

Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



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Number 6



# Gulfport Gems

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,

I hope that all of you are well and not completely stir crazy. Surely life will return to some type of normalcy before too much longer.

I am still trying to find out when the Herbert Wilson Center will open again. If it opens by June 20th and enough of you want to attend a meeting, we will have one. Of course, like everything now days it will be a little different. We will bring sack lunches instead of covered dishes.

We still haven't made the final decision on having the show on July 18th. It will depend on how things look at the end of June and whether we have enough people willing to help.

*President Sue West*



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

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

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

## Notes from the editor . . .

I've included some interesting stuff in the newsletter. I hope you read it in its entirety. Stay safe, stay home, & wear masks.

### June Virtual Meeting: Via Skype

*Skype Meeting on June 23rd @ 1pm*

for all members. Download Skype prior to meeting and set it up. Then click the link that will be sent to your email shortly before 1pm to join the general meeting.

Physical meeting Cancelled due to center being closed and Corvid-19.

### Show:

Undecided at this time.

### Board Meeting

Via Skype

Video by cellphone, computer, or tablet

June 30th, 2020

Time: 1pm

Board meeting on Skype.

Please contact Lynn Tate if you would like to join the meeting.

Download skype first, then near 1pm on the day of meeting look in your email for the link to join.

# Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society

## Board Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2020

### **Scholarships**

We had our board meeting today. A couple of pressing decisions were made. William Holland has been closed for this year. If you won a scholarship this year you may take it next year. Scholarships will be also drawn next year. If you are a member in good standing, expect a phone call from one of our board members in the next week or so.

### **Show**

No final decision has been made regarding the show. We felt that since restrictions were just now being eased that we could not make a justified decision.

### **General Meeting**

Herbert Wilson Recreation Center is still closed at this time, but if they are open next month we are debating on having a general meeting.

### **Board Meeting**

We are planning on having another board meeting in about a month and will be making our final decision then.

## Board Meeting Minutes - April 28, 2020

**Call to Order:** Meeting began at 1:08 pm, by way of Skype

**Members in Attendance:** 6

Sue West, Lynn Tate, Nicole Green, Laura Tate, Leslie Jancovich, and Monica White

### **Show**

Lynn Tate reported that the Shriners center has July 18, 2020 available, if we wanted to reserve that date. It has been set, tentatively. Lynn said that of the 16 vendors, 9 were favorable to postponing the Gem & Mineral show. She got no response from three vendors and of the remaining four, that date is not good for three of them. One dropped out completely.

### **General Meeting**

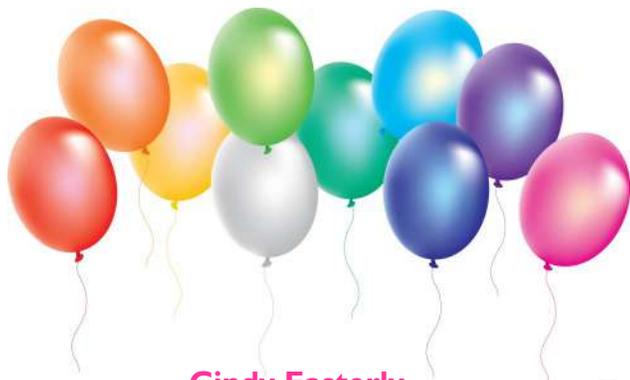
Sue West said we are not planning to have a club meeting in May. If the community Center is open and the governor has increased the number of people that can congregate, we will try to resume our regular meetings in June.

### **Scholarships**

Concerning this year's scholarships: Due to classes that William Holland had to cancel, because of Covid-19, Sue suggested that the 2020 scholarships could be used in 2021. This was determined to be useful in the event that many classes would be filled once they reopen.

**Board Meeting:** Sue asked if we should have a board meeting in May. We set a tentative date, by way of Skype, for May 26, 2020.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 1:49 pm.

