

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems

Volume 46 September 2025 Number 9



Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society

P.O. Box 10136 Gulfport, Ms. 39505



<u>www.facebook.com/gulfportgems</u> <u>Website:</u> 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! Reba and Julie's wire weaved bracelet project was a lot of fun and their instruction 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!

We had some great conversation about new equipment and next years' show and Helen and Kathy volunteered to head the show committee. I know we'll have a great show with them in charge!

Next Month, Shirl and Leslie will be teaching a chunky spiral bracelet. Kits will be available for \$2. Check our website (https://www.gulfportgems.org/workshops) for needed materials for the project if you want to bring your own.

Hope to see everyone on the 20th!

Sincerely,

President Peter M.

No Board Meeting this month

Notes from the editor . . .

Meeting: September 20, 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: Sapphire

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

Workshops:

Chunky Spiral Bracelet By Shirley and Leslie

Program: N/A

Nominating Committee: See page 3

2025 Workshop Instructors needed

Please Contact Workshop Chairman, Shirley at 228

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

Workshops are posted on both.

www.gulfportgems.org



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society



August 16, 2025

Called to Order Time: 1:01 p.m. by President Peter M.

Members in attendance: 27 Jina M.; Julie B.; Alan E.; Lisa F.; Sue S.; Leslie J.; Helen D.; Gladys D.; Karen W.; Bernadette M.; Peter M.; Beverly B.; Shirley R.; Sue W.; Mary T.; Lynn T.; Laura T.; Nicola H.; Reba S.; Buddy S.; Donald L.; Sheryl R.; Sharon G.; Christel M.; Abigail M.; Andrew M.; Iris L.

Program: None

Meeting: Peter welcomed new members Crystal, Andi, and Abbie as well as Mary D. from Perkinston, Ms. The August workshop was done by Julie B. and Reba S. who taught how to make a copper wire weave bracelet. It was a full class. Peter asked if everyone read the minutes. Copies of the minutes we passed around for everyone to read.

Treasurer's Report: By Nicole G. - Presented by Lisa F. - The checking account balance is \$XXX + \$XXX from the show which comes to \$XXX. Nicole spent \$20.31 on pantry items and \$48.00 on Webstar to keep our website secure. The equipment account is \$XXX. We had \$3.00 fee for using machines and 50/50 last month made \$XX. The CD was the same at \$XXX. Leslie made a motion to accept the July treasurer's report. It was seconded by Julie and there were no objections. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Workshops: Report by Shirley R.

September – Shirley and Leslie J. - Spiral Bracelet. You can bring any two different colored seed beads or any beads any size and Fireline and jump rings.

October – Sue W. - framed pendant and Sue S. - a class on making a spider.

November, Helen and Gretchen will have a workshop on using resin. More like a Demonstration / Program.

December – Christmas Party

Newsletter: Report by Lisa F. No report.

Facebook: Report by Laura T. She reported that she got a message from Vicki Reynolds from MS. Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society that lifetime member John Wright, who recently passed away and his daughter is selling lapidary items. Laura read a list of items available for sale. If you are interested give me your name and I will contact Vicki and let her know. The family has a large oil saw, metal lathe, and quite a few specimens, drafting table, etc. for sale if anyone is interested.

Alan gave a description of the \$1600.00 saw for sale which uses oil. It is big and messy. But it is too big for the club.

Webmaster: Report by Leslie J. No report.

Equipment: Report by Alan / Cindy B. not present

Leslie and Lisa brought up buying a Pepe ring cutter. Alan explained to the members what it does. Peter said it cost several hundred dollars. He will investigate it before next month.

Sunshine: Report by Sheryl No report



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society



August 16, 2025 July Minutes Continued

Show: A show chairman is still needed for the show in May 2026. Beverly will be around to help whoever takes over that position. Alan said it is more than a one-person job. We have no openings from vendors. That is done! We need someone to volunteer to be the co-chair. Laura T. noted that the show's money goes to paying for scholarships and Lisa F. said it is also for operating costs of the club, which are between \$1,500.00 and \$2,000.00 per year. After the operating costs are subtracted from the profits of the show than that determines how many scholarships are given the following year. We need to get names on a list for show duties in October.

Librarian: It was noted that some VHS tapes and books were found in boxes in the storage unit. They need to be cataloged, and Peter and Bernadette volunteered for the job.

Old Business: None

New Business: Laura T. said she is ordering stainless steel mixed shot from Rio and if anyone needs any, she can order it, and they can pay when they arrive.

