Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Gulfport Gems

Volume 44 December 2023 Number 12

Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society

P.O. Box 10136
Gulfport, Ms. 39505

Merry Christmas
& Happy 2024
New Year

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

A message from the President. . .

Dear Members,

Since we did not have a November meeting we will be voting for new officers at the Christmas Party and installing them at the January meeting. If you can't make it to the party to vote, please email your vote to the Gulfport gems address (lapidaryarts@hotmail.com).

Hope to see you all at the party. Please bring a gift to participate in the Dirty Santa drawing.

Remember, the gloves do come off when the "stealing" gets hot.

Sincerely,

President Allan Elliott

Notes from the editor . . .

Meeting:
December 16, 2023, at Diamondhead Country Club for our Christmas Lunch. See Page 2 for details.

William Holland: *See Federation Page*
2024 Digital Catalog is available and ready for booking. Registration opens Dec. 4, 2023. First week of class is March 31, 2024. Fed. Week 6/2/24

Ballots: See page 2

Gems of the Month:
Turquoise, Zircon, and Tanzanite

Show & Tell: None **Workshops:** None

2024 Workshop Instructors needed. . .

Please Contact Workshop Chairman, Laura at 228-342–2971
wanderingmsrn@gmail.com

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

Workshops are posted on both.

www.gulfportgems.org

www.facebook.com/gulfportgems

Dec. 16, 2023

PRESIDENT NOMINEES:
□ ALLEN ELLIOTT □ _____

VICE - PRESIDENT NOMINEES:
□ LISA FITCH □ _____

SECRETARY NOMINEES:
□ SHERYL ROGERS□_____

TREASURY NOMINEES:
□ NICOLE GREEN□ _____

NEW DIRECTOR 1st of 3rd YR. TERM:
□ JINA MARTIN□ _____

If you are not able to attend the Christmas party you can still vote by sending you ballot to lapidaryarts@hotmail.com no later than Friday, Dec. 15th by 10pm. Ballots will be printed and brought to the meeting on Dec. 16th.

December 16th, 2023

Christmas Party

Time 11:15am to 2:30pm
Arrival at 11:15 am
Meeting at 11:30 am
Lunch at 12:00 pm

Diamondhead Country Club at Latitude 30

"Dirty Santa"

Will be played after our meal
Bring a gift

($25.00 minimum) if you want to play.

Board Elect for 2024

The following members will be voted on at our December meeting on December 16, 2023.

President	Allan Elliott
Vice President	Lisa Fitch
Secretary	Sheryl Rogers
Treasurer	Nicole Green
Director	Jina Martin

Congratulations to all and "Thank You" for volunteering to serve.

2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Applications available at the December Christmas Party.

The deadline is the 3rd Saturday in January 2024. You may print the application from this newsletter and bring it with you.

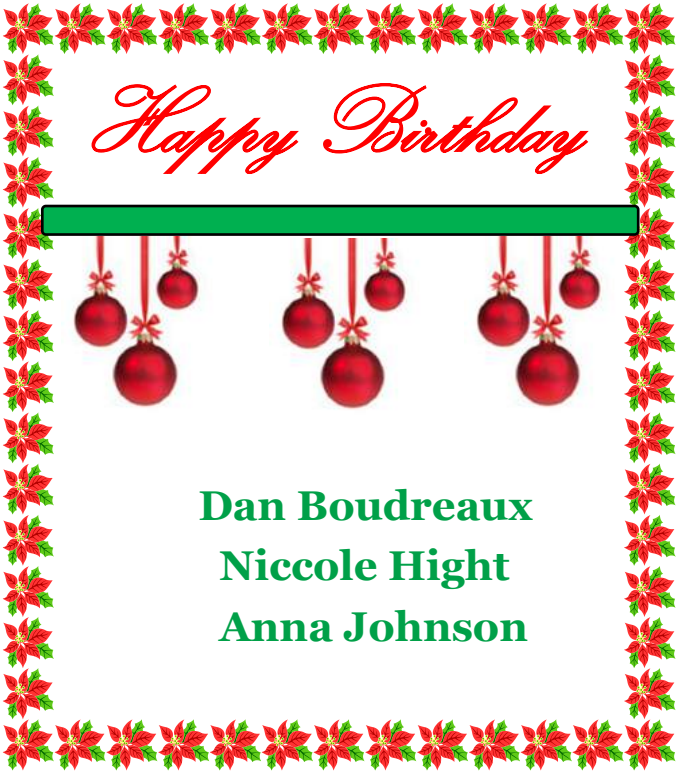
Paying your dues on time is part of the scholarship availability

