



Snoopy Gems

Volume 42 Number 3 March 2016

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MCGGMS Established in 1974

Email: mggcms@bellsouth.net

P.O. Box 857 Ocean Springs, MS 39566

Presidents Message

Since AARP is still doing taxes in our regular OS Library workshop/meeting room during March we will be at the St Martin Library for our workshop and meeting from 1:00-4:45 3/12/16. David Cook will teach how to make a wire wrapped Christian cross. If you don't have your own wire, you will be able to purchase a basic metal kit for the project. This project will enable you to know the basics so you can make more crosses or make variations.

The March gemstone is listed in various sources as: Aquamarine, Bloodstone, Tourmaline, Blood Jasper, Heliotrope, and there are many other lists. Let's celebrate March by wearing any of the above gemstones or any gemstones that you particularly enjoy.

At the meeting we will hear about the Tucson Gem Show and also news from the quarterly SFMS meeting in Jackson, MS in February. We have a new liability statement so be sure to sign on Saturday. Also meet our new members and make plans for the April picnic.

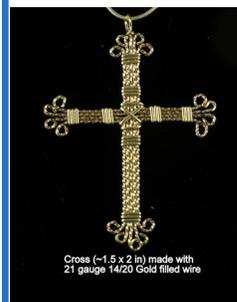
Remember to think about attending one of the SFMS Workshops that are held in June, August, and September. You can check out the costs, dates and classes at William Holland Lapidary School and at Wildacres Retreat. The site lists the above and descriptions of the classes and instructors. Sign up as soon as you can while you can get your choice of classes. Check it out: www.sfmshworkshops.com

Liz Platt
MCGGMS President

Workshop:

Our wire and beading projects for MARCH will be making Christian cross pendants. Bring patterns for your favorite crosses to share with club members. I have two styles of crosses to share. Each cross uses about 24" of 21 or 22 ga square wire and 18" of 21 ga half-round wire. I suggest you invest in silver or gold filled wire for this project. One pattern also used a single 6 mm bead. These crosses will make nice Easter gifts for friends and family. After you make one, it will take you less than an hour to make others. If any of you have patterns and pictures for beaded crosses, share them with members. Send information including material list to mggcms@bellsouth.net and we will send them on to members.

Dave Cook
Workshop Chair



Cross (~1.5 x 2 in.) made with 21 gauge 14/20 Gold filled wire



Cross (~1.5 x 2 in.) made with 21 gauge 14/20 Gold filled wire Unikite bead.

Photos by: Dave Cook



Cross (~1.5 x 2 in.) made with 20 gauge Argentium Sterling silver wire

<http://www.mggcms.org>

MCGGMS P.O. Box 857
Ocean Springs, MS 39566

February Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Called to Order: 1:26 p.m. February 13, 2016

Members in Attendance: 15

Meeting:

President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. Welcoming everyone and a new member Katrina Smith who came as a guest with Angie Troutman says she is interested in anything science and mathematical.

Roger and Karen were present and rejoined the club. Everyone was glad to see them back.

Liz started out by handing out the meeting agenda, waivers and a schedule for the workshops during Federation weeks for William Holland and Wild Acres.

John Guglik has the testing equipment today for anyone wanting gold or silver tested.

Liz stated that using the equipment is still a \$3.00 fee and that she had equipment/workshop waivers for all members to sign today for Dave Cook, our workshop chairman. They were notarized by Lisa Fitch.

Liz announced that Lisa brought extra newsletters for those who didn't get theirs this month. Kay (our new member) and Barbara Saavedra needed copies.

The audit was done last month by Jane Cook, Lisa Fitch, and Kathy Marousky and everything was fine.

Next Months' meeting will be held at St Martin Public Library.

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our January 2016 minutes printed in the February Newsletter. A motion was made by John Wright and 2nd by Bob Marousky. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: No report given. (treasurer out of town)

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by Liz Platt, President

The March project is a wire wrapped cross that Dave will be teaching. Don't forget to turn in your waiver forms today. The \$3.00 equipment fee will remain the same to use the equipment.

Faceting Workshops: Report given by Buddy Shotts. Everyone will be notified when we resume the Wednesday night classes. If you are interested, see Buddy.

Show Committee: Report given by Bill LaRue. Bill LaRue said, "I am working on getting the building for free due to last years construction during the show."

Equipment Committee: Report given by Jim Kirchner. Jim said he had more equipment in his vehicle than what was out and if anyone needed any he would bring it in the building. Please see me after the meeting.

Communication: John Guglik showed everyone a slab of what the Diamond Band Saw can do if we buy the one from the show which is over \$400.00. The Ring Saw plus one blade is \$350.00 and \$125.00 for the two extra blades.