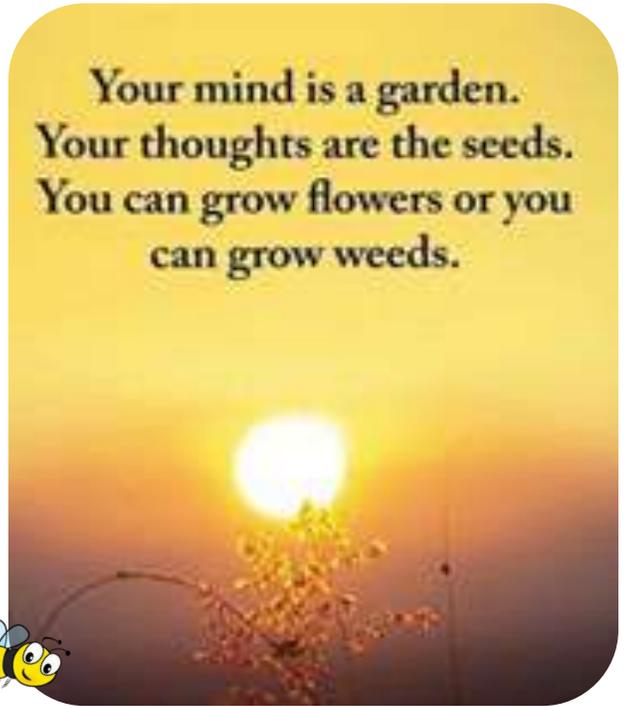


**Cindy Easterly**  
**Allan Elliott**  
**Kathy Lennep**  
**Carmen Montgomery**  
**Shirley Robinson**  
**Barbara Saavedra**  
**Monica White**



*Thought of the Day . . .*

Your mind is a garden.  
 Your thoughts are the seeds.  
 You can grow flowers or you  
 can grow weeds.



*Happy Anniversary*



*Glady Dedeaux*  
*Connie & Jim Walker*  
*Karen Williams*  
*Sue West*

**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

**HAPPY  
 FATHER'S  
 DAY!**

**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

**June 21st**



## Millionaire Pie



Prep: 10 Mins. - No Bake  
Setup: 3 to 4 Hours  
Total 4 Hr. & 10 Mins.  
Makes 2 Pies

### Ingredients:

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 5 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 cup sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 (14 oz.) can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 (16 oz.) container frozen cool whip, thawed (fold in 1 tub & 2 oz. of the next (18 ozs. for filling). Top pies with remaining cool whip.
- 1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple, well drained
- 1 cup (plus 6 to 8 whole) maraschino cherries, drained & chopped (wash cherries unless you prefer a pink pie). Garnish with 6 -8 whole cherries
- 1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts (more if desired)
- 2 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crusts

### Directions:

Mix on medium speed the cream cheese and Eagle sweetened condensed milk. Then add the lemon juice. Mix until smooth. Now gently fold in the cool whip.

In a separate bowl combine pineapple, cherries, coconut, and pecans.

Gently fold in the fruit combination a little at a time. Pour into pie crusts and top with remaining cool whip. Garnish with cherries (pecans too, if desired). Refrigerate for a minimum of 3 to 4 hours to setup. If you can wait that long.

From the Editor. . . If you have never had this pie you are in for a treat! It's one of my favorites. Do yourself a favorite and make these two pies.

### 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.



# Humor and Fun



## LAPIDARY ARTS

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

- |                 |                 |               |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| BEADING         | FACETING        | TUMBLING      |
| BEAD EMBROIDERY | GOLD SMITHING   | VIKING KNIT   |
| CABBING         | KUMIHIMO        | WIRE WRAPPING |
| CARVING         | LAMPWORKING     |               |
| CHAINMAILLE     | PEARL KNOTTING  |               |
| ENAMELING       | SILVER SMITHING |               |
| ENGRAVING       | SOLDERING       |               |

## HOW TO CLEAN COPPER

As you wear your copper it will lose its luster over time and may become tarnished. How you should clean your copper jewelry depends on whether it has been lacquered or not.

