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Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems

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Number 6



Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society

P.O. Box 10136
Gulfport, Ms. 39505

www.facebook.com/gulfportgems

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

A message from the President...

Dear Members,

I hope everyone had a good time at the show. Looks like we had more attendees than last year.

A lot of the vendors have been coming back year after year, so the club must be doing something right to keep them coming back. Everybody give a pat on the back to Lynn, Laura and the rest of the crew who made the show possible!

As we move forward, we need all members to think of what they can do for next year's show and step up and take over one of the responsibilities.

We will discuss this over the next several meetings, so put your leadership hats on and step up.

I will be back for the July meeting, see you then.

Sincerely,

President Allan Elliott

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

Workshops are posted on both.

www.gulfportgems.org

www.facebook.com/gulfportgems

Notes from the editor . . .

Meeting:

Meeting this month on June 17th, at Herbert Wilson Recreational Center with board meeting following. Bring your lunch.

Gems of the Month:

Alexandrite, Pearl, & Moonstone

Show & Tell: If you have any of the gems of the month to Show & Tell please bring them. Also, anything you purchased from the show you would like to share with us at the meeting, we would love to see what you purchased.

Workshops: Nicole - **Wired Pendant** and Cindy - **Tree of Life Pendant.**

Please consider volunteering to do a workshop. We still need instructors. Please Contact Laura, our Workshop Chairman you can still book for any month as we would like to have multiple workshops each month.

Show: *If you have anything from the show, please return it. You can bring it to the meeting. Such as signs, display boxes, or any of our supplies, etc. Thanks so Much!*



June 18th, 2023



Call to order: by President, Allen Elliott at 1:05pm

Members in Attendance: 17 Members: Allan E., Sharon G., Rosalind N-D., Lisa F., Jina M., Judi M., Shirley R., Karen W., Janet B., Laura T., Beverly B., Sue W., Sue S., Lynn T., Leslie J., Charlene C., Cindy Braden.

Minutes: No corrections, Lisa Fitch made a motion to accept March minutes, second by Sharon Greer, motion carried.

Treasure Report: Nicole Green, Treasurer, not available to provide a report. Due to recent elections, we need to change some names on the club's bank accounts. Mary Sue West and Lynn Tate need to be removed from Regions Bank checking account number XXXX. Club President, Allan Elliott, needs to be added to Regions Bank checking account number XXXX. Nicole Green, club Treasurer, should remain on checking account number XXXX. Mary Sue West and Lynn Tate need to be removed from Regions Bank savings account number XXXX. Club President, Allan Elliott, and Club Treasurer, Nicole Green, needs to be added to Regions Bank savings account number XXXX. Allan Elliott and Nicole Green would be the Beneficial Owners/Control Owners for Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society bank accounts. Nicole Green is stating that she is the one able to make decisions on the bank accounts.

Committee Reports

Facebook: Laura Tate stated that she has not updated Facebook.

Newsletter: Per Lisa Fitch, deadline to submit articles is the last day of each month.

Website: Leslie Jancovich asked for How to's or demonstrations she will try to attach another page to the website so that people can follow along with demonstrations. Per Lisa Fitch, all work must be original to avoid possible lawsuit. Laura Tate suggested embedding "You Tube" video in order to reference the creator. Leslie Jancovich suggested giving credit to the creator and sighting the location rather than posting the actual video due to amount of data available.

Equipment: Cynthia Braden has no new information pertaining to equipment. Allan Elliott stated that the switch on the second oldest piece of equipment sticks a little bit making it hard to push. New saw and blade work great.

The old saw has some type of rudimentary vice. Allan will take it home to work on it. Cynthia Braden asked about a slabbing saw. Per Allan Elliott, a slabbing saw is messy and expensive and not recommended for the club.

Workshop: Laura stated there is nothing to report. May is the show so no workshop. June Nicole will do a round wire wrapped pendant. She asks that everyone bring a 10mm round cabochon. Cynthia Braden will also teach the Tree of Life pendant. July, Sue West will do Boxed Earrings. August, Julie Boudreaux will do cold connections. September Laura Tate will do a Wire Wrapped Christmas Tree. October TBD. November, Sue West will do a Wire Wrapped Pendant. December is the Christmas party.