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Barbara Savvedra said that Miguel had surgery on January 11th and that he is in rehab right now. But is doing much better.

Unfinished Business: Picnic Report by Lisa Fitch
The picnic will be held again at the Seashore Methodist Assembly located at 1410 Leggett Drive in Biloxi. You will turn off Highway 90 onto Chalmers Drive. Printed instructions will be handed out at the March meeting. It starts at 11 a.m. to 5p.m. with food being served at noon. We will have our April meeting there at 1p.m. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks provided by the club. Everyone is to bring a dish like we do for our meetings. No tobacco or alcoholic beverages allowed on premises. Next month in March we will be asking for volunteers to establish committees to help setup, cleanup, and cook the food. Check your newsletter next month for information on the picnic.

New Business

Scholarships: The winners for this year's scholarships are 1) Liz Platt and 2) Barbara Savvedra.

Alternatives: 1) Cathy Marousky 2) Ed King 3) Lynn Tate 4) John Guglik

Adopt a Rock: John Guglik said he is starting something new called "Adopt a Rock". Please come over to the table and take a rock home and name it. When you get tired of it bring it back and let someone else take it home for a while. That way you can have your very own "Pet Rock". Some of this is Patsy Primo's collection and they need to be shared.

Show and Tell:

John Wright brought in a Quartz Rose Amethyst that was so beautiful to share with everyone. Lisa Fitch also brought an amethyst too. The Herkimer Diamond was passed around for everyone to see.

Door Prizes: We had 3 door prizes won by Bob Marousky, John Wright and Lynn Tate.

Adjournment: 2:03 p.m. Motion made by John Wright and 2nd by Jim Kirchner. Motion Carried.

Lisa Fitch
MGCMS Secretary



Happy Birthday!



Ginger Criss

Aurora King

Brad Troutman

Aquamarine, the birthstone of March, has a rich color and has long been a symbol of youth, health and hope. Its mesmerizing color ranges from pale to deep blue and are reminiscent of the sea. A perfect birthstone for March, the Aquamarine creates a beautiful accent to spring and summer wardrobes.



Geological information:

Aquamarine (from Latin: aqua marina, "water of the sea") is a blue or cyan variety of beryl. It occurs at most localities which yield ordinary beryl. The gem-gravel placer deposits of Sri Lanka contain aquamarine. Clear yellow beryl, such as that occurring in Brazil, is sometimes called aquamarine chrysolite. The deep blue version of aquamarine is called maxixe. Maxixe is commonly found in the country of Madagascar. Its color fades to white when exposed to sunlight or is subjected to heat treatment, though the color returns with irradiation.

A variety of Beryl

Birthstone: March

Continued next column:

Family: Beryl, $\text{Be Al}_2 \text{Si}_6 \text{O}_{18}$

Crystal System: Hexagonal

Birefringence: 0.004 – 0.008

Color: Various shades of blue to blue-green

Density: Normally 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm³,
can be as much as 2.90 g/cm³

Hardness: 7.5 – 8, but can be fairly brittle

Refractive Indices: Variable 1.560 – 1.570 to
1.596 – 1.602

Cleavage: Ill-defined cleavage parallel to basal plane

Pleochroic: Weak



Lovely combo featuring Aquamarine with Fluorite, Quartz, Muscovite, and Albite!

From Nagar, Hunza Valley, Northern Areas of Pakistan.

Measures 8 cm by 9 cm by 7.5 cm in total size.

Ex. Revelle Mineral Collection GeologyIn.com

The Mineral Gallery, Inc.

Pictures of February Workshop:



Photos by: Lisa Fitch

Show and Tell: Amethyst



Quartz Rose & Amethyst



Herkimer Diamond

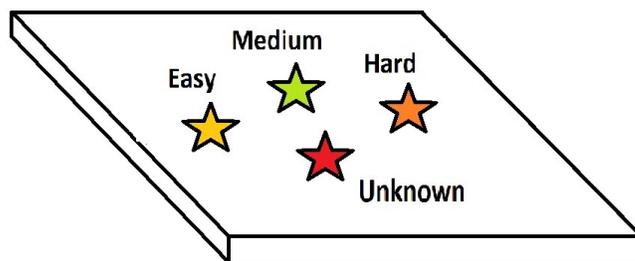


Photos by: Lisa Fitch

Bench Tips :

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



INEXPENSIVE ELECTRIC WAX PEN

You can make your own wax pen from a small soldering iron plugged into a light dimmer switch for heat control. Both components are easily found at Radio Shack, a big hardware store or at Harbor Freight. As an example of the components, see www.harborfreight.com items #43060 and #47887

File the tip of the soldering iron into the shape you prefer or even better get a soldering iron with replaceable tips. Then you can make several tip shapes for different tasks. Set the dimmer control just hot enough to melt the wax without producing any smoke.