### Cleaning Lacquered Copper:

It will not tarnish as easily as non-lacquered copper jewelry does but will get dull and less shiny. You can use a polishing cloth to shine a lacquered copper or you can wash it with warm water with some dishwashing liquid. Rub gently with a cloth or an old toothbrush, rinse the copper well and dry it gently with a soft cloth.

**Cleaning Non-Lacquered Copper:** Non-lacquered copper jewelry can be cleaned well with mildly acidic substances. Avoid cleaning substances to gemstones or pearls on your copper jewelry, as they may get damaged. Don't soak such jewelry in the cleaning liquid, unless you are certain that it is safe to use with the stones. Rather clean the copper jewelry by just rubbing it with the cleaning solution, and work carefully around the stones. **Note:** If your copper piece is antique, removing the tarnish from it may make it less valuable in the eyes of potential buyers, if you ever plan on selling it.

### Cleaning Copper with Lemon and Lemon Juice

**Lemon:** Take a lemon and cut it in half. You can also add some salt to the lemon's cut side. Rub the copper with the lemon. Rinse the jewelry with water and dry it with a soft cloth.

**Lemon juice:** Pour some lemon juice in a cup or a bowl and add some salt to the liquid. Dip your copper jewelry in the juice and leave it there for 5-10 minutes. You can also scrub the piece gently with a cloth or toothbrush. Rinse with water and dry it with a soft cloth.

**Cleaning paste:** Add equal parts lemon juice and baking soda to make a cleaning paste. Use the paste to clean the copper by rubbing it gently with your fingers, a cloth, or an old toothbrush. Then rinse it and dry it with a soft cloth.

**Note:** Use a ceramic or glass container to soak your copper jewelry, never metal containers.

### Wearing Your Copper Jewelry

Natural oils from your skin can alter the color of your copper jewelry in the areas where it touches your skin. Applying some colorless nail polish in these areas periodically (as the polish will wear off with time). Remember to keep your nail polish away from gemstones. Wipe off your copper piece after you take it off. Do not wear your copper jewelry in the swimming pool, tub, doing dishes or housework as the water may contain chemicals that could damage its surface.

**Cleaning Copper with Awesome:** Liquid Awesome from Dollar Tree was given to me by member, *Terry Scott*. Rub Awesome on piece and clean. Rinse thoroughly with water & cloth dry it.

### Cleaning Copper with Worcestershire Sauce

Rub some sauce onto the piece and clean it with a cloth or a soft toothbrush. Rinse thoroughly with water & cloth dry it.

### Cleaning Copper with Ketchup

Put some ketchup on your copper jewelry and clean it by rubbing with a soft cloth or toothbrush. Rinse thoroughly with water & cloth dry it. *Instead of ketchup, you can also use tomato sauce.*

### Cleaning Copper with Vinegar

**Vinegar:** Soak the copper in some vinegar for 5-10 minutes, rub it clean, Rinse thoroughly with water & cloth dry it.

**Vinegar Paste:** 1 part vinegar, 1 part flour, and 1 part salt. Rub the copper clean with the paste and rinse thoroughly with water.

### Using Copper Cleaner

For heavy tarnish, use a commercial cleaner prepared specifically for copper jewelry. Drop some cleanser on a soft cloth and rub the piece until the tarnish goes away. Rinse with water and dry.

**Note:** Avoid applying commercial cleaner on any gemstones or pearls as some cleaning brands may damage them.

### Polishing and Storing Copper Jewelry

After cleaning your copper jewelry, polish it with a jewelry polishing cloth. It's best to use a polishing cloth specifically made for copper. Other types will be less effective.

Store your copper jewelry away from humidity, (it causes tarnish) in an airtight jewelry box or in a well-sealed plastic bag. You can also use anti-tarnish paper. Don't forget to dry your cleaned copper jewelry well before storing it.

**Note:** You can also use those small white desiccant packets or barrels that are in aspirin, pill bottles, or boxes to keep freshness. Member, *Reba Shotts* shared that secret with me.



