

Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems

Volume 45 June / July 2024 Number 6 & 7



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 want to thank everybody who helped with the 2024 Gem and Mineral Show. Even though there was a snafu with spotty internet service due to some scoundrels trying to steal the AT&T transmitting equipment, vendors were still able to conduct business.

There were more visitors than the 2023 show — almost that they would like to return next year.

Thank you everybody for making the show a success.

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: July 20, 2024 at 9am
Herbert Wilson Recreational Center
Potluck lunch . . . Bring a dish

Door Prizes: Please bring a door prize to donate. See Cindy Braden

Gems of the Month:
June: Moonstone, Pearl, & Alexandrite
July: Ruby

Show & Tell: Anything you have to share with the club, Please bring.

Workshops:
Sue W. — Wire Necklace
Laura & Lynn T. = Shaggy Earrings

Program: N/A

2024 Workshop Instructors needed

Please Contact Workshop Chairman, Shirley at [228-594-9673](tel:228-594-9673)
Msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Show Chairman: Beverly Baker

Show Email:
gulfportgems.show@gmail.com

Happy Birthday



JUNE:

Allan Elliott
David Newcomb
Shirley Robinson

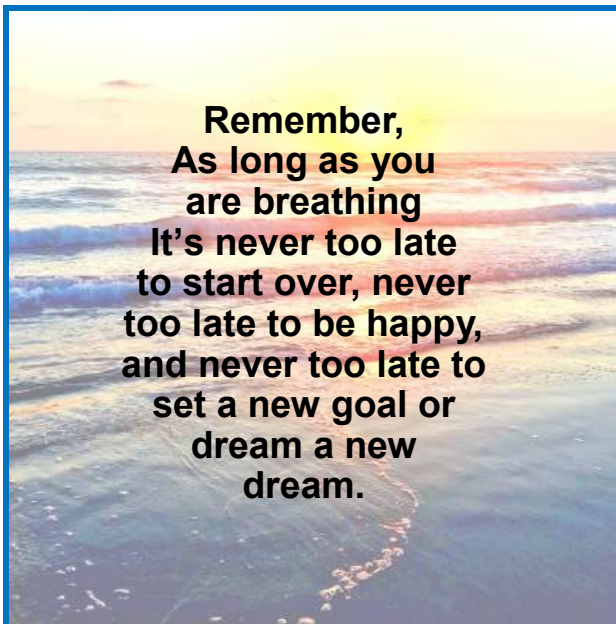
JULY:

Alexis Fitch
Sandra Roberts

Happy Anniversary

July: Beverly Baker

Thought of the Day . . .



NEWS

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Disposing of Show Cases

The Ocean Springs club has discontinued using their old display cases and would like anyone who wishes one, let me know at the next meeting. The cases are 4 ft wide by 2 ft deep by 2ft high. Glass is included. There are holes in the top for canister lights but a LED fixture can easily be installed. These are free. Please let me know ASAP as they will be discarded soon.

Off the menu . . .

BLUEBERRY CREATION

By Reba Shotts

4 Ounces Cream Cheese (soft)
1/2 cup Sour Cream
1/4 cup Splenda or sugar
1-1/2 cups Cool Whip
2 cups Blueberries (washed and dried)

In a bowl with a mixer you need to beat the cream cheese, sour cream, and Splenda or sugar until well blended.

Fold in the cool whip, then very carefully fold in the blueberries.

* I double everything

WORKSHOPS

Workshop Chairman:
msrobinson2u@icloud.com

July 20, 2024

Shirley Robinson
228-594-9673

July's Workshop

Wire Necklace

By Sue West

Kits: \$4.00 in Copper
Class Limit to 8 Students



Material List:

81" of 21 ga. Square wire
50" of 20 ga. Half Round Wire
10 — 4mm Jump Rings

PLEASE BRING YOUR TOOLS FOR WIRE
AND A MAT.

Shaggy Earrings

By Lynn & Laura

No class size limit



Materials:

6-18g 8mm ID green
8- 18g 7mm ID green
8- 18g 6mm ID green
8- 18g 5mm ID green
8- 18g 3.75mm ID green
30- 20g 3mm ID multicolor
40- 20g 3mm ID brown
2-headpins
2-earwires
2 star beads

Tools:

1- bent nose pliers
1 - flat nose pliers
1- jump ringer

Cabbing Workshops - *Equipment Chairman* Cindy Braden - 228-243-2665

*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*

June Birthstones

Alexandrite, Pearl, Moonstone

Alexandrite Anniversary - 55th

Alexandrite

FACTS

- **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.

Pearls

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.

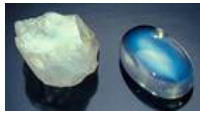




Moonstone

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.

