

Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



# Gulfport Gems

Volume 41

May 2020

Number 5



Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society

P.O. Box 10136  
Gulfport, Ms. 39505

www.facebook.com/gulfportgems  
Website: www.gulfportgems.org

## A message from the President...

Dear Members,

Hope everyone is well and staying home. I wish that I could say that we would see each other soon but it doesn't look that way. We will not be having our regular Gem and Mineral Meetings until the community center is allowed to open and the governor reduces his restrictions on the number of people that can meet. He has to increase it to more than ten or eliminate the restriction.

The show has been cancelled for May. We may try to do it later in the summer. More to come about that later.

We don't know if we will be able to have a meeting in June. Check the newsletter, Facebook or the website for more information.

You can call me if you would prefer 228-860-0448.

*President Sue West*



*Happy Mother's Day*

## Notes from the editor . . .

The newsletter isn't as full as usually but I found some material to fill it up.

### **Board Meeting:**

April 28th meeting was done by Skype.

### **May Meeting:**

Cancelled due to center being closed and social distancing.

### **Show: Cancelled**

We are sorry to report that due to Corvid-19 pandemic we will not be having the show in May.

### **Board Meeting**

Video by computer, tablet or cellphone

May 26th, 2020

Time: 1pm via Skype

## Check This Out . . .

Please continue to check our website and Facebook pages for updates.

[www.gulfportgems.org](http://www.gulfportgems.org)

[www.facebook.com/gulfportgems](https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems)



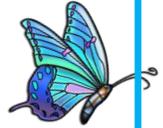
## Thought of the Day . . .



## Off the menu . . .

### Fruit Dump Cake

By Lisa Fitch



- 1 can of fruit filling 21 ounces
- 1 box of cake mix 18 ounces
- 1 stick of butter (can use 1-1/2 sticks)

In a 9 x 13 casserole dish dump filling and evenly spread  
 Dump cake mix and evenly spread  
 Slice butter into pats and spread evenly over cake mix  
 Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Ovens vary it might be done in 45 minutes. Just check it.

### HCGMS Workshops:

Our workshop we had scheduled for March will be our 1st workshop when we convene our monthly meetings provided the instructors are available that month. This was decided at our last board meeting with workshop chairman Laura Tate's approval.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS VISIT -  
[amfed.org](http://amfed.org)**

### FACEBOOK

By Laura Tate

The board had a meeting via Skype today (5/28th) to determine feasibility of having our show in May. Since it is still unclear whether the gather restrictions will be lifted we are going to postpone our show until hopefully July. We are planning on having another Skype meeting on May 26th. If you are a member in good standing and are interested in joining this meeting please download Skype onto your computer or smart phone, set up an account and email Lynn Tate ([gulfportgems.show@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportgems.show@gmail.com)) to let her know so that you can receive an invite to the meeting.

**You will see this message on Facebook and Leslie will be posting it on our website.**

### Program

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

TBA when meetings convene

\* \* \* \* \*

Contact Program Chairman  
 Vice President Cindy Braden  
 to book a program at 706-266-0221

### Cabbing Workshops

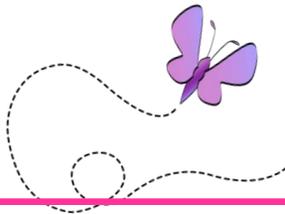
*If you are interested in cabbing we have instructors available to teach you. Time may be limited if other members are waiting to use the machines.*

- ◆ \$3.00 per Day for equipment usage
- ◆ Must be a member (waiver on file)
- ◆ Guest not allowed to use equipment
- ◆ Contact Equipment Chairman

**Vice President Cindy Braden  
 706-266-0221**



Tammy Cook  
Brian Fitch  
Clemencia Howe  
Butch Johnson  
Buddy Shotts  
Lorraine Smith  
Connie Walker  
Sue West



May 10th



**M**otivator  
**O**pen-minded  
**T**enacious  
**H**ear of gold  
**E**nthusiastic  
**R**ock and strong tower



*Happy Anniversary*

*Nicole Green*

*Butch & Tita Johnson*



# Safety First

MEDICALNEWS TODAY

## COVID-19 vs. Flu vs. Cold

	COVID-19	Flu	Cold
 <b>Incubation period</b>	1–14 days	1–4 days	1–3 days
 <b>Symptom onset</b>	Gradual	Abrupt	Gradual
 <b>Fever</b>	Common	Common	Rare
 <b>Cough</b>	Common	Common	Mild to moderate
 <b>Fatigue</b>	Common	Common	Sometimes
 <b>Runny nose</b>	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 <b>Nasal congestion</b>	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 <b>Diarrhea</b>	Sometimes	Sometimes	Rare
 <b>Body aches</b>	Sometimes	Common	Slight
 <b>Sore throat</b>	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 <b>Headache</b>	Sometimes	Common	Rare
 <b>Loss of appetite</b>	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 <b>Shortness of breath</b>	Common	Sometimes	Mild
 <b>Respiratory issues</b>	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes
 <b>Chills</b>	Sometimes*	Uncommon	Fairly common
 <b>New loss of taste or smell</b>	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes

