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Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems

Volume 46 June 2025

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

A message from the President...

Dear Members,

I would like to thank all members for helping with the show, It was the most successful show we have had and we could not of done it without the help of everyone.

We will discuss your ideas or improvements for next years show so let us know what we can do different including any changes to the Show playbook.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to teach a workshop, please see Shirley.

Looking forward to seeing you all this Saturday (June 21st) including all our new members.

Sincerely,

President Peter M.



Board Meeting No Meeting this month

Notes from the editor ...

Meeting: June 21, 2025 at 9am Herbert Wilson Recreational Center Potluck lunch . . . Bring a dish

<u>Door Prizes:</u> Please bring a door prize to donate. See Cindy Braden

Gems of the Month:

Alexandrite, Pearls, Moonstone

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

Workshops:

Laura & Lynn – Chainmaille Rose Ring

Program: N/A

New Member: Welcome all new

members.

2025 Workshop Instructors needed

Please Contact Workshop Chairman, Shirley at 228-594-9673 Msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Show Chairman: Beverly B.

Email: gulfportgems.show@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



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society



April 19, 2025

Called to Order Time: 1:05 p.m. by President Peter M.

Members in attendance: Shirley R.; Peter M.; Julie B.; Sue S.; Allan E.; Leslie J.; Rosalind D.; Karen W.; Lisa F.; Laura T.; Helen D.; Niccola H.; Cynthia B.; Lynn T.; Nicole G.; Beverly B.; Jina M.; Sue W.; Reba S.; Sharon G.; Sheryl R.

Program: The gem of the month is diamond, and there were no specimens brought in.

<u>Show & Tell:</u> Allan brought in some copper projects he made. Some of the beads were made using a dopping block and Allan demonstrated how he made some of them. Sheryl brought in some drawers and compartment boxes full of crystals, fossilized wood, agates, and other stones.

Meeting:

Leslie made a motion to accept the minutes from the March meeting. Cindy seconded the motion and after no objections, motion carried. Jina will not be able to use the scholarship to go to William Holland and therefore it passes to Leslie.

Treasurer's Report: Report given by Nicole G.

Nicole reported that the CD was the same as last month, \$XXX. Nicole deposited \$XXX into the equipment account and the balance is \$XXX. Nicole looked into having a separate checking account for the Show, but it would be \$10.00 a month, so she decided to not go forward with getting a separate checking account for the Show. Nicole will keep a separate Show ledger.

Nicole stated that she bought 400 checks (\$41.00), so we will have checks for a long time. The general checking account is \$XXX and the show balance is \$XXX with another \$XXX still expected from vendors. We have not yet paid for the Shriner's Hall in the amount of \$XXX.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Workshops: Report given by Shirley R. that the following workshops had been scheduled:

June: Laura - Moorish rose chain maille

July: Roz will be demonstrating Tiffany method soldering / 2nd workshop: Work on unfinished projects

August: Julie and Reba - Wire weave cuff

Sue W. - framed pendant

September: Shirley - Spiral beaded necklace

October: Sue S. – Spiders

November: Peter and Helen - Introduction to resin

December: Christmas Party Newsletter: No report.

Facebook: See report under Show.

Webmaster: No report. Equipment: No report.

Sunshine: A lifetime member, John Wright, passed away in March and a card was sent to his family expressing what a valued member of the club he was and how he will be missed by everyone.

Show:

Thursday Set Up - Beverly said we have 108 tables that will need set up on Thursday, May 15th and has a sign-up sheet. Set up will start at 1:00 p.m.

In order for the Seabees to help, they need a letter on letterhead. Beverly and Peter will work on that.

Friday Vendor's Lunch - For anyone that can bring food for the vendor's lunch, please have it to the Shriner's by 10:30 a.m. If you are setting up on Thursday, you can bring your food and leave it at the Shriner's then.

Fence Banners - Nicole brought in two banners from storage. Adam will put up the banner on the Pass Road Elementary School. Sheryl will put up a banner on the Orange Grove Elementary School.

Aprons/Shirts for Members to Wear at the Show - Lisa said that she went to Southern Printing, but they did not have a vest that would be suitable for members. Lisa suggested aprons and there was a discussion about aprons vs. vests vs. shirts but the discussion was tabled for now since it will not affect the show this year.

Attire: Members are asked to wear a dark green shirt for our club's colors and also to wear your name tag.



