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Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Gulfport Gems

Volume 47 May 2026 Number 5



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 am excited about the show. Look at all the years that we have been doing it on the coast. We are trying hard to look at what we did last year and improve on those things that we felt needed improvement.

If you haven't volunteered yet, please do so as we have positions for everybody. Check out page 4 for positions where help is needed. This is our one fundraiser of the year that operates our club and allows us to give scholarships.

Take a minute as you are helping with the show and jot down anything that you feel needs attention.

We will look at these notes as we are reviewing the outcome and see where we can improve.

Hope to see everyone at the show!!

Sincerely,

President Peter M.



SHOW TIME!

Notes from the editor . . .

Meeting:

No Meeting this month.

Gems of the Month:

Emeralds



Workshops: No workshops

**46rd Annual
Harrison County Gem &
Jewelry Show**

May 16 & 17, 2026

Joppa Shrine Temple

Lots of vendors with wonderful merchandise. A great place to get gifts for Graduation. Come shop with us!

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

Workshops are posted on both.

www.gulfportgems.org

www.facebook.com/gulfportgems



Called to Order Time: 1:13 p.m. by Vice President Lisa F.

Members in attendance: Nicole G.; Niccola H.; Shirley R.; Lisa F.; Kyleigh F.; Helen D.; Sheryl R.; Karen W.; Sue W.; Brenda M.; Gladys D; Sue S.; Allen E.; Kay L.; Don L.; Leslie J.; Sharon G.

Meeting: Lisa F. greeted everyone and advised that the March minutes have been distributed. Gladys made a motion to approve the minutes. Helen seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion carried. February minutes were also distributed. Leslie had one correction, that she did not say she would put an advertisement in Mississippi Power regarding the May show. Lisa made a motion to approve the minutes. Sheryl seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion carried. Reba sent information to the Singing River EPA newsletter regarding the May show.

Treasurer's Report: Nicole G. reported that her report covers two months. The balance of the general account is \$XXX. The CD was unchanged at \$XXX. There were some purchases of approximately \$XXX in the equipment fund; \$.xx earned in interest; 50/50 in the amount of \$XX; and \$XX received in membership. We paid out \$XXX to SFMS for membership and another \$XXX to SFMS. We also spent \$XXX on Julie B.'s scholarship. Everything else is show related including vender deposits. Total funds are \$XXX in both accounts. Niccola made a motion to approve the minutes. Allen seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Workshops: Lisa went over the workshops and information was the same as last month:

- May:** Show!
- June:** Cindy - Darling heart earrings / Nicole - TBD
- July:** Beverly - Peyote ring / Lisa - Netted ornament
- Aug.:** Shirley - Orb earrings
- Sept.:** Leslie and Nicolla - TBD
- Oct.:** Sue S. - Spider / Reba - Bracelet
- Nov.:** Sue W. - TBD / Jan S. - Christmas ornament
- Dec.:** Christmas Party!

Newsletter: No Report

Facebook: New Chairman is Katrina R. Passcode or administrator is needed to get in. Nicole will contact Lynn. Nicole will let Katrina know how to get in our Facebook account.

Webmaster: Leslie has Golden ticket and Flyer on the head banner. Now all of the 2026 workshops were now online! She mentioned that the Shriners collect tabs from soft drinks if anyone has any and wants to bring them to the Shriners whenever they come.

Equipment: No report.

Sunshine: No report.

Librarian: No report.

Show: Buddy and Reba will not be at the show due to Buddy's health.

Facebook: *Lead person is Katrina.* Lisa mentioned that we need to figure out the blast and Nicole said we should spend more money on it. Last year we spent over 500.00 and we will leave it to Helen's discretion. Share with friends about the show.

HCGMS - April 18, 2026 Minutes



Admissions: *Lead is Rosalind N-D.* Lisa F., Nicole G., Jan, and Will

Hospitality: Sue W. and Allan

Displays: *Lead is Sue W.* Sue said you can split a box with someone or 4 people to a box. Julie B. and Leslie are interested in a box. But Leslie wants to split a box with someone. Sheryl R. will type labels for the display boxes.

Door Prizes / MC: Shirley but additional help is needed. Leslie will help on Sunday.

