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1st Place, 2017 AFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2016 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2015 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin

## The Eyes of Africa

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The Eyes of Africa is the newest addition to the Perot Museum of Nature and Science. It resides in the Lyda Hill Hall of Gems and Minerals. This is a spectacular piece. It is about 2 feet tall featuring a quartz spire growing from a quartz cluster base and clad with a layer of Alien Eye Fluorites.

Alien Eye fluorites are dark fluorites with a green square or diamond shaped center. When lighted from the back or side, the green looks like a pair of alien eyes staring at you. Alien Eye fluorites are only found in a few pockets in one mine in the Erongo Mountains of Namibia.

Herold Gariseb, a Namibian miner, found the Eyes of Africa along with other Alien Eye fluorites in 2007. Many of the specimens were sold, but Mr. Gariseb retained the Eyes of Africa, described as the "largest and finest specimen of Alien Eyes fluorite". As he was fearful that the specimen would be stolen from his house, he stored it in the trunk of his white Mercedes. Years later, Mark Kielbasa and Jurgen Tron heard rumors of the find and eventually



tracked down the specimen, still in the trunk of the Mercedes. A deal was closed, but it still had to be shipped to the United States without damage. To that end, the specimen as wrapped in 400 diapers and placed inside a 50-gallon barrel. The method of shipping was described as unconventional, but it worked.

Shipping of the specimen took about three months. Then it was another two years for the specimen to be cleaned and prepared. Passing through a number of hands, Lyda Hill eventually acquired the Eyes of Africa from Fine Minerals International. Lyda has loaned the Eyes of Africa to the Perot Museum on Nature and Science. If you get a chance, you should visit the museum.

Picture: Don Shurtz  
References:

- <https://www.dmagazine.com/frontburner/2017/07/the-perot-museums-latest-acquisition-makes-its-debut-after-a-wild-ride/>
- <https://www.dallasnews.com/arts/visual-arts/2017/07/12/lyda-hills-rare-alien-eye-mineral-unveiled-perot-museum-dallas>
- <http://www.dallasobserver.com/arts/perot-museum-acquires-rare-mineral-with-cult-like-following-9659819>

Visit our web page, [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org), to see the pictures in color



## Editor's Corner – Be a Volunteer

Why would anyone want to be a volunteer for anything? That is good question, but it does not have a stock answer. Let us start with the definition. According to dictionary.com, a volunteer is “a person who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking” or “a person who performs a service willingly and without pay.” The first definition does not mention anything about pay. It could be military personnel who offer to undertake a special mission. They are still being paid, just going over and above. The same could apply to a teacher who takes on an unruly class. The teacher still receives his/her normal pay, but is taking on a special assignment that others may shun. Then there is the volunteer who serves willingly and without pay. This article is trying to stress this type of “volunteer.”

In our hobby, many of us are retired and no longer working (yes, we tend to be a hobby of elderly people). Therefore, what can one do with their spare time? Reading and gaining education is an option. So is keeping fit. However, what else can one do? How about something to help others? Within our hobby (or any hobby), you could volunteer to be a club or federation officer. You could help the organization by being an active committee member. You could also help by supporting your club's newsletter – taking on an article or poem or even being the editor. Still, being a volunteer in a club or Federation is not all that time consuming.

So what else could you do? Community service may be an option. Helping in a food bank, an animal rescue organization, a senior service center, or even building a house with the Habitat for Humanity organization may be a good option. If you are a “people person” then schools, libraries, museums and the like may be a good fit. I think that if you look around a little bit you will find many options.

When I first joined Pleasant Oaks, I wondered how I could help. I volunteered to help with the newsletter and found myself the assistant editor. A few months later the editor abruptly quit; suddenly I was the editor. I struggled for a couple of months learning more about the tasks, and it eventually became easier. The easier it was, the more I enjoyed it. A few years later, I went to one of the SCFMS conventions for the Editor's Breakfast. The person who was running the SCFMS Bulletin Editor and Author Contest (BEAC) was leaving and they were struggling to find a replacement. I tried it, stumbling through the first year's contest. Then I found a few ways to simplify things and started enjoying it. I have continued this practice through the years and am now the SCFMS Treasurer. I feel that I am helping the Federation, and thus I am helping the hobby.

