



Snoopy Gems

Volume 42 Number 2 February 2016

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

February is busy: Groundhog Day, Super Bowl, Mardi Gras, beginning of Lent, Valentine's Day, President's Day, Grammy and Academy Awards, plus it's black history and heart month. And I've probably forgotten more. It's also amethyst birthstone month.- so wear your amethyst stones if you have any. Time has gotten away from me too with all the projects that I wanted to do in pottery, silver wire, painting, and drawing. Several members travel to Tucson to the big gem, mineral, and jewelry wholesale shows. I would love to go one year!

The Ocean Springs Library allows AARP to do taxes in our workshop room during Feb – April so we must share the space or find an alternative for those months. This month, we will have an abbreviated workshop and meeting from 1:00 PM – 4:45 PM at the Library in the usual space. Lisa Fitch has a fun project and we'll do a little business. Bring any amethyst specimens for show and tell. Hope to see you there.

Remember to think about attending one of the SFMS Workshops that are held in June, August, and September. You can check out the costs, dates and classes at William Holland Lapidary School and at Wildacres Retreat. The site lists the above and descriptions of the classes and instructors. We have attended one each year for the last seven years and plan to attend again this year. Sign up as soon as you can while you can get your choice of classes. Check it out: www.sfmsworkshops.com

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

Workshop:

Lisa Fitch will be teaching a beautiful pair of Bead Pod earrings.

MATERIALS:

20 Gauge (0.8mm) 12 inches Silver Wire

26 Gauge (0.4mm) 6 inches Silver Wire

2 x 10mm Pearl Beads

2 x Ear wires

Optional: 2 x 4/6/8 mm matching Bead - to put on ear wire)

TOOLS:

Flat or Flat Nose Nylon Pliers

Chain Nose Pliers

Round Nose Pliers

12mm Cylindrical Mandrel

Jewelry Mat



January Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 19

Meeting:

President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. Welcoming our new members Ginger and Wanda who joined at the show. We do have a quorum present to conduct our monthly general meeting.

John Guglik said, "we need a historian". He gave everything he had from the 70's and 80's to Benta Harrel. Bill White said his wife, Lettie wants to do it even though she is sick right now. According to Buddy and Reba Shotts, Billy Kelly used to be our historian and she is back. All information from these two previous historians needs to be collected and stored in one location.

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our December 2015 minutes printed in the January Newsletter. A motion was made by Buddy Shotts and 2nd by Lisa Fitch. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: Given by Barbi Beatty. A motion was made to accept by Jane Cook and 2nd by Bill LaRue. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by Dave Cook. Chainmaille was done this month (by Vicki Reynolds) and we will also do the same next month. Then we will do wire wrapping and make some crosses. Beading ones too!

Waivers need to be signed before using our equipment and we will have them available next month for members to sign.

We will also be certifying members for our equipment. Jim Kirchner and John Guglik will assist Dave Cook on this matter. The \$3.00 equipment fee will remain the same to use the equipment.

Faceting Workshops: Report given by Buddy Shotts. The Wednesday night classes are on hold right now but will return the last Wednesday in February or the first Wednesday in March. If you are interested, see Buddy.

Show Committee: Report given by Bill LaRue. Bill LaRue said we need more cases "read-to-use" for the show. Bill will go to the storage unit and let us know what is needed.

John Guglik said we have 10 or 11 pieces left from the show that were door prizes not given out. We can decide what we want to do with them.

Bill LaRue is trying to get the fairgrounds for free because of all the construction that was going on at the time of the show. The only discounts will go to the vendors who were there for the 2015 show not the new vendors who rent this year. It will be June before he knows what vendors are returning. He requested that volunteers need to be signed up before October for the show. Any suggestions of improvements for the show can be emailed to our President, Liz Platt.

Equipment Committee: Report given by Jim Kirchner. The Equipment committee will make sure people are certified and what equipment can go home for 30 days. The equipment must be returned by the next meeting.

Library Committee: Report given by Barbi Beatty. If you have anything checked out, please return it or re-check it out again. Please donate any books, magazines, tapes, cd's, or dvd's you think we might enjoy.

SFMS State Director wants to come and talk to us in February about dinosaurs and do a slide presentation. Liz and Barbi

will try to move it to March since a number of our members will be out of town.

Communication: Reba Shotts has tried to contact Barbara and Miguel Saavedra but has gotten no answer. Miguel has been very sick so please keep him in your prayers. Barbara isn't able to leave him right now to return to the club.