\*including repeated shaking with chills

# Emeralds

Wedding Anniversaries— 2nd, 12th & 35th

## FACTS



- Mineral: Beryl
- Chemistry:  $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$
- Color: Vibrant green
- Refractive Index: 1.577 to 1.583
- Birefringence: 0.005 to 0.009
- Specific Gravity: 2.72
- Mohs Hardness: 7.5 to 8

Emerald is the green to greenish blue variety of beryl, a mineral species that also includes aquamarine as well as beryls in other colors.

Gem experts differ on the degree of green that makes one stone an emerald and another stone a less-expensive green beryl. Some people in the trade tend to give the name emerald to any green beryl colored by chromium. But to most gemologists, gemological laboratories, and colored stone dealers, it is more correct to call a stone green beryl when its color is "too light" for it to be classified as emerald. Even among that group, however, there's a difference of opinion about what's considered "too light."

## *History & Lore . . .*

Emerald's lush green has soothed souls and excited imaginations since antiquity. Its name comes from the ancient Greek word for green, "smaragdus." Rome's Pliny the Elder described emerald in his *Natural History*, published in the first century AD: "...nothing greens greener" was his verdict. He described the use of emerald by early lapidaries, who "have no better method of restoring their eyes than by looking at the emerald, its soft, green color comforting and removing their weariness and lassitude." Even today, the color green is known to relieve stress and eye strain. There are other green gems, like tourmaline and Peridot, but emerald is the one that's always associated



with the lushest landscapes and the richest greens. Ireland is the Emerald Isle. Seattle, in the US state of Washington, is the Emerald City. Thailand's most sacred religious icon is called the Emerald Buddha, even though it's carved from green jadeite.

The first known emerald mines were in Egypt, dating from at least 330 BC into the 1700s. Cleopatra was known to have a passion for emerald, and used it in her royal adornments.

Emeralds from what is now Colombia were part of the plunder when sixteenth-century Spanish explorers invaded the New World. The Incas had already been using emeralds in their jewelry and religious ceremonies for 500 years. The Spanish, who treasured gold and silver far more than gems, traded emeralds for precious metals. Their trades opened the eyes of European and Asian royalty to emerald's majesty.

Emerald is the most famous member of the beryl family. Legends endowed the wearer with the ability to foresee the future when emerald was placed under the tongue, as well as to reveal truth and be protected against evil spells. Emerald was once also believed to cure diseases like cholera and malaria. Wearing an emerald was believed to reveal the truth or falseness of a lover's oath as well as make one an eloquent speaker.

Legend also states that emerald was one of the four precious stones given by God to King Solomon. These four stones were said to have endowed the king with power over all creation. 2.97 billion years is the age of the oldest Emeralds from South Africa.



Source: [Gia.com](http://Gia.com), [smithsonianeducation.org](http://smithsonianeducation.org), [igb.com](http://igb.com), [Wikipedia](http://Wikipedia.com), [gemssociety.org](http://gemssociety.org)

## "The Mogul Emerald"



The emerald weighs in at **206 carats**.

The Mogul Emerald, owned by the dynasty that built the Taj Mahal and now in the collection of the Museum of Islamic Art in Qatar, is bigger at 217 carats but not as transparent. Here's where the Imperial Emerald really stands out: it's remarkably clean for any emerald and for one of this size, staggeringly clear. It is also completely unenhanced. As you might expect for a gem of this magnitude, it has reports from every gemological lab that matters, including the book-form monograph from the Gemological Institute of America, a Gem Portrait by Gubelin, and a Jewel Folio by AGL. In short, this gem really belongs in a museum, although none will be able to afford it. In fact, it was probably cut from a crystal even better than the Patricia, the 632-carat crystal in the American Museum of Natural History.

There are many large emeralds that are valuable and famous. For a complete list visit [www.gemsociety.org](http://www.gemsociety.org).

## Hooker Emerald

The **75.47-carat** Hooker Emerald was worn by Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II, the last sultan of the Ottoman Empire. Chip Clark, courtesy Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History.