Sometimes volunteer opportunities have unique ways of rewarding you. About five years ago, Mr. Tommy Diamond gave a presentation about the Perot Museum and the efforts in finding and displaying the Alamosaurus neck bones and cast of the huge sauropod that was going to be displayed. That sounded interesting, so I contact the museum and found that they were actively seeking volunteers. Out of interest, I applied and was accepted. Now I am a docent in the Gem and Mineral Hall and the Life: Then and Now Hall (dinosaur hall). I get to look at the fantastic displays and have a chance to study and learn about them. I do not have an extensive mineral or fossil collection, but the Museum surely does. I can examine the displays and take pictures of them. I can share the information in our club's newsletter, but more importantly, I have the opportunity to talk and share with museum patrons. I did not realize I liked talking to strangers, but found that I just had to find the right topic first. I also did not think I liked large groups of small children, but once again, it was just finding out the right topics to interact with them, so now I help in the youth camp programs.

Do you have a little bit or time to spare? Perhaps you should consider being a volunteer – it is better than sitting around being bored. The opportunities are there, you just need to look a little to see if you can help. If you do not see what you want, go to Google and search “volunteer match” – you will be surprised how many organization there are who will help you to find the right opportunity. Volunteering can be rewarding, often beyond just personal gratification. Over the years I have know many (granted, younger) volunteers being offered position with a company or organization. Being a volunteer gave them the background and experience; key elements for an employer looking to fill a position. Still, it is not about the job that may or may not be there, it is about helping and the good feelings that come from helping. My recommendation is to try being a volunteer. If you enjoy it then that is great; if it is not your cup of tea there is no stigma in leaving.

## Federation News

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Last month I reported that there should have been a lot of AFMS Federation News as the AFMS Convention was in early June. However, there was really no news as there was no July or August AFMS newsletters and the June issue was published prior to the convention. I indicated the next news would be in the September AFMS Newsletter and I did not expect it until early September. However, it was published in mid-August, so this month there really is a lot of AFMS Federation news.

AFMS Recognition Award, announced at the AFMS/CFMS Annual Banquet: The winner was Jim Brace-Thompson, a past AFMS President. He was the Chair of the AFMS Junior Program since 2003, Chair of the CFMS Junior Activity since 1998 and a judge for the AFMS Bulletin Contest for the Youth Articles and other categories. He is a regular contributor to Rock and Gem magazine for special topics and the monthly Rock & Gems Kids page. **Congratulation Jim!**

The AFMS Officers for 2018 were elected. The officers are:

- President: Sandy Fuller
- President Elect: Doug True
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP: David Wayment
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: DeLane Cox
- 3<sup>rd</sup> VP: Margaret Kolaczyk
- 4<sup>th</sup> VP: Carolyn Weinberger
- 5<sup>th</sup> VP: Roger Burford
- Treasurer: Pat LaRue
- Secretary: Donna Moore

The Minutes of the AFMS Annual Meeting were published in the September AFMS Newsletter. I will forward the AFMS newsletter to our club email list and will bring a hard copy to our next meeting for anyone interested in reading them.

The All American Club Award: As I previously pointed out, this is like a scrapbook of a club's history for the contest year. It is a competition, but against a set of standards. This year there were four Silver Award winners and two Gold Award winners. The Austin Gem & Mineral Club of the SCFMS was one of the Silver Award winners – **Well Done** Austin G&MS!

The AFMS Web Site contest winners: POGMC does not participate in the web site contest due avoid any conflict of interest as “yours truly” is the SCFMS web site contest coordinator. There were 12 entries in the AFMS web site competition this year, and believe me, the competition is fierce. **Congratulations** to Phyllis George (Houston G&MS) for second place and Gordan Galligher (Paleontological Society of Austin) for eighth place.

