

Snoopy Gems

Volume 46 Number 5 May 2020
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCMS Established in 1974

Editor Message

Hello Members,

The world has been a bit crazy and our club events have been put on hold. I hope everyone is healthy and doing well. I have been taking this time to catch up on things around the house and revisiting my cooking skills. Spring cleaning has started. My kids are home from their college towns until this is over. Our family has settled into a routine.

We would love to know how everyone is doing. Please reply all to the May Club Email and let us know how you are and what you have been up to. I will post all club updates on the home page of the website. www.mgcgms.org. This newsletter will be short and sweet. I wish everyone well and hope it will be safe enough soon to start club events.

Barbi Beatty
MGCMS Editor

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

BENCH TIPS

DEBURRING A HOLE

When you drill a hole, there's always a burr produced on the underside of the metal. We all have our ways of removing them - typically by filing or sanding the area smooth. But doing it this way will put scratches on your piece that will have to be polished off.

A quick way to remove the burr without leaving a scratch is to grab a drill that's two or three times larger than your hole. Simply twist it in the hole to cut off the burr. I usually do this twisting by hand, but if you have many holes to do, it's easier on your fingers to put the drill into a holder like a pin vice. Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" BooksAmazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

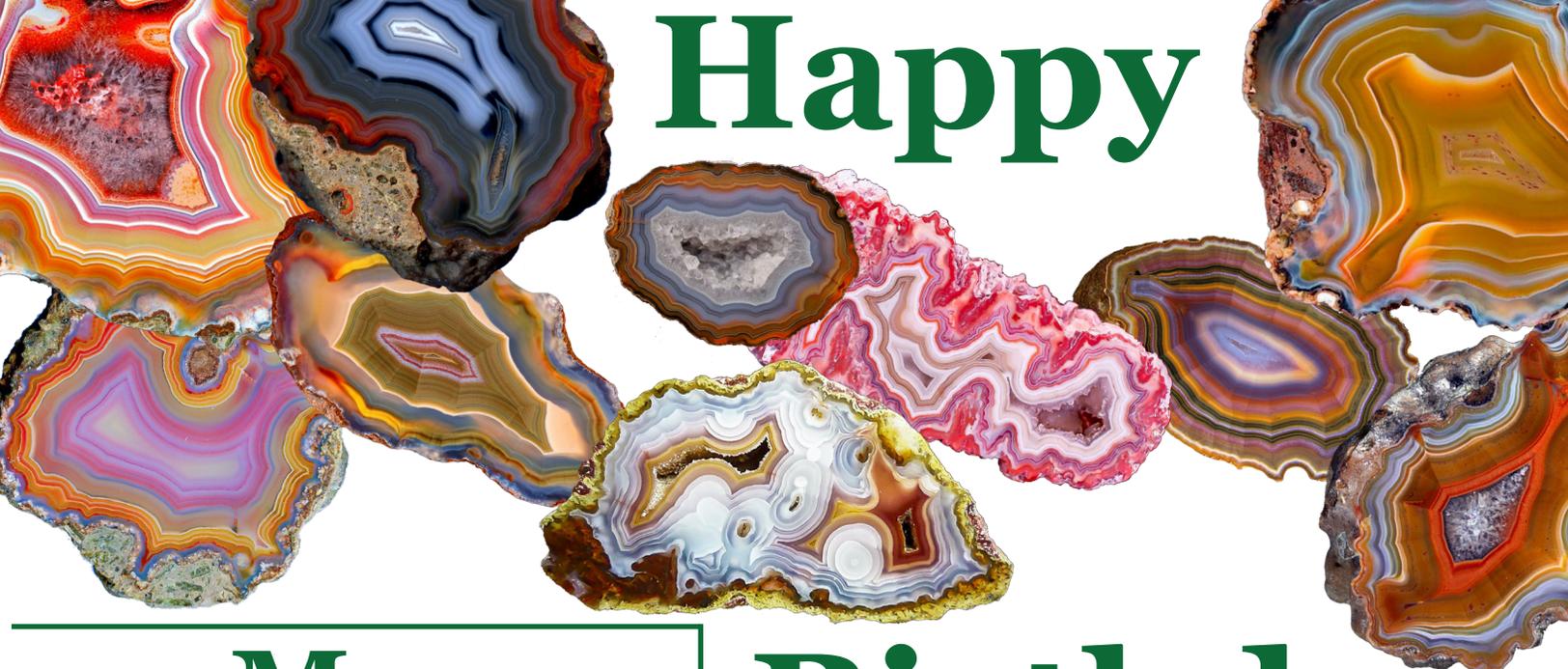


CLOSING A JUMPRING

A simple way to close jumprings is to install a wood screw into the side of your bench top or benchpin. Then insert the jumpring and twist to close. For more Bench Tips go to: <http://bench-magazine.com/benchtips>



PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Happy

May

Birthday

Jack Arias Tammy Crump Kathy Lounsberry
Melanie Matson Lisa Moon Wanda Sigler
Buddy Shotts



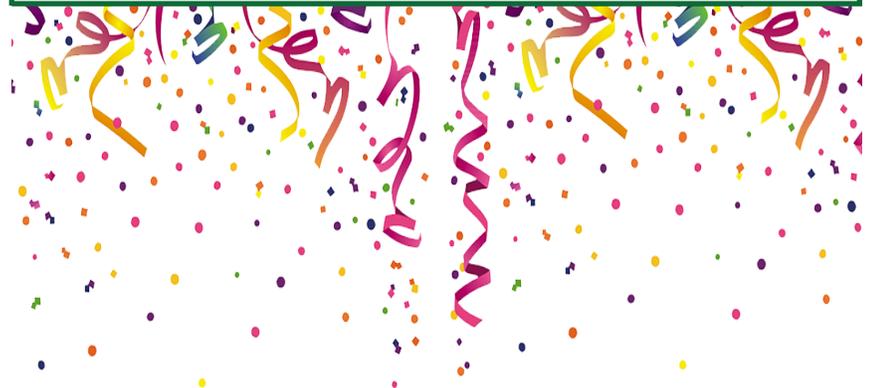
Emerald

EMERALDS
May's Birthstone
By

John Wright, RPG



El Perfecto – Martin Zinn collection
Photo by Jeff Scovil (1990)



Emerald is the birthstone for May and in many cultures the symbol of Springtime, youth, and eternal love.