Unfinished Business: Reba Shotts is working on a project for a "Junior Rockhound Club". Reba said, "we would have to find someone to head up the Junior Club". She said, "Bill LaRue would be good", but he didn't volunteer.

A Diamond Band Saw at the show was wanting to be purchased by some of our members since it would have saved the club shipping charges but it exceeded the amount to purchase without a majority vote of the members. The Equipment Committee would be well suited to decide whether to purchase the Diamond Band Saw. John Guglik said, "it is for precision cuts".

Dave Cook made a motion to table the saw until the Equipment Committee decides to purchase the saw. Bill White volunteered to be on the Equipment Committee. So noted by our President, Liz Platt.

Bill LaRue has tile saws and will sell them for \$40-50.00 each for those interested.

New Business: Scholarships are given out each year to include the cost of the workshop and \$100.00 for travel expenses to our qualifying members. Bill LaRue made a motion to do the same as last year and John Guglik 2nd the motion. All members were in favor and Motion carried.

There will be 2 winners and 4 alternates. Liz recommended to members to go the websites of William Holland and Wild Acres and see what workshops are available. If a scholarship winner cannot attend during Federation week, you must go before the MGCGMS board for approval to attend your chosen workshop.

President Liz Platt wants an audit committee to audit 2015 records. Jane Cook volunteered, Lisa Fitch and Cathy Marousky. Barbi Beatty, treasurer will provide them with all the 2015 records.

Update: Audit Committee: An audit (on all bank accounts) was done after the meeting by Jane Cook, Cathy Marousky, and Lisa Fitch. All records were balanced and verified.

The SFMS meeting is in February and will be held during the show in Jackson, MS. For more information, go to their website www.sfms.com for details. Barbi B. made a motion for Reba Shotts to represent the club if our President Liz Platt cannot attend. Bill White 2nd the motion. All members were in favor. Motion carried. Liz will try to attend the SFMS meeting if possible.

Show and Tell: Barbi B. passed around her Fire Agate ring she faceted and had set at the show. She knows someone who wants to sell their rock collection. She paid \$50.00 for 8 buckets of rocks and will share with the club members. Bill LaRue passed around a wrapped Louisiana Opal he cabbled. He is giving everyone a piece of Black Tourmaline. Billy Marousky brought Garnets for everyone. Jane Cook passed around a picture of the latest basket she made and a Garnet Bracelet that Dave made for her.

50/50: Won by Lisa Fitch

Door Prizes: We had 8 door prizes to be awarded this month. Won by Reba Shotts, Ileana Kirchner, Barbi Beatty, Bill LaRue, John Guglik, Buddy Shotts, Aurora King, and Ed King.

Adjournment: 2:28 p.m.

Happy Birthday!



Bill LaRue

Chuck Mauer

Vicki Reynolds

Clay Tate

Amethyst, the birthstone of

February, is a variety of Quartz that carries a spectacular purple color that ranges from a blend of deep violet and red to a lighter lilac hue. Ancient Greeks believed that the stone protected the wearer from drunkenness and enabled them to keep a balanced mindset. Geological information:



Amethyst is a violet variety of quartz often used in jewelry. The range of colour includes reddish-violet tints of pale or almost colourless shades, and deep, rich tones of pure violet.

Color	Purple, violet
Crystal habit	6-sided prism ending in 6-sided pyramid
Crystal system	rhombohedral class 32
Twinning	Dauphine law, Brazil law, and Japan law
Cleavage	None
Fracture	Conchoidal
Mohs scale	7
Luster	Vitreous/glossy
Streak	White
Diaphaneity	Transparent to translucent
Specific gravity	2.65 constant
Optical properties	Uniaxial (+)
Refractive index	$n\omega = 1.543-1.553$ $n\epsilon = 1.552-1.554$
Birefringence	+0.009 (B-G interval)
Pleochroism	None
Melting point	1650±75 °C
Solubility	insoluble in common solvents
Other characteristics	Piezoelectric

History



Roman intaglio engraved gem of Caracalla in amethyst, once in the Treasury of Sainte-Chapelle. Amethyst was used as a gemstone by the ancient Egyptians and was largely employed in antiquity for intaglio engraved gems.