Sunshine: Laura Tate spoke with Reba Shotts who stated that Buddy had something called a "watchman" inserted and appears to be doing better, still not able to do a lot of riding, say's hello to the club members, and they do plan on coming to the show. Mrs. Reba is holding up. Sue West inquired about cards for Sunshine and Lisa Fitch, Nicole Green has some cards and will get them to Sue.

Show Report: Per Laura Tate, four of the video billboards will run the week before the show. One in Ocean Springs, one is on Three Rivers and Seaway, one on Landon Rd., and one on Hwy 90 in Waveland. They will run for eight days and every 30 seconds it will flip 6 ads and ours is in the rotation 24 hours a day. Facebook ads will start tonight, LA, MS, FL, and GA. Reba Shotts stated that an ad is in EPA Coast Electric, and MS Market Event. Post Cards are labeled, and stamped, they are also available to drop off in different locations. They have a \$1.00 off coupon, and they don't have dates on them, so they do not expire. Could not bring the boards and boxes for display's. Several options available to pick up them up. Can bring them on Thursday when setting up and everyone can come to the Shriner's Center, pick them up, and bring them on Friday or Saturday morning and get their box set up. Other option would be that all boxes will be brought and set up on Friday. Kid's Corner, Cynthia Braden have been working on gem tree's. Cynthia and Laura are asking that if anyone has chip beads with holes to donate. Nicole Green purchased more signs, she took 30 to do all of the interstate, Lisa Fitch will do Waveland and Bay St. Louise. There are 70 signs left, minus what Lynn will need for Woolmarket and around

the show. Will need someone to put some out on Hwy. 90 in Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, and Biloxi. Lynn and Laura Tate will be at the storage unit on April 29th at 1:00 for people to pick up signs, and boxes. 14 Vendors have replied, still waiting on a couple more and there is still space for one or two. Members are needed on Friday to come and help set up. Sue West asked who is willing to demonstrate on either Saturday or Sunday. Sue Shelton volunteered to demonstrate.

Communications:

Old Business: Scholarship issued, Lynn Tate plans to go to William Holland in October.

New Business: Lynn Tate stated that with deep regret, she will no longer be doing the show. It has become too much for her. Allan Elliott recommended having more than one person assist with the logistics.

Gem of the Month: Diamond.

Split the Pot: NA

Door Prizes: Sue West, Karen Williams, Allan Elliott, Sue Shelton, Laura Tate, Lisa Fitch, and Sharon Greer all won door prizes.

Adjourn: Lisa Fitch made a motion to adjourn at 2:13pm, Cynthia Braden second, motion carried.

Off the menu . . .



Millionaire Pie

Prep: 10 Mins. - No Bake

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

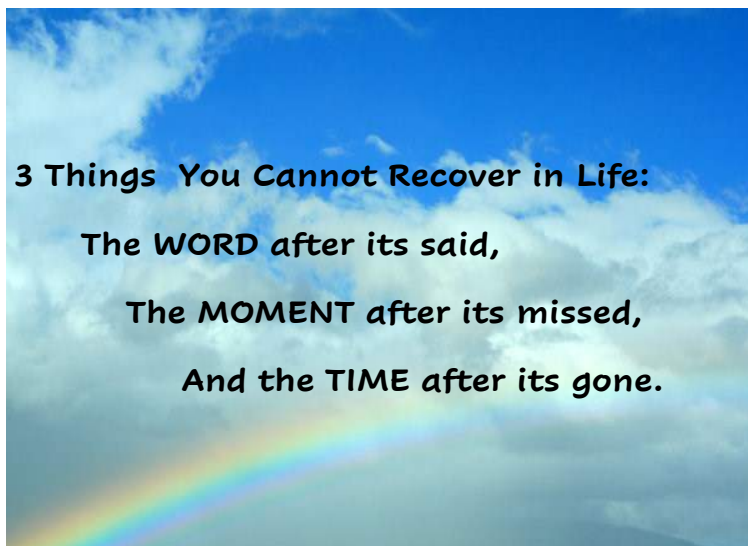
Directions:

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.

Thought of the Day . . .



3 Things You Cannot Recover in Life:

The WORD after its said,

The MOMENT after its missed,

And the TIME after its gone.

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!

