



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 42 Number 1 January 2016

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

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

## *Presidents Message*

Happy 2016 to you and your families! Our club had a good year as John Wright, Club President and the other officers/board members provided positive leadership. We are also fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable members who are willing to share their time and skills. Thanks to all!

Club lapidary workshops have been diverse including wire wrapping projects, cabbing, chain mail and ring making, gem testing, beading and a dedicated weekly faceting class. I personally thank the instructors and those who shared their skills and knowledge. Especially to be thanked is David Cook for faithfully recruiting instructors and making sure we had a monthly project. Buddy and Reba Shotts drove from Lucedale weekly during Sept, Oct and Nov to conduct a Wednesday evening faceting class.

The club's annual show was a success. Many thanks to Bill LaRue, show chair and Barbi Beatty, treasurer as well as all those who gave their time and energy. The food concession, raffle, and entrance fees, along with the greater number of dealers, enabled the show to make a pretty good profit. We use the earnings from the show to purchase new tools/equipment, fund scholarships, and carry us through the year for unexpected expenses or new opportunities. The show is our largest effort during the year needing every member possible. If you were there, jot down your thoughts about what worked well and what we need to improve next year. Bring your notes to the meeting.

Consider attending one of the week long lapidary classes at Wildacres in Little Switzerland NC or William Holland in Young Harris, GA. Prices during Federation weeks are less than \$400 for a double room, board, and expert instruction. Expenses getting there and supplies are extra. Still, this is a very cost effective vacation! You might even win a scholarship for a workshop (ask about criteria). Federation workshops are approximately the same timeframe each year (June at William Holland and 3rd week in August or 4th week in Sept at Wildacres. Check the website soon for a list of classes: [www.sfmsworkshops.com](http://www.sfmsworkshops.com)

As president, my 2016 goals for the club are to help:

1. Foster a safe and positive workshop environment.
2. Help each member to achieve their lapidary goals
3. Promote club within the community to encourage an educational and thriving club
4. Increase our membership
5. Support SFMS and AFMS goals

Think about your goals for yourself within the club. What would you want to learn about? What could you teach the club? Every time I try to teach someone a skill, I end up learning more myself.

See you at the January 9 meeting. Remember: Invite a friend to join us.

Let's get creative in 2016!

President  
Liz Platt

## Dec Meeting Minutes: Christmas Party 2015

12/12/15 MGCGMS at St. Paul's Meeting Room

The meeting/party started at 1:15 PM: John Wright president presiding.

A motion was made by Liz Platt to table all business until the January meeting.

The motion carried and no new business was discussed.

Barbi Beatty answered a question about daily tickets at the show. She said they were not kept, but the starting numbers on the ticket roll gave a fair count of how many tickets were sold daily including weekend passes.

Liz Platt stated that the Snoopy Gems this year was excellent. John Guglik said "we should enter The Snoopy in the best journalism contest for monthly newsletters."

Barbi said she has not entered it as of yet.

A Board Meeting will be held at the next meeting 1/9/16 at 9:30 AM at the library.

New officers were sworn in for the coming year by John Wright.

The new president is Liz Platt, VP Bill LaRue, Treasurers Barbi Beatty, Secretary Lisa Fitch. Members at Large are Buddy Shott and Bill White.



Everyone agreed that the food this year at the party was excellent and plentiful.

Also, everyone is urged to get a new member to join our club and join in on the fun.

Secret Santa visited and everyone had a great time.

The party adjourned and everyone helped to clean up.

Thanks David and Jane Cook for letting us use the facility at St. Paul's Church.

John Guglik Secretary

## Workshop:

Jim Kirchner will be teaching us how to use the Pepe jump ring maker. He will be certifying members to use the equipment. We will be winding and cutting jump rings for future projects. If you have wire you would like to use please bring it. Dave Cook will have inexpensive wire to use if you do not have your own wire.

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching a Double Triangle Chainmail Earring.

Supplies: 2 large 16 gauge 7.14mm jump rings,  
86 small 21 gauge 2.38mm jump rings.  
2 ear posts with 4mm drop loop balls  
Chain-nose pliers



## Bench Tip:

### Stone Alignment

When setting colored stones, it is extremely important to place the stone in the mounting in exactly the same position each time you test fit the stone while cutting the seat. This is due to the fact that most colored stones are cut irregularly. To assist you in this placement, draw a line on the crown of the stone with a fine tip marker. Then line-up this mark with a distinctive design element of the mounting, a similar mark with a felt tip marker on the mounting, or a mark made on the holder holding the mounting (such as a deep file mark filed into your ring clamp). When finished setting, any remaining ink can be removed with alcohol.

