



Snoopy Gems

Volume 47 Number 12 December 2021
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

Presidents Message



Dear Members,

Come to our traditional Christmas Party Lunch. The club will provide the turkey, soft drinks, and plastic/paper supplies. Bring a side dish to share or a dessert. Wine will be available. We will be in the larger OSAA room upstairs for the party so we will have more space.

Plans are to play "Dirty Santa" or "Sneaky Santa" if you are up for some fun. For that, bring a wrapped gift worth \$20-\$25 if you wish to participate. It's always nice if the gift relates to the club purpose in some manner (lapidary tools, supplies, jewelry, etc.)

If you have made extra decorations, bring them also to help decorate the tree and become door prize See you at the Christmas Party!

Thinking Ahead.....

Start thinking about 2022. What do you want to learn this coming year? What skills, what techniques, what knowledge? Do you want to have a "Rock Fair" in April or May? Do you have things to sell or demonstrate for that fair? How can we fulfill our obligation to the Mary C for classes? If we bring in a workshop, would you support that? Field trips? Are you willing to pay a fee, or purchase tools or supplies for a specific workshop? Do you prefer demonstrations or mini workshops? Lots to think about..... It would be good if our people planning workshops and programs knew what you wanted to learn. Jot down your thoughts and we can discuss in January.

Call me with questions or ideas on workshops or the show.

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President
228-818-5412, lizplatt27@gmail.com



December Christmas Party:

Happy Holidays! Our club Christmas Party is December 11th at the Mary C O'Keefe in the OSAA Art room upstairs. Setup will start at 11:00, with potluck lunch at 12:00, followed by a friendly game of Dirty Santa. (If you want to participate the gift value should be between \$20- \$25) The club will provide a Turkey with dressing and gravy, soda, and coffee. Please bring a side dish.

If you would like to make and donate a gem club related item to hang on the tree it will be greatly appreciated! These items can be and ornament or a piece of jewelry. The donated items will be given as door prizes
Happy Holidays,



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Meeting Minutes:

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

November 11, 2021



Meeting called to order: by Liz Platt, President.

Meeting Minutes Approval: October minutes approved

Treasurer's Report: provided by Barbi Beatty, Treasurer.

Meeting: Welcomed two members from the SFMS. Information provided by Liz Platt, and Barbi Beatty concerning Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show. Angie Troutman will come in Friday morning to set up the raffle area. Liz Platt is asking for a minimum of two people at the front desk at all times. Instructions will be available. Cost to enter is \$3 daily or \$5.00 for three-day pass. Each day there will be a different color ticket. Turn in all tickets sold for verification purposes. No discounts or special prices this year. Members can enter free unless they want a ticket for the door prizes. Barbi will have a treasure box for the money. At the end of the day the box will be taken to the kitchen for a final count. Do not count money in the front area. Barbi Beatty asked that entry tickets continue to be sold at least until 20 minutes prior to closing. Need someone to work the membership area and need help in the kitchen. Doors open for sales at 10:00am, no one enters prior to that time unless they are a Vendor or working. If working a station, please be in 30 minutes ahead of your start time. Vicki Reynolds has a young lady name Jaslin assisting her and helping with the sandbox. Asking that everyone keeps their eyes open for security purposes. No one can use the side entries. Mrs. Jane Cook asked Barbi to let everyone know that this was one of the best things Dave had ever done and that he met a new group of people that were outside of his normal associates but that everyone was just wonderful. She truly appreciated that the club set up a memorial case in honor of Dave. Dave was truly loved by all members of the club. Barbi Beatty made a motion to make Mrs. Jane Cook a lifetime member, second by John Guglik, motion carried. Christmas Party will be the 2nd Saturday in December, held in OSAA Art Room at the Mary C, potluck, door prizes, and a minimum \$20.00 gift value if participating in Dirty Santa. Set up at 11:00, Lunch at 12, games and prizes afterwards. Harvey Marcum inquired about timeline for the use of equipment during regular workshops. He offered to stay until 4:00pm with individuals using equipment.

Workshop: No workshop due to annual Gem & Mineral Show.

Tools and Equipment: No report

Sunshine: No report.

Old Business: The club is still obligated to do some classes at Mary C O'Keefe Cultural Art Center.



New Business: Room at Mary C is reserved for all of the dates of our workshop and meetings for 2022. Election of Officers: Liz Platt - President, Joni Arias - Vice President, Rosalind Norvel-Daniels - Secretary, Barbi Beatty - Treasurer, Harvey Marcum - Member at Large. Reba Shotts - Member at Large is serving second year. No nominations from the floor. Buddy Shotts made a motion by acclamation to accept the nominees, John Guglik second, motion carried. John Guglik agreed to remain Parliamentarian, Claire Martin agreed to continue as Workshop Chairman, Reba Shotts will continue handling the Sunshine Committee. Liz explained that there are plenty of other jobs that still need volunteers. Barbi Beatty is asking for a volunteer to teach a workshop in January.

