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

## JUNE BIRTHSTONES

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club

The Birthstones for June are (in no particular order) Alexandrite, Pearl, and Moonstone. All are beautiful with exceptional properties.

Alexandrite changes color depending on the source of illumination. Its most unique characteristic is that it appears green to bluish-green when viewed in sunlight but is red when viewed with an incandescent light source. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> hardest naturally formed mineral. Its hardness is 8.5 on the Mohs scale, behind Diamond at 10 and Corundum (Sapphire and Ruby) at 9. Alexandrite was initially found in the Ural Mountains of Russia. It has since been found in Brazil, India, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania. Alexandrite has been lab-created using several methods, including hydrothermal growth, the Czochralski method (also known as the Czochralski pull method), and flux-grown techniques. Determining the difference between hydrothermally grown and naturally occurring Alexandrite is nearly impossible. Simulated Alexandrite has been made from Corundum with trace amounts of Vanadium and color-changing Spinel. The Corundum with Vanadium does an excellent job of simulating Alexandrite when illuminated by an incandescent light source. Still, it never exhibits the green color of Alexandrite when illuminated by sunlight. Alexandrite was discovered by the Finnish mineralogist Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld and was named to honor the soon-to-be Russian Emperor Alexander II Romanov.



The same cut Alexandrite illuminate by  
sunlight (left) and an incandescent light bulb (right)



Pearl is neither a mineral nor a rock. It is formed from multiple layers of Nacre, a mixture of calcium carbonate (mainly aragonite with some calcite microcrystals) bonded together by a protein known as conchiolin, which is secreted by the host mollusk. The layers of the pearl cause iridescence, where the light may pass through one or more layers before being reflected back. The reflected light interferes with the light reflected from different layers, resulting in light that appears to shimmer and changes color as the viewing angle changes. Pearls come in a variety of colors and shapes. The colors include iridescent white, pink, red, blue, golden, silver, black, and other colors. The Black Pearl is the rarest. The shape of pearls found in salt water is often round, but freshwater pearls can be round or simple blobs. The most valuable pearls are called natural pearls and grow, without assistance from man, in the host mollusk. Cultured Pearls are the most common variety available on the market. They also grow in mollusks, but the mollusks are pried open, and a seed (irritant) is inserted into the folds of the animal. The Pearl grows around the seed and generally takes the shape

of the seed. It is left in the sea until it is ready to be harvested. Pearls can take from 6 months to 7 years to form. Saltwater cultured pearls generally take less time to grow than freshwater cultured pearls.

The third June birthstone is Moonstone. It is a feldspar, one of the most common minerals. It is formed from alternating layers of Orthoclase (potassium feldspar) and Albite (sodium feldspar). The alternating layers produce an effect known as adularescence. The alternating layers have different diffractions of the light entering the stone, which seems to form a blue-to-white glow from within the stone. The glow is darker towards the edges of the stone but forms a light-colored beam or spot across the center of the stone. The beam is often compared to a moonbeam reflecting from the ocean's surface, hence the name. Moonstone is found in many countries of the world. Most Moonstones come from Sri Lanka. The most valuable Moonstones are a transparent deep blue variety from Myanmar. They are also found in Australia, India, Austria, Norway, Brazil, Mexico, and several states in the United States. Interestingly, Moonstone is not found in Florida, but it is the state gemstone of Florida. It was designated as the Florida State Gemstone in 1970 to commemorate the NASA moon landings – all lunar landing missions were launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.



### June Birthstone Word Find

Circle or draw a line through the words from the Word List in the puzzle below. The words can go forward, backward, up, down, or on a left or right diagonal. The answer can be found on page 5.

