



Member: South Central Federation of Mineral Societies



Affiliated: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



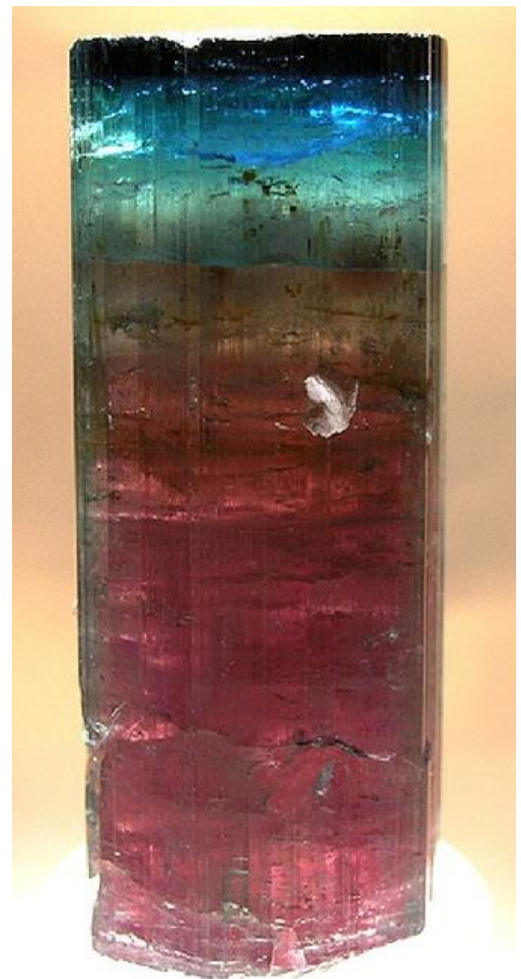
October 2024  
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1st Place, 2022 SCFMS Mini-Bulletin  
1st Place, 2022 AFMS Mini-Bulletin

## Ceylonese Magnet – A New Birthstone?

Don Shurtz, Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

The Dutch East India Company was formed in 1602. When it was formed, it was given a 20-year exclusive trading right for trading in Asia. One of their ports of call was in Ceylon. From Ceylon, they brought back a gemstone with a curious property. When warmed, the stone would attract ash. As soon as the ash touched the stone, it was repelled. The stone was known as the Ceylonese Magnet, and the property to attract or repel the ash was known as pyroelectric. The pyroelectric property is the ability of a stone to change the electric field around the stone when warmed. Think of a static electric field around the stone to attract the ash, but when the ash touches the stone, the polarity of the static field reverses causing the ash to be repelled. Today, we know Ceylon as Sri Lanka and the Ceylonese Magnet as Tourmaline. Which name would you prefer for one of the October Birthstones, Tourmaline or Ceylonese Magnet?



Tourmaline is actually a group of minerals with similar properties but different chemical compositions. The general chemical formula is  $(Ca,K,Na)(Al,Fe,Li,Mg,Mn)_3(Al,Cr,Fe,V)_6(BO_3)_3(Si,Al,B)_6O_{18}(OH,F)_4$ . You

will immediately notice the names of chemicals separated by commas and enclosed by parentheses. At least one chemical within the parentheses needs to be present, but it could be that all of them could be present. That leads to a huge number of chemical configurations! Some of the more common members of the tourmaline group are Schorl (black tourmaline), Dravite (brown tourmaline), Elbaite (green, pink, red, blue, orange, yellow, and colorless tourmaline), and Uvite (also known as Fluro-Uvite), (green). Wikipedia lists 42 species of tourmaline, and that does not list the subspecies associated with some of the species. Most tourmaline gemstones are of the Elbaite species which includes rubellite (ruby-colored) and watermelon tourmaline (green and red colors that look like the fruit and the rind of a watermelon).