Gem of the Month/Show and Tell: NA

Motion to Adjourn and Door Prizes: Motion made at 7:35pm by Belinda Marcum, second by Benta Paul, motion carried. No Door Prizes.

Report by Secretary Rosalind Norvel-Daniels

Happy



December

Birthday



Blue Zircon • Tanzanite • Turquoise



Since the Middle Ages, **Blue Zircon** has been believed to aid in spiritual growth and to promote wisdom. Those who wear blue zircon, it is said, will find beauty and peace.



As a relatively new gemstone, **Tanzanite** does not have any mythical or mysterious powers associated with it. But what it lacks in history, it compensates with beauty in its deep blue and purple tones.



Turquoise attracts money, success and love. Its powers include protection, healing, courage, friendship, and luck. It relaxes the mind, and eases mental tension.



BJ Anderson **Ronnie Hebert**
Antonio Liles **Charity Winkler**



Zircon is a natural gemstone (zirconium silicate). Colorless when pure, zirconium silicate takes on various shades due to impurities. Zircon also has impressive fire, with a dispersion rating nearly as high as diamond. The brilliance and fire of this gemstone makes it very popular. The wide variety of colors of zircon, its rarity, and its relatively low cost make it a popular collector's stone. Collectors enjoy the search for all possible colors and variations. Zircon is also a favorite of gemologists and geologists for its unique properties.

Origin of Zircon: Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Norway, Germany, Russia, Madagascar, Brazil, Canada and the United States

The prices and value of fine zircon vary depending on the size and quality of the gemstone. Blue is the most popular zircon color, followed by honey, red and white. Green zircon, resulting from the effects of

natural radioactivity, is rare. In blue zircon, look for a saturated blue. Clean gems in large sizes are especially valuable.

Virtually all blue zircon is heat treated at low temperature. Blue Zircon is produced by heat treatment of brown zircon. Not all brown zircon will turn blue when heated. Only some zircon has the right physical structure for this to occur. Most blue zircon comes from sources in Cambodia or Burma.

Attributes of Blue Zircon:

Color: Blue to vivid blue, pastel blue sky blue and bright blue.

Refractive Index: 1.92 - 2.01

Chemical Composition: ZrSiO₄

Hardness: 7.5

Density: 4.6-4.7

Crystal Structure: Tetragonal



Tanzanite is found in just one place on earth.



Tiffany & Co named this blue-violet variety of zoisite in honor of Tanzania, where it was first unearthed in 1967. Because the crystals show different colors depending on the viewing direction, cutters can fashion gems with a range of color from violet-ish blue to bluish violet depending on how much weight they want to retain from the rough.

Mineral: Zoisite

Chemistry: $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$

Color: Violet blue to bluish violet to violet purple

Refractive Index: 1.691 to 1.700

Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.013

Specific Gravity: 3.35

Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7

Although nearly all of the world's most popular gemstones have been known and used for hundreds of years, tanzanite was not discovered in commercial quantities until the 1960s. In the short time since then, it has become the second most popular blue gem after sapphire. It is one of a very small number of gems of any color that have been discovered and brought to strong consumer popularity within the past century. This rapid rise to popularity was accomplished mainly by Tiffany's promotion and tanzanite's beautiful blue color.



The mineral zoisite naturally occurs in a wide range of colors that include colorless, gray, yellow, brown, pink, green, blue, and violet. The name "tanzanite" is used for a color variety of zoisite that ranges from blue to bluish purple to bluish violet. The discovery of transparent crystals of blue zoisite in the 1960s stimulated interest in the gem. Soon after that discovery,

laboratory experiments determined that heating could improve the color of some naturally blue stones. They also determined that heating could convert some naturally brown or green zoisite into beautiful blue zoisite. With those discoveries, there was enough blue zoisite to support a marketing effort that would introduce the gem to millions of people. The blue color of tanzanite is caused by small amounts of vanadium within the zoisite mineral structure. When vanadium-bearing zoisite is heated to a temperature of 600 degrees Celsius for about 30 minutes, the oxidation state of the vanadium is changed and that change causes or improves the blue color.



Tanzanite is a pleochroic gem. Pleochroism is a physical property in which the material appears to be different colors when viewed from different crystallographic directions. Some specimens of tanzanite can be a distinct blue when viewed from one direction, and vary from violet to red when viewed from other directions. The top color for tanzanite is a vivid blue. Cutters must examine each piece of rough and determine if they can cut it in an orientation that will yield a finished stone with maximum face-up blue color. If that is possible, they then determine if changing the orientation of the cut will yield a larger stone of second-quality color that will sell for a higher price.