#### THE PUZZLE

P	R	Q	U	Z	J	U	L	J	U	N	E	E	Y	A	G	F	B
L	R	D	F	P	A	O	P	M	C	B	N	C	C	K	U	N	I
E	A	E	X	K	V	G	E	W	O	X	O	J	K	N	P	L	R
A	M	R	R	T	C	H	A	N	G	E	T	H	S	A	L	L	T
A	N	U	R	A	L	A	R	W	P	R	S	R	T	L	E	T	H
D	A	T	I	Z	R	A	L	E	X	A	N	D	R	I	T	E	S
R	Y	L	B	I	P	N	L	B	U	L	O	T	O	R	I	O	T
E	M	U	I	S	S	A	T	O	P	H	O	Z	L	S	B	C	O
L	E	C	D	R	L	C	E	K	S	E	M	N	O	O	L	N	N
E	R	L	Z	J	A	R	E	O	R	T	H	O	C	L	A	S	E
M	E	T	A	D	W	E	J	K	P	Y	U	R	T	L	L	A	S
F	L	O	R	I	D	A	K	Z	R	D	O	P	I	Q	U	X	Y

#### THE WORD LIST

ALBITE
ALEXANDRITE
BIRTHSTONES
BLACK
CHANGE
COLOR
CULTURED
FELDSPAR
FLORIDA
JUNE
MOONSTONE
MYANMAR
NACRE
ORTHOCLASE
PEARL
POTASSIUM
SRILANKA
URAL

## SCFMS FEDERATION NEWS

The [SCFMS] President's Corner – Our Next Convention  
Don Shurtz, from the March-April SCFMS Newsletter

Great News: Our next convention will be in Austin on October 18, 2025. The Austin Gem and Mineral Society will be hosting the convention. Their show takes place from October 17 to 19 at the Palmer Events Center. If you remember the conversation at the November 2024 convention, you may remember that downtown Austin will be expensive that weekend. Austin is hosting a Formula 1 race event and a major NCAA football game the same weekend as their show. As an example of how pricy it will be downtown, parking at the Palmer Events Center, where their show is being held, is \$20.00 each time you enter – no free re-entry. The Austin Gem and Mineral Society's President, John Connors, indicated that downtown Austin hotels would be in the \$300.00 per night range.

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society is celebrating its 75th anniversary and wants to commemorate the occasion by hosting the SCFMS convention. The convention will be held in Austin but not in downtown Austin. Most convention events will be at their clubhouse, where the parking is free. The Awards Banquet will be at Nature's Treasures, about 12 miles north of the clubhouse. As for hotels, I have not yet priced any of them, but Round Rock is approximately 10 miles north of the clubhouse, and Georgetown is about 20 miles north. I am guessing that hotel rates will be considerably lower the further north of Austin you go.

More Great News: The SCFMS now has a Secretary. Becky Copenhagen from the Hi-Plains Gem and Mineral Society. She is the former President of the Hi-Plains G&MS and is now working to establish a Juniors Group. She was recommended by Erin Irwin, who recently became the SCFMS Juniors Program Chair. Erin is helping Becky establish a junior's program for the Hi-Plains G&MS.

Even More Great News: Erin was also added as an Admin to the SCFMS Facebook page. For more information about junior activities, please visit our website and Facebook page. My thanks go out to Erin and Becky.

### Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check the show contact to verify the show status

#### June 2025

June 14-15, Arlington G&MS, Grapevine Convention Center, <https://www.agmc57.org/annual-show>

#### October 2025

October 19-21, Austin G&MS show and SCFMF Convention (October 18). The show is held at the Palmer Event Center in downtown Austin. The Convention Breakfast and General Meeting will take place at their clubhouse, located at 6719 Burnet Lane. The awards banquet will be held at Nature's Treasures, 11055 N IH-35 Frontage Rd. Both are north of downtown Austin.