Demonstrations: *Lead is Reba S.* Buddy and Reba won't make the show. Members Niccola H., Julie B., Laura and Lynn T., Don and Kay L. as faceting.

Kids' Corner: *Lead is Sheryl R.* she will try to get her husband to help, Jina will also help.

Membership: *Lead is Sue S.*

Stump the Expert: *Sharon G.*

Setup / Breakdown: *Lead is Leslie J.* helpers are Julie B, Peter, and Allan. I need these same people to help breakdown.

Advertising: ? Sheryl said that she gave Peter everything. Lisa sent Helen the emails for Lamar Advertising. Helen signed off on Lamar contract Lisa forwarded but now Helen's email is not working right now. She could not get the proofs Lisa sent. Beverly has the password for show email account, but Nicole said it is a two-step process and cannot use it. Lisa said Lynn would have all the information on the show email account. Sheryl volunteered to contact Lamar and finalize the dates and proofs.

Security: Members needed to handle various tasks and to give breaks to vendors. Allan E., and Leslie is MC on Sunday and will help.

Signs: *Lead is Nicole* Lisa will do Bay St. Louis and Waveland. Nicole will do I-10 but needs help picking them up after the show. Signs are here, please take some. They need to be put out after 5:00 on Friday and picked up before Monday morning.

Dinosaur Display: Helen said Peter and Allan will check on but Allan said they have not heard back. The dinosaur guy and the USM gentleman might or might not be coming this year, but he will check with each of them.

Show Information: *Tablecloths* were discussed and after discussion, it was agreed that we should have them professionally cleaned. Helen made a motion to approve whatever the cost might be to have the tablecloths professionally cleaned. Leslie seconded the motion. There were no objections. Motion carried.

Aprons: Nicole reported she only had 16 aprons done with our emblems on them for members to wear at the show.

COMMUNICATION:

Old Business: In June Peter will be doing the tickets/drawing for the estate items that were donated by Aurora King on behalf of her husband.

New Business: None.

Split the Pot: None

Door Prizes: Everyone went home with something special.

Adjournment: 2:09 PM Motion made by Leslie J. and seconded by Sheryl R.



Harrison County

PRESENTS

46th Annual Gem & Jewelry Show

May 16 & 17, 2026

Saturday

9 –5pm

Adults - \$6.00 / Kids age 10 & under - Free

**** Door Prizes Hourly ****

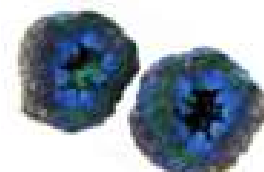
Sunday

9 –4pm



Joppa Shrine Temple

13280 Shriners Blvd. Biloxi, Ms.
North of I-10 / Woolmarket Exit # 41



Jewelry * Rocks * Gems * Beads * Fossils * Minerals

Displays



Bring Flyer for \$1.00 Off

Exhibits

Kids Corner

Stump
the
Expert!

Demonstrations

Gem & Mineral Society

Website: gulfportgems.org



Facebook: facebook.com/gulfportgems/

Email: gulfportgems.show@gmail.com

"The Golden Ticket"

Give the Golden Ticket to a friend!



Volunteers Needed!

Show Chairmen: Helen Daniel / Beverly Baker

Beverly 205-296-3779 bbaker30518@gmail.com

Helen 228-596-7964 gulfportgems.show@gmail.com

Keep in mind we all need a break from time to time and there is a place from every member. Please volunteer and contact the committee person below or our Show Chairman.

Set up & Takedown Committee: Leslie Jancovich (601) 530-6855

We need people for Thursday setup and Sunday for takedown.

Hospitality Committee: Sue West (228) 831-2294

Vendor lunch is served at 11:30 am on Friday and help is needed. We are in need of a few more side dishes and desserts. Make sure your food is there by 10am or you may drop it off on Thursday after 1pm during setup and put in refrigerator in back if needed.

Admissions Committee: Rosalind Norvel-Daniels (228) 918-6381

We need people for Saturday 1-5pm and 2 shifts on Sunday 9-1pm and 1-4pm. Please volunteer this is where we get our money to run the club.

Door Prize Committee: Shirley

(Collect door prizes from vendors and announce door prize winners.

