



Snoopy Gems

Volume 47 Number 9 September 2021
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

Vicki has a great project planned for this next meeting using colorful aluminum wire. We also have our 5 minute informational segments by our usual experts Buddy and John. We will have a couple of important club business items to discuss and decide: a storage issue and how we want to help the MaryC with their Halloween Event on October 30. Do you know of any fun and inexpensive "spooky" jewelry we could make or teach or sell at this 2 hour evening event?

Thanks to Barbi for the very useful workshop last month on pearl bracelets.

Rosalind Norvel-Daniels will offer a 4-week Beginner Basic Beading Class starting October 06, 2021, from noon to 1:00. The class will go towards the club's annual commitment to the Mary O' Keefe Cultural Arts Center

Be sure to let us know what you want to learn to do. We'll try to bring someone in to show us.

Our show is 12-14 November. Don't forget your donation for the show raffle. Please try to be available to help during that time.

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

September Workshop:

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching chainmalle bracelets for our workshop project.

Kits will be available for \$6.

Materials:

We will be using aluminum jump rings. Kits will have 3 choices on outside color, silver tone, gold tone & copper tone & many more for inside. If you want to bring your own you will need 56, 8mm rings for outside & 28, 8mm for inside rings, plus a clasp.

Tools:

2 pairs of pliers,
flat or chain nose.



Machines: Members of our tool committee will be available to help with cutting and capping gemstones. As always, we will have the club machines available for metal & gemstone testing, gemstone cutting, and capping.

Claire Martin
Workshop Chair
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PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Meeting Minutes:

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

August 14, 2021



Meeting called to order: at 1:10pm by Liz Platt, President. Gem of the Month was provided prior to the start of the meeting. There were 19 members present.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Liz Platt thanked members for coming and asked for a motion to approve July 2021 minutes as published in Snoopy Gems Newsletter. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds, second by Bruce Giamalva, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Barbi Beatty, Treasurer, stated there was not a lot of activity in the accounts. The club received a refund from the company that insurers us through the SFMS for the 2020 Gem Show. The shop unit cleared the account along with the utility saw and two parts. Liz still needs to be reimbursed for a lock and lock box. Reba Shotts needs reimbursement for Wild Acres. Per Liz Platt there is no need to approve the Treasurers report because it is what it is.

Meeting Site: Liz Platt stated things appear to be going well in our new location although the room is a little tight for the group. If we become larger and for the Christmas Party, Vicki Reynolds offered to let the group use her room. Glad to have the closet to store all of the club's equipment and supplies.

Workshop: Claire Martin has been setting up the workshops for our club but due to a family members illness she is not able to be with us. Vicki Reynolds will do an Aluminum Chainmaille workshop for September. Barbi Beatty asked that Vicki send her the basics so that she can post the information on the website.

SFMS Workshop and Scholarship: Scholarship winner, David Spencer and the second alternate winner Reba Shotts will both go to Wild Acres this year.

Tools and Equipment: Per Vicki Reynolds, Van Crump mentioned something pertaining to needing some wheels for some of the equipment. Barbi Beatty brought some beading mats that will stay with the equipment and can be used as needed. Vicki donated a bracelet and a ring mandrel to the club.

Library: Claire Martin has donated some vintage lapidary magazines to the library.

Sunshine: Reba Shotts stated that she has been sending out birthday cards and if anyone did not receive one it is because she does not have your birthdate or address. Mr. Mike, one of the Vendor's passed away. Reba will send a card to his family from the MGCGMS.

Membership: Not all club members have returned yet so we will see how things go as members continue to return. David Cook is really missed. He was the cornerstone of our workshops and would have something every time or he would get somebody.

Snoopy Gem Newsletter: Liz Platt asks that all members read the Snoopy Gem Newsletter. Barbi Beatty is accepting written material from members to publish.

Outside Classes/Workshops: Meeting held with partners of the Mary O'Keefe Cultural Arts Center. They are getting their fall program together and are asking that all partners have classes. Rosalind Norvel-Daniels will offer a 4-week Beginner Basic Beading Class starting October 06, 2021, from noon to 1:00. The class will go towards the club's annual commitment to the Mary O' Keefe Cultural Arts Center. Mary O'Keefe is also asking for some Halloween jewelry for their Halloween event. Vicki is willing to demonstrate wire work when Mary O'Keefe has different events in order to introduce people to MGCGMS.

Gem Show: The Magnolia Gem and Mineral Show will be November 12,13,14, 2021. Per Barbi Beatty we have 10 vendor contracts received back. She will call to make sure others are still coming. Will need to reprint pamphlets with current information. Will work on attaching tickets during our October's meeting. We will have post cards for the Chamber of Commerce to put in their packets for Cruising the Coast and Mary O'Keefe events. A digital billboard, radio, and social media will also be used to advertise. Advertising will be based on the number of Vendors that participate. Menu discussed for the concession stand. Have received some donations for the raffle, asking that contributions be made from more club members.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Request has been made by Bruce Giamalva to begin taking field trips. He has agreed to organize these events. Buddy Shotts says there are some places in AL where there are Sea Life fossils. Tom Simmons stated, Mark Daynes mentioned year before last about going to La-Grange, GA. Per Barbi Beatty there is a member of the Dixie Mineral Society that says if our club hosts an event for Dixie Mineral and become a member, he will set up a field trip in South Louisiana as a club. If we host that hunt and let other clubs join us there then we will become members of the council, any member of our club can then go to any Dixie Mineral hunt throughout the year. Barbi will communicate with Bill Evers for further details. Joni Arias, and Rosalind Norvel-Daniels have agreed to be on the nominating committee for 2022 nominees.