## Southeast Federation News

### 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)

## American Federation News



### 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

### William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

706-379-2126

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

*Classes are Closed for 2020 season*

*Due to Corvid 19*

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

### AFMS 2020 Annual Convention

Held in Knoxville, Tn

October 16th - 18th, 2020

Subject to change

Updates will be posted in the newsletter.  
However, check their sites for any changes in scheduling.

### 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.

*Classes are Closed for 2020 season*

*Due to Corvid 19*

Please check the website for changes.

### 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



### Lodestar & American Federation of Mineral Societies newsletters:

Please take the time during this "stay at home" period to read these newsletters. Editors put in a lot of work to assemble these for all members. of all clubs. They have informative information related to our work and what we stand for along with what is upcoming events.

Give them ten minutes of your time... We all have extra time now that we are home bound.



# 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**

*June 23rd Via Skype 1pm*

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	<b>June 23 Virtual</b>	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>

# Alexandrite

## Alexandrite Anniversary - 55th

Alexandrite, with its chameleon-like qualities, is a rare variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Its color can be a lovely green in daylight or fluorescent light, changing to brownish or purplish red in the incandescent light from a lamp or candle flame. This is a result of the complex way the mineral absorbs light. Other gems also change color in response to a light-source change, but this gem's transformation is so striking that the phenomenon itself is often called "the alexandrite effect."

Often described as "emerald by day, ruby by night," alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. It's now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.

It is also a strongly pleochroic gem, which means it can show different colors when viewed from different directions. Typically, its three pleochroic colors are green, orange, and purple-red. However, the striking color change doesn't arise from the gem's pleochroism, but rather from the mineral's unusual light-absorbing properties.

To form, alexandrite requires both beryllium (Be), one of the rarest elements on Earth, and chromium (Cr). (These are also required for emerald creation). However, these elements rarely occur in the same rocks or in geological conditions where they interact. Furthermore, the original source of alexandrites was almost exhausted after only a few decades of mining. Since the 1980s, more sources have been located.

**History & Orig. . .** Mineralogist Nils Gustaf Nordenskiöld in the Russian Ural Mountains in 1830 was the first to realize this unusual green, color-changing gemstone was something new. The stone was named by Count Lev Aleksenich Peronskij in 1834, in honor of the then future Czar of Russia, Alexander II.

Those first alexandrites were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country's attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia.

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn't last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the nineteenth-century Russian alexandrites. You'll still find estate jewelry set with some of the famed Ural Mountain alexandrites. They remain the quality standard for this phenomenal gemstone.

**Brazilian Alexandrites** - tend to have pale colors, pale mauve to pale blue-green, but finer gems have been found recently in limited quantity. Substantial amounts (1,200 ppm) of the element gallium (Ga) replacing aluminum (Al) have been detected in some Brazilian material.

**Sri Lankan Alexandrites** - is often deep olive-green in sunlight, whereas Russian stones are blueish green in sunlight.

**Zimbabwean gems** are a fine, emerald-green color in sunlight but are usually tiny (under 1 carat) if clean. The color change in Zimbabwean gems is among the best known. It's a shame that large, clean stones are virtually unobtainable from the rough from this locality.

There is a considerable market for synthetic alexandrite, which was first created in the 1960s. Alexandrites can be grown through melt, hydrothermal, or flux methods in a lab. These synthetic stones have the same chemical and physical properties as natural alexandrites. They are real alexandrites but not natural. Although the synthetics are far less expensive than their natural counterparts, they're still among the most expensive synthetic gemstones available. Synthetic alexandrite can sometimes be identified by inclusions caused by various growth procedures. Melt techniques, like the Czochralski, can create curved striae. Hydrothermal growth can create bubbles and liquid inclusions. Flux methods can leave inclusions of platinum or other seed materials.

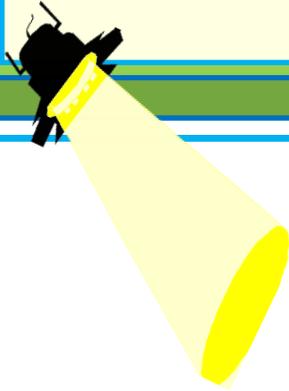
## FACTS

- **Mineral:** Chrysoberyl
- **Chemistry:**  $\text{BeAl}_2\text{O}_4$
- **Color:** Bluish green in daylight, purplish red in incandescent light
- **Refractive Index:** 1.746 to 1.755
- **Birefringence:** 0.008 to 0.010
- **Specific Gravity:** 3.73
- **Mohs Hardness:** 8.5



# “In The Spotlight”

## Largest Alexandrite



It's available. . .