### References

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>, various topics

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>, both pictures by Rob Lavinsky, [iRocks.com](http://iRocks.com) – CC-BY-SA-3.0



## FEDERATION NEWS



### FROM THE SEP-OCT 2024 SCFMS NEWSLETTER

#### Our New Executive Secretary

I have appointed Susan Burch as the Executive Secretary to fill the position vacated by the passing of Liz Burford. You will soon get to know Susan (in the unlikely event that you do not already know her) as one of her responsibilities is to receive the dues and insurance payments from each club. Susan is also serving as the Newsletter Editor, the Bulletin Editor Advisory Committee (BEAC) Chair, and a member of the Directory Committee. It will be necessary to approve the appointment at the upcoming Convention.

#### Our SCFMS Convention

By the time you receive this, our Convention will almost be here. The SCFMS Convention will be on November 23, 2024, in Mesquite, Texas. The Convention is being hosted by the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society. The DGMS is putting a lot of effort into making this Convention a success. It is up to the members of the SCFMS to make it a success.

To make the convention an absolute success, every member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Secretary needs to be in attendance. The Board of Directors are the President, Executive Vice President, eight District Vice Presidents, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the current Presidents of each member society. The Presidents of each member society may designate (in writing) a representative to attend the convention.

The SCFMS Officers are elected for a two-year term. The officers were elected at the 2023 Convention, so there will not be a need to elect new officers at the upcoming Convention. However, any appointed officer positions must be approved. We must also pass a budget for 2025. We may not have many items on the agenda for the Convention, but the ones that will be there are important.

#### SCFMS Status Report

The SCFMS has 13 Elected and one Appointed (and non-voting) Officers. There are currently three vacant elected Officer positions. They are the Secretary, District II Vice President (Southeast TX), and District V Vice President (West Texas).

#### Chips and Chatter

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

See the Chips and Chatter online for color!

Page 2

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October 2023

The SCFMS has 30 committees. There are currently 14 Committee Chair positions that are vacant. They are the AFMS Endowment Fund Raffle Chair, Auditing Chair, Boundaries (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Commemorative Stamps (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Constitution and By-Laws Chair, Education and All-American Award (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Golden Spark Plug Award Chair, Juniors Program (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Long Range Planning Chair, Nominating Committee Chair, Public Relations (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Rockhound of the Year (AFMS Liaison) Chair, Safety (AFMS Liaison) Chair, and Ways and Means Chair. That means 47% of the Committee Chair positions are vacant. As for the Committee Member positions, the story is even worse. Most of these positions only require a few hours per year of effort. We really need to start filling the Committee positions. I hate to suggest it, but we probably also need yet another Committee to look into the need for all the committees, new committees, or getting rid of some of the committees. Does anyone want to tackle that position?

### We Lost a Rock Star



Elizabeth C Burford (Liz) passed away peacefully on Tuesday, August 13, 2024. She was born in Metairie, LA to the late Frank M. and Terry M. Richie. Liz was the beloved wife of the SCFMS Past President and the current AFMS President Roger Burford.

Liz was a graduate of Ridgewood High School in Metairie and received her bookkeeping degree from the University of Phoenix. She held many positions in the SCFMS; her latest position was as the SCFMS Executive Secretary.

Please keep Roger and Liz's extended family in your prayers.

Excerpted from the September-October SCMF Newsletter

## From the Desk of the President-Elect

JC Moore, AFMS President-Elect 2023-24

From the October 2024 AFMS Newsletter

It is with a heavy heart; I am sorry to report that Liz Burford passed away August 13th. Please keep Roger and the family in your prayers during this time.

Another month has passed, and that means another convention has been attended. Since it was the Midwest Convention we did not have to travel very far to attend - 44 miles. The meetings were well attended, and a quorum was established with only five people attending through Zoom. Bylaws were updated to reflect current technology and practices. The Peoria Academy of Science Geology Section had a great show with many vendors and good attendance. Bruce Steinmetz entered the only Competitive Exhibit and received a score of 97.6. With the many comments about the quality of his exhibit, it is hoped that others will consider entering in the future. In the coming months, Donna and I will be attending the Southeast Federation, the Rocky Mountain Federation and the South-Central Federation conventions. One of the best perks of being an officer in the AFMS is attending the seven regional conventions.



