



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



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

## September Birthstone – Sapphire

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The major Birthstone lists all have a single birthstone for September, Sapphire. Sapphire is a variety of corundum, the defining entry for the Mohs Hardness scale of nine. Only two natural minerals are harder than corundum. They are Moissanite (9.25) and Diamond (10). Sapphires come in a variety of colors except red. A red variety of corundum exists – it is known as Ruby. Both varieties of corundum are chemically the same. They are Aluminum Oxide ( $Al_2O_3$ ). Trace elements are responsible for the differing colors of sapphire. Iron and tungsten impart a blue hue to sapphire. Iron by itself can yield a yellow to green sapphire. Iron and chromium impurities can yield a purple sapphire. Padparadscha sapphires are the rarest variety of corundum. The color of the Padparadscha ranges from orangish-pink to pinkish-orange; the color, like the purple sapphire, is caused by the presence of both iron and chromium. It is the balance between the iron and chromium ions and the valence state of the iron and chromium that determines if the stone is going to be purple or the orangish hue of the padparadscha sapphire. Sapphire without any trace elements will be colorless.



Padparadscha Sapphire

Sapphires may exhibit asterism – a star sapphire. The star is caused by inclusion of strands of rutile (titanium oxide). Both 6 and 12-legged stars have been found, but the 12-pointed star sapphire is extremely rare. When a star is found in a sapphire, it is always cut as a cabochon.



Yogo Sapphire

Almost all sapphires are heat-treated to improve the clarity of the stone, and often to enhance the color of the stone. One exception is the Yogo sapphire found exclusively in Montana's Yogo Gulch. Their color is often described as "cornflower blue". Sapphires were one of the earliest stones to be lab-grown. Padparadscha sapphires can be enhanced by a process known as beryllium lattice diffusion. It has also been found that beryllium lattice diffusion can change a very dark blue sapphire into a more marketable lighter-colored blue stone.

Reference: Various articles, Wikipedia, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Pictures: Wikipedia Commons, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/>

- Padparadscha sapphire, photo by [Wiener Edelstein Zentrum](#), used under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
- Yogo sapphire, photo by [PumpkinSky](#), used under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported

## Rocks to Take to School

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Before I get started on the subject topic, I would like to diverge a bit. Do you receive emails from [updates@rockngem.com](mailto:updates@rockngem.com)? If not, you are missing out on a wealth of hobby-related information. I have mentioned this in the Chips and Chatter on several past occasions. Rock & Gem Magazine sends out weekly emails that contain 4 links to articles about rocks, gems, minerals, and other hobby-related topics. Additionally, when you follow one of the links, it often offers additional links to other articles. I will often follow some of these additional links, but be careful – it can be addictive. To get on this email list, you have to put up with a few subscription offers but it is well worth it. If you receive a subscription offer, just close it and wait for the next email. They send out their emails with links to articles every week. Some of the articles are on new topics, but the majority of them are from past issues of Rock & Gem Magazine. Their weekly email always gets my attention and my highest priority is to read through the articles. If you are not signed up for the email list, here is a link to the site where you can sign up:

[https://www.rockngem.com/sodalite-properties-meaning/?fref=8407e742-e8c8-49ce-96a2-3f049e60c02f&em=ZG9uLnNodXJ0ekBnbWFpbC5jb20-&utm\\_campaign=RnG+Weekly+Aug+17\\_2023](https://www.rockngem.com/sodalite-properties-meaning/?fref=8407e742-e8c8-49ce-96a2-3f049e60c02f&em=ZG9uLnNodXJ0ekBnbWFpbC5jb20-&utm_campaign=RnG+Weekly+Aug+17_2023)

This link came from the August 27 update message and is a link to an article about Sodalite.

One of the articles from the August 27, 2023 message was about the Ten Stones for back to school. Now I know I am old-fashioned (it comes with being old) but I can't remember EVER taking a rock back to school, let alone taking a rock to school for any reason – including a couple of years in elementary school where one day per week was designated for show and tell. It had my attention, so I read on. I think this may have been the first article in several years of reading the weekly articles that was, for me, a major disappointment. It was all about the metaphysical properties of rocks, crystals, gems, and stones. It is just a personal thing with me, and I do not fault anyone if they do believe in metaphysical properties. Still, it was an interesting concept. Just to check, I did a Google search on taking stones to school, and there were pages of links. Apparently, I am just not in tune with the rest of the world! Reaching out further, I found that for most of my life, I should have been taking certain rocks to college, work, etc.