Ref: Local Shows, [https://www.scfms.net/local\\_shows.htm](https://www.scfms.net/local_shows.htm)

### VISIT AN AREA CLUB

[Arlington Gem & Mineral Club](#), meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm, 1408 Gibbins, Arlington, TX

[CERA 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)

[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 Monday of each month at 7:00 PM, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland

[Wild West Bead Society](#), meets 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, Wild Beads, 1124 S. Bowen Road, Arlington, TX



## Bench Tips

Brad Smith

### QUICK CLOSE-UPS



Often, when trying to get a close-up photo with your iPhone or Android, you can't magnify it enough or end up with a fuzzy, out-of-focus image. Next time, try using your loupe over the camera lens. It works quickly and easily.

### LITTLE BALLS

I often use little balls of silver and gold as accent pieces on my designs. They can be made as needed from pieces of scrap. Cut the scrap into little pieces, put them on a solder pad and melt them with a torch. Then, throw the balls into a small cup of pickle.

If you need to make all the balls the same size, you need the same amount of metal to melt each time. The best way to do that is to clip equal lengths of wire.



But there's an easier way to get a good supply of balls. Some casting grain comes in near-perfect ball form. Just grab your tweezers and pick out the ones you need. Or if you need larger quantities of balls, pour the casting grain out onto a baking pan, tilt the pan a bit, and let all the round ones roll to the bottom. Bag the good ones, and pour the rest back into your bag for casting. Balls can be sorted into different sizes using multiple screens.



**See More of Brad Smith's Smart Solutions for Jewelry Making Series**

<http://amazon.com/dp/B0BQ8YVLTJ>

## OFFICERS FOR 2024 – 2025

President: Joe Vulk  
 1st VP, Programs: Amy Vulk  
 2nd VP, Field Trips: Julie Wilson  
 Secretary: Johnny Rhodes  
 Treasurer: Ling Shurtz  
 Editor: Don Shurtz  
 Contact us by email: [don.shurtz@gmail.com](mailto:don.shurtz@gmail.com)

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX, on June 2, 2025, starting at 7:00 PM.

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## Minutes of the May 5, 2025 Meeting

This was our annual Cinco de Mayo or Taco Monday celebration. The only business was consuming food, chips, sweets, etc. No club business was conducted, and no minutes were required or taken.

## Puzzle Solution

### Puzzle

P	R	Q	U	Z	J	U	L	J	U	N	E	E	Y	A	G	F	B
L	R	D	F	P	A	O	P	M	C	B	N	C	C	K	U	N	I
E	A	E	X	K	V	G	E	W	O	X	O	J	K	N	P	L	R
A	M	R	R	T	C	H	A	N	G	E	T	H	S	A	L	L	T
A	N	U	R	A	L	A	R	W	P	R	S	R	T	L	E	T	H
D	A	T	I	Z	R	A	L	E	X	A	N	D	R	I	T	E	S
R	Y	L	B	I	P	N	L	B	U	L	O	T	O	R	I	O	T
E	M	U	I	S	S	A	T	O	P	H	O	Z	L	S	B	C	O
L	E	C	D	R	L	C	E	K	S	E	M	N	O	O	L	N	N
E	R	L	Z	J	A	R	E	O	R	T	H	O	C	L	A	S	E
M	E	T	A	D	W	E	J	K	P	Y	U	R	T	L	L	A	S
F	L	O	R	I	D	A	K	Z	R	D	O	P	I	Q	U	X	Y

### Solution

							J	U	N	E			A			B	
	R	D					P			N			K			I	
	A	E		K			E			O			N			R	
	M	R				C	H	A	N	G	E	T		A			T
	N	U	R	A	L	A	R				S			L	E	H	
	A	T				A	L	E	X	A	N	D	R	I	T	E	S
	Y	L			P	N	B			O			O	R	I		T
	M	U	I	S	S	A	T	O	P		O		L	S	B		O
		C	D			C					M		O		L		N
		L				R		O	R	T	H	O	C	L	A	S	E
	E					E											S
F	L	O	R	I	D	A											

# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



## Meetings

First Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be June 2 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX

## 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 on Monday, June 2, 2025, starting at 7:00. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland

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