# Happy Birthday!



Sandra Alexander Brian Fitch Billie Kelly Brad Simons Judy Roe

Tommy Shelton Bill Smith Lynda Williams Angie Troutman Lettie White

## Garnet, the birthstone of January,

is mined in a rainbow of colors. From the fiery orange of Mandarin Garnet to the rich green of Tsavorite Garnet and to the most widely recognized color of Pyrope Garnet, it is considered a great gift to symbolize friendship and trust.



### Geological information:

Garnets are a group of silicate minerals that have been used since the Bronze Age as gemstones and abrasives.

All species of garnets possess similar physical properties and crystal forms, but differ in chemical composition. The different species are pyrope, almandine, spessartine, grossular (varieties of which are hessonite or cinnamon-stone and tsavorite), uvarovite and andradite. The garnets make up two solid solution series: pyrope-almandine-spessartine and uvarovite-grossular-andradite.

Formula:  $X_3Z_2(SiO_4)_3$

Mohs scale hardness: 6.5–7.5

## Tsavorite Garnet:



The largest in the world tsavorite was found at the border of the original block B tanzanite mining area (Block B extension), at a depth of 160 meters. The area is locally known as Karo. The uncut stone weighed 185 grams and was examined by Dr. H. Hanni of SSEF Swiss Gemmological Institute during a recent trip to Arusha. The stone was preformed and faceted at the Multicolour Gems office in Chantaburi and certified by Dr. A. Peretti at the GRS Gemresearch Swisslab in Bangkok. The impressive size and saturated color combined with remarkable clarity and transparency put this stone in a class of its own. According to Dr. A. Peretti's report, -- "One Magnificent Gemstone". Even tsavorites over 2 cts. in size are considered to be rare so an amazing stone like this will certainly end up with a collector or in a museum. The stone is step cut with good proportions and superior transparency and measures 42.11 x 36.46 x 28.34 mm. The GIA color was graded as G 4/5 - G 4/6 (medium tone, strong to vivid saturation) using the GIA 324 color comparison set. Although difficult to verify, our research indicates that at 325.13 carats, this stone is the probably the largest and definitely the largest clean tsavorite in the world. In a smaller size, material like this would be much lighter in color but in such a large size, the tone darkens to that illusive jello green that every connoisseur of tsavorite asks for -- not too light and not too dark. Source: [www.geologyin.com](http://www.geologyin.com)

# What makes some Gems more valuable than others?



The appearance of a colored gem is a combination of many separate factors, each of which is related to, and affected by, the others. It is precisely the complexity of these intertwined relationships that has bedeviled all attempts to quantify quality. And yet, every time a dealer buys a gem, a quick mental analysis is made, usually within seconds. In grading any gem, one must be cognizant of, but not become lost in, the details.

In the following essay, we will examine in detail the features that make up a fine colored gemstone.

The four C's Determining the quality of a gemstone involves what jewelers refer to as the "four C's." They are as follows:

1. Color 2. Clarity 3. Cut 4. Carat Weight To these, we can also add a fifth C, Color While these factors are well defined for diamond, no universally-accepted system exists for colored gems.

## Color: The First C

For a colored stone (any gem other than diamond), color is the most important factor in determining quality. To the color scientist, given an opaque, matt-finished object, there are three dimensions to color:

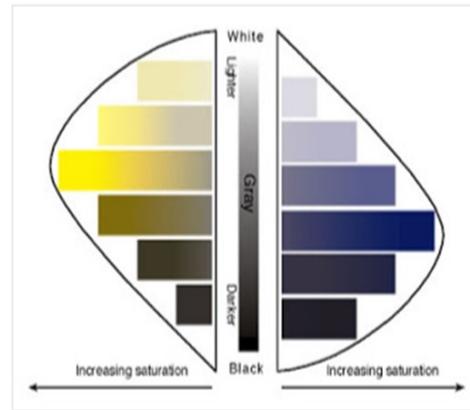
Hue position

Saturation (intensity)

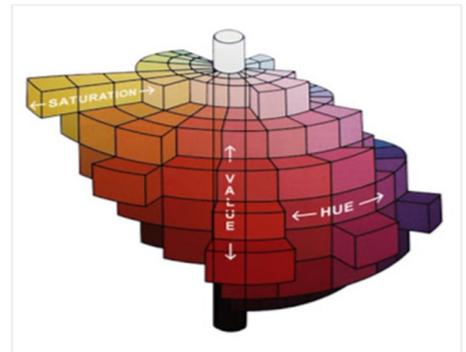
Tone (lightness or darkness)

For colored gemstones, there is also a fourth factor:

Color coverage



The relationship between tone (lightness) and saturation.



Three-dimension view of a color solid. Illustration courtesy of Minolta USA.