The Editor and Author Contest winners: The SCFMS had many winners in the various categories. I will not try to announce all them, but I will concentrate on the winners from POGMC. First, a **Shout of Excellence** to Lee Elms for first place in the Adult Article category for her article “The April Birthstone is Diamond.” In the same Adult Article category, Don Shurtz placed eight for “The Helix, an Awesome Aquamarine” and Cheryl Ogletree won an Honorable Mention for “Alexandrite, A Stone for June.” Del Grady placed sixth in the Written Features category for his “Find the Hidden Word” puzzle. Finally, the Chips and Chatter finished first in the AFMS Small Bulletin category. This was a great showing for one of the smallest clubs in the SCFMS and AFMS.

Other Bulletin Category winners: A “**Well Done**” goes out to Susan Burch, editor of “The Rock-N-Rose” Newsletter of the East Texas G&MS for first place, Small Bulletins and Phyllis George, editor of “The “Backbender’s Gazette” Newsletter of the Houston G&MS for second place, Large Bulletins. These are most competitive categories in the Editor and Author contest.

### Visit an Area Club

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX, 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm  
[Cowntown G, M, & Glass Club](#), meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 pm, Corp. Emp. Rec. Association (CERA) 3300 Bryant Irvin Rd. Fort Worth  
[Dallas Bead Society](#), meets 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month at The Point at CC Young, 4847 W. Lawther Dr., Dallas, TX  
[Dallas Gem & Mineral Society](#) meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7 pm, American Legion, 10205 Plano Rd, Dallas (next to their shop)  
[Dallas Paleontological Society](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of each month at 7:30 pm, Brookhaven College, Building H, 3939 Valley View Lane, 75244  
[Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 3545 Bryan Avenue, Ft. Worth  
[Oak Cliff Gem & Min Soc.](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3839 W. Keist Blvd, Dallas,  
[Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thur. of each month at 7:30 pm, Garland Women's Activities Bldg., 713 Austin, Garland,

## Show Calendar – Upcoming Show Dates

Oct 27 – 29, Dallas, TX, International Gem and Jewelry Show, Market Hall, <https://www.intergem.com/>

Nov 10 – 12, Humble, TX, Houston G&MS and SCFMS Convention, Humble Civic Center

Nov 18 – 19, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall, [www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org), [case53d@yahoo.com](mailto:case53d@yahoo.com)

Ref:

- July - August 2017 SCFMS Newsletter
- Rock & Gem Show Calendar, <http://www.rockngem.com/show-dates-display/?ShowState=ALL>

### BRAD'S BENCH TIPS

From September Gritty Greetings, Newsletter of the Waco Gem and Mineral Club

#### JUST A DROP

Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.



#### NEW BOOK ON FOREDOM TOOL BITS

Confused by all the tool bits available for your flexible shaft or hand-held motor tool? "*Accessories for the Foredom and Dremel*" explains what each is good for, which ones save the most time, and the tool bits that best improve the quality of your work. Also included are bench tips for getting good results and cautions for safe use.

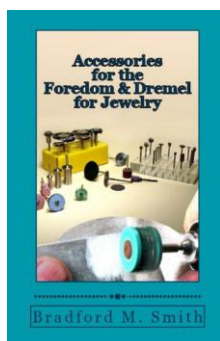
The book is available on Amazon at [amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/](http://amazon.com/dp/B074LG35ZV/)

#### FOREDOM MAINTENANCE

If you have a Foredom flexshaft, it makes sense to check it over every so often to be sure it's running properly. But how to do that? You've probably lost the little booklet that came with the unit. Well, being the good company it is, Foredom has put together an extensive set of videos on how to do almost anything.

The series covers set-up, lubrication, replacing a sheath, motor maintenance, and handpiece maintenance. Few if any special tools are needed. You can watch the videos at [www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx](http://www.foredom.net/flexibleshaftmachinemaintenance.aspx) particularly under "*Foredom Basics*" or

the "*Foredom Shafting*" categories. Any repair parts needed are available on the Foredom site or from most jewelry supply catalogs.