Astrologists believe that emeralds have clairvoyance and prophetic powers. The name “emerald” is derived from French “esmeraude” via Latin to the Greek root “smaragdos” meaning green stone. Rooted in antiquity they were used as gemstones by the Pharaohs of Egypt, the High Priests of ancient Central and South American societies, and worldwide by kings and potentates throughout history.

The few Biblical references that many ascribe to emeralds are questionable and while possible, it is more than likely that the gems were feldspars (Amazonite ?) or some other common variety of green stone. It should also be noted that Biblical and many other ancient references did not always consider emeralds to be green or in the beryl family, but just beautiful stones.

While emeralds are a green variety of beryl not all green beryl is emerald. The chemical composition of emeralds which includes chromium normally gives them a soft lustrous green color (emerald green). Often green beryl (no chromium) is commonly accepted as emeralds. Yellow-green or olive heliodors from Brazil, which contain traces of iron instead of chromium, are also sold as emeralds. Now, just to muddy the water up a little bit and add to the challenge, you cannot use color alone to identify emeralds. Light to medium shades of emerald and darker shades of green beryl and heliodors can make identification extremely difficult. All are species of the beryl family and many of their physical properties are the same.

Physical properties

Family: Beryl

Chemical Composition: Silicate of Beryllium & Aluminum – w – Chromium. $BE_3(ALCR)_2SI_6O_{18}$

Crystal System: Hexagonal prism with tabular habit, flat well terminated surfaces, etching, and growth marks

Birefringence: 06

Refractive Indices: Variable from ne 1.560, nw 1.570 to ne 1.595, nw 1.602

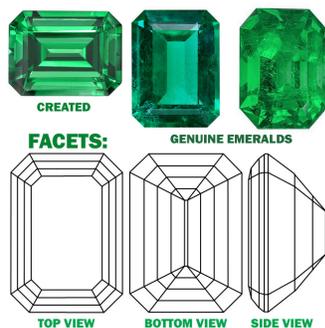
Density: 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm³ normally, can be as much as 2.90 g/cm³

Hardness: 7.5 – 8 (often brittle)

Cleavage: Imperfect or ill-defined, parallel to basal plane

Pleochroic: Intensity varies according to body color from weak distinct

All emeralds have inclusions, but in the better-quality stones they are very faint and not visible to the naked eye. The most common shape for gem stones is the step or trap cut which is also known as the “emerald cut”.