Reba S. made a motion to *buy five new tool kits* for new members to use - small sets with five or so standard hand tools. *They cannot leave the club on loan but only to use during the workshops*. Peter asked Reba to get prices on kits, and we will vote on the dollar amount next month. Beverly seconded the motion . No objections, motion carried to buy kits. Reba also made a motion to *buy a tumbler too which includes shot*. Beverly seconded it. No objections, motion carried. Peter said he will pick one up at Harbor Freight.

Beverly recommended using JETBRAD. He is a wholesaler and if you order from Fire Mountain copy your order to him and you can get it cheaper than ordering directly from Fire Mountain.

Leslie mentioned an idea of the club buying findings and Fireline for the club for projects. After some discussion, the suggestion was tabled.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society will be holding their annual show which includes a raffle the last weekend of September. Allan E. made a desk for the raffle and Buddy S. donated a butterfly pendant necklace. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

Split the Pot: Split the pot brought in \$38.00 and ? won.

Door Prizes: There were lots of door prizes and members were asked to bring any door prizes they have to the next meeting.

Adjournment: Motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. There were no objections, and the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We will be putting together a Nominating Committee in September. Please think about volunteering to help put our slate of officers together for 2026.

September - Nominating Committee put together
October - Published in Gulfport Gems Newsletter
November - Election / Paper ballot for Slate of officers

December - Sworn In of new 2026 board

Corn Souffle

Roberta Meyer's Recipe provided by Sue West

Jiffy Corn Casserole

1 can cream style corn

1 can whole style corn, drain 1/2 c. Liquid off

2 eggs, beaten

3/4 stick melted butter

1 (8oz.) carton sour cream

1 sm. box jiffy cornbread mix

1 c. Grated cheddar cheese

Mix all ingredients together. Bake in slightly oiled 9 x 13 pan at 325 degrees for 30 minutes or until firm. Stir when outside of pan starts to thicken.

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 . . .



Happy Anniversary



Buddy & Reba S.





Beverly B.
Sue S.
Nancy B,
.Marie M.
Liz P.



WORKSHOPS

Workshop Chairman:

msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Sept. 20, 2025



Shirley Robinson 228-594-9673

Chunky Spiral Bracelet

By Shirley & Leslie

Kits Available \$2.00 in 6/0 seed beads



MATERIAL:

6/0 or 8/0 Seed Beads - 2 Color 6# Fireline Clasp Jump Rings Crimp Covers & wire protectors - Optional

TOOLS:

#10 or #12 Beading Needle Beading Mat Scissors

Workshop

Please bring something to work on if your not taking the workshop.

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

Sapphire

Anniversaries 5th & 45th

FACTS

* Mineral: Corundum* Chemistry: Al₂O₃

* Color: Every color but red

Refractive index: 1.762 to 1.770Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.010

Specific gravity: 4.00Mohs Hardness: 9

Blue sapphire belongs to the mineral species corundum. It can be a pure blue but ranges from greenish blue to violetish blue. The name "sapphire" can also apply to any corundum that's not red and doesn't qualify as ruby, another corundum variety.

Besides blue sapphire and ruby, the corundum family also includes so-called "fancy sapphires." They come in violet, green, yellow, orange, pink, purple, and intermediate hues. Some stones exhibit the phenomenon known as color change, most often going from blue in daylight or fluorescent lighting to purple under incandescent light. Sapphires can even be gray, black, or brown.

Fancy sapphires are generally less available than blue ones, and some colors are scarce, especially in very small or very large sizes. Still, fancy sapphires create a rainbow of options for people who like the romance associated with this gem, but who also want something out of the ordinary.

Corundum is composed only of aluminum and oxygen, and it requires a growth environment that's free of silicon. Silicon is a very common element, making natural corundum relatively uncommon. In its purest state, corundum is actually colorless. Colorless sapphires were once popular diamond imitations, and they've staged a comeback as accent stones in recent years. Nonetheless, they are rare.

Color-causing trace elements of iron and titanium, cause the corundum to be a blue sapphire. The more iron a corundum has the darker the blue. But only a few hundredths of a percent of iron and titanium can cause the color. Chromium can cause the red color of ruby or the pink of pink sapphire.

Discoveries in the 1990s from East Africa and Madagascar brought fancy sapphires widespread recognition. Increasing the availability of yellows, oranges, pinks and purples the new sources supplemented production from traditional ones like Sri Lanka and Madagascar. Corundum can show a phenomenon called asterism, or

the star effect. This phenomenon usually appears as a six-ray star pattern across a cabochon-cut stone's curved surface.