Sign Committee: Those who have signs, please put them out when it is time as discussed at the meeting so we don't lose any. After 5pm on Friday. Lisa will do Bay St. Louis and Waveland. Nicole is doing Interstate 10 from Bay St. Louis to Biloxi. Sharon is doing Pass Christian. If someone can do Hwy. 90 from Long Beach to Biloxi on Hwy. 90 especially by the I-110, Hwy 49 and Beauvoir.

Demo Committee: Reba Shotts (601) 508-6746

All members are encouraged to demo at any time.

Kids' Corner: Sheryl Rogers (228) 326-9965

More people are needed to help Saturday and Sunday.

Advertising: Those who have postcards, please make sure to distribute them. Email flyer or share on Facebook. Tell everybody!

You haven't volunteered yet?

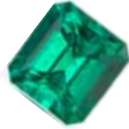


You've got to be kitten me!

Emerald

FACTS

- Mineral: Beryl
- Chemistry: $\text{Be}_3\text{Al}_2\text{Si}_6\text{O}_{18}$
- Color: Vibrant green
- Refractive Index: 1.577 to 1.583
- Birefringence: 0.005 to 0.009
- Specific Gravity: 2.72
- Mohs Hardness: 7.5 to 8



Emerald is the green to greenish blue variety of beryl, a mineral species that also includes aquamarine as well as beryls in other colors.

Gem experts differ on the degree of green that makes one stone an emerald and another stone a less-expensive green beryl. Some people in the trade tend to give the name emerald to any green beryl colored by chromium. But to most gemologists, gemological laboratories, and colored stone dealers, it is more correct to call a stone green beryl when its color is "too light" for it to be classified as emerald. Even among that group, however, there's a difference of opinion about what's considered "too light."

2,860-carat (20.18 oz.) emerald vase carved in 1641, is on display in the Imperial Treasury, Vienna, Austria.

Guinness Emerald Crystal



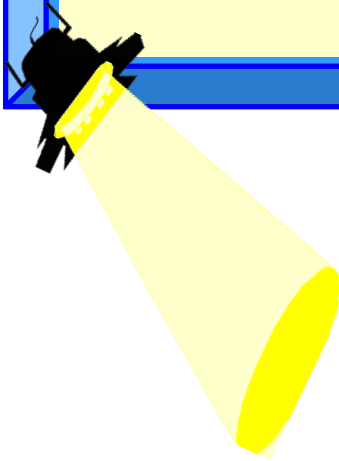
1,759-carat (12.4 oz.)

"Guinness Emerald Crystal" was at one time the largest natural emerald crystal in the world, and is still preserved in its natural crystalline state, at the Banco Nacional de la Republica in Bogotá.

Emerald Unguentarium



“In The Spotlight” Bahia Emerald



The Bahia Emerald was carried out of the rain forest by a team of pack mules. Along the way the mules were killed by a pair of black panthers and had to be carried by a team of men and a hand made stretcher the rest of the trip.

The Bahia Emerald was flown from Sao Paulo Brazil to San Jose California; shortly thereafter the stone was relocated to New Orleans and placed in a vault. Two weeks later Hurricane Katrina struck devastating New Orleans and leaving the vault and the Bahia Emerald submersed under 16' of water for two months before it could be retrieved.

The Emerald was then brought back to San Jose and stored in a seemingly abandoned building. On or about April 8th 2008 it was secretly transferred to an attorney's office in Santa Barbara CA. where it was kept under 24 hour armed guard before being transferred once again to a Private vault known as Commonwealth in South Elmonte, CA.

The Bahia Emerald was transferred in a black Cadillac Escalade driven by Jerry Ferrara and accompanied by Kit Morrison, from the Commonwealth vault to a private vault in Las Vegas Nevada.

The Bahia Emerald was involved in a \$197,000,000 banking transaction with Barnard Madoff, fortunately Madoff was led away by Federal agents just two days before the transaction was to be completed. The Bahia Emerald was involved in a transaction gone wrong involving a well known Columbian family at the Golden Nugget hotel Casino in Los Vegas NV that nearly ended up as a blood bath battle in the Nevada desert. (All identities Withheld).

The Bahia Emerald was reported stolen to the L.A.P.D. by (identity withheld). The Bahia Emerald was questionably seized by L.A.P.D. authorities on or about Christmas eve 2008 in Los Vegas Nevada in an excursion led by Lt. Grubb.

