

Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems

Volume 46 August 2025 Number 8



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 everyone who attended this past meeting. It was AMAZING to see so many people working on so many different projects! Roz's Tiffany Soft Solder demo was excellent! Thank you so much! To all our new members and visitors that attended, welcome, I hope we'll see more of you in the future! Next Month, Reba will be teaching a wire weave bracelet, unfortunately she'll only be able to have 10 slots. The signup sheet went around at the meeting, and I believe there's one slot left. For everyone else we'll have open projects. Hope to see everyone on the 16th!

Sincerely,

President Peter M.

No Board Meeting this month

Notes from the editor . . .

Meeting: August 16, 2025 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: Peridot

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

Workshops:

Wire Weave Bracelet By Reba & Julie ****Workshop Full****
All other - Unfinished Projects

Program: N/A

2025 Workshop Instructors needed

Please Contact Workshop Chairman,
Shirley at **228-594-9673**

Msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Show Chairman: Open

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



July 19th, 2025

Called to Order Time: 1:17 p.m. by President Pete M.

Members in attendance: 30

Shirley R.; Lynn T.; Sue S.; Lisa F.; Janice J.; Helen D.; Sheryl R.; Nicole G.; Julie B.; Judi M.; Rosalind N.; Mike S.; Sue W.; Leslie J.; Laura T.; Jina M.; Karen W.; Jace B.; Niccola H.; Lance H.; Reba S.; Buddy S.; Sharon G.; Peter M.; Donnie L.; Kay L.; Gretchen B.; Allan E.

GUESTS: Londyn S., Bunny B. (sister of Jance J.)

Welcome to new members: Janice J., Donnie L., and Kay L.

Gemstone of the Month: Ruby

Program: Roz demonstrated soldering Tiffany Method

Show & Tell: Reba S. showed some items she made at William Holland.

Meeting:

Lisa F. made a motion to accept the June minutes. Karen W. seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion carried.

Peter M. noted that we need a new show chairman for the May 2026 Show. Beverly B. will assist and help coordinate.

Treasurer's Report: By Nicole G.:

General Fund: \$ XXX; Show Account: \$XXX (but is about \$10 off); CD: \$ XXX

Equipment Fund: \$ XXX. Leslie J. made a motion to accept the June treasurer's report. Lisa F. seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Workshops: Shirley R. reported that Julie and Reba were going to make wire weave bracelets in an upcoming August workshop. Helen and Gretchen plan on a demonstration using resin.

Peter M. said that he would teach a viking knit bracelet at some point when needed.

Newsletter: No report.

Facebook: No report.

Webmaster: No report.

Equipment: No report, but discussion was held about the broken saw and the fact that a new motor would cost too much to fix it.

Sunshine: Sheryl R. wished all of the members with July birthdays or anniversaries a happy birthday or anniversary and apologized for not sending cards.

Show: Peter M. reminded everyone that we need a Show Chairman and that Beverly B. has volunteered to help the Chairman.

Librarian: No report.

Old Business: No report.

New Business: Peter M. brought up the idea of the group taking a field trip, possibly to the Summerville Mine in Huntsville, AL. He added that members would need to bring a 5-gallon bucket, and that there were no facilities at this location. The Petty Quarry was also mentioned as a possibility and a location in Flowood where petrified wood can be found.

Split the Pot: Split the Pot sales - \$ XX Gretchen won \$XX.

Door Prizes: There were some wonderful door prizes and encouraged everyone to donate some door prizes if you have anything to bring it to the next meeting.

Adjournment: Peter M. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Helen seconded the motion. There were no objections and motion carried.

Squash Casserole

By Leslie Jancovich

Bake at 350°

3 lbs. Yellow Squash, sliced
5 Tbsp Butter or margarine, divided
½ cup Onion, chopped
1 cup (4 oz) Shredded Cheddar
2 large Eggs, lightly beaten
¼ cup Mayo
2 tsp Sugar
1 tsp salt 20 Ritz Crackers, crushed (about ¾ cup)

Cook squash till tender. Drain well (gently press out excess water). Sauté' onions in 4 Tbsp butter until tender. Stir in squash, cheese & next 4 ingredients. Spoon mixture into lightly greased 11"x7" casserole dish. Melt remaining butter, mix with crushed crackers & sprinkle on top. Bake @ 350° for 30-35 min or until set & golden on top.

Recipe is from Southern Living

NAME TAGS: If you don't have a name tag, please contact Nicole to order one as everyone needs one. All name tags must be PAID IN ADVANCE before ordering.

Thought of the Day . . .

"Good words

*bring good feelings to
the heart. Speak with
kindness, always."*



Rod Williams



*Hannilore W.
Buddy & Reba S.
Karen C.*

**Happy
Birthday**

Nicole G.

Donald L.

Iris L.

Bridget W.

Karen W.

Hannilore W.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop Chairman:
msrobinson2u@icloud.com

August 16, 2025



Shirley Robinson
228-594-9673

Wire Weave Bracelet

By Reba & Julie

Limited to 10 people

Kits: \$10.00 in copper



Workshop Full

16 ga. 36" 4 pieces cut 9" each

26 ga. 9" For wrapping

Workshop

Unfinished Projects: Please Bring your unfinished projects and let's complete them.