The Greeks believed amethyst gems could prevent intoxication, while medieval European soldiers wore amethyst amulets as protection in battle in the belief that amethysts heal people and keep them cool-headed. Beads of amethyst were found in Anglo-Saxon graves in England. Western Christian bishops wear an episcopal ring often set with an amethyst, an allusion to the description of the Apostles as "not drunk" at Pentecost in Acts 2:15. A large geode, or "amethyst-grotto", from near Santa Cruz in southern Brazil was presented at the 1902 exhibition in Düsseldorf, Germany. In the 19th century, the color of amethyst was attributed to the presence of manganese. However, since it can be greatly altered and even discharged by heat, the color was believed by some authorities to be from an organic source. Ferric thiocyanate has been suggested, and sulfur was said to have been detected in the mineral.

Synthetic amethyst

Synthetic amethyst is produced by gamma ray, X-ray or electron beam irradiation of clear quartz which has been first doped with ferric impurities. On exposure to heat, the irradiation effects can be partially cancelled and amethyst generally becomes yellow or even green, and much of the citrine, cairngorm, or yellow quartz of jewelry is said to be merely "burnt amethyst".

Synthetic amethyst is made to imitate the best quality amethyst. Its chemical and physical properties are so similar to that of natural amethyst that it cannot be differentiated with absolute certainty without advanced gemological testing (which is often cost-prohibitive). There is one test based on "Brazil law twinning" (a form of quartz twinning where right and left hand quartz structures are combined in a single crystal) which can be used to identify synthetic amethyst rather easily. It is possible to synthesize twinned amethyst, but this type is not available in large quantities in the market.

Cultural history: Ancient Greece

The Greek word "amethystos" may be translated as "not drunken", from Greek *a-*, "not" + *methustos*, "intoxicated". Amethyst was considered to be a strong antidote against drunkenness, which is why wine goblets were often carved from it. In his poem "L'Amethyste, ou les Amours de Bacchus et d'Amethyste" (Amethyst or the loves of Bacchus and Amethyste), the French poet Remy Belleau (1528–1577) invented a myth in which Bacchus, the god of intoxication, of wine, and grapes was pursuing a maiden named Amethyste, who refused his affections. Amethyste prayed to the gods to remain chaste, a prayer which the chaste goddess Diana answered, transforming her into a white stone. Humbled by Amethyste's desire to remain chaste, Bacchus poured wine over the stone as an offering, dyeing the crystals purple.

Variations of the story include that Dionysus had been insulted by a mortal and swore to slay the next mortal who crossed his path, creating fierce tigers to carry out his wrath. The mortal turned out to be a beautiful young woman, Amethystos, who was on her way to pay tribute to Artemis. Her life was spared by Artemis, who transformed the maiden into a statue of pure crystalline quartz to protect her from the brutal claws. Dionysus wept tears of wine in remorse for his action at the sight of the beautiful statue. The god's tears then stained the quartz purple.

This myth and its variations are not found in classical sources. Although the titan Rhea does present Dionysus with an amethyst stone to preserve the wine-drinker's sanity in historical text.

Other cultural associations

Tibetans consider amethyst sacred to the Buddha and make prayer beads from it. Amethyst is considered the birthstone of February. In the Middle Ages, it was considered a symbol of royalty and used to decorate English regalia. In the Old World, amethyst was considered one of the Cardinal gems, in that it was one of the five gemstones considered precious above all others, until large deposits were found in Brazil.

Geographic distribution

Amethyst is produced in abundance from the state of Minas Gerais in Brazil where it occurs in large geodes within volcanic rocks. Many of the hollow agates of southwestern Brazil and Uruguay contain a crop of amethyst crystals in the interior. Artigas, Uruguay and neighboring Brazilian state Rio Grande do Sul are large world producers exceeding in quantity Minas Gerais, as well as Mato Grosso, Espírito Santo, Bahia, and Ceará states, all amethyst producers of importance in Brazil.

It is also found and mined in South Korea. The largest opencast amethyst vein in the world is in Maisau, Lower Austria. Much fine amethyst comes from Russia, especially from near Mursinka in the Ekaterinburg district, where it occurs in drusy cavities in granitic rocks. Many localities in south India yield amethyst. One of the largest global amethyst producers is Zambia in southern Africa with an annual production of about 1000 tonnes.

Amethyst occurs at many localities in the United States.^[12] Among these may be mentioned: the Mazatzal Mountain region in Gila and Maricopa Counties, Arizona; Red Feather Lakes, near Ft Collins, Colorado; Amethyst Mountain, Texas; Yellowstone National Park; Delaware County, Pennsylvania; Haywood County, North Carolina; Deer Hill and Stow, Maine and in the Lake Superior region of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Amethyst is relatively common in the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Nova Scotia. The largest amethyst mine in North America is located in Thunder Bay, Ontario.