Up for grabs in Colombo is the world's largest 'Alexandrite'— weighing **429.60 carats**. The going price is Sri Lankan Rupees 600 Crore (one hundred crore equals one billion). The owner expects a little more if he wants to part with his precious possession. And it is expected that the owner might settle for some SLR 650 Crore for this Alexanderite, a find from Ratnapura, the City of Gems in Southern Sri Lanka.

How the present owner came to possess the Alexandrite is unclear, more so as he prefers to remain anonymous but what is undisputed is that the gem has been named Alexandrite.

The chemical elements beryllium (a major constituent in chrysoberyl) and chromium (the colouring agent in alexandrite) have contrasting chemical characteristics and do not as a rule occur together, usually being found in contrasting rock types. Not only has Nature brought these contrasting rock types into contact with each other, but a lack of the chemical element silica (the second most common element in the Earth's crust) is also required to prevent the growth of emerald. This geological scenario has occurred only rarely in the Earth's history and, as a result, alexandrite crystals are very scarce indeed.

In 1987, Alexandrites were discovered at Hematita, Minas Gerais, Brazil that have colour change capability. Soon the place has emerged as one of the most important deposits of Alexandrite in economic terms. The Tunduru area in southern Tanzania has also produced some outstanding specimens since the mid-1990s. Alexandrites are also found in Sri Lanka, India, Burma, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

Expert view is that the colour of the Brazilian stones is not as strong a green as that of Russian alexandrite, but the colour change is clearly discernible. The Sri Lankan Alexandrite appears green in daylight and a brownish red in artificial light.

The vast majority of Alexandrite are under one carat. Upto one carat, the going price is said to be \$15,000. Over one carat, the price varies from \$ 50,000 to \$70,000 per carat though price has reportedly not been fixed for an Alexandrite above 10 carats.

# June's Birthstones

Alexandrite

Pearls

Moonstone

## “Alexander II”



Alexander II was still a youngster in 1830, when a never-before-seen color-change gem was discovered in the Ural Mountains of Rus-



## Pearl of Lao Tzu



Diameter 24 centimeters (9.45 inches) Weighs 6.4 kilograms (14.2 lb.)

## “Moonstone from Africa”



This moonstone was discovered by the first Japanese expedition to Mt. Kilimanjaro in 1918. Weighs between 300 and 450 carats, it might be the largest moonstone known. by Mr. Matthew Hardy.



## Largest Pearl



The biggest natural giant clam pearl in the world - weighing a whopping 34kg (5.2 stone).

The pearl was found 10 years ago by a fisherman who was unaware of its value and kept it as a good luck charm. The pearl is 1ft (30.5cm) wide and 2.2ft long.

**Faceted Alexandrite**  
*Deplete different colors under light*



“Natural Alexandrite Crystal 5,”  
From Zimbabwe,  
by Géry Parent



43-carat  
Alexandrite  
Collection of the  
British Museum



**Anniversaries: 1st, 3rd, 12th, and 30th**

## FACTS

- Mineral: Calcium Carbonate
- Chemistry:  $\text{CaCO}_3$
- Color: White, black, gray, yellow, orange, pink, lavender, green, blue
- Refractive Index: 1.52-1.69
- Specific Gravity: 2.60-2.85
- Mohs Hardness: 2.5-3.0

Pearls are the only gemstones made by living creatures. Mollusks produce pearls by depositing layers of calcium carbonate around microscopic irritants that get lodged in their shells—usually not a grain of sand, as commonly believed. While any shelled mollusk can technically make a pearl, only two groups of bivalve mollusks (or clams) use mother-of-pearl to create the iridescent “nacreous” pearls that are valued in jewelry. Pearls don’t require any polishing to reveal their natural luster.