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society



Advertising:

Banners - Sheryl has contacted Pass Road Elementary and Orange Grove Elementary about putting the banners on their fences. She spoke to the secretaries at each school and will get confirmation once Spring Break is over.

Billboards - We will have four billboards this year (plus a free one!) with Lamar. There are several designs that will be rotated. One will have a countdown until the event.

Postcards - Nicole brought in some postcards for members to hand out - mail out - or share on their Facebook.

Weather Channel - Sheryl has reached out to the Weather Channel and sent an e-mail but did not hear back. She will follow up.

WLOX - T.V. interview - Sue W. will do an interview on WLOX.

Facebook - Laura reported that ads for the 2025 Show will be coming out soon on Facebook. Laura asked if we belonged to Scribe and someone said no, we do not. Nicole created a list of Facebook pages (communities, etc.) where members might post about the upcoming Show and passed them out.

Signs - Road/street signs will be put in Bay St. Louis/Waveland by Lisa; Nicole will put signs up in Pass Christian, Long Beach, Gulfport, and Biloxi and along the interstate.

Transportation - Tractor Supply was contacted regarding an enclosed type trailer to bring everything to the show, but they do not have rentals. Laura has an 8 foot flatbed, but no one has a hitch to pull it with. Nicole said that a relative of hers may have a flatbed trailer of some sort and will look into that. Lisa will contact U-Haul again and get a quote for an enclosed trailer rental.

Gifts for new members - Nicole had a sample of a magnet and passed it around for everyone to see. Any new members who sign up at the show will get a magnet and if they pay their dues in full for the first year, they will get a free loupe. Peter made a motion that we approve the purchase of the loupes and magnets. Lisa F. seconded the motion and after no objections, motion carried.

Raffle - Beverly B. contacted Brewer's Alley was about an item that the club might get that could be raffled off. Beverly did not hear back from Brewer's Alley. After a discussion, it was agreed that it was too late at this point to try to do a raffle.

Demonstrations - There will be faceting, chainmaille, viking knit, and beading demonstrations.

Display Cases - The club has 10-12 cases. They will display projects made by members. Please let Beverly know what you have to put in the cases and Sheryl will type a list of the projects to put with each piece.

Misc. - Peter will check with the dino man to see if he is coming as well as the geo man.

Kid's Corner - Cindy B. will be on the right side of the Shriner's Hall this year and demonstrations will be on the left.

Librarian: No report.

COMMUNICATION:

Old Business: No report. New Business: No report.

Split the Pot: \$XX was collected and Laura won Split the Pot and received \$XX.

Door Prizes: All won door prizes!! If you have any door prizes to donate, please bring them to the next meet-

ıng.

Adjournment: Julie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded the motion and there being no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

.

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 Anniversary
Diane B.
Glady D.
Brian M.
Sue W.
Karen Wi.

June Workshop

Chainmaille Rose Ring

Kits Available \$5.00



Material:

8 to 14 –18g 5/32

9—18g 3/8

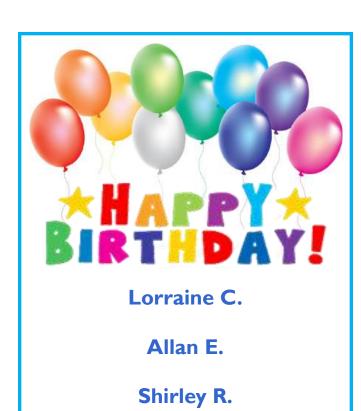
2—18g 3/16

25—20g 7/64

Tools:

Bent Nose pliers

Flat Nose Pliers

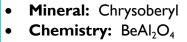






Wedding Anniversaries — 55th

FACTS





Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.010

Specific Gravity: 3.73Mohs 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.

Wedding Anniversaries — 13th

FACTS



• Mineral: Feldspar

• **Chemistry:** KAlSi₃O₈

• 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.



FACTS

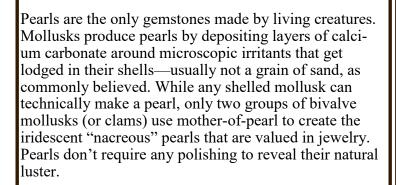
Mineral: Calcium Carbonate

Chemistry: CaCO₃

Color: White, black, gray, yellow, orange, pink, lav-

ender, green, blue

Refractive Index: 1.52-1.69
Specific Gravity: 2.60-2.85
Mohs Hardness: 2.5-3.0



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.