## Emerald Unguentarium



**2,860-carat (20.18 oz.)** emerald vase carved in 1641, is on display in the Imperial Treasury, Vienna, Austria.

## Guinness Emerald Crystal



The **1,759-carat (12.4 oz.)** "Guinness Emerald Crystal" was at one time the largest natural emerald crystal in the world, and is still preserved in its natural crystalline state, at the Banco Nazionale de la Republica in BogotÁi.

# “In The Spotlight” Bahia Emerald



The Bahia Emerald was carried out of the rain forest by a team of pack mules. Along the way the mules were killed by a pair of black panthers and had to be carried by a team of men and a hand made stretcher the rest of the trip.

The Bahia Emerald was flown from Sao Paulo Brazil to San Jose California; shortly thereafter the stone was relocated to New Orleans and placed in a vault. Two weeks later Hurricane Katrina struck devastating New Orleans and leaving the vault and the Bahia Emerald submersed under 16' of water for two months before it could be retrieved.

The Emerald was then brought back to San Jose and stored in a seemingly abandoned building. On or about April 8th 2008 it was secretly transferred to an attorney's office in Santa Barbara CA. where it was kept under 24 hour armed guard before being transferred once again to a Private vault known as Commonwealth in South Elmonte, CA.

The Bahia Emerald was transferred in a black Cadillac Escalade driven by Jerry Ferrara and accompanied by Kit Morrison, from the Commonwealth vault to a private vault in Las Vegas Nevada.

The Bahia Emerald was involved in a \$197,000,000 banking transaction with Barnard Madoff, fortunately Madoff was led away by Federal agents just two days before the transaction was to be completed. The Bahia Emerald was involved in a transaction gone wrong involving a well known Columbian family at the Golden Nugget hotel Casino in Los Vegas NV that nearly ended up as a blood bath battle in the Nevada desert. (All identities Withheld).

The Bahia Emerald was reported stolen to the L.A.P.D. by (identity withheld). The Bahia Emerald was questionably seized by L.A.P.D. authorities on or about Christmas eve 2008 in Los Vegas Nevada in an excursion led by Lt. Grubb.

Lt. Grubb began to organize an excursion to Las Vegas On the morning detectives drove to get the emerald, he told his deputies: ""We're going to stop on the way and get breakfast. We're going to pick up a \$400 million piece of evidence. On the way back, we're not stopping." When Lt. Grubb finally laid eyes on the emerald, he said, "It almost didn't look real." Shortly thereafter (Identity withheld) who reported the Bahia Emerald stolen bowed out of the case stating his life was threatened! To this day no criminal charges have been presented and no arrests have been made.

The Bahia Emerald court battle, is one of the largest custody/lawsuits in California history has gained an international following. National Geographic is conducting a 50 minute documentary about the Bahia Emerald and the incredible, almost unbelievable story surrounding it.



# MEETINGS W E E L I N G S



## Meetings / Workshops

Herbert Wilson Recreational Center  
3625 Hancock Avenue  
Gulfport, Ms. 39501

### 3rd Saturday of each month

9 am - 12 pm	Workshop
12 pm - 12:30pm	Program
12 pm - 1 pm	Lunch
1 pm - 2 pm	Meeting

**Directions:** Coming from Pass Road or Highway 90 turn on Courthouse Road. Turn next to Hancock Bank on 33rd Street until you reach Hancock Street. Look to your left and you will see the Herbert Wilson Recreational Center. We are on the left side of building thru the gates.

**Come for fun . . . Stay to play!**

Visit our Website and Facebook page:

[www.gulfportgems.org](http://www.gulfportgems.org) or  
<https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems>

**Workshops are offered free!**

**Next Meeting & Workshop**

**TBA**

Visitors are always welcome

**Please bring a guest. . .**

**0 Workshops this Month**

## Membership Dues

Single \$20.00 - 18 years old  
Family \$30.00 - 2 adults and all minors under 18 yrs. old at the same address  
Junior \$10.00 - Sponsored by an adult

*Application available on our website*

*Dues deadline - 3rd Saturday of January*

Name Tags - \$7.00

Shirts - available and cost is based on sizes

*Please see Treasurer, Lynn Tate*

## 2020 MEETING DATES

Jan 18	<b>May 16 &amp; 17 SHOW</b>	
Feb. 15	June 20	Sept 19
March 21	July 18	Oct 17
April 18	Aug 15	Nov 21
	<b>Dec 19 Christmas Party</b>	

## Nearby Gem Societies



Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

[www.mgcgms.com](http://www.mgcgms.com)