Living in Illinois has its limitations as to access to collecting; however, Donna and I were able to collect Keokuk geodes in a stream one Saturday in August with 14 club members. This stream usually has 3 to 4 inches of water this time of the year, but this year it was knee-deep most of the time. When it became waist-deep, I decided that it was time to turn around. We were able to collect almost two five-gallon buckets of geodes, and a great time was had by all!

I hope all of you had a great summer and are preparing for a wonderful fall and winter.

## Shows and Activities – Upcoming Show and Activity Dates

Check with the show contact to verify the show status

### October 2024

- October 12 – 13, Temple, TX, Tri-City G&MS, Frank W. Mayborn Civic Center, email: [lrolston@hotmail.com](mailto:lrolston@hotmail.com)
- October 18 – 20, Austin, TX, Austin G&MS, Palmer Events Center, website: [www.agms-tx.org](http://www.agms-tx.org)
- October 25-27, Oklahoma City, OK, Oklahoma M&GS, State Fair Park-Modern Living Bldg, email: [douglas.pollitt@yahoo.com](mailto:douglas.pollitt@yahoo.com)

### November 2023

- November 2-3, Amarillo, TX, Golden Spread GM&TS, Amarillo Civic Center, website: [www.goldenspreadgemmineraltreasuresociety.com](http://www.goldenspreadgemmineraltreasuresociety.com)
- **November 23-24, Mesquite, TX, Dallas G&MS, Mesquite Convention Center, [www.dallasgemandmineral.org](http://www.dallasgemandmineral.org). THIS SHOW WILL BE HOSTING THE SCFMS CONVENTION**

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

Ref: September-October 2024 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 Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, 7

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

## WORD FILL-IN PUZZLE TOURMALINE

Here is a Word Fill-In Puzzle. It is designed to complement the Ceylonese Magnet (Tourmaline) article on page 1. The solution to the puzzle can be found at the bottom of page 5.

Directions:

Circle the words from the Word List in the Puzzle. The words in the puzzle may be read left to right or right to left. They may also be read top to bottom or bottom to top. The words may run horizontally, vertically, or along a diagonal. The words may intersect or have some overlap. HAVE FUN!

### WORD LIST

BIRTHSTONE	DRAVITE	RED
BLACK	DUTCH	RUBELLITE
BLUE	EAST	SCHORL
BLUECAP	ELBAITE	SPECIES
BRAZIL	GREEN	SRI LANKA
BROWN	INDIA	TOURMSLINR
CEYLON	OCTOBER	TRADING
CEYLONESEMAGNET	ORANGE	UVITE
CLEAR	PINK	WATERMELON
COMPANY	PYROELECTRIC	YELLOW

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

Editor's Note: I need feedback. Would you rather have Word Puzzles, Shop Tips, Articles, more Federation News, Cartoons, a Joke Page, or ??? to fill out the Chips and Chatter. Please let me know.

# OFFICERS FOR 2023 – 2024

President: Joe Vulk  
 1st VP, Programs: Carolyn Grady  
 2nd 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 September 2 Meeting

POGMC President Joe Vulk called the 9/2024 club meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

**Snack time:** Until late-comers arrive. Thanks to Cheryl, Carole, the Shurtz, and The Vulks for providing the snacks.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** All stood and recited the pledge.

**Quorum:** We had a quorum.

**Visitors:** There were no visitors.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the August meeting were published in the September Chips and Chatter. Carolyn made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Ling seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

**Treasurers Report:**  
 Ling presented the Treasurer’s Report. Ling stated that Don was reimbursed \$120 for paying for three years of web hosting of our POGMC web domain. Brenda made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Amy seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of members present.