The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man.

Charles Darwin

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Your Editor



Off the menu . . .

ORANGE GLAZED PECANS

Ingredients:

1-1/2 cups sugar
1/4 cup Water
3 tbsp of Orange juice concentrate
2 cups Pecan Halves
1/2 tsp. grated orange zest

Directions:

In a heavy saucepan, combine the sugar, water, and OJ concentrate. Cook over medium heat until soft –ball stage. Remove from heat and stir in pecans and orange zest.

Beat until mixture thickens and loses its gloss, about 2 minutes. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto wax paper to set. Store in an airtight container.

Turquoise

FACTS

11th Anniversary

- Mineral: Turquoise
- Chemistry: $CuAl_6(PO_4)_4\ (OH)_{8.5}H_2O$
- Color: Blue to green
- Refractive Index: 1.610 to 1.650
- Birefringence: Not detectable
- Specific Gravity: 2.76 (+0.14, -0.36)
- Mohs Hardness: 5 to 6

Turquoise is only found in a few places on earth: dry and barren regions where acidic, copper-rich groundwater seeps downward and reacts with minerals that contain phosphorus and aluminum. The final results of this sedimentary process is a porous, semi-translucent to opaque compound of hydrated copper and aluminum phosphate.

Turquoise is believed to bring prosperity to the one who wears the stone symbolizing good fortune and success.

To chemists and geologists turquoise is as known as “copper aluminum phosphate.” Often found in weathered igneous rock that contains copper minerals, where it crystallizes in veins and nodules. Developing in rocks near water tables, located in semiarid and arid environments. The chemicals in turquoise come from adjacent rock, leached out by rain and groundwater.

Being relatively soft it can be easily scratched and broken. This porous opaque stone is easily discolored by oil and pigments, and changes color when it loses some of its water content. The presence of copper gives it a sky blue color and the presence of iron gives it a greener tone.

During the formation of the stone the ochre and brown-black veins develop caused by inclusions from nearby rock fragments or from oxide staining. The most valued variety of turquoise is an intense robin’s egg color or a sky blue. Hard, relatively non-porous compact stones have the best appearance because the stone can be finely polished. Pale and chalky varieties of Turquoise however are sometimes impregnated with oil, paraffin, liquid plastic and glycerin to give it a good polish.

This stone can be found in Armenia, Kazakhstan, China, Australia, Tibet, China, Mexico, Brazil, and Egypt. In Iran, where some of the best stones are found, turquoise is the national gem. The American southwest-Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and California-are primary producers of turquoise. Much of the specimens have a light color, and are porous and chalky-only about 10% is of gem quality.

The name originates from the French phrase “pierre turquoise” meaning “Turkish stone” because turquoise was brought to Europe by Venetian merchants who first acquired it in Turkish bazaars. When received as a gift, the turquoise symbolizes a pledge of affection because it is considered by some as a love charm. Shakespeare used this lore in “The Merchant of Venice’ having Leah give a turquoise ring to Shylock when he was a bachelor. Hoping it would win his affections and persuade him to ask her to marry. Turquoise wedding rings are the popularity in Russia.