Step or Emerald Cut

Antique emeralds are found with hexagonal step cuts, pear shapes, and made into cabochons with a hole in them for use as a pendant. Early jewelry worn by royalty and priests in Pre-Columbian

Central and South America used matched uncut emerald crystals mounted on a horizontal axis to the necklace or bracelet strand with a larger emerald or medallion at the center. These stones were normally tied on with gold wire, but on some occasions, they were drilled.

One of the largest emeralds in the world is the “Mongol Emerald” and originally belonged to an Indian Maharaja. It dates back to the year 1695, weighs 217.80 carats and is about 10 cm high. This stone was auctioned by Christie’s of London and purchased by an anonymous buyer for 2.2 million U.S. dollars about 20 years ago. Emeralds are one of the oldest gemstones and deposits are found widely dispersed around the world. We know that they were mined by Egyptians along the Red Sea during the reign of the Pharaohs and by the Incas and Aztecs a thousand years before Columbus discovered America, so the question arises, why are they so expensive. The majority of emeralds found are not of gem quality, the ones that are of gem quality are usually small and most importantly there is a huge market. All things being equal (quality, size, weight, etc.), emeralds are equal too or even more expensive than diamonds. Most of us know that the majority of gem quality emeralds come from South America and that the Emerald Capitol of the world is Bogota, Columbia. Small deposits have been found in many other areas of the world but they are usually small and of poor quality. There are exceptions and some of the larger more famous emeralds were found in Africa and northern India, but deposits in these areas were limited and for the most part larger gemstones were mined out many years ago.

The magical lure of the emerald is still as strong as ever and there are still many people willing to risk everything to find them. I think most of us have heard the story about the individual in western North Carolina who after many years of frustration and near bankruptcy finally located a deposit that contained gem quality material, some quite large and of considerable value. Deposits have also recently been found in Alaska, but my understanding is that while they contain gem quality emeralds most are small. Rumors also persist that deposits are known to exist in the Pacific Northwest. I know that there are a lot of people hunting for them, but I have not heard of any actually being found.

We always welcome new members!



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: _____		Cell: _____	
Name: _____		Cell: _____	
Address: _____		Home Phone: _____	
City: _____			
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
Members Birthdays			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Please Check All Applicable Interests			
<input type="radio"/> Beading	<input type="radio"/> Cabbing	<input type="radio"/> Jewelry Making	
<input type="radio"/> Chain Mail	<input type="radio"/> PMC	<input type="radio"/> Lapidary	
<input type="radio"/> Field Trips	<input type="radio"/> Faceting	<input type="radio"/> Minerals	
<input type="radio"/> Fossils	<input type="radio"/> Wire Wrapping	<input type="radio"/> Silver Smithing	
<input type="radio"/> Others: _____			
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<input type="radio"/>	I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.		
<input type="radio"/>	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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 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.
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ALAA John Wright: Director
 SFMS John Wright: Past President
 SFMS Barbi Beatty: Treasurer
 & Insurance Liaison
 SFMS Buddy Shotts: Past Long-range
 Planning, Past President, State
 Director

Annual dues are:
 \$16 Individual
 \$20 (2) Members in same house hold
 \$6 Junior

**2020 Workshop/Meeting
 Dates**

January 11 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 February 8 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 March 14 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 April 4 Club Picnic Seashore
 Methodist Pavilion 11:00-4:00
 April 11 OS Library Mini Show 9:30-4:00
 May 8 ~~OS Library 9:30-3:45~~
 June 13 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 July 11 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 August 8 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 September 12 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 October 10 OS Library 9:30-3:45
 November 12 After Vendor Dinner 5ish
 December 12 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

May 2020

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
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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