Lt. Grubb began to organize an excursion to Las Vegas On the morning detectives drove to get the emerald, he told his deputies: ""We're going to stop on the way and get breakfast. We're going to pick up a \$400 million piece of evidence. On the way back, we're not stopping." When Lt. Grubb finally laid eyes on the emerald, he said, "It almost didn't look real." Shortly thereafter (Identity withheld) who reported the Bahia Emerald stolen bowed out of the case stating his life was threatened! To this day no criminal charges have been presented and no arrests have been made.

The Bahia Emerald court battle, is one of the largest custody/lawsuits in California history has gained an international following. National Geographic is conducting a 50 minute documentary about the Bahia Emerald and the incredible, almost unbelievable story surrounding it.



Southeast Federation News

S.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscription to Lodestar is FREE electronically

Email: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com Or

Editor: **Cindy Reed**

Can be read online:

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

www.amfed.org

American Federation News



A.F.M.S. Newsletter

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Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

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SFMS 2026 Annual Convention

February 28th—March 2, 2026

Live Oak, FL

AFMS 2026 Annual Convention

TBA

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

706-379-2126

Register Now at:

www.lapidaryschoolregistration.org

Federation Week N/A

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 10th -16th

2nd Week September 7th - 13th

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>



Lisa Ohta, 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 2026

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

Jina Martin (3 yr.) jinamartin@hotmail.com
 Sue West (2 yr.) msuewest@bellsouth.net
 Beverly Baker (1 yr.) bbaker30518@gmail.com

Committee Members

Show Chairman

Helen Daniels Helen.daniell@gmail.com
 Beverly Baker ker30518@gmail.com

Workshop Chairman

Shirley Robinson msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Equipment Chairmen

Cindy Braden 228-243-2665

Field Trip Chairman

Sharon Greer 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

Librarian Chairman

Sue West msuewest@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Fitch lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

Facebook Chairman

Katrina Rogers katrinarogerscontact@gmail.com

Sunshine

Sheryl Rogers sdr@frslaw.com

Webmaster Chairman

Leslie Jancovich ljancovich@gmail.com

Assistant Webmaster

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

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>

2026 MEETING DATES

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

Dec 19th 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: <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 _____	(Each applicant initial interests) Jewelry Interest: <input type="checkbox"/> Beading <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping <input type="checkbox"/> Kumihimo <input type="checkbox"/> Chainmaille <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Knotting <input type="checkbox"/> Silversmithing <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
APPLICATION FEES	
Applications can be mail to: Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society P. O. Box: 10136, Gulfport, Ms. 39505	
Single \$20.00 Family \$30.00 Junior(s) \$10.00 Each	DUES: \$
Dues: <i>Circle One</i> NEW RENEWAL No Proration Deadline: 3rd Saturday of January	TOTAL: \$
SIGNATURES	
How did you hear about our society? _____ I authorize HCGMS to use my picture or likeness for society promotions? YES or NO I authorize HCGMS to include my information in society listings for members only? YES or NO	
Signature of applicant: _____	Date: _____
Signature of co-applicant/spouse (only if for a family membership): _____	Date: _____
*Newsletter will be sent via email @ no charge	
Modified 11/20/17 LF	

Our goal is to promote, educate and stimulate interest in the earth sciences and lapidary arts context.












Gulfport Gems, Editor
P O Box 10136
Gulfport, MS 39505

Address Service Requested



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

HCGMS 2026 Workshops

<p>January 17</p> <p>Happy New Years</p>	<p>February 21</p> <p>Happy Valentines February 14th</p> 	<p>March 21</p> <p>Wire Wrapped Ring By Sue W.</p> <p>Wired Wrapped Pendant By Karen, Helen, & Nicole</p> <p>Mardi Gras February 17th</p>  <p>St. Patrick's Day 17th</p> 	<p>April 18</p> <p>Wired Wrapped Pendant By Karen, Helen, & Nicole</p> <p>Happy Easter April 4th</p> 
<p>May 16</p> <p>SHOW 16th & 17th</p>	<p>June 20</p>	<p>July 18</p> <p>Happy 4th</p> 	<p>August 15</p>
<p>September 19</p>	<p>October 17</p>   <p>Happy Halloween</p>	<p>November 21</p>  <p>Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>December 19</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS PARTY</p>