The star effect can be seen in ruby or any color of sapphire, and it arises from white light reflecting from numerous tiny, oriented needle-like inclusions.

Besides fancy sapphire and star corundum, there's another interesting variety: color-change sapphire. These fascinating stones change color under different lighting. Their presence adds a special dimension to the already amazing corundum family of gems.

Both blue and fancy sapphires come from a variety of exotic sources including Madagascar, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Australia.

"Parti sapphires" are those sapphires which show two or more colors in a single stone. The only color which sapphire cannot be is red - as red colored corundum is called ruby, another corundum variety.

Commonly, natural sapphires are cut and polished into gemstones and worn in jewelry. They also may be created synthetically in laboratories for industrial or decorative purposes in large crystal boules.

Ancient History: The Sapphire symbolizes nobility, truth, sincerity, and faithfulness. Being associated with royalty and romance for centuries it has decorated the robes of royalty and clergy members. The association was reinforced in 1981, when Britain's Prince Charles gave a blue sapphire engagement ring to Lady Diana Spencer until her death in 1997. Her sapphire ring helped link modern events with history and fairy tales. Kings and queens in ancient times from Greece and Rome were convinced that by wearing blue sapphires protected them from envy and harm. The clergy in the Middle Ages wore blue sapphires to symbolize Heaven, while it was thought by ordinary folks that the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Sapphires in other times and places were instilled to have the power to guard chastity, influence spirits, make peace between enemies, and reveal the secrets of oracles.

In folklore, sapphire has always been associated with the color blue. The Greek word *Sappheiros*, which probably referred to lapis lazuli is where Sapphire gets its name.

Padparadscha, which means "lotus flower" in Sinhalese, the language spoken in Sri Lanka is a special orangy pink sapphire color. Sri Lanka stones were initially the only ones labeled with this marketable name. Many Padparadschas over time have been sifted from Sri Lankan river gravel throughout history.



Bench Tips from Brad



FINDING THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point to-



wards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.

DRILL BREAKAGE



Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

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
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Southeast Federation News

American Federation News



S.F.M.S. Newsletter

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Email: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com_Or

Editor: Cindy Reed

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

www.amfed.org

SFMS 2025 Annual Convention

March 1-3, 2025

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

A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscriptions are \$5.00 per year

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS" **AFMS Central Office**

Cheryl Nearly 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



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

President- Peter Mastroiannah1ghspeed@mac.comVice President- Lisa Fitchlapidaryarts@hotmail.comSecretary- Sheryl Rogerssdr@frslaw.comTreasurer- Nicole Greennfouasnon@gmail.comDirectors

Reba Shotts (3 yr.) Buddynrebashotts@bellsouth.net
Jina Martin (2 yr.) jinamartin@hotmail.com
Sue West (1 yr.) msuewest@bellsouth.net

Committee Members

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Helen Daniels Helen.daniel@gmail.com
Karen Williams KDAW1991@gmail.com

Workshop Chairman

Shirley Robinson msrobinson2u@icloud.com

<u>Equipment Chairmen</u>

Cindy Braden 228-243-2665

<u>Field Trip Chairman</u>

Sharon Greer 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

<u>Librarian Chairman</u>

Sue West msuewest@bellsouth.net

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<u>Assistant Webmaster</u>

Nicole Green nfouasnon@gmail.com

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Mississippi State Director

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:

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 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

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	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.



Presented by The Gem and Mineral Society of Louisiana

ALARIO CENTER 2000 Segnette Blvd., Westwego | gmsofla.org



October 3-5 FRI & SAT 10am-6pm SUN 10:30am-4pm



Precious Gemstones, Minerals, Fossils, Beads, and Jewelry Demonstrations of Jewelry Making and Cabochon Cutting Geode Cracking and Gem Mining & Much More



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

Oct 3-5 Gem & mineral Society of Louisiana SEE FLYER ON PREVIOS PAGE FOR INFORMATION

10/17-19/2025—KNOXVILLE, TN: Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society: Rothchild Conference Center, 8807 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN; Fri-Sat. 10-6 & Sun 11-5: Adults - \$8, 3 day pass \$15, Children under 12 Free. Link(s): Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society (Facebook)

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

This coupon is good for entrance to any AKS Gem Show! <u>Be sure to check your inbox for additional savings from our exhibitors.</u>

Check our list of shows now..

Offer Expires: no expiration.



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HCGMS 2025 Workshops