Here are Rock & Gem's Stones to Take for Back to School:

Amethyst	Calming, reducing anxiety and fear
Apophyllite	Overcome anxiety, worries, and fears. Calming
Ametrine	Improves concentration and problem-solving, eliminate fatigue
Black Tourmaline	Dispels negative energies, eliminates tension and stress
Blue Lace Agate	Balances the emotional, physical, and intellect. Improves concentration
Green Tourmaline	Encourages patience and sense of belong. Quiets the mind
Lapis Lazuli	Harmonizes conflict, promotes active listening and overcoming depression
Sodalite	Encourages harmony and trust when working in groups
Turquoise	Helps alleviate exhaustion, depression, and panic attacks
Yellow Apatite	Increases motivation, overcomes emotional exhaustion

It was encouraging to note at the end of the article that Rock & Gem added a "Disclaimer." They tell you that the metaphysical properties are not intended as a substitute for traditional medical treatments. They also tell you to seek licensed medical professionals for health issues. Unfortunately, some of the related articles swear by the metaphysical properties. As I see it, the choice is yours – I have made my choice.

# Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

## September 2023

- 23 – 24 September, San Antonio, TX, Southwest G&MS, Wonderland of Americas, [www.swgms.org/](http://www.swgms.org/)
- 23 – 24 September, Lubbock, TX, Lubbock G&MS, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, [www.lubbockgemandmineral.org](http://www.lubbockgemandmineral.org)

## October 2023

- 13 – 15 October, Westwego, LA, G&MS of Louisiana & SCFMS Convention,
- 14 – 15 October, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Frank W. Maborn Civic and Convention Center, [lrolston@hotmail.com](mailto:lrolston@hotmail.com)
- 14 – 15 October, Fort Worth, TX, CERA (Cowtown G&MS), 3300 Bryant Irving Rd, [steve.l.shearin@lmco.com](mailto:steve.l.shearin@lmco.com)
- 20 – 22 October, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, [www.agms0tx.org](http://www.agms0tx.org)
- 27 – 29 October, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma G&MS, Oklahoma State Fair Park, [omgs-minerals.org](http://omgs-minerals.org)

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

Ref: May-June 2023 SCFMS Newsletter

## 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 President's Message

By Roger Burford, from the July, August SCFMS Newsletter



*Roger Burford*  
*SCFMS President*

Well we have all had the hottest summer on record this year and I hope everyone has been safe and staying cool and well hydrated. While the summer is a time when most of us have the chance to get out into the great outdoors, however, in this heat it can be very dangerous.

Liz and I have been very busy riding the roads attending the Rocky Mountain Federation Conference and Show in Wyoming and we are currently in Montana for the American Federation Conference and Show. We had some excitement on our way up to Montana, as we were leaving town we had a wreck that totaled our truck. We were not hurt other than some bruising and a burn from the airbag thank goodness but when they were going to tow away the truck we had to get all of our things out of the truck to be able to still make it on our way. The tow yard people ended up being very helpful helping us unload the truck and my sister and brother-in-law came and picked us up and all of our stuff and brought us home. Saturday morning we rented another vehicle to make the trip.

We had a good meeting and there are going to be new changes to the Uniform Rules that will help make understanding all of the requirements for each kind of competitive display much easier to understand and will break up the Rules into separate sections eliminating the need to read the entire book. We also had some discussion about judges and the training requirements for them. We need to get more of our members through judges training, so many of the existing judges like all of us are getting older and there are just not enough people trained.

Everyone please be careful out there and I am looking forward to seeing you at our convention in October.



# Federation News

## SCFMS News

By Liz Burford, SCFMS Secretary,  
from the July, August SCFMS Newsletter

### SCFMS NEWS

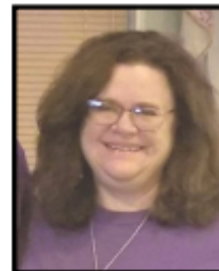
Hello All!

I hope all of you have survived this record breaking heat this summer, staying hydrated and cool. It certainly does not make it fun for those who enjoy getting out and rockhounding!

Recently, I sent an email to all Presidents and Vice Presidents, as listed in our directory from 2022. We had a few hiccups earlier this year, one of those being finalizing the 2023 Directory. My email asks for verification of the listing we have. I sincerely thank those of you who have responded, whether updating the info or confirming it. I appreciate hearing from those of you that contacted me regarding issues you have been having and sadly enough those of you that contacted me to tell me your club has disbanded.

Those of you that have not yet responded, please take the time to verify this info, correct it if needed, and return it to me, as soon as possible. If there is no change, we need to know that too. The South Central Federation of Mineralogical Societies is a registered 501(c)3 Organization. Each of your clubs is a branch of that organization. We need to have an accurate listing of who is in charge of each "branch" and how many people are at each location. Accuracy is crucial for communication with you, for insurance rates, for us to be able to guide potential new members to you when we receive inquiries from the public as we often do, just to name a few reasons. It's just plain important so please respond.