Allan Elliott
Cindy Easterly
Shirley Robinson
Monica White



Happy Anniversary

Janet Burgess
Gladys Dedaux
Sue West

We want to thank all members who volunteered their time to work the show and help make it a very successful show again. It was greatly appreciated!

Lynn Tate, our long term Show Chairman has retired from this position and we are sad to hear this news as she and her family have worked diligently and put in a lot of hard work over the years to manage our show. It was much appreciated from the members to have a very responsible individual who dedicated her time to our cause.

We are looking for a volunteer to fill this position, if you are interested please let us know at the next meeting.



Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to

Lynn Tate, Show Chairman and her entire family

Laura Tate

Eddie Tate

Clay Tate



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society
June 2023

WORKSHOPS

Workshop Chairman:
wanderingmsrn@gmail.com

June 17th, 2023

Laura Tate
228-342-2971

Wire Wrapped Pendant

By Nicole



Material List:

2 - 15" pieces 20 Ga. Round Copper Wire
dead Soft
21 ga. Half Round Copper Wire
2mm and 3 mm Copper Beads
10 - 14mm Cabochon
Scrape Wire

Tools:

Mat
Ruler or Measuring Tape
Chain Nose, Round Nose, & Bail making Pliers
Flush Cutters

Tree of Life Pendant

By Cindy



Material List:

1 thin bracelet
1 tube of gemstones
21 ga Para Wire

Tools:

Mat
File
Wire Cutters
Ruler/Tape Measure

Upcoming 2023 Workshops

July **Box Earrings** **Sue W.**
August **Cold Connection** **Julie B.**
September **Wire Wrap Xmas Tree** **Laura**
October **Silver & Gold Bracelet** **Nicole**
November **Cab Earrings** **Sue W.**
December **Christmas Party**



Workshops are offered free!

Visitors are always welcome

Please bring a guest. . .

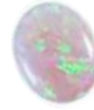
Cabbing Workshops

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

Cindy Braden - 706-266-0221



April 15, 2023 Workshop

Rozz's Bling Bracelet Class



April 15, 2023 Workshop

Sue, myself and Jina M. cabbed and the purple Jade is my stone which I finished, The beaded Fleur de Leis was done by Leslie J.— what a beautiful piece. The picture doesn't do it justice.



Karen Williams showed her bracelets she made with Ron Miller at William Holland. She purchased some beautiful pieces to cab too.



May 20th & 21st, 2023 Show



Alexandrite

FACTS

Alexandrite Anniversary - 55th

- **Mineral:** Chrysoberyl
- **Chemistry:** BeAl_2O_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



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 & Lore... 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 Alekseevich Perovskii 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 in-



Pearls



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

FACTS

- Mineral: Calcium Carbonate
- Chemistry: 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:

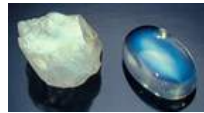
- **Akoya**—This type is most familiar. Japan and China both produce saltwater akoya cultured pearls.
- **South Sea**—Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines are leading sources of these saltwater cultured pearls.
- **Tahitian**—Cultivated primarily around the islands of French Polynesia (the most 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, and colors. China and the US are the leading sources.



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 multicolored 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.



June Birthstones

"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 Russia.



Faceted Alexandrite
Deplete different colors under light.

"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.



"Natural Alexandrite Crystal 5."

From Zimbabwe, by Géry Parent



43-carat
Alexandrite

Collection of the
British Museum

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.

Pearl of Lao Tzu

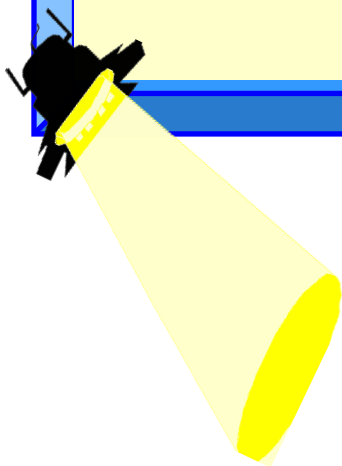


Diameter 24 centimeters (9.45 inches)
Weighs 6.4 kilograms (14.2 lb)

See story on Page 12

2nd
Largest

“In The Spotlight” Largest Alexandrite



t'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, Alexandrite's 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. Alexandrite's 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.