Hue position. The position of a color on a color wheel, i.e., red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet. Purple is intermediate between red and violet. White and black are totally lacking in hue, and thus achromatic ("without color"). Brown is not a hue in itself, but covers a range of hues of low saturation (and often high darkness). Classic browns fall in the yellow to orange hues. Generally speaking, gems with hues that most closely resemble the red, green and blue (RGB) sensors in our eyes are most popular. Thus the colored gem trinity, ruby, emerald and sapphire. But there is much about hue that is a personal preference and will depend upon an individual's personal taste



Three green gems, showing a variation in hue position. The round center stone is a straight green, while the trillion-cut stone at left is a more yellowish green and the oval stone at right a slightly bluish green. Generally speaking, hue position is of less importance than saturation. Photo: Wimon Manorotkul

Continued on page 5.

Continued from page 4:

**Saturation (intensity).** The richness of a color, or the degree to which a color varies from achromaticity (white and black are the two achromatic colors, each totally lacking in hue). **When dealing with gems of the same basic hue position (i.e., rubies, which are all basically red in hue), differences in color quality are mainly related to differences in saturation, because humans tend to be more attracted to highly saturate colors.** The strong red fluorescence of most rubies (the exception being those from the Thai/Cambodian border region) is an added boost to saturation, supercharging it past other gems that lack the effect.



Four blue sapphires showing a variation in saturation and tone. Stone 1 possesses a light tone and low saturation. Stone 2 is close to ideal in both tone and saturation. Stone 3 has greater saturation than Stone 2 in some areas, but its overall tone is too dark and it shows too much extinction. Stone 4 is so dark in tone that its saturation is reduced. Note that inclusions are far more visible in stones of light tone than those of dark tones. Photo: Wimon Manorotkul

**Tone.** The degree of lightness or darkness of a color, as a function of the amount of light absorbed. White would have 0% darkness and black 100%. At their maximum saturation, some colors are naturally darker than others. For example, a rich violet is darker than even the most highly saturated yellow, while the highest saturations of red and green tend to be of similar darkness. Note that as saturation increases, so too does tone (since more light is being absorbed). However, there reaches a point where increases in tone may result in a decrease in saturation, as a color “blackens.” When judging the quality of a colored gem, tone is an important consideration. Before buying, it’s always a good idea to consider the lighting conditions under which it will be worn. **Look for stones that look good even under the low lighting conditions you find in the evening or in a restaurant, for these are typically the conditions under which fine gems are worn and viewed.** Also view gems at arm’s length and look for those that are attractive even at a distance. Exceptional gems will look great under all lighting conditions and viewing distances.

## Clarity: The Second C

Clarity is judged by reference to inclusions. Magnification can be used to locate inclusions, but with the exception of inclusions which might impact durability, only those visible to the naked eye should influence the final grade. In this way, colored gems are very different from diamond. Indeed, in certain cases (Kashmir sapphires being a classic example), the inclusions can actually enhance beauty and value.



Different levels of clarity are visible here in these spessartine garnets from Nigeria. The oval stone at left is eye clean, i.e., with no clarity defects visible to the unaided eye. In the pear-shaped middle stone, obvious clarity defects are visible, while in the trillion-shaped stone at right, they are even more obvious. Photos: Wimon Manorotkul

There are two key factors in judging clarity. These are:

### Visibility of inclusions

- Size:** Smaller inclusions are less distracting, and thus, better.
- Number:** Generally, the fewer the inclusions, the better.
- Contrast:** Inclusions of low contrast (compared with the gem’s RI and color) are less visible, and thus, better.
- Location:** Inclusions in inconspicuous locations (i.e., near the girdle rather than directly under the table facet) affect value less. Similarly, a feather perpendicular to the table is less likely to be seen

### Impact on durability

- Type:** Unhealed cracks may not only be unsightly, but also lower a gem’s resistance to damage. They are thus less desirable than a well-healed fracture. As already mentioned, tiny quantities of exsolved silk may actually improve a gem’s appearance, and thus, value.
- Location:** A crack near the culet or corner would obviously increase the chances of breakage more than one well into the gem. Similarly, an open fracture on the crown is more likely to chip than one on the pavilion. Inclusions in certain positions may also reflect, making a single inclusion visible throughout a gem.

Note that cabochon-cut gems generally have poorer clarity than faceted gem. This is because inclusions are more visible in faceted stones than in cabs.

Source: <http://www.geologyin.com>

## Snoopy Gems

Official Publication of

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Member of

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)

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<b>SFMS</b>	Buddy Shotts	Long-range Planning &Past President (601) 947-7245

**Annual dues are:**

**\$16 Individual**

**\$20 (2) Members in same house hold**

**\$6 Junior**

## 2015 Workshop/Meeting Dates

**January 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45**

\*February 13 TBA 9:00-4:45

\*March 12 TBA 930-4:45

\*April 9 Club Picnic TBA

May 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

June 11 OS Library 9:30-4:45

July 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45

August 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45

September 10 OS Library 9:30-4:45

October 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45

November 10 After Vendor Dinner 7ish

December Christmas Party TBA 11:00am-4:00pm

\*Be sure to check Dates 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 \*\*

# January 2016

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



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<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

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