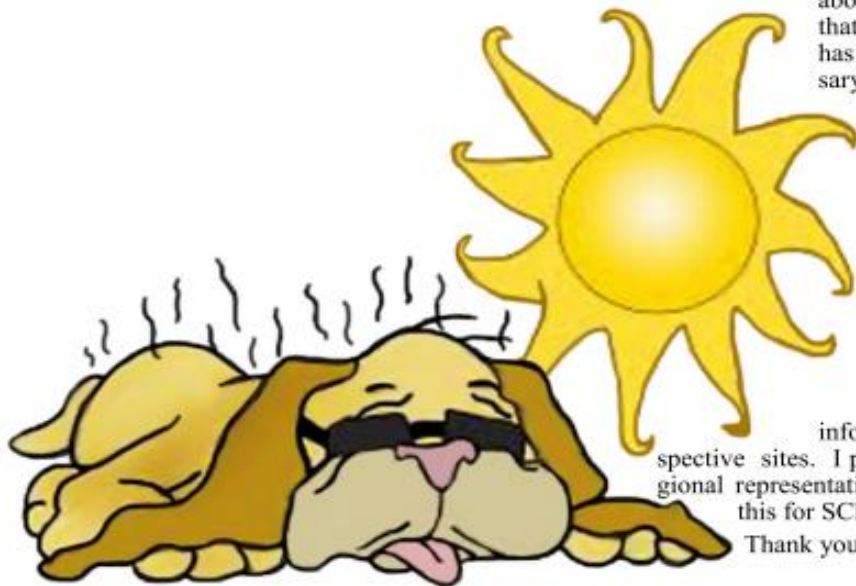
One issue that comes up every single time we send this request is the question of privacy. People don't want their names, numbers, addresses, and email addresses listed anywhere. First and foremost, this directory is not openly published on the web and is not available to the public. It is password protected on our secure website. There are TWO people that typically remember that password. If anyone wants or claims to need access to that directory, they are thoroughly checked out to see if they are authorized to receive it. Permission is NOT granted to just anyone. I will tell you, I have had 2 or 3 people request access in the last several years. I am willing to bet Don Shurtz has not received many more requests than that. This information is NOT going "out to the public."



**Liz Burford**  
SCFMS Secretary

Further to this issue, each Society President is a Director of the SCFMS. We are required to have this complete information for each Director per the state of Texas. As a Director, each President's responsibility is to provide this information for their club to SCFMS (the lead organization as referred to in Paragraph 2). I really do not like having to bring this part up because it is my hope that each and everyone involved would agree to provide it voluntarily. The plain and simple fact is, if those of you in the respective positions in each society do not want to share this information, maybe you should step down if you are that concerned about being "exposed." I will reiterate that I do not like to be like this, but it has come to the point of being necessary.

In closing, we went to the Rocky Mountain Federation meeting a couple of weeks ago and are at the AFMS convention this week. Each region has been attempting to update their directories recently. There are a couple of regions that are working diligently to gather this information where all parties involved can be comfortable and have the necessary info in a secure database on their respective sites. I plan on spending time with these regional representatives to try to figure out how to do this for SCFMS. This is a hot topic this year. Thank you all for your continued support.



## CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2023

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

## Minutes of the August 3 Meeting

POGMC President Joe Vulk called the 8/3/2023 club meeting to order at 7:27 PM.

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

Quorum: We have a quorum.

Visitors: There were no visitors)

Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were published in the July Chips and Chatter. Joe requested Amy read the minutes. Brenda made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Carolyn seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

Treasurers Report:  
Ling was not present for reading the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business:

- Report on results of the Spring questionnaire survey on the direction the Club should take. Joe V. In summary, the survey revealed that the Club should maintain the status quo.

New Business:

- Carole made a motion that the meeting format start with the Pledge of Allegiance. Seconded by Joe. The motion passed by a vote of members present. Carole will bring a flag.
- Amy suggested that the raffle items be identified before the drawing. This issue was tabled.

Presentation Review:

- Specimen identification. The Vickery's brought in some stones which we had fun trying to identify.

- Coloring contest of specimen pictures won by Amy and Eden. Carolyn awarded them some nice prizes.

Raffle None.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:26\_\_pm

## President's Message

Reflecting on our meeting in August, we had a good meeting despite several key members being unable to attend. But if you are not well or you have family time, you must attend to that first. Know that you were missed.

In the meeting, I reported the results of the Club Direction questionnaire conducted in the Spring. If you want to see the results, give me your email or mailing address and I'll send you a summary. Know that we will pretty much maintain the status quo.

On August 14, Don sent me a copy of the Dallas G&MS "RokTok Week" newsletter which contains an invitation to all area gem and mineral folks to attend an open house at the Arlington GMC on September 5. Meet and Greet potluck at 6:30 and general business meeting at 7:30. Anyone interested in going to the Arlington open house, call me ASAP at 972-271-8110 as Brenda and I are interested. We could consider carpooling.

Joe Vulk

## September Meeting

The September 7 Meeting will start at 7:15 at the Bradfield Recreation Center, 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, TX. For the presentation, we will watch a video from the Great Courses series titled Hawaii: Volcanoes. See you there.

## 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, September 7, 2023**  
**Our presentation will be a video about Hawaii and Volcanos**

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