

# Snoopy Gems

Volume 45 Number 6 June 2019  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974



## Presidents Message

Hello Members,

I've tried to say things each month that I thought were motivational. This month I'm feeling a little low on motivation. So I went out to find some words others have said in the hopes that you might find something there to help you this month, or maybe some that can help us all.

Don't speak unless you can improve the silence.

Be more concerned with your character than your reputation.

Be sure to taste your words before you spit them out.

To be old and wise, you must first have survived being young and stupid.

Falling down is an accident, staying down is a choice.

Discipline is doing what needs to be done, even if you don't want to do it.

Patrick Barrett  
MGCGMS President

<http://www.mcgms.org>

Email: [mcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mcgms@bellsouth.net)

## June Workshop:

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching a free form beaded wire wrap pendant.

Materials needed: 18" of 18 gauge round wire, more for larger pendants.  
3ft of 24 or 26 gauge round wire, bail making pliers of various sizes or round mandrels such as pens, wooden rods etc. 4 to 10mm beads of your choice and 2 to 4mm beads color of your wire. She will have copper wire and a variety of beads for sale. Kits will run about \$3.00.



**Machines:** As always, we will have the club machines available for metal & gemstone testing, gemstone cutting, and cabbing.

David W. Cook  
228-341-9944  
[dwcook@cableone.net](mailto:dwcook@cableone.net)

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



# Meeting Minutes:

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

May 11, 2019



**Called to order:** 1:00 pm

**Members in attendance:** 21

**Meeting:** President Patrick Barrett called the meeting to order. Patrick announced 9 new members were signed up at our mini show at Library.

**Minutes to Accept:** A motion was made to accept the March minutes by Patrick Barrett & 2nd by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried.

**Treasury Report:** Reported by Barbi Beatty. A motion made to accept by Liz Platt & 2nd by Vicki Reynolds. Motion carried. At our April picnic a motion was made to purchase an investment CD using funds from the savings account. Motion made to accept by Barbi Beatty & 2nd by Buddy Shotts. Motion carried.

**General Announcements:** President Patrick Barrett announced that Mark Daynes has quit the club. Mark held position of Member at Large which is to be filled. Harvey Marcum was assigned to the Tool Committee as Mark's replacement. Dave Cook announced that Vicki Reynolds was appointed President of Art Association.

**Workshops:** Dave Cook taught a class on wire wrapping a silver bracelet. A rolling cart with items free to members called "Gilligan's Box" will be available at meetings.

**Library:** Liz Platt has a rolling cart with library items available to members to check out.

**Sunshine:** Barbi Beatty gave report, Reba had to leave. Bill LaRue is in hospital with a lung infection. Jane Cook is having surgery. Reba's mom is sick. Cards will be sent to all.

**Tools & Equipment:** Faceting class with Buddy Shotts are doing good. Laura Tate started & Natalie Webb finished her piece. Tool Committee is working on all repairs to machines. Two cabbing machines working, new blade needed for ring saw.

**Membership, Newsletter, badges, etc:** Barbi Beatty is taking orders for any members who would like to order name badges at \$6.60 each.

**Education & Projects: November Show, Speakers for meetings:** Barbi Beatty gave report for November show. Contracts went out & vendors were called by Bill LaRue. Have 3 new vendors. August is deadline for contracts with deposit. Also looking into social media & other forms of advertisements.

**Outside classes/workshop programs:** A member stated that the Junior College is interested in a class of lapidary arts to be held there by one of our club members. Vicki Reynolds teaches on Saturdays at River Art Gallery in Downtown Pascagoula.

**Old Business:** Nothing new to report.

**New Business:** President Patrick Barrett made a motion for our Club to take 10% of our savings to purchase wire (Gold & Silver as supplies) to keep in a safe deposit box & have a member represent for club to bring supplies back & forth to meetings. 2nd by Liz Platt. Vote made & was passed in favor of all members present except 1. John Guglik made a motion to amend amount to \$500.00 for wire supplies. 2nd by NO MEMBERS. Motion does not pass. Barbi Beatty, David Cook & Natalie Webb to be on the committee. Motion carried.