Turquoise is one of the earliest known stones to be used in jewelry even the Pharaohs of Early Egypt wore them. A tomb excavated in 1900 contained the mummified remains of Queen Zer, who ruled in 5500 B.C.; found on her arm were four magnificent turquoise bracelets. Beads dating back to 5000 B.C. have been found in Mesopotamia (now Iraq). In Iran, turquoise was the national gemstone, adorning thrones, daggers, sword hilts, horse trappings, bowls, cups, and ornamental objects.

Tanzanite

December Birthday

Anniversary—24th

FACTS

- Mineral: Zoisite
- Chemistry: $Ca_2Al_3(SiO_4)_3(OH)$
- Color: Blue to violet to bluish purple
- Refractive Index: 1.691 to 1.700
- Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.013
- Specific Gravity: 3.35
- Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7

Exactly who made the discovery of tanzanite is the subject of some debate. According to some, the first tanzanite crystals were found by Masai tribesman, Ali Juuyawatu. Other reports state that the discoverer was Ndugu Jumanne Ngoma. Finally, a further account credits Manual de Souza with the discovery of tanzanite on July 7, 1967. It has become the second most popular blue gem after sapphire and is rarer than diamonds.

Tanzanite is the blue to violet to purple variety of the mineral zoisite. It is mined commercially only in one area of the world: the Merelani Hills of Tanzania, which is where it got its name by Tiffany & Co. Because crystals show different colors depending on viewing direction, cutters can choose bluish purple or the more favored pure blue or violetish blue hue depending on how much weight they want to retain from the rough.

The blue color of tanzanite is caused by small amounts of vanadium within the zoisite mineral structure. When vanadium-bearing zoisite is heated to a temperature of 600 degrees Celsius for about 30 minutes, the oxidation state of the vanadium is changed and that change causes or improves the blue color. Tanzanite is a pleochroic gem.

Pleochroism is a physical property in which the material appears to be different colors when viewed from different crystallographic directions. Some specimens of tanzanite can be a distinct blue when viewed from one direction, and vary from violet to red when viewed from other directions.

Zircon

FACTS

- Mineral: Zircon
- Chemistry: $ZrSiO_4$
- Color: Blue, red, yellow, orange, brown, green
- Refractive index:
- High: 1.925 to 1.984 (+/- 0.040)
- Medium: 1.875 to 1.905 (+/- 0.030)
- Low: 1.810 to 1.815 (+/-0.030)
- Birefringence: 0.000 to 0.059 (low to high)
- Specific gravity: 3.90 to 4.73
- Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7.5 (low to high)

Colorless zircon is known for its brilliance and flashes of multicolored light, called fire. These zircon properties are close enough to the properties of diamond to account for centuries of confusion between the two gems. Colorless zircon is called "Matara" zircon after a city in Sri Lanka near where it is mined.
Zircon occurs in an array of colors. Its varied palette of yellow, green, red, reddish brown, and blue hues makes it a favorite among collectors as well as informed consumers.

The crystals grow in many different types of rock and possess a range of optical and physical properties.

Some lower value zircons—usually green ones—were determined by scientists that the crystal structures of these gems were almost completely broken down by radioactive elements—often present in zircon as impurities—that damaged the gems' crystal structure over long periods of geological time.

Gemologists classify zircons into three types—high, intermediate, and low depending on the its properties, which are directly related to the amount of radiation-induced damage done to its crystal structure.

High or normal zircons have full crystal structures, with little or no damage from radioactive elements possessing the normal physical and optical properties associated with the mineral.

In intermediate or medium zircons, radioactive elements have caused some structural damage possessing physical and optical properties that are between high and low types.

All the zircons used in jewelry are of the high type. Interestingly, radiation-induced crystal-structure breakdown can be reversed somewhat by heating zircon to high temperatures this repairs the stone's damaged crystal structure producing a high type gemstone.