Tanzanite is best suited for earrings, pendants, and other jewelry items that will not encounter abrasion and impact. It is less suited for use in a ring. Many jewelers recommend that "tanzanite rings are for dress rather than daily wear." Tanzanite has a hardness of about 6.5 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. This hardness is low enough that the gem is vulnerable to being scratched during normal wear if it is used in a ring. This problem can be reduced if the setting is designed to protect the stone from impact and abrasion. Tanzanite has one direction of perfect cleavage that could result in the gem being chipped or broken if it receives a sharp impact. Tanzanite is also sensitive to sudden temperature change and is more subject to breakage at that time. If cleaning is needed, warm water and a mild soap are recommended. Steam and ultrasonic cleaning is not recommended.

Turquoise is found in only a few places on earth: dry and barren regions where acidic, copper-rich groundwater seeps downward and reacts with minerals that contain phosphorus and aluminum. The result of this sedimentary process is a porous, semi translucent to opaque compound of hydrated copper and aluminum phosphate.

Its color can range from dull greens to grass greens to a bright, medium-toned, sky blue. People value turquoise highly for its combination of ancient heritage and unforgettable color.

The traditional source for the top color, sometimes described as robin's-egg blue or sky blue, is the Nishapur district of Iran, the country formerly known as Persia. So, quite often, you'll hear people in the trade call turquoise of this beautiful color "Persian blue," whether or not it was actually mined in Iran.

Although much turquoise jewelry is sleek and modern, many US consumers are familiar with the traditional jewelry of Native American peoples such as the Pueblo, Hopi, Zuni, and Navajo. People interested in Native American arts and crafts frequently collect this stylized silver jewelry.



Turquoise is relatively soft, so it's ideal for carving. Artists in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas choose turquoise as a medium for carved jewelry and art objects. It's often fashioned into talismans with Native American significance, such as bird and animal carvings.

Turquoise owes its texture to its structure and composition. It's an aggregate of microscopic crystals that form a solid mass. If the crystals are packed closely together, the material is less porous, so it has a finer texture. Fine-textured turquoise has an attractive, waxy luster when it's polished. Turquoise with a less-dense crystal structure has higher porosity and coarser texture, resulting in a dull luster when it's polished. In turquoise, low porosity and fine texture are more valuable than high porosity and coarse texture. Coarse, porous stones are usually treated to make them smoother, shinier, and more marketable.

Turquoise deposits usually form in iron-rich limonite or sandstone. Limonite creates dark brown markings in turquoise, while sandstone creates tan markings. These markings are remnants of the host rock within the turquoise, and can resemble splotches or veins. A type of turquoise known in the trade as spiderweb turquoise contains matrix in thin, delicate, web-like patterns across the face of the gemstone. The patterns provide a dark contrast to the gem's bright blue. Turquoise stones with no matrix at all command the highest prices. Gems with attractive spiderweb matrix rank second in value.

Mineral: Turquoise

Chemistry: $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4 (\text{OH})_8.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$

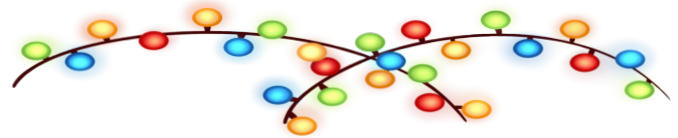
Color: Blue to green

Refractive Index: 1.610 to 1.650

Birefringence: Not detectable

Specific Gravity: 2.76 (+0.14, -0.36)

Mohs Hardness: 5 to 6



BENCH TIP

SOLVENT DISPENSER

Frequently we need to fill a small bottle with alcohol, like the bottle of an alcohol lamp or a nail polish bottle that we use for the yellow ochre anti-flux. Often we can't find a small funnel and end up spilling almost as much as we get into the bottle. It's wasteful, and the fumes aren't too good for you either.

A neat and inexpensive solution is to use a lab dispensing bottle to store small quantities of the solvents most frequently used. The bottles have a wide mouth for filling and a fine tip for dispensing. You can get a small stream or just a drop or two. With the bottle's fine tip I don't spill a drop.


A Google search will turn up many suppliers.



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: _____			

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.
P.O. Box 857 Ocean Springs MS 39566
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is the Official Publication of
The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral
Society, Inc.



2021 Workshop/Meeting Dates

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)

January 9 TBD 9:30-4:00
February 13 TBD 9:30-4:00
March 13 TBD 9:30-4:00
April 10 TBD 9:30-4:00
May 8 TBD 9:30-4:00
June 12 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
July 10 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
August 14 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
September 11 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
October 9 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
November 13 After Vendor Dinner 5ish
**December 11 Christmas Party Mary C.
11:00am-3:30pm**



OFFICERS 2021

President Liz Platt
Vice President Natalie Webb
Treasurer Barbi Beatty
Secretary Roslind Daniels
Parliamentarian John Guglik
Editor Barbi Beatty
Web master Barbi Beatty
Member at Large Harvey Marcum
Member at Large Reba Shotts



COMMITTEES

Membership Barbi Beatty
Show Chair Barbi Beatty
Historian Lettie White
Librarian Liz Platt
Sunshine Reba Shotts



**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

AFFILIATIONS

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

December 2021



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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