**Computer proposal:** President Patrick Barrett proposed that a laptop up to \$1,000 be purchased for the club. 2nd by Claire Martin. After discussion an amendment to the motion was made by John Guglik to lower amount from \$1000 to \$500 to purchase laptop. Vote passes with the amendment 11 for & 5 opposed. Vote passes & motion carried.

**Gemstone Education:** John Guglik spoke about Emeralds.

**Door prizes:** 8 members won door prizes.

**Adjournment:** 2:50 pm. Motion made by Bill White & 2nd by Vicki Reynolds. All members in favor. Motion carried.

**Report by:** Cheryl Rodriguez MGCGMS Secretary.

# Happy



## June

### *Birthstones*

for  
**June**



Pearl



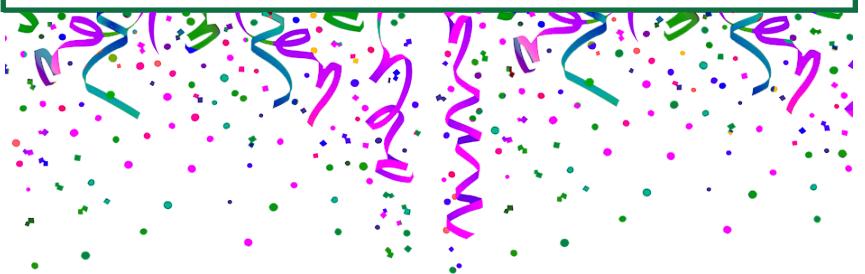
Moonstone



Alexandrite

## Birthday

Patrick Barrett Bruce Giamalva John Guglik  
Kathy Stevens Benta Paul Barbara Saavedra



### About Pearls

For centuries, pearls have been a symbol of beauty and purity. Today, they are regarded as both classic and contemporary, coming in many more fashionable styles than your grandmother's traditional strand of pearls.

Learning about types of pearls is important when adding items to your jewelry collection.



### Pearl Education

Pearls, natural or cultured, are formed when a mollusk produces layers of nacre around some type of irritant inside its shell. In natural pearls, the irritant may be another organism from the water. In cultured pearls, a mother-of-pearl bead or a piece of tissue is inserted into the mollusk to start the process. For both, the quality of the nacre dictates the quality of the luster, or shine of the pearl, which is very important to its

beauty and its value. The surface of the pearl should be smooth and free of marks while the overall shape could be round, oval, pear-shaped, or even misshapen. Misshapen pearls are called baroque pearls.

While shopping for pearls, there are various lengths available:

- A collar fits directly against the throat
- A choker rests at the base of the neck
- The princess length reaches near the collarbone
- A matinee length is usually 20-24 inches
- The Opera length is 30-36 inches
- The longest length, known as a rope, refers to all strands longer than 36 inches

Necklaces can also be classified as uniform where all pearls are about the same size or graduated where pearls change uniformly from ends to center.

### Natural Pearls

Natural pearls are extremely rare. Historically, many were found in the Persian Gulf; unfortunately, today, most have already been harvested. You may be able to purchase small, natural pearls, but they will be costly.

### Cultured Pearls

Cultured pearls are grown in pearl farms. The mollusks are

raised until they are old enough to accept the mother-of-pearl bead nucleus. Through a delicate surgical procedure, the technician implants the bead and then the mollusks are returned to the water and cared for while the pearl forms. Not all produce a pearl; and not all the pearls are high quality. Over 10,000 pearls may be sorted before a 16" single strand of beautifully matched pearls is assembled. Pearls can be found in saltwater and in freshwater. There are also different types of mollusks that produce very different looking pearls.

### Saltwater Pearls

Saltwater pearls include the akoya cultured pearls grown in Japanese and Chinese waters. They range in size from 2mm to 10mm and are usually white or cream in color and round in shape.

Australia, Indonesia, and the Philippines produce the South Sea pearl – the largest of all the pearls. They range in size from 9mm to 20mm and can be naturally white, cream, or golden in color.

Tahitian pearls are interestingly not exclusively from Tahiti – they're grown in several of the islands of French Polynesia, including Tahiti. Their typical sizes range from 8mm to 16mm. These naturally colored pearls are collectively called black pearls, but their colors include gray, blue, green, and purple.

### Freshwater Pearls

These pearls are grown in freshwater lakes, rivers, and ponds, predominately in China. Although many are white and resemble the akoya cultured pearls in shape and size, they can also be produced in various shapes and in an array of pastel colors.