Volunteers are needed for 2025
Workshops
Show & Tell
Programs

Please consider volunteering!
A program can be
anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes.
Demonstrate how to do something.

Contact Shirley to schedule

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

Peridot

15th Wedding Anniversary

Facts



- ♦ **Mineral:** Olivine
- ♦ **Chemistry:** $(\text{MgFe})_2\text{SiO}_4$
- ♦ **Color:** Yellowish green
- ♦ **Refractive index:** 1.65 to 1.69
- ♦ **Birefringence:** 0.035 to 0.038
- ♦ **Specific gravity:** 3.34
- ♦ **Mohs Hardness:** 6.5 to 7

Peridot is the gem variety of the mineral Olivine. Its chemical composition includes iron and magnesium, and iron is the cause of its attractive yellowish green colors. Volcanic rocks called basalts are rich in these two elements where the gem is often occurs.

The range of color for Peridot is narrow, from a brown-green color to yellowish green to pure green. The most common Peridot seen in jewelry is yellowish green.

Peridot found by gem miners as irregular nodules (rounded rocks with Peridot crystals inside) in some lava flows in the United States, China, and Vietnam. Rarely, as large crystals lining veins or pockets in certain types of solidified molten rock. Sources for the latter include Finland, Pakistan, Myanmar, and the island of Zabargad.

Believed by geologists both types of deposits relate to the spreading of the sea floor that occurs when the earth's crust splits, and rocks from its mantle are pushed up to the surface. Sometimes—as in Myanmar—these rocks can be altered, deformed, and incorporated into mountain ranges by later earth movements. Being contained in meteorites that have fallen to earth, Peridot can have an extraterrestrial source. In 2005, they found Peridot in comet dust brought back from the Stardust robotic space probe.

Ancient History: The Egyptians called Peridot the “gem of the sun”. Mainly because Peridot has always been associated with light. Some believed that it protected its owner from “terrors of the night,” especially when it was set in gold. Others strung the gems on donkey hair and tied them around their left arms to ward off evil spirits.

The word Peridot comes from the Arabic “faridat,” which means “gem.” Peridot is delivered to the surface by volcanoes because it forms deep inside the earth. Some also came to earth in meteorites, but this extraterrestrial Peridot is extremely rare, and not likely to be seen in a retail jewelry store. (*John Wright owns meteorite slabs with this Peridot. See Picture on page 7*)

On an island in the Red Seas called Topazios (now known as St. John's Island or Zabargad) early records indicate that the ancient Egyptians mined a beautiful green gem. According to legend, the island was infested with snakes, making mining unpleasant until an enterprising pharaoh drove them into the sea.

People confused this stone from the earliest times, now known to be Peridot—with other gems. It was one of many labeled as “topaz.”

Believed by some historians that Cleopatra's famous emerald collection might actually have been Peridot. People in medieval times continued to confuse Peridot with emerald. For centuries, people believed the fabulous 200-ct. gems adorning the shrine of the Three Holy Kings in Germany's Cologne Cathedral were emeralds. They are, in fact, Peridots.





Peridots



Natural History Museum in London
146.10 Carat peridot



Largest Rough Peridot



ZABARGAD CRYSTAL

This gorgeous 346.45 carat crystal of peridot from Zabargad Island, Egypt is in GIA's gem collection.



4.98-ct. Peridot
Designer-cut

**Largest
Cut Peridot**



312 CARAT GEM

311.80 carat Peridot from Zabargad Island, Egypt. It is in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History located at the Smithsonian Institution.



John Wright's
Rare Meteorite slab
with peridot.



GREEN GODDESS

This flawless 154 carat Zabargad Peridot is located at the Chicago Field Museum. In 1893 it was purchased at the World's Columbian Exposition.

“In The Spotlight”

John Wright’s Peridot from Space



The Peridots are Olivine xtals contained in a pallasite which is a type of meteorite. The ones I have are from Kansas and Russia.

They were found by the “Meteorite Men” a series that appeared on TV. I purchased it from one of them at the show in Tulsa, OK a few years ago.

The xtals pictured here are washed out. They are actually a golden green in color.

This meteorite contains olivine in a nickel-iron matrix. Pallasitic Peridot is the only gemstone that comes from space and it is exceedingly rare.

Steve Arnold is a full time meteorite hunter/dealer since 1992. He is co-host of the television show “Meteorite Men” along with his good friend, Geoffrey Notkin. The show in reruns can be seen on the Science and Discovery Channel in reruns. They are also on Facebook and have a website at www.meteoritemen.com if you wish to visit their site.

Pallasite Meteorite Slice Owned by John Wright

John has brought these to the club to see in the pass and they are fascinating!



Bench Tips from Brad



BEZEL PROBLEMS

When bezel setting a cab that has rather sharp corners, have you ever had problems pushing the metal down at the corners? It's a common problem often causing a wrinkle in your bezel and a grimace on your face.