Bench Tips from Brad

ONE PART DIE FORMING

An easy way to make large and strong components for your jewelry designs while keeping the weight of precious metal to a minimum is done with simple tools in a process called one-part die forming. Complex 3-D shapes can be made quickly from thin gauge sheet with just a piece of plastic and a dapping ball.



I make a forming die by sketching the shape I need on a piece of thick plastic. Then drill a hole and saw out the shape with a jeweler's saw and a coarse blade. When sawing, try to keep edges straight up and down. Refine the cut as needed with a sanding drum or file. Select a thickness of plastic that is just a little more than the amount of doming you want.

> Note: I tend to use 1/4 inch or 3/8 inch plastic that I get as scraps from a local plastics shop.

To use the die, cut a piece of sheet about 3/8 inch wider than the hole in the die on all sides. Anneal the sheet and tape it down on the plastic. Use a dapping ball and hammer to create the domed shape. When the taped down edges begin to warp, planish them flat on the top of the die. Finally, if the sheet is to be domed deeply, you will need to anneal the metal occasionally.

One nice feature of this technique can be seen in the top and left of the picture. If the sawed walls are straight up and down, the hole on the bottom is a mirror image of the hole on the top. This allows you to produce a mirror image shape as needed to make left and right earrings or both sides of an irregular shaped bead as shown.

OCHRE APPLICATOR

Yellow ochre is used when you want to be sure the solder won't flow on an area of your piece while you're soldering another area. The only problem with ochre is coming up with a good way to store and apply it.



I use recycled nail polish bottles. They seal well and have a built-in brush applicator. Just clean them out with a little acetone or nail polish remover, and they're ready to go.

Making jewelry involves a multitude of skills, intricate hand work, and a lot of problem solving. In this series Books in this series help to::

>Broaden your metalworking skills

>Improve productivity at the bench

>Save money on tools and supplies

You'll find hundreds of low cost and really practical tips and techniques that the author uses in his work and teaches in his classes and workshops.

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



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

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

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SFMS 2023 Annual Convention

March 11, 2023

Live Oak, FL

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts
706-379-2126

Website @ www.lapidaryschool.org

Federation Week Jun 4 - 10, 2023

Classes are subject to change
Visit the website for a list of classes

WILDACRES RETREAT
828-756-4573

Website @ www.wildscres.org

registrarwildacres@gmail.com Claudia Erwin

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

Please check the website for changes.

Federation Weeks August 4th - 20th
2nd Week September 11th - 17th



Nearby Gem Societies

Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

www.mgcmgs.com

Meeting: 2nd Saturday of the month



Mobile Rock and Gem Society

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

Visit site if you like Lampworking

Website: www.isgb.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 PH: 410-833-7926

AFMS 2023 Annual Convention

October 28-29, 2023

St. Lucie County Gem Show in Port St Lucie, FL

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

FIELD TRIPS

Dixie Mineral Council



For a monthly list of field trips, visit their website.

Members Only

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

Shows and Events

6/24/2023 —APOPKA, FL: Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society; 1937 Lakeville Rd., Apopka, FL 32712; Saturday, 6/24/23—9am-4pm. Rock Clubs and Individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell and swap anything that is LAPIDARY related! Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry, to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped sold or purchased! \$25 per 10x20 space. See the flyer on page 24 More info at Wekivagem.com.

9/1-3/2023 —IRONDALE, AL: Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society; NEW VENUE! Irondale Civic Center (former Zamora Shrine Temple), 3521 Ratliff Rd., Irondale, AL 35210; Friday & Saturday, 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. Adults: \$5; Teens: \$3; 12 & under: FREE. More info: am-lsgemshow@gmail.com; <https://www.facebook.com/events/1307348173327314/>

10/20-22/2023—KNOXVILLE, TN: The Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society; Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923, Fri & Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5; The Gem Show is open to the public and has an admission fee of \$8 a day for adults or \$15 for the whole show; children under 12 are admitted free. Website <http://www.knoxrocks.org/gem-show/>

10/21-22/2023 SAINT LUCIE, FL: St Lucie Rock & Gem Club 46th Annual Club Show, MidFlorida Event Center, 9221 SE Event Center Pl, St. Lucie, FL 34952: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4. Admission \$5. We will be hosting the SFMS Annual Meeting. www.slrockandgem.org