The name “pearl” comes from the Old French *perle*, from the Latin *perna* meaning “leg,” referencing the leg-of-mutton shape of an open mollusk shell. Because perfectly round, smooth natural pearls are so uncommon, the word “pearl” can refer to anything rare and valuable.

The rarest, and therefore most expensive, pearls are natural pearls made in the wild. The majority of pearls sold today are cultured or farmed by implanting a grafted piece of shell (and sometimes a round bead) into pearl oysters or freshwater pearl mussels.

Pearls are very soft, ranging between 2.5 and 4.5 on the Mohs scale. They are sensitive to extreme heat and acidity; in fact, calcium carbonate is so susceptible to acid that pearls will dissolve in vinegar.

The finest pearls have a reflective luster, making them appear creamy white with an iridescent sheen that casts many colorful hues.

Cultured freshwater pearls can also be dyed yellow, green, blue, brown, pink, purple or black.

Black pearls—which are mostly cultured because they are so rare in nature—aren’t actually black but rather green, purple, blue or silver.



## History & Lore:

A Chinese historian recorded the oldest written mention of natural pearls in 2206 BC. As the centuries progressed toward modern times, desire for natural pearls remained strong. Members of royal families as well as wealthy citizens in Asia, Europe, and elsewhere treasured natural pearls and passed them from generation to generation.

From those ancient times until the discovery of the New World in 1492, some of the outstanding sources of natural pearls were the Persian Gulf, the waters of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Chinese rivers and lakes, and the rivers of Europe.

During Christopher Columbus’s third (1498) and fourth (1502) voyages to the New World, he repeatedly encountered native people adorned with natural pearls. His discovery of natural pearl sources in the waters of present-day Venezuela and Panama intensified demand in Europe. However, within a hundred years, these natural pearl sources had declined due to overfishing, pearl culturing, plastic buttons, and oil drilling.

The first steps toward pearl culturing occurred hundreds of years ago in China, and Japanese pioneers successfully produced whole cultured pearls around the beginning of the twentieth century. These became commercially important in the 1920s (about the same time natural pearl production began to decline). From the 1930s through the 1980s, pearl culturing diversified and spread to various countries around the world.

The spherical shape of some pearls led many cultures to associate this gem with the moon. In ancient China, pearls were believed to guarantee protection from fire and fire-breathing dragons. In Europe, they symbolized modesty, chastity, and purity.

## There are four major types of cultured whole pearls:

- **Akoya**—This type is most familiar. Japan and China both produce saltwater akoya cultured pearls.
- **South Sea**—Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines are leading sources of these saltwater cultured pearls.
- **Tahitian**—Cultivated primarily around the islands of French Polynesia (the most familiar of these is Tahiti), these saltwater cultured pearls usually range from white to black.
- **Freshwater**—These are usually cultured in freshwater lakes and ponds. They’re produced in a wide range of sizes, shapes

# Moonstone

## Moonstone—13th Anniversary

### FACTS



- **Mineral:** Feldspar
- **Chemistry:**  $KAlSi_3O_8$
- **Color:** Colorless to White, Gray, Green, Peach, Brown
- **Refractive index:** 1.518 to 1.526
- **Birefringence:** 0.05 to 0.008
- **Specific gravity:** 2.58
- **Mohs Hardness:** 6.0 to 6.5

Moonstone is a variety of the feldspar-group mineral orthoclase. Composed of two feldspar minerals, orthoclase and albite. At first, the two minerals are intermingled. Then, as the newly formed mineral cools, the intergrown orthoclase and albite separate into stacked, alternating layers.

Feldspars are the most widespread minerals in the earth's crust, as well as some of the most diverse. You can pick up a rock anywhere in the world, and you'll probably find that it contains a mineral or two from the feldspar group.

When light falls between these thin, flat layers, it scatters in many directions, producing the phenomenon called adularescence. Adularescence is the light that appears to billow across a gemstone, giving its surface a glowing appearance. The most captivating aspect of adularescence is its appearance of motion. The misty light seems to roll across the gem's surface as you change the viewing angle.