Many freshwater pearls don't have a bead nucleus — only a piece of tissue — resulting in a pearl with thicker nacre than the akoya.

### Imitation pearls

Imitation pearls are usually a coated glass bead. Most have a high luster, but not the depth of luster seen on high quality cultured pearls.

It's possible to separate an imitation from a cultured or natural pearl. It can be a challenge, though, to determine if the pearl is cultured or natural. And, many pearls undergo treatments to either enhance their luster or alter their color.

### ALEXANDRITE

Green in sunlight. Red in lamplight. Color-changing alexandrite is nature's magic trick.



### ABOUT ALEXANDRITE

Often described by gem aficionados as "emerald by day, ruby by night," alexandrite is the very rare color-change variety of the mineral chrysoberyl. Originally discovered

in Russia's Ural Mountains in the 1830s, it's now found in Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil, but fine material is exceptionally rare and valuable.

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.



Alexandrite's dramatic color change is sometimes described as "emerald by day, ruby by night." 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."

Even in its rough form, this 70.94-carat alexandrite shows attractive color change.

Alexandrite 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.

Because of its scarcity, especially in larger sizes, alexandrite is a relatively expensive member of the chrysoberyl family. It shares its status as a June birthstone with cultured pearl and moonstone.



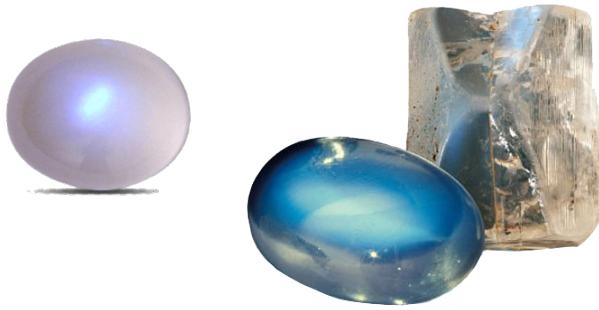
### Alexandrite History and Lore

A 43-carat alexandrite in the collection of the British Museum. Abundant alexandrite deposits were first discovered in 1830 in Russia's Ural Mountains. Those first alexandrite's were of very fine quality and displayed vivid hues and dramatic color change. The gem was named after the young Alexander II, heir apparent to the throne. It caught the country's attention because its red and green colors mirrored the national military colors of imperial Russia. Alexander II was still a youngster in 1830, when a never-before-seen color-change gem was discovered in the Ural Mountains of Russia.

The spectacular Ural Mountain deposits didn't last forever, and now most alexandrite comes from Sri Lanka, East Africa, and Brazil. The newer deposits contain some fine-quality stones, but many display less-precise color change and muddier hues than the nineteenth-century Russian alexandrite's. You'll still find estate jewelry set with some of the famed Ural Mountain alexandrite's. They remain the quality standard for this phenomenal gemstone.

## MOONSTONE

A ghostly sheen moves under the surface of this feldspar, like moonlight glowing in water.



## ABOUT MOONSTONE

Moonstone is a variety of the feldspar-group mineral orthoclase. During formation, orthoclase and albite separate into alternating layers. At first, the two minerals are intermingled. Then, as the newly formed mineral cools, the intergrown orthoclase and albite separate into stacked, alternating layers. When light falls between these thin layers it is scattered producing the phenomenon called adularescence. Adularescence is the light that appears to billow across a gem.

## Moonstone Description

Moonstone's delicate beauty and its long-established heritage make it perhaps the most familiar gem-quality member of the feldspar group.

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.



## Moonstone History and Lore

According to Hindu mythology, moonstone is made of solidified moonbeams. Many other cultures also associate this gem with moonlight, and it's easy to see why. The visual effect is reminiscent of the full moon shining through a veil of thin, high clouds.

Moonstone has long been associated with the moon. Legends say that moonstone brings good luck. Many believed that you could see the future if you held a moonstone in your mouth during a full moon.

Adularescent moonstone was once called "adularia." The name originated with a city in Switzerland, Mt. Adular (now St. Gotthard), that was one of the first sources of fine-quality moonstone.

