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Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems



Volume 46

December 2025

Number 12

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 hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and enjoyed a peaceful feast with families and friends.

I would like to thank everyone for helping with our thanksgiving buffet this past month. It was wonderful with lots of good food and fun. A special thank you for Allen for cooking the turkey perfectly!

Thank everyone for the demos: Allen and Roz with the ring inlay techniques and Helen and Gretchen for the resin art demo. Both are things I'd like to give a try in the future.

We're planning on another buffet for the Christmas season and there should be another sign-up list circulating shortly. Also, we'll have a Yankee swap/white elephant/gift exchange as well. If you want to participate, bring a wrapped gift (around \$25 and Gem/Mineral themed or other).

As we head into 2026, let's start looking toward our upcoming show and ways to increase and maintain our membership.

To all our new members and visitors that attended, welcome, I hope we'll see more of you in the future!

Hope to see everyone on the 20th!

Sincerely,

President Peter M.



Christmas Party

December 20, 2025

Starts at 11 am

Lunch at Noon

Doors open at 9 am for setup

Please bring a covered dish

We need volunteers

Volunteers needed to help setup the room and to cleanup.



To Play... just bring a gift



"Dirty Santa"

Bring a gift valued at \$25.00

"Lapidary related items"





Notes from the editor . . .

Meeting: December 20, 2025 at 9am
Herbert Wilson Recreational Center
Bring a dish

Your November minutes will be printed in the January 2026 Newsletter as we are not having a meeting this month. We will only be installing our 2026 Board elect.

Gems of the Month:

December: Zircon, Tanzanite, & Turquoise

2025 Workshop Instructors needed— Book now . . .

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



Newly Elected 2026 Board

The Board will be sworn in at our December Christmas Party on December 20, 2025. Please welcome our new Board members.

- President - Peter M.
- Vice president - Lisa F.
- Secretary - Sheryl
- Treasurer - Nicole G.
- Director - Beverly B.


Congratulations



Thought of the Day . . .



Always pray to have eyes that see
the best in people.
A heart that forgives the worst,
A mind that forgets the bad, and
A soul that never loses faith in
GOD.



Happy Birthday

Dan Boudreaux

Cody C. Doris E.

Niccola H. Peter M.



Happy Anniversary

Bernadette B.



Turquoise

11th wedding anniversary

FACTS

- Mineral: Turquoise
- Chemistry: $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4(\text{OH})_{8-5}\text{H}_2\text{O}$
- Color: Blue to green
- Refractive Index: 1.610 to 1.650
- Birefringence: Not detectable
- Specific Gravity: 2.76 (+0.14, -0.36)
- Mohs Hardness: 5 to 6

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

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

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

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

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

This stone can be found in Armenia, Kazakhstan, Chi-

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

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

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

For thousand of years the Native Americans have been using this gemstone to create magnificent jewelry and ornamental pieces. It was called "Chal-cui-hui-tal", meaning "the highest and most valued thing in the world". The Zuni, Hopi, Pueblo and Navajo Indians made magnificent necklaces, ear pendants and rings. The blue in turquoise symbolized the heavens and green symbolized the earth so the stones were used by medicine men to work charms. The Navajo believed that turquoise pieces, thrown into a river while offering a prayer to the rain god, would bring much needed rain. Apache lore held that a turquoise attached to a bow or gun would ensure accurate aim.



Turquoise



A giant turquoise stone thought to be worth 10 million yuan (£1.1 million) has been discovered in Shiyan, China's Hubei province. The mega previous stone weighing 215 kilograms (474 pounds) and over 47" long was put on display on July 7, 2016 reports the People's Daily Online. Shiyan is a big stone mining area with 60 percent of the world's turquoise coming from the region.

The mega stone had been found in Zhushan county a few days before July 7 and was shipped to the city of Shiyan for display. According to Sina English, the stone could be worth 10 million yuan (\$1.5 million). Pictures show the villagers crowding around the giant stone to take a closer look. Turquoise is one of China's four national stones and many people use it to turn into ornaments and furniture.

The world's largest turquoise was registered by the Guinness World Records in 2009. The stone weighs 225 kilograms (496 pounds) and is housed in the Shandong Tianyu Museum of Natural History in China's Shandong province.

From: Dailytrail.co.uk



In 1810, Napoleon gave his second wife, the Empress Maria Louise, this diadem. Originally, diamonds and emeralds were set in this stunning silver and gold crown. In the 1950s, the emeralds were removed and sold individually. They were later replaced with 79 Persian turquoises. "Maria Louise Diadem," Smithsonian Institution, photo by Cliff is licensed under CC BY 2.0

Tanzanite

FACTS

- Mineral: Zoisite
- Chemistry: $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$
- Color: Blue to violet to bluish purple
- Refractive Index: 1.691 to 1.700
- Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.013
- Specific Gravity: 3.35
- Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7



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

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

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

Tanzanite is a pleochroic gem.