A tip design that I find ideal for some work is a length of small gauge wire that lets me reach in around the model to melt some wax. The wire is about 15mm long and 18 or 20 gauge. To conduct heat all the way to the tip, I use Sterling wire and silver solder it into a hole on the end of a copper or brass rod that will fit into the soldering iron.

Source: Brad Smith

www.BradSmithJewelry.com

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

The Difference Between Rock, Mineral, Ore, & Metal

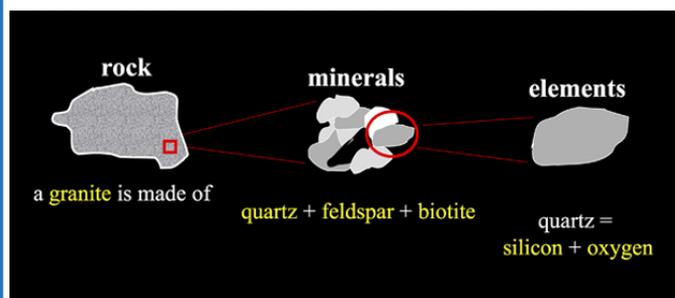
Rocks- A rock is made up of 2 or more minerals. You need minerals to make rocks, but you don't need rocks to make minerals. All rocks are made of minerals. For example, granite is a mixture of the minerals quartz, feldspar, and biotite. Some rocks made of only one mineral like Limestone made of calcite

Minerals- A mineral is composed of the same substance throughout. There are more than 3000 different minerals in the world. Minerals are made of chemicals - either a single chemical element or a combination of chemical elements.

Difference between rock and mineral- A rock is made up of 2 or more minerals, whereas a mineral is composed of the same substance throughout.

Ore- A mineral occurring in sufficient quantity and containing enough metal to permit its recovery and extraction at a profit. Or, a mineral or an aggregate of minerals from which a valuable constituent, especially a metal, can be profitably mined or extracted is an ore.

Metal- An alloy of two or more metallic elements. Therefore, Rocks have minerals, which in large concentration are called ores and these are mined for metals!



Fun Facts About Rocks:

There are many interesting and fun facts about rocks and minerals. Here are some of them:

The oldest rocks on Earth are the Igneous rocks which are formed due to volcanic activity within the Earth.

Weathering results in the erosion of many rocks and minerals on Earth.

Amongst minerals, the most commonly occurring one is quartz. Quartz is further classified into various types such as smoky quartz, rosy quartz, etc.

Pumice is one rock that is igneous and is formed when lava solidifies. It is also the only rock known to float.

Gemstones are quite popular for the fashion appeal they have. They are considered to be minerals and not rocks.

The most popular gemstone is Ruby.

During the Earth's formation process, the very first type of rock that was formed was an igneous rock followed by sedimentary rocks and then metamorphic rocks.

Sedimentary rocks are often found containing the fossil remains of plants and animals.

All rocks go through the rock cycle where they are constantly eroded and transformed from one rock type to another.

Beryl is a mineral that in its pure form is colorless.

Green Beryls are more commonly known as Emeralds.

The word Emerald has its roots in the Semitic language and the ancient Indian Sanskrit language. It is derived from the Semitic word izmargad or the Sanskrit word markata.

A diamond is a mineral that is known to be the hardest substance known to man.

Feldspars make up over 50% of the Earth's crust.

The properties used to identify minerals include luster, hardness, color, streak, cleavage, crystal shape and magnetism.

Marble is formed from carbonate rock, mostly from limestone.

The Taj Mahal in Agra, India, built nearly 400 years ago and known to be one of the seven wonders of the world was made completely out of marble.

The rock Lapis Lazuli is a treasured gemstone today which in the ancient times was used by the Egyptians as eye shadow.

Ancient Mesopotomians used the gemstone turquoise to make beads. This occurred nearly five thousand years ago, long before the birth of Christ.

Rocks that appear to have a reddish hue on the side of the roads are believed to be rusted. These rocks may be billions of years old.

Read more at <http://www.geologyin.com/2014/07/the-difference-between-rocks-and.html#Zaby19ULVIRT51KQ.99>

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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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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 St. Martin Public library 1:00-4:45

April 2 Club Picnic 11:00-5:00

Seashore Methodist Pavilion Biloxi, MS

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 ****

March 2016

Su M Tu W Th Fri Sa

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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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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