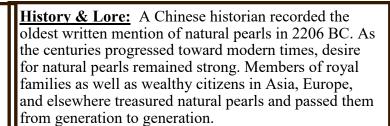
Pearls are very soft, ranging between 2.5 and 4.5 on the Mohs scale. They are sensitive to extreme heat and acidity; in fact, calcium carbonate is so susceptible to acid that pearls will dissolve in vinegar.

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.





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.

Four major types of cultured whole pearls:

- <u>Akoya</u>—This type is most familiar. Japan and China both produce saltwater akoya cultured pearls.
- <u>South Sea</u>—Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines are leading sources of these saltwater cultured pearls.
- <u>Tahitian</u>—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.
- <u>Freshwater</u>—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.

"In The Spotlight" Largest Alexandrite





It's available. . . Up for grabs in Colombo is the world's largest 'Alexandrite'— weighing 429.60 carets. 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 Alexandrite, 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.







CUTOFF WHEELS

Cutoff wheels are inexpensive and do a great job cutting or shaping steel. You can use them to sharpen tool points, cut piano wire to length, make slots, and sharpen worn drills. Other uses include modifying pliers and making your own design stamps.

My preference is the one inch diameter size. Be sure to hold the wheel firmly so nothing moves to break the disk, and definitely wear your safety glasses. Those are little flakes of steel coming off the disk.

BTW - Cutoff wheels are poor at soft metals like copper, silver and gold. Soft metals clog up the cutting edges.





DEBURRING JUMP RINGS

When cutting jump rings from large gauge wire for chainmaking, you'll notice the saw leaves a small burr. An easy way to remove these is to tumble the rings with some fine-cut pyramids. It's best not tumble for a long period with the pyramids because it will remove the polished finish from the wire.

No tumbler, no problem. You don't actually need a tumbler. I just put a handful of pyramids in a wide mouth plastic jar and shake for a bit. You can find these pyramids in the tumble finishing section of most jewelry supply catalogs.



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

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Southeast Federation News

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AFMS 2025 Annual Convention
TRA

SFMS 2025 Annual Convention

June 14th, 2025 Young Harris, Ga.

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts 706-379-2126

Register Now at:

www.lapidaryschoolregistration.org

Federation Week Jun 8 - 14, 2025

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.

<u>Federation Weeks</u> August 11th -17th 2nd Week September 15th - 21st

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

UN STORMAN OF THE STO

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



Other Interests:

International Society of Glass Blowers
Visit site if you like Lampworking

Website: www.isgb.org



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Information



Officers 2025

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Equipment Chairmen

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Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Mississippi State Director

Peter Mastroianna 609-367-3489

Past President SFMS

John Wright osjbw21@gmail.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

<u>Directions:</u> 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:

<u>www.gulfportgems.org</u> or https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems

2025 MEETING DATES

Jan 18th May SHOW 17th & 18th
Feb 15th June 21st Sept 20th
Mar 15th July 19th Oct 18th
Apr 19h Aug 16th Nov 15th

Dec 20th Christmas Party

Newsletter Editor



Lisa Fitch

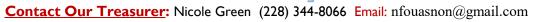
Submit newsletter articles to: lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

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



Membership Form





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	0	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/Yea	er)	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:				
Minerals Kumihimo O			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.		\$10.00 Each	DUES: \$	
Dues: NEW No Proration Circle One RENEWAL Deadline: 3rd Saturday of January		TOTAL: \$		
SIGNATURES				
How did you hear about our society?				
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.

Shows and Events

6/7/2025—COLFAX, NC: Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club: Piedmont Triad Farmers Market,

Sandy Springs Rd., Colfax NC; Sat. 9-5, Open Air Rain or Shine 12th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show. Gem Sluicing, free geodes for kids 12 and under. Free admission, free parking. Website: www.facebook.com/GGMCrocks

7/25-78/2025—FRANKLIN, NC: Franklin Chamber of Commerce/Gem & Mineral Society of

Franklin NC: Robert C. Carpenter Community Building, 1288 Georgia Road, Franklin, NC; Fri. & Sat. 10-6 & Sun 10-4, Adults \$3; 12 & Under FREE; Contact Linda Harabuck, (828) 524-3161;

Email: lindah@franklin-chamber.com; Link(s): Website: www.visitfrankinnc.com

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

2025 Jan. 10, 11, & 12 March 14, 15, & 16 June 27, 28, & 29

Sept 5 & 6 November 14, 15, & 16

Save \$1.00 off admission to any AKS Gem Show

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...

Offer Expires: no expiration.



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HCGMS 2025 Workshops