Sources: gia.edu, Wikipedia, geology.com, gemselect.com, minerals.com, durangosilver.com, smithsonianmag.com, google.com

Bench Tips from Brad

TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces of metal in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry that is not hallmarked. Is it silver or is it something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only $3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - apply a small drop and watch for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

. Fine silver . . . . . Red/Orange
. 80% silver 20% copper . Dark red changing to gray
. Nickel . . . . . Gray-green
. Steel . . . . . Black
. Sterling silver . . . . . Brick Red
. Brass . . . . . Yellow changing to blue
. Copper . . . . . Yellow changing to blue
. Stainless Steel . . . . . No color change

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

* Wear safety glasses.
* Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.
* Do not get any testing solution on your skin.
* Wash and clean up well when you're done.

Southeast Federation News

S.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscription to Lodestar is FREE electronically

Email: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com Or

Editor: Lori Heinemann

Can be read online:

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

www.amfed.org

SFMS 2023 Annual Convention

March 11, 2023

Live Oak, FL

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

706-379-2126

Register Now at:

www.lapidaryschoolregistration.org

Federation Week Jun 2 - 8, 2024

Classes are subject to change

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

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

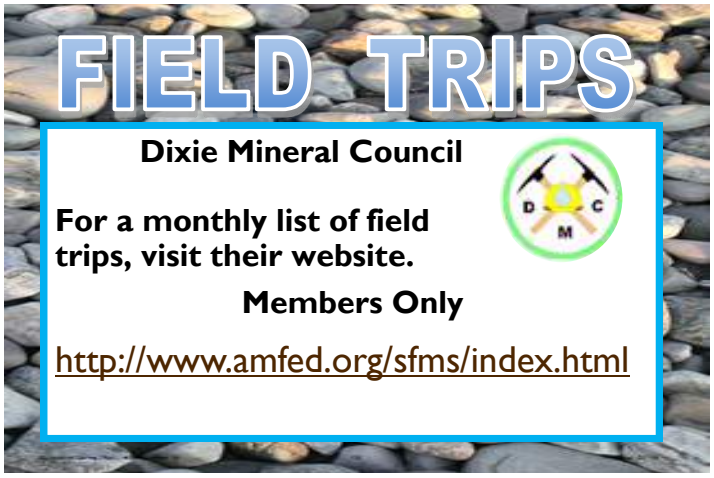
Shirley Leeson, President

Nearby Gem Societies

Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society
www.mgcgms.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



Dixie Mineral Council

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

Members Only

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

Other Interests: **International Society of Glass Blowers** Website: www.isgb.org

Visit site if you like Lampworking

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
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 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

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**
18 YEARS OF AGE

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: **(Each applicant initial interests)** **Jewelry Interest:**

_____ Fossils
_____ Minerals
_____ Lapidary (____Cabbing, ____Faceting, Etc.)
_____ Field Trips (Creeks, Gravel pits, Mines, Etc.)
_____ Special Interests _____

_____ Beading
_____ Kumihimo
_____ Pearl Knotting
_____ Other _____

_____ Wire Wrapping
_____ Chainmaille
_____ 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: *Circle One* **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

Merry Christmas

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

January 21 **Orb Earrings** **By Lisa Fitch** Brick Stitch Sweetheart Earrings By Cindy Braden Happy New Years	**February 18** Copper Necklace By Sue West Happy Valentines February 14th	**March 18** Tree of Life By Cindy B. St. Patrick's Day 17th	**April 15** Bling Bracelet By Rozz ND Happy Easter
May 20 **S H O W** **20th & 21st**	**June 17** Wire Wrapped Pendant By Nicole G. Tree of Life By Cindy B.	**July 15** 3 Bead Boxed Earrings By Sue W. Cancelled Open Round Maille Bracelet (7.5") By Laura/Lynn T. Happy 4th	**August 19** Cold Connection By Julie B. 3 Bead Boxed Earrings By Sue W.
September 16 Wire Wrapped Christmas Tree By Laura Tate Star Ornament By Leslie J.	**October 21** Silver & Gold Bracelet By Nicole Happy Halloween Oct. 31st	**November 18** Victorian Bracelet By Sue West ? By Connie Boyd Meeting Cancel	**December 16** Merry Christmas CHRISTMAS PARTY