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

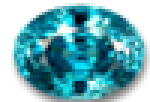


Sources: stluedu, Wikipedia, zoolozv.com, zemozic.com, mineral.com, durandocilver.com, smithsonianmaz.com, eozole.com, dit-brmalloak.

Zircon

FACTS

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



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

The crystals grow in many different types of rock and possess a range of optical and physical properties. Some lower value zircons—usually green ones—were determined by scientists that the crystal structures of these gems were almost completely broken down by radioactive elements—often present in zircon as impurities—that damaged the gems' crystal structure over long periods of geological time. Gemologists classify zircons into three types—high, intermediate, and low depending on the its properties, which are directly related to the amount of radiation-induced damage done to its crystal structure.

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

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

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



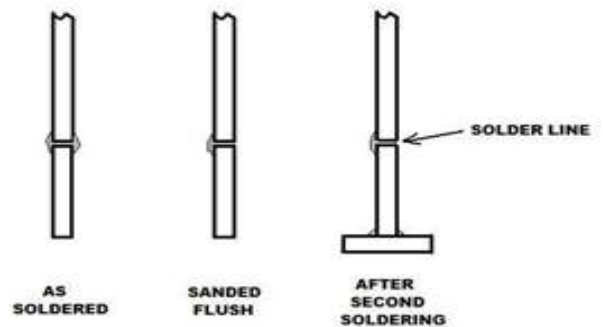
Bench Tips from Brad

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature where solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.



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.



Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

www.bradsmithjewelry.com

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S.F.M.S. Newsletter

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AFMS Central Office

Cheryl Nearly

42 Jefferson Avenue

Patchogue, NY 11772-1008

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

SFMS 2025 Annual Convention

TBA

Live Oak, FL

AFMS 2025 Annual Convention

TBA

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

706-379-2126

Register Now at:

www.lapidaryschoolregistration.org

Federation Week TBA

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 TBA

2nd Week 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.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 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

Helen Daniels Helen.daniel@gmail.com

Workshop Chairman

Shirley Robinson msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Equipment Chairmen

Cindy Braden 228-243-2665

Field Trip Chairman

Sharon Greer 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

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Newsletter Editor

Lisa Fitch lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

Facebook Chairman

Laura Tate wanderingmsrn@gmail.com

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Webmaster Chairman

Leslie Jancovich ljancovich@gmail.com

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

12/13-14/2025—FRANKLIN, TN: Mid-Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society, Inc: Ag Expo Park, 4215 Long Lane • Franklin, TN 37064 20 Miles South of Nashville; I-65, Exit 61; Sat. 9-6, Sun 10 -5, Admission: Adults, \$6.00 (2-Day Pass, \$10.00) • Students 18 & under, \$1.00 Children under 12 with adult, FREE • Scouts in uniform, FREE. Free Parking Website: <http://www.mtgms.org/show.htm>

3/6-3/8/2025—LIVE OAK, FL: Annual Federation Rockhound Roundup; Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies ; Suwannee River Music Park, 3076 95th Drive; Fri. 10-5, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-4; Free; SFMS Member vendors from seven states: FL, GA, TN, MS, NC, SC, AL. Rough rock, slabs, jewelry, cabs, minerals, fossils and more; contact Jason Hamilton, Email: president@southeastfed.org; Website: Southeastfed.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.

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[Check our list of shows now...](#)



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

HCGMS 2025 Workshops

<p>January 18</p> <p>Cellini Spiral Christmas Ornament By Leslie J. Cancel</p> <p>Zip Tie Bracelets Sue S.</p> 	<p>February 15</p> <p>Viking Knit By Julie B.</p> <p>Cellini Spiral Christmas Ornament By Leslie J.</p> <p>Happy Valentines February 14th</p> 	<p>March 15</p> <p>Kumihimo By Nicole G.</p> <p>Mardi Gras March 4</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day 17th</p> 	<p>April 19</p> <p>Wired Earrings By Sue W.</p> <p>Happy Easter April 20</p> 
<p>May 17</p> <p>SHOW 17th & 18th</p>	<p>June 21</p> <p>Chainmaille Rose Ring By Lynn / Laura</p> <p>Program -</p>	<p>July 19</p> <p>Program - Tiffany method soldering By Roz</p> <p>2nd - Unfinished Projects</p> <p>Happy 4th</p> 	<p>August 16</p> <p>Wire Weave Cuff By Julie & Reba</p> <p>**Class Full**</p> <p>Unfinished Projects</p>
<p>September 20</p> <p>Chunky Spiral Bracelet By Shirley & Leslie</p> <p>Program - None</p>	<p>October 18</p> <p>Spiders By Sue S.</p> <p>Framed Pendant By Sue W.</p>  <p>Happy Halloween</p>	<p>November 15</p> <p>Introduction to resin By Peter / Helen</p> <p>Program -</p>  <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>December 20</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS PARTY</p>