In order for a bezel to capture the stone, the top edge of the bezel must be compressed and become shorter to lay down onto the stone. With a round or oval stone this naturally happens as you push and burnish the bezel. But when setting a stone with corners, the tendency is to push the long sides of the bezel down first. No compression occurs along the sides, and all excess metal is left at the corners. Compressing everything there is difficult. Often the only way to remove the extra metal at the corner is to make a saw cut and fold the two sides in to touch.

If you want a smooth bezel all around the corners, the simple solution is to set the corners of the bezel first. Then push in and burnish the sides. In this way the necessary compression is distributed along the length of all sides and not forced to occur at the corners. With the corners set first, the top edge of the bezel can easily be compressed along the sides.

CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or more sodium bisulfate.

An added benefit is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime often found floating on the top of the pot.



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>

www.bradsmithjewelry.com

Articles are copyrighted by Brad Smith





Southeast Federation News

S.F.M.S. Newsletter

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Email: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com Or

Editor: **Cindy Reed**

Can be read online:

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

www.amfed.org

SFMS 2025 Annual Convention

March 1-3, 2025

Live Oak, FL

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.

Federation Weeks August 11th -17th

2nd Week September 15th - 21st



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

American Federation News



A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscriptions are \$5.00 per year

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

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42 Jefferson Avenue

Patchogue, NY 11772-1008

Centraloffice.amfed@gmail.com PH: 516-449-5341

AFMS 2025 Annual Convention

TBA

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

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 2025

President - Peter Mastroianna h1ghspeed@mac.com

Vice President - Lisa Fitch lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

Secretary - Sheryl Rogers sdr@frslaw.com

Treasurer - Nicole Green nfouasnon@gmail.com

Directors

Reba Shotts (3 yr.) Buddynrebashotts@bellsouth.net

Jina Martin (2 yr.) jinamartin@hotmail.com

Sue West (1 yr.) msuewest@bellsouth.net

Committee Members

Show Chairman

OPEN

Workshop Chairman

Shirley Robinson msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Equipment Chairmen

Cindy Braden 228-243-2665

Field Trip Chairman

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Librarian Chairman

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Assistant Webmaster

Nicole Green nfouasnon@gmail.com

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Mississippi State Director

Peter Mastroianna 609-367-3489

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>

2025 MEETING DATES

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

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:		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.

Shows and Events

9/26-28/2025—EAST FLAT ROCK, NC: Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society: National Guard Armory (Beside Ingle's) - 2025 Spartanburg Hwy., East Flat Rock, NC 28726; Fri. & Sat. 10-6 & Sun 10-5, Adult Admission \$ 5.00. Children under 12 are free with paying Adult. Free parking. Link(s): <https://wp.hcgms.com/gem-show/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136940423038426>

9/27-28/2025—OCEAN SPRINGS, MS: Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society: Ocean Springs Civic Center, 3730 Bienville Blvd. (HWY 90), Ocean Springs, MS 39564; Sat. 10-6 & Sun 10-5, Adult Admission \$ 5.00. Children under 12 are free with paying Adult. Link(s): www.mgcgms.org For more information contact Barbie at mgcgms@bellsouth.net or 228-238-9900

10/18-19/2025—PORT ST. LUCIE, FL: St. Lucie County Rock and Gem Club: MidFlorida Event Center 9221 SR Civic Center Place, Port St. Lucie, FL 34952; Sat. 9-5 & Sun 10-4, Adult Admission \$ 6.00. Children are free with paying Adult. Free parking. Link(s): www.sclrockandgem.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

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**

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...](#)









Gulfport Gems, Editor
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Gulfport, MS 39505

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

HCGMS 2025 Workshops

<div>January 18</div> <div>Cellini Spiral Christmas Ornament By Leslie J. Cancel</div> <div>Zip Tie Bracelets Sue S.</div> 	<div>February 15</div> <div>Viking Knit By Julie B.</div> <div>Cellini Spiral Christmas Ornament By Leslie J.</div> <div>Happy Valentines February 14th</div> 	<div>March 15</div> <div>Kumihimo By Nicole G.</div> <div>Mardi Gras March 4</div> <div>St. Patrick's Day 17th</div> 	<div>April 19</div> <div>Wired Earrings By Sue W.</div> <div>Happy Easter April 20</div> 
<div>May 17</div> <div>SHOW 17th & 18th</div>	<div>June 21</div> <div>Chainmaille Rose Ring By Lynn / Laura</div> <div>Program -</div>	<div>July 19</div> <div>Program - Tiffany method soldering By Roz</div> <div>2nd - Unfinished Projects</div> <div>Happy 4th</div> 	<div>August 16</div> <div>Wire Weave Cuff By Julie & Reba</div> <div>**Class Finished**</div> <div>Unfinished Projects</div>
<div>September 20</div> <div>Spiral beaded necklace By Shirley</div> <div>Framed Pendant By Sue W.</div>	<div>October 18</div> <div>Spiders By Sue S,</div>  <div>Happy Halloween</div>	<div>November 15</div> <div>Introduction to resin By Peter / Helen</div> <div>Program -</div>  <div>Happy Thanksgiving</div>	<div>December 20</div>  <div>Merry Christmas</div> <div>CHRISTMAS PARTY</div>