Other feldspar minerals can also show adularescence. One is a labradorite feldspar found mainly in Labrador, Canada. Another labradorite—found in Madagascar—has a multi-colored adularescence over a light bodycolor. It's known in the trade as rainbow moonstone, despite the fact that it's actually a variety of labradorite rather than orthoclase.

Sanidine is another feldspar mineral that can include adularescent gems called moonstones. To be called moonstone, a mineral's actual identity is not as important as the beauty of its adularescence.

**History & Lore . . .** Legends say that moonstone brings good luck. Many believed that you could see the future if you held a moonstone in your mouth during a full moon.

Adularescent moonstone was once called "adularia." The name originated with a city in Switzerland, Mt. Adular (now St. Gotthard), that was one of the first sources of fine-quality moonstone.

## Pearl of Lao Tzu

The pearl was found in the Palawan sea, by the island of Palawan in the Philippines, by a Filipino diver. It is not considered a gemstone pearl, but is instead known as a "clam pearl" or "*Tridacna* pearl" from a giant clam. It measures 24 centimeters in diameter (9.45 inches) and weighs 6.4 kilograms (14.2 lb).

The pearl came from Brooke's Point, Palawan in the Philippines. Wilburn Cobb, an American who brought the pearl from the Philippines in 1939 and owned it until his death in 1979, published an account of how he came to own it in *Natural History* magazine. According to Cobb, he wanted to buy it from a Philippine tribal chief when he first heard of it in 1934, but the chief, a Muslim, did not want to sell because he considered the pearl sacred, in part because of its resemblance to the turbaned head of the Islamic prophet, Muhammad. However, Cobb relates, he saved the life of the chief's son, who was stricken with malaria, in 1936 and was given the pearl as a token of gratitude. The pearl came to be known as the Pearl of Allah due to sacred associations.

Much later, Cobb wrote a new account in the February 1969 *Mensa Bulletin*, this time promoting the pearl as an artifact of Chinese legend. He alleged he had been approached by a Chinese man named Li, who told him that the pearl had first been grown in a much smaller clam around a jade amulet inserted by a disciple of the legendary sage Laozi more than 2,500 years ago, and been transferred over the centuries to ever larger clams, growing to record size. Wars had supposedly been fought over the artifact, and it had been sent off to the Philippines as a protective measure, where it was lost in a storm.

After Cobb's death in 1979, Peter Hoffman and Victor Barbish bought the pearl from his estate for \$200,000. Barbish has claimed to have had further contact with other Li family members. (The legend of a "Pearl of Laozi", is only known from the claims of Cobb and Barbish.)

When Victor Barbish borrowed money from a Joseph Bonicelli, he gave him an interest in the pearl. In 1990, Bonicelli took Barbish to court to collect his loan, and the court ruled that Hoffman, Barbish and Bonicelli were equal partners in the pearl. Bonicelli died in 1998, and after more legal proceedings, the court ordered the pearl to be sold (it has not been), with a third of the money going to Bonicelli's estate. It is not on display to the public and as of 2008 was being held as part of the probate inventory of Victor M. Barbish.

The pearl was owned in three equal shares by the heirs of Joe Bonicelli, Peter Hoffman and Victor Barbish.





## Brad's Tips...

### LITTLE THINGS CAN BITE

Most jewelers treat motorized equipment with caution. We've all heard stories about workpieces coming loose in the drill press or about getting long hair or clothing caught in the polishing machine. It stands to reason that a machine with a motor of a half horsepower or so is going to win out over its operator. We all know that, and I'm not going to harp on it. That's not the point of this story.

I want to talk about the smaller motor powered machines we often use, the ones with little 3 inch diameter motors. For instance, these small motors are used in flexshafts and micro buffers. They're so small that many of us forget caution when using them. I'm guilty of it myself sometimes, and believe me it can get you in trouble. Here's what happened to two people I know.