See all Brad's jewelry books at  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



## **President's Message**

Ling Shurtz, POGMC President

Our September meeting will start at 7:15. We will start with Chips and Dips (bring Chips and/or Dip to Share). We will continue our EMU Egg Jewelry Box project. Materials will be available at the meeting. IGEM is just around the corner, October 27 to 29. Start making you plans now.

### **Club Officers for 2017**

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

### **Minutes of the August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2017 Meeting**

The August 3rd 2017 club meeting was called to order at 7:35pm by Ling Shurtz.

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

Sunshine report: Patti is still in the hospital. Butch is doing ok for now.

Minutes: We discussed the minutes of the July meeting as printed in the August 2017 Chips and Chatter. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Carolyn. The motion was seconded by Hat. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Del Grady gave the Treasurer's report. A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Don. The motion was seconded by Carolyn. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Status of the new Name Tags: Del and Carolyn are working on the badges, their computer is broken. Don said he would take care of the badges.

New Business:

- IGEM October 27th-29th.
- Upcoming Shows:
  - Aug 12-13, San Antonio, TX, Peppers Gems, Crystal Mystic.
  - Aug. 12-13, Gonzales, LA, Baton Rouge G&MS, Lamar Dixon Expos Center- Trademart Bldg.
  - Aug. 19-20, Bossier City, LA. ARKLATEX G&MS, Bossier Civic Center
  - Aug. 26-27, Jasper, TX, Pine Country G&MS, The Event Center

- Nov. 18-19, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Rodeo Center Exhibit Hall
- Nov. 27-29, Humble, TX, SCFMS Convention/Houston G&MS, Humble Civic Center
- Items from the floor: Next month we will bring Chips and Dip and will start the meeting at 7:15pm.

After we took our refreshment break Ling showed us what we would be working on tonight. We are making an Emu egg jewelry box and we can put as much "bling" on it as we want to. She painted four eggs, three were gold and one was black. Cheryl and I chose a gold egg and Carolyn chose the black one. We each took turns using the Freedom handset to cut around the top 1/3 of the egg to make the top of the jewelry box. I have never used a Freedom handset so it was all new to me. After we cut the top of the egg off, our homework was to take it home and sand all of the cut edges of the eggshell until nice and smooth. Ling gave us each a little hinge to glue onto the top and bottom of the eggshell edge so it will open and close. At the next meeting, we will line the inside of the eggshell with a beautiful silky fabric, and we will then begin gluing all of the beautiful beads and stones to the outside of the shell.

I can hardly wait to see how they turn out.

We had our raffle and then the meeting was over.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Elms, Secretary

### **Meeting**

Our September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting will start at 7:15 PM at the Garland Women's Activities Building. Bring a bag of dipping chips or your favorite dip. This month's project we will continue the Emu Egg Jewelry Box or Purse that we started in August.

### **SHOW and TELL**

Quartz and Fluorite  
September birthstone: Sapphire

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

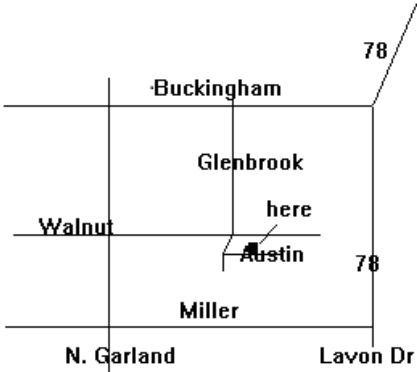
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**PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of Dallas**



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.

CHIPS AND CHATTER  
 Pleasant Oaks Gem & Mineral Club  
 PO Box 831934  
 Richardson, TX 75083-1934

To:

**VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**  
**Next Meeting: September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 7:15 PM**  
**Bring chips and/or a dip to share**

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