**Old Business:**

- Club dues are to be paid in October.

**New Business:**

- A Nominating Committee to compile a list of nominations for officer election in October. Carolyn volunteered to be the Nominating Committee Chair with Julie, and Amy making up the committee.
- SCFMS President, Don reported that the annual SCFMS convention will be held at the Mesquite Rodeo Convention Center on November 23 and 24, 2024. It will be hosted

by the DGMS club. Don is still in need of an SCFNS Secretary. The main duties of the Secretary are to collect and compile member club reports, call the roll at the director’s meeting, and prepare the minutes of the meeting. Also needed is a Chair for the Directory Committee who will compile and publish a new Directory yearly. The Directory is based on the Officers Forms that each club submits. Don noted that SCFMS officers hold office for two years, but 2025 will be the second year, so we really are looking at a 1 year position.

**Presentation:** Carolyn provided a video showing the features of Yellowstone National Park.

**Raffle:** Don provided the raffle of items from the club collection and donations. As their name was drawn, each member had a choice of items remaining on the table.

Joe adjourned the meeting at 9:05 pm.

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Brenda and I are taking a long-needed vacation. Our main destination is Dollywood. So, she and I will not be at the October meeting. But I would encourage you to attend. You will be electing the club officers for the next year.

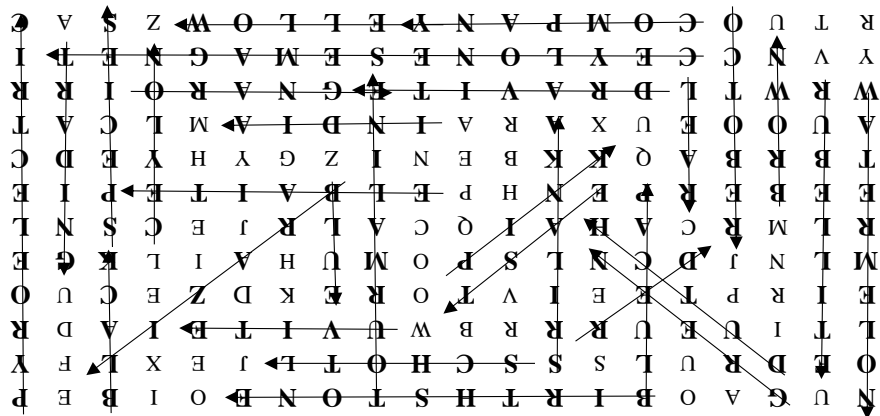
Joe Vulk

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 7, 2024. Our meeting will start at 7:00 PM and should end by 9:00 PM. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3722 Cavalier Drive, Garland, TX. We will be electing officers for 2024-2025 at the meeting. Our presentation will be a continuation of the videos about the geology of the national parks.

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# Word-Find Puzzle Solution



# PLEASANT OAKS GEM and MINERAL CLUB of DALLAS



## Meetings

First Monday of each month, KofC Hall, 3722 Cavalier Dr., Garland, TX. Please check website, [www.pogmc.org](http://www.pogmc.org), for updates.

## 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, October 7, 2024, starting at 7:00 PM. We will meet at the Knights of Columbus Council 6402 Hall located at 3722 Cavalier Drive in Garland.**

**The activity for the meeting will be a hobby-related video.**

## Features

The Ceylonese Magnet – A New Birthstone? ..... 1  
Word Fill-In Puzzle ..... 3

## Federation News

The [SCFMS] President's Corner ..... 2  
We Lost a Rock Star ..... 2  
From the Desk of the [AFMS] President-Elect .... 3

## Notices

Shows and Activities ..... 3  
Visit an Area Club ..... 3  
Copyright Notice ..... 5

## Monthly Columns

President's Message ..... 5  
Minutes of the August 2024 Meeting ..... 5  
Club Information ..... 1, 5, 6

## *Chips and Chatter*

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas, TX

Page 6

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October 2024