bossier City Civic Center, Bossier City, LA. There were 55 entries in the Bulletin and Author contest from 8 different clubs. Houston Gem & Mineral Society took home the 19 awards followed by East Texas Gem & Mineral Society with 11 awards. Pleasant Oaks took home 5 awards, not bad for a small club.

- 7th place, Features – Mark Carter for “Richardson's Rock Ranch (Friday Agate)”
- 2nd place, Features – Don Shurtz for “Editor's Corner: The Perot Museum of Nature and Science”
- 9th place, Original Articles – David Dobson for “Rockhounding in the Dallas Area ‘Seek and Find’”
- 5th place, Original Articles – Don Shurtz for “September Birthstone, Sapphire”
- 1st place, Mini Bulletins – “Chips and Chatter”, Don Shurtz editor

2013 SCFMS Gold Spark Plug Award

Ike House – at the SCFMS Awards Banquet

As well as serving in numerous positions in his local club, he has served for many years as Bulletin Aids Chairman taking over for me when I was asked to assume other duties. He has stepped in often when no one else was able to do the work. He even has done the BAC job twice in spite of his extremely busy work schedule, taking over again when the volunteer who had done the job before was unable to continue. Most recently, he has spent countless hours reorganizing and updating the web site for the federation, a thankless task but a necessary one. He has agreed to become the SCFMS treasurer when the term of our current treasurer expires. He exemplifies the nature of the type of person who we wish to honor. He is my friend, our own, Don Shurtz.

SEPTMEBER CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY'S

Blair Cox
David Dobson
Gail Spann
Jim Spann

WEDDING ANIVERSARY'S

None for September

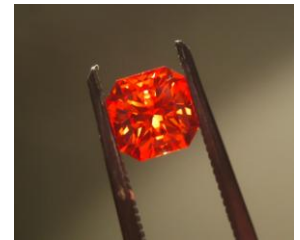
September Birthstone: Sapphire

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

From the September, 2012 Chips and Chatter

This article placed 2nd in the 2013 Editor and Author contest, Original Adult Article category

Sapphire, from the Greek word *sappneiros* meaning blue stone, is a form of corundum. The chemical composition of sapphire is Al_2O_3 – Aluminum Oxide. Trace elements in the matrix give sapphires its color. If the trace element is chromium it produces a red color and is classified as a ruby. Iron as a trace element yields a sapphire which is yellow to pale green in color. If iron and titanium are present as the trace elements, the sapphire exhibits a blue color. If iron and chromium are the trace elements, they can yield a pink variety of sapphire know as Padparadscha. Vanadium as a trace element yields a purple sapphire.



In addition to the trace elements, sapphires may also can contain needle like inclusions (generally rutile) causing the stone to exhibit asterism. The asterism can form a 12 pointed star, a six pointed star (most common) or a parallel like blinking “cat’s eye effect” as seen in tiger-eye.

Naturally colored sapphires are becoming quite rare. It is estimated that 95% of all natural sapphires are heat treated to enhance their color. In addition, there are many companies that manufacture artificial sapphires – chemically the same but grown in labs. The labs have been making sapphires for decades (the very first lab grown sapphires were produces in 1902) and they are getting so good that it is sometimes extremely difficult to tell the difference between a natural and lab grown sapphire, even by expert gemologists.

Natural sapphires are mined in many locations including Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Australia, Tanzania, China, and the United States. In the US most of the sapphires are found in Montana; a few are found in North Carolina.

In addition to use as gemstones, sapphires have had a long history of being used in manufacturing. Some of the best watches in the world are built with sapphire bearings (jewels). Watch crystals and optical windows are another use for clear sapphires. Sapphire is also used in the electronic industry in the production of integrated circuits, the sapphire being used as an insulting layer between layers of the circuit. Sapphire has a Mohs hardness of 9, then second hardest natural material falling just below diamond on the Mohs scale. Non-crystalline sapphire is known as corundum and has been used as an abrasive for centuries due to its hardness.

Ref:

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapphire>

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The Art of Display: Rough and Cut

Gail Copus Spann, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas



Spodumene var. Kunzite, rough and cut.

Gem Crystal, 106mm x 28mm x 22mm and cut stone, 43 carats.
Mawi, Nuristan, Laghman Province, Afghanistan. Spann Collection.

When I first discovered the joy of mineral collecting, I found myself putting a “spin” on how I could relate to fine minerals. As an owner of an art gallery for many years, the connection of color and form, aesthetics and beauty all made sense to me. Fine minerals fit right into my concepts of all of the afore-mentioned attributes. And a nice display is right up my alley!

When my husband, Jim, and I started adding cut gemstones to the mix, well something else snapped into place, the connection of a gemstone as a finished product next to the mineral as near natural as possible really made sense.

When we entertain, those that are new to seeing minerals will often “get it” quickly when they see the two together. We display quite a bit of “rough and cut” and find that it is a popular concept. It’s nice to hear people comment that a gemstone is lovely without having to be set in jewelry too!

Gail Copus Spann
Rockwall, Texas

Photo by Jeff Scovil, Gail and Jim Spann Collection



Editor’s Corner

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

It is approaching election time. The nominating committee has been selected, Mark Carter, Ling Shurtz, and Michael Kuhn. It is time to get some new blood into the club’s leadership. All the current officers have been there too long (including yours truly). We need new people to step up – let the nominating committee know you can help. I also implore the nominating committee to search long and hard – it is time for others to step up. This is not Del’s club, Mark’s club, Lee’s club, nor my club; the club belongs to every member. It is OUR CLUB – let’s make it so!

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, UT Dallas Research & Operation Center, room 2.209
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
Lockheed-Martin Stone Steppers meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 pm, 3400 Bryant-Irving Road, Fort Worth
Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc., 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 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,

PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas

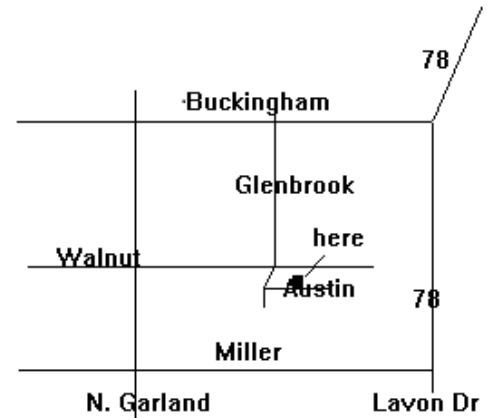


Meetings

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:

Coming Up

The September 5th meeting will start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building. The presentation will be a Mark Carter surprise.

The October 3rd meeting will also start at 7:30 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building.