An amethyst geode that formed when large crystals grew in open spaces inside the rock.

Amethyst is the official state gemstone of South Carolina. Several South Carolina amethysts are on display at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

Value

Up until the 18th century, amethyst was included in the cardinal, or most valuable, gemstones (along with diamond, sapphire, ruby, and emerald). However, since the discovery of extensive deposits in locations such as Brazil, it has lost most of its value. Collectors look for depth of color, possibly with red flashes if cut conventionally. As amethyst is readily available in large structures the value of the gem is not primarily defined by carat weight

Bench Tip:

SHARP KNIVES FOR CUTTING MOLDS

Cutting molds is easier and more precise with a sharp blade. A new Xacto blade is sufficient for cutting RTV molds but is usually not sharp enough for vulcanized rubber. For that it's best to use scalpel blades available from most jewelry supply companies.

The #11 blade is triangle shaped, and the #12 is hawk-bill shaped. I find the hawkbill is particularly nice for cutting the registration keys of the mold.



USE YOUR THUMB

When using multiple bits in a Foredom, we often have to deal with several different shaft sizes - the usual 3/32 inch burs, the larger 1/8 inch shaft sizes and of course the many different sizes of drills. For some reason I really dislike having to turn the key multiple times to open or close the jaws of the handpiece chuck.

So I have two ways to speed up that task. For opening up the jaws, I just remember "four", the number of turns I have to make to open the chuck just enough from the 3/32 bur shaft size to the larger 1/8 bur shaft size.

For closing the jaws around a smaller shaft, there's a neat trick. Hold the new bit in the center of the open jaws of the chuck, put your thumb lightly onto the outer toothed collar of the chuck, and gently start up the Foredom. As the chuck turns, it will naturally tighten the jaws around the bur shaft or the drill bit. Then all you have to do is a final tightening with the key.



"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and "Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry" are available on Amazon

source: www.BradSmithJewelry.com

Jackson MS 2016 Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

The MGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show will be held at the Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi:

Saturday, February 27, 2016 9:00 to 6:00

Sunday, February 28, 2016 10:00 to 5:00

Admission:

Adults – \$6.00

Students – \$3.00

Scouts and Leaders in Uniform – \$2.00

Children 5 and under – Free



Over 25 dealers from across the country come to sell minerals and fossil specimens, beads, lapidary tools and cutting materials, gems, jewelry and more.

Throughout the Show, demonstrators illustrate the diversity of the lapidary arts including cabochon cutting, flint knapping, wire wrapping, and jewelry making.

Fun activities for the young (or young at heart) will be found at the Children's Activities booth.

Exhibits and educational opportunities for all ages are provided by various state organizations, colleges, and earth science professionals. MGMS members also display some of their own collections of fossils, minerals, and artifacts (many found here in Mississippi).

2016 SFMS Quarterly Meeting

February 26 – 27, 2016

Hosted by Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society (MGMS)

www.missgems.org

Jackson, Mississippi

Snoopy Gems

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S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors)

OFFICERS 2015

President	Liz Platt (228) 818-5412
Vice President	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Secretary	Lisa Fitch (228) 467-4684
Parliamentarian	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
Editor/Webmaster	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Member at Large (1 year)	Bill White (228) 875-8716
Member at Large (2 year)	Buddy Shotts (601)947-7245

COMMITTEES

Membership	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Show Chairman	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Silent Auction	Liz Platt (228) 818-5412
Historien	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
Librarian	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Sunshine	Open
ALAA John Wright	Director (228) 875-9192
SFMS John Wright	Past President (228) 875-9192
SFMS 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 OS Library 1:00-4:45

*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 **

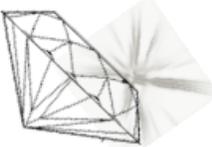
February 2016

Su M Tu W Th Fri Sa

	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					
31						

We always welcome new members! Tell a friend!

Date: **Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society**

http://www.mgcgms.org		Application for Membership	
Individual: \$16.00		Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	
		Junior Under 18: \$6.00	
Name: _____		Home Phone: _____	
Address: _____		Cell 1. _____	
City: _____		Cell 2. _____	
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
Members in the Same Household			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Please Check All Applicable Interests			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beading	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabbing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chain Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	PMC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faceting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fossils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wire Wrapping
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others: _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
			Jewelry Making
			Lapidary
			Minerals
			Silver Smithing
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<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: _____			

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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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