Meeting: 2nd Saturday of the month



Mobile Rock and Gem Society

[www.mobilerockandgem.com](http://www.mobilerockandgem.com)

Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of the month



Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana

Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month

Contact: Levette @ 504-214-3205

## Other Interests:

International Society of Glass Blowers

Website: [www.isgb.org](http://www.isgb.org)

Visit site if you like Lampworking



**Dixie Mineral Council**

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>



## S.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscription to Lodestar is FREE electronically

Email: [sfms.lodestar@gmail.com](mailto:sfms.lodestar@gmail.com) Or

Editor: [john@rasmussengems.com](mailto:john@rasmussengems.com)

Can be read online:

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

## William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

706-379-2126

Website @ [www.lapidaryschool.org](http://www.lapidaryschool.org)

Classes are June 7 -13, 2020

[2020sfms.wh@gmail.com](mailto:2020sfms.wh@gmail.com) Registrar Cindy Reed

## William Holland

### From their website:

All May & June classes are cancelled. We have capped all classes for July and August from where they are now which means if a class has 3 students, it will remain at 3 students until we are cleared by the state to open...we will add students as we get closer to these dates. We are asking students who would like to sign up for a class in July and August to register but put your name on the waitlist. If we are allowed to open we will put students into classes at that point starting at the top of the waitlist. There are two reasons for this, the first being if we have to cancel classes it will be much easier on our limited staff to cancel and secondly if we do open we may be limited to the number of students who may attend each week.

If you have paid a deposit for your May or June Class please EMAIL us with the following...

Move me to a new class...we will move you and your deposit.

You do not want to take another class this year, hold my deposit until 2021

Donate my deposit to help with operating costs during this time.



## A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

AFMS Central Office

Steve Weinberger

PO Box 302

Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

[central\\_office@amfed.org](mailto:central_office@amfed.org) PH: 410-833-7926

## AFMS 2020 Annual Convention

Held in Knoxville, Tn

October 16th - 18th, 2020

## A.L.A.A.

Have you joined the **American Lands Access Association** (ALAA)? Help is needed. Please volunteer!

The organization was founded to promote and ensure the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Individual dues are \$25 per year; clubs \$50 per year.

A quarterly newsletter is sent to all members.

For more information,

Visit <http://amlands.org>



Shirley Leeson, President

## WILDACRES RETREAT

828-756-4573

Website @ [www.wildscres.org](http://www.wildscres.org)

[registrarwildacres@gmail.com](mailto:registrarwildacres@gmail.com) Claudia Erwin

When scheduling keep in mind, workshops are subjected to change without notice.

August 17-23, 2020 & September 14-20, 2020

**Please check the website for changes.**



## Brad's Tips...

### DRILLING SMALL ITEMS



Small pieces need to be held securely while drilling to prevent them from spinning if the drill catches. Having sliced my fingers occasionally in my younger days, I avoid band-aids now by using flat-jaw pliers or a ring clamp. Pliers also save you if the piece gets hot. Put a little tape or a piece of vinyl tubing over jaws of the

### DRILLING A STONE



One of the things my students often ask to do is drill a hole through a piece of gemstone. The usual thought is to get a diamond drill, but I've been disappointed with them. I think the reason is that the tip of the drill is just pivoting in the hole and fails to cut well. When it looks like the drill isn't cutting, the tendency is to push with more force. The drill gets hot, and the diamond grit falls off.

A much better approach is to use a core drill. This is a small hollow tube with a coating of diamond grit at the business end. The diamonds easily carve out a circular arc without undue pressure or heat buildup.

Core drills are readily available from lapidary and jewelry supply companies. They come in sizes as small as 1mm and are very reasonable in price. For instance, a 2mm diameter drill is about \$7.

Chuck the core drill in a drill press, Dremel or Foredom and be sure to keep the drilling zone wet to cool the tool and to flush out debris. Also, if you're drilling a through hole, go very easy on the pressure as the drill is about to cut through. Otherwise you will usually chip off some of the stone surface around the hole.