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS VISIT - 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 Phone: 504-265-8830

Email info@aksshow.com with inquiries

Visit website www.aksshow.com and GET A COUPON FOR \$1.00 OFF Admission

July 7,8,9th - September 8,9,10th - November 3,4,5th

**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...](#)



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Information



Officers 2023

President - Allan Elliott Allan.K.Elliott@gmail.com

Vice President - Lisa Fitch lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

Secretary - Rosalind Norvel-Daniels

Dzignsbyrozz@gmail.com

Treasurer - Nicole Green nfouasnon@gmail.com

Directors

Lynn Tate (3 yr.) l.tate4@gmail.com

Sharon Greer (2 yr.) 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

Reba Shotts (1 yr.) Buddynrebashotts@bellsouth.net

Committee Members

Workshop & Facebook Chairman

Laura Tate wanderingmsrn@gmail.com

Equipment Chairmen

Cindy Braden 228-243-2665

Field Trip Chairman

Sharon Greer 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

Librarian Chairman

Sue West msuewest@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor

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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 nfouasnon@gmail.com

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Ms. State Director, Parliamentarian & Boundaries

Leslie Lane 601-344-8171

Past President SFMS

John Wright osjbw@cableone.com

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 Hwy. 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 or
<https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems>

2023 MEETING DATES

Jan 21st **May SHOW 20th & 21st**

Feb 18th June 17th Sept 16th

Mar 18th July 15th Oct 21st

April 15th Aug 19th Nov 18th

Dec 16th Christmas Party

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Fitch

Submit newsletter articles to:

lapidaryarts@hotmail.com



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



Membership Form

Contact Our Treasurer: Nicole Green (228) 344-8066 **Email:** nfouasnon@gmail.com



HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
APPLICANT INFORMATION			SINGLE \$20.00
Name:		Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Anniversary: (Mo/Day)	Cell Phone:	
Current address:		Home Phone:	
City:	State / Zip Code:	Work Phone:	
CO-APPLICANT / SPOUSE INFORMATION			FAMILY \$30.00
TWO ADULTS & ALL MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE/AT SAME ADDRESS			
Co-Applicant / Spouse:		Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Cell Phone:	Work Phone:	
JUNIOR INFORMATION			JUNIOR \$10.00
UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ★ SPONSORED BY AN ADULT			
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name:	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
★ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION ★			
Name:			
Relationship:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
INTEREST INFORMATION			
Hobby Interest:		Jewelry Interest:	
(Each applicant initial interests)			
<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 _____		<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	
APPLICATION FEES			
Applications can be mail to: Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society P. O. Box 10136, Gulfport, Ms. 39505			
Single \$20.00	Family \$30.00	Junior(s) \$10.00 Each	DUES: \$
Dues: <i>Circle One</i> NEW RENEWAL No Proration Deadline: 3rd Saturday of January			TOTAL: \$
SIGNATURES			
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.

<div>January 21</div> <div>Orb Earrings By Lisa Fitch</div> <div>Brick Stitch Sweetheart Earrings By Cindy Braden</div> <div></div> <div>Happy New Years</div>	<div>February 18</div> <div>Copper Necklace By Sue West</div> <div>Happy Valentines February 14th </div>	<div>March 18</div> <div>Tree of Life By Cindy B.</div> <div>St. Patrick's Day 17th </div>	<div>April 15</div> <div>Bling Bracelet By Rozz ND</div> <div>Happy Easter </div>
<div>May 20</div> <div>SHOW 20th & 21st</div>	<div>June 17</div> <div>Wire Wrapped Pendant By Nicole G.</div> <div>Tree of Life By Cindy B.</div>	<div>July 15</div> <div>Boxed Earrings By Sue W.</div> <div>Happy 4th </div>	<div>August 19</div> <div>Cold Connection By Julie B.</div>
<div>September 16</div> <div>Wire Wrapped Christmas Tree By Laura Tate</div>	<div>October 21</div> <div></div> <div>Silver & Gold Bracelet By Nicole</div> <div>Happy Halloween Oct. 31st </div>	<div>November 18</div> <div>Wire Wrapped Pendant By Sue West</div> <div></div>	<div>December 16</div> <div></div> <div>CHRISTMAS PARTY</div>