Great designers of the romantic Art Nouveau era, such as René Lalique and Louis Comfort Tiffany, featured the pale gem in custom jewelry. Moonstone was also a favorite among artisans of the Arts and Crafts era in the last half

of the nineteenth century, who used it in handcrafted silver items. During the 1960s "flower child" movement, moonstone provided its wearers with the desired ethereal look, and designers of the 1990s New Age movement again turned to moonstone's natural beauty for inspiration.

## Rainbow Moonstone



A variety of labradorite is sometimes called rainbow moonstone. 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.

The minerals in the feldspar family make up more than half of the Earth's rocky crust. Feldspar layers that create moonstone's sheen are similar to the size of a wavelength of light.



## Bench Tips

### SUPER PICKLE

We've all made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with new hot pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store.

Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.

Many people think that when some steel gets into the pickle, the solution is contaminated and should be thrown away. Not true as long as you can remove all the steel from the pickle. In fact, the pickle should work even better after the steel is removed. Pickle works by dissolving the copper oxides that form during soldering. Pickle gets "old" when it cannot hold any more dissolved copper. Putting steel in the pot forces some of the copper to come out of solution, meaning the pickle is then able to dissolve more copper.

source: Brad's "How To" Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](http://Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

# We always welcome new members!



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

<a href="http://www.mgcgms.org">http://www.mgcgms.org</a>		Application for Membership
Individual: \$16.00	Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	Junior Under 18: \$6.00
Name: _____		Cell: _____
Name: _____		Cell: _____
Address: _____		Home Phone. _____
City: _____		
State: _____	Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____	Email 2: _____	
<b>Members Birthdays</b>		
Adult: _____	Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____	Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____	Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____	Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
<b>Please Check All Applicable Interests</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Beading	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabbing	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry Making
<input type="checkbox"/> Chain Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> PMC	<input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Faceting	<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals
<input type="checkbox"/> Fossils	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping	<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Smithing
<input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____		
<b>How did you hear of us?</b> _____		
<b>Please check the following:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I authorize MGCGMS to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.	
Signature: _____		
Signature: _____		



Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.  
P.O. Box 857 Ocean Springs MS 39566  
[mgcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgcgms@bellsouth.net)

**Snoopy Gems**  
 is the Official Publication of  
 The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral  
 Society, Inc.

**AFFILIATIONS**

- The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
- The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
- S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors)

**OFFICERS 2018**

President	Patrick Barrett (228) 96-8270
Vice President	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Secretary	Cheryl Rodriguez (773)504-4939
Parliamentarian	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
Editor	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Web master	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Member at Large	Mark Daynes (228) 383-7940
Member at Large	Natalie Webb (228) 355-4100

**COMMITTEES**

Membership	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Show Chairman	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Historian	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
Librarian	Open
Sunshine	Reba Shotts (601) 947-7245

**AFFILIATIONS**

ALAA	John Wright: Director
SFMS	John Wright: Past President
SFMS	Barbi Beatty: Treasurer & Insurance Liaison
SFMS	Buddy Shotts: Long-range Planning, Past President, State Director

Annual dues are:

\$16 Individual

\$20 (2) Members in same house hold  
 \$6 Junior

# **2019 Workshop/Meeting Dates**

January 12 OS Library 9:30-3:45

February 9 Pink Rooster 9:30-3:45

March 9 OS Library 9:30-3:45

March 30 Club Picnic Seashore Methodist Pavilion 11:00-4:00

April 13 OS Library Mini Show 9:30-4:00

May 11 OS Library 9:30-3:45

**June 8 OS Library 9:30-3:45**

July 13 OS Library 9:30-3:45

August 10 OS Library 9:30-3:45

September 14 OS Library 9:30-3:45

October 12 OS Library 9:30-3:45

November 7 After Vendor Dinner 5ish  
 December 14 Christmas Party OS

Library 11:00am-3:30pm

**Dates subject to change.**

**Be sure to check each month!**

The November meeting is the Thursday evening of the gem show after the dinner for the dealers at the Jackson County Fairgrounds Civic Center Building.

December will be our Christmas Party and Installation of Officers

## **June 2019**

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

# Snoopy Gems

Official Publication of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



<http://www.mgcgms.org>



The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society is a Non-profit Organization Dedicated to Education, Science, and the Lapidary Arts and Crafts

Ocean Springs, MS 39566  
P.O. Box 857  
Snoopy Gems MGCGMS