**Discover New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books**

**Check out Brad's books on Amazon:**

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

[www.bradsmithjewelry.com](http://www.bradsmithjewelry.com)

Articles are copyrighted by Brad Smith



## Officers 2020

**President** - Sue West msuewest@bellsouth.net

**Vice President** - Cindy Braden (706) 266-0221

**Secretary** - Nicole Green nfouason@gmail.com

**Treasurer** - Lynn Tate l.tate4@gmail.com

### Directors

Monica White (1 yr.) Mrwhite61@gmail.com

Laura Tate (2 yr.) wanderingmsrn@gmail.com

Sharon Greer (3 yr.) 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

## Committee Members

### Workshop & Facebook Chairman

Laura Tate wanderingmsrn@gmail.com

### Field Trip Chairman

Sharon Greer 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

### Librarian Chairman

Sue West msuewest@bellsouth.net

### Newsletter Editor

Lisa Fitch Lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

### Sunshine & Hospitality Chairman

Clemencia Howe clemenhowe@hotmail.com

### Show Chairmen

Lynn Tate l.tate4@gmail.com

### Webmaster & Workshop Chairman

Leslie Jancovich ljancovich@gmail.com

### Assistant Webmaster

Nicole Green nfouason@gmail.com

## Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

### Ms. State Director, Parliamentarian & Boundaries

Buddy Shotts buddynrebashotts@bellsouth.net

### Past President SFMS

John Wright osjbw@cableone.com

## Field Trips

Sharon Greer

If you are interested in attending any of the DMC Field Trips please contact our Field Trip Chairman so she can make arrangements. Open to all members of clubs associated with the DMC program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee and all members of SFMS societies who provide their membership with SFMS liability insurance. Because of insurance requirements the general public are NOT invited to any field trips.



[3catsgreer@bellsouth.net](mailto:3catsgreer@bellsouth.net)



## Facebook

Laura Tate

Please visit our Facebook page to view all the latest news and information on our club and workshops. To post club information contact:

**Laura Tate at [wanderingmsrn@gmail.com](mailto:wanderingmsrn@gmail.com)**

Visit at [www.facebook.com/gulfportgems/](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems/)



## Library

Sue West



The club has some interesting material available for viewing. Please contact Arvid to check out material from our Library. Be sure to return the material in a timely matter in order to share with other members.

[msuewest@bellsouth.net](mailto:msuewest@bellsouth.net)

## Newsletter Editor

Lisa Fitch

Submit newsletter articles to:

[Lapidaryarts@hotmail.com](mailto:Lapidaryarts@hotmail.com)



**Articles and minutes are due by the last day of each month**



# Membership Form

Contact Our Treasurer: Lynn Tate (228) 342-2963 Email: [l.tate4@gmail.com](mailto:l.tate4@gmail.com)



 <b>HARRISON COUNTY GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.</b> 		
<b>APPLICANT INFORMATION</b> <b>18 YEARS OF AGE</b>		<b>SINGLE \$20.00</b>
Name:	Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Anniversary: (Mo/Day)	Cell Phone:
Current address:		Home Phone:
City:	State / Zip Code:	Work Phone:
<b>CO-APPLICANT / SPOUSE INFORMATION</b> <b>TWO ADULTS &amp; ALL MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE/AT SAME ADDRESS</b>		<b>FAMILY \$30.00</b>
Co-Applicant / Spouse:		Email:
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Cell Phone:	Work Phone:
<b>JUNIOR INFORMATION</b> <b>UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ☆ SPONSORED BY AN ADULT</b>		<b>JUNIOR \$10.00</b>
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name:	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
<b>☆ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION ☆</b>		
Name:		
Relationship:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:
<b>INTEREST INFORMATION</b>		
<b>Hobby Interest:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Fossils <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals <input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary ( <input type="checkbox"/> Cabbing, <input type="checkbox"/> Faceting, Etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips (Creeks, Gravel pits, Mines, Etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interests _____	<b>(Each applicant initial interests)</b>	<b>Jewelry Interest:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Beading <input type="checkbox"/> Kumihimo <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Knotting <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping <input type="checkbox"/> Chainmaille <input type="checkbox"/> Silversmithing		
<b>APPLICATION FEES</b>		
<b>Applications can be mail to:</b> Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society P. O. Box: 10136, Gulfport, Ms. 39505		
Single \$20.00    Family \$30.00    Junior(s) \$10.00 Each	<b>DUES: \$</b>	
<b>Dues:</b> <i>Circle One</i> <b>NEW RENEWAL</b> <b>No Proration</b> <b>Deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of January</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$</b>	
<b>SIGNATURES</b>		
How did you hear about our society? _____ I authorize HCGMS to use my picture or likeness for society promotions? YES or NO I authorize HCGMS to include my information in society listings for members only? YES or NO		
Signature of applicant:		Date:
Signature of co-applicant/spouse (only if for a family membership):		Date:
*Newsletter will be sent via email @ no charge		Modified 11/20/17 LF

*Our goal is to promote, educate and stimulate interest in the earth sciences and lapidary arts context.*



**Gulfport Gems, Editor**  
**P O Box 10136**  
**Gulfport, MS 39505**

**Address Service Requested**



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.