Ruby

July Birthstone/15th & 40th Anniversaries

FACTS

- **Mineral:** Corundum
- **Chemical composition:** Al_2O_3
- **Color:** Red
- **Refractive index:** 1.762 to 1.770
- **Birefringence:** 0.008 to 0.010
- **Specific gravity:** 4.00 (+/- 0.05)
- **Mohs Hardness:** 9



In its purest form, the mineral corundum is colorless. Trace elements that become part of the mineral's crystal structure cause variations in its color. Chromium is the trace element that causes ruby's red, which ranges from an orangey red to a purplish red.

The strength of ruby's red depends on how much chromium is present—the more chromium, the stronger the red color. Chromium can also cause fluorescence, which adds to the intensity of the red color.

The name ruby comes from the Latin word *ruber*, which means "red." The glowing red of ruby suggested an inextinguishable flame burning in the stone, even shining through clothing and able to boil water. In the ancient language of Sanskrit, ruby is called *ratnaraj*, or "king of precious stones."

Ruby has been called the most precious of the 12 stones created by God.

The Ruby represents love, passion, courage and emotion. For centuries this gem has been considered the king of all gems. It was believed that wearing a fine red Ruby bestowed good fortune on its owner. Rubies have been the prized possession of emperors and kings throughout the ages. To this day the Ruby is the most valued gemstone.

The color of a Ruby is the most important feature of the gemstone. Rubies are available in a range of red hues from purplish and bluish red to orange-red. The brightest and most valuable color of Ruby is often "a Burmese Ruby" – an indication that it is a rich, passionate, hot, full red color with a slight blue hue. This color is often referred to as "pigeon blood" red, a Ruby color only associated with the Mogok Valley mines in Myanmar. The color Pigeon Blood Ruby red, is not associated with the color of a pigeon's blood but rather the color of a white pigeon's eye.



Southeast Federation News

S.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscription to Lodestar is FREE electronically

Email: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com Or

Editor: **Cindy Reed**

Can be read online:

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

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American Federation News



A.F.M.S. Newsletter

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SFMS 2024 Annual Convention

March 1-3, 2024

Live Oak, FL

AFMS 2024 Annual Convention

TBA

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

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>



Doug True, President

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

FIELD TRIPS

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

Visit site if you like Lampworking

Website: www.isgb.org



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Information



Officers 2024

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

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Secretary - *Sheryl Rogers* sdr@frslaw.com

Treasurer - *Nicole Green* nfouasnon@gmail.com

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Reba Shotts (2 yr.) Buddynrebashotts@bellsouth.net

Jina Martin (1 yr.) jinamartin@hotmail.com

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Workshop Chairman

Shirley Robinson msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Equipment Chairmen

Cindy Braden 228-243-2665

Field Trip Chairman

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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 - 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>

2024 MEETING DATES

Jan 20th **May SHOW 18th & 19th**

Feb 17th June 15th Sept 21st

Mar 16th July 20th Oct 19th

Apr 20th Aug 17th Nov 16th

Dec 21st 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: nfouason@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:		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 <input type="checkbox"/> _____
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
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Gulfport, MS 39505

Address Service Requested



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

HCGMS 2024 Workshops

<p>January 20</p> <p>Victorian Bracelet By Sue West</p> <p>Program - Cindy B. Equipment / Waiver</p>  <p>Happy New Years</p>	<p>February 17</p> <p>Viking Knit By Julie B.</p> <p>Program - Lisa F. Scholarships</p> <p>Happy Valentines February 14th </p>	<p>March 16</p> <p>Shamrock Bracelet By Lisa Fitch</p> <p>Program - Nicole G. Clasps</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day 17th </p> <p>Happy Easter March 31 </p>	<p>April 20</p> <p>Lotus Pendant Karen Williams/ Rozz</p> <p>Program - Use Extra time to Prepare Post Cards for Show.</p>
<p>May 18</p> <p>SHOW 18th & 19th</p>	<p>June 15</p> <p>Kumihimo By Nicole Green</p> <p>Swirl Earrings By Sue West</p> <p>Program -</p>	<p>July 20</p> <p>Shaggy Earrings By Lynn & Laura Tate</p> <p>Wired Necklace By Sue West</p> <p>Program -</p> <p>Happy 4th </p>	<p>August 17</p> <p>Netted Christmas Ornament By Lisa F.</p> <p>Bike Earrings By Sue West</p> <p>Program -</p>
<p>September 21</p> <p>Unfinished Projects</p> <p>Program -</p>	<p>October 19</p> <p>Beaded Pendant By Leslie J. </p> <p>Program -</p> <p> Happy Halloween</p>	<p>November 16</p> <p>? By Beverly B.</p> <p>Program -</p> <p> Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>December 21</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS PARTY</p>