One friend had a polishing bur bend in the handpiece and then whack the thumb that was holding the workpiece. The swelling was substantial, and it took several weeks to regain normal use. A small underpowered motor? Not so.

Another friend was using one of the small buffing machines, the kind you can stop when you apply too much pressure to the wheel. Not to worry about such an underpowered beast you say. Wrong, it literally jumped up and bit the hand that feeds it!

Buffer was set on a low table to do a quick polish, so was not mounted or clamped. A buff was installed on the right spindle, no buff on the left. Friend was wearing a tight-fitting, long-sleeved sweater. While buffing on the right wheel, the left tapered spindle caught a thread on the friend's left sleeve and started grabbing more and more threads and sleeve.

Rather than pulling the arm into the machine, the light buffer quickly lifted off the table and started climbing up the underside of the friend's arm. There was no way to get a hand of the on/off switch because the unit was spinning wildly and battering my friend like a club wielded by a mad man. Only when someone nearby could grab the power cord and yank it from the wall did the mayhem stop.

So when you're in the shop, please think safety. Don't take even the little motors for granted.



**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)**

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# Shows and Events

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

**AKS GEM SHOW Presents New Orleans Bead & Jewelry Show**

**Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner, La. 70065**

**Admission Fee \$5.00** Hours: Fri & Sat 10am-6pm / Sun 10am-4pm

Email [info@aksshow.com](mailto:info@aksshow.com) with inquiries Phone: 504-265-8830 Visit website [www.aksshow.com](http://www.aksshow.com)

**GET A COUPON FOR \$1.00 OFF Admission**

**2020 Dates:** **January 24th - 26th Winter Show / April 3rd - 5th Spring Show**  
**July 10th - 12th Summer Show / September 18th - 20th Fall Show / November 6th - 8th Xmas Show**

Save \$1.00 off  
admission to any AKS  
Gem Show

Offer Expires: no expiration.

This coupon is good for entrance to any AKS Gem Show! ***Be sure to check your inbox for additional savings from our exhibitors.***

**[Check our list of shows now...](#)**

## **Gaston Gem, Mineral and Faceters Club Presents: 42nd Annual Show on June 20 – 21, 2020; Gastonia, NC**

2020 Summer Gemboree Johan Newcombe Event Center

Habitat For Humanity Restore Bldg. 1840 E. Franklin Blvd.

Gastonia, NC 28054

Center in the Habitat for Humanity Restore building. We are in town and inside, celebrating and sharing the club's love and appreciation of gems, minerals and jewelry. Vendors will be showing their offerings in mineral specimens, crystals, geodes, fossils, jewelry, and more! **ADMISSION IS FREE!!**

On-site sluices, treasure buckets, grab bags, prize drawings

**For additional information, please contact the club's show chair via our Facebook page.**

Show Chair: Robert Winstanley 704-577-3391 [www.facebook.com/groups/gastongems](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gastongems)

[www.gastongemclub.weebly.com](http://www.gastongemclub.weebly.com)

## **Note – Due to COVID-19**

**Many shows may be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please check with the local club, and / or check their website, before you plan to attend – as most all shows are canceled.**

SFMS



# Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Information



## 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

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

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

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### Field Trip Chairman

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### Librarian Chairman

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### Newsletter Editor

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### Sunshine & Hospitality Chairman

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### Show Chairmen

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### Webmaster & Workshop Chairman

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### 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)



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**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>MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>	
<b>APPLICANT INFORMATION</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>SINGLE \$20.00</b></span> <b>18 YEARS OF AGE</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> <span style="float: right;"><b>FAMILY \$30.00</b></span> <b>TWO ADULTS &amp; ALL MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE/AT SAME ADDRESS</b>	
Co-Applicant / Spouse: _____ Email: _____	
Date of birth (Mo/Day): _____	Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
<b>JUNIOR INFORMATION</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>JUNIOR \$10.00</b></span> <b>UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ☆ SPONSORED BY AN ADULT</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"/> Wire Wrapping <input type="checkbox"/> Kumihimo <input type="checkbox"/> Chainmaille <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Knotting <input type="checkbox"/> Silversmithing <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<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**  
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