Gem of the Month/Show and Tell: Buddy Shotts provided club members with a plethora of information on the Gem of the month, Peridot. John Guglik provided some information on peridot found in crown jewelry and in Egypt and passed out a worksheet on Testing Rocks. Buddy Shotts had some loose stones and Liz Platt had both glass made to look like peridot and some genuine peridot jewelry to pass around for show and tell.

Motion to Adjourn and Door Prizes: Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm. Vicki Reynolds gave the motion to adjourn, Barbi Beatty second. Several door prizes won, and the club auctioned off several rocks.

Happy



September

Birthday

Charles Block V, Bonnie Jenkins, Rachel Gray,
Liz Platt, Tres Lennep, Dominic Liles, Rich Hart,
Cheryl Rodriguez, Sue Shelton, Elaine Uram

Sapphire
SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE



Sapphire September Birthstone

Upon hearing the word “Sapphire,” many immediately envision a stunning violet-blue gemstone. “Sapphire” is Greek for blue. Since ancient times, the Blue Sapphire has represented a promise of honesty, loyalty, purity and trust.

The Color of Sapphire



They range from very pale blue to deep indigo, with the exact shade depending on how much titanium and iron lies within the crystal structure. The most valued shade of blue is the medium-deep cornflower blue. Sapphires with a highly saturated violet-blue color and a velvety or sleepy transparency are rarer. The purer the blue of the Sapphire, the greater the price. However, many people find that darker hues can be just as appealing. Sapphire is most desired

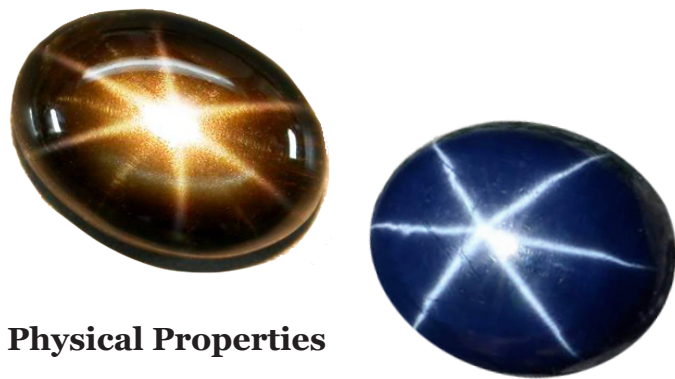


in its pure, rich blue color, but it also comes in colorless, gray, yellow, pink, orange, green, violet and brown. These colors are known as fancy sapphires. The most sought-after color of fancy Sapphire is the rare and beautiful Padparadscha, a pink-orange corundum with a distinctive salmon color reminiscent of a tropical sunset.



Different kinds of impurities within the crystal cause the various gemstone colors. For example, yellow sapphires get their color from ferric iron, and colorless gems have no contaminants. Sapphires are pleochroic (display more than one color due to the different absorption of light in different directions), so as you view the stone the color tone that you see should change if you turn the stone or change the direction of the light source. In a faceted sapphire, these colors can often be seen as “flashes”

when the stone is rotated or moved around in the light source. Sapphires are also fluorescent and the color should be more intense under strong light particularly when exposed to the ultraviolet rays of direct sunlight. Tonal color may also be influenced by inclusions of tiny rutile needles which are similar to fiber optics. In small quantities these inclusions often enhance sapphires and gemologists referred to this occurrence as “silk” as they cause these stone to have a silky sheen. In sufficient quantity these inclusions result in zoning along crystal growth lines which traps or interferes with light rays passing through the stone and produces a very distinctive pattern of white light lines resembling a star with six or more rays. The stars show up best in opaque stone that have been cut and polished as cabochons and are known as star sapphires.



Physical Properties

Family: Corundum

Chemical Composition: Aluminum Oxide Al_2O_3

Crystal System: Trigonal (bar 3 2/m)

Crystal Habit: Typically, a six-sided elongated tapered crystal with close transverse striations that resemble a bipyramid; sometimes hexagonal prisms; can also be tabular.

Birefringence: (0.4)

Reflective Indices: ne 1.760, nw 1.769 (+0.009, -0.005)

Density: 4.00 (+/- 0.05) g/cm³

Hardness: 9

Cleavage: Absent, sometimes there is parting which occurs in three directions.

Fracture: Conchoidal

Pleochroic: Variable from different viewing directions and color intensifies in strong artificial light, ultraviolet light or direct sunlight



Sapphire is a form of the mineral corundum, a crystalline form of aluminum oxide. Red corundum is called ruby. And all other gem-quality forms of corundum are called sapphires. All corundum, including sapphire, has a hardness of 9 on the Mohs scale. That makes sapphire second in hardness only to diamond.

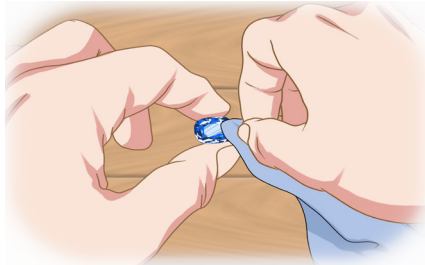
The Origin of Sapphires

Sapphire is found in many parts of the world, but the most prized Sapphires are from Myanmar (formerly Burma), Kashmir and Sri Lanka. Significant quantities have also been found in Australia, Thailand, Cambodia, Madagascar, the United States (Montana), Asia, and Africa. Sapphires were discovered in Kashmir around 1881 when a landslide high in the Himalayas exposed a large pocket of velvety “cornflower” blue crystals. As the spectacular sapphires began to appear farther south, the Maharaja of Kashmir and his army took control of the area. From 1882 to 1887, thousands of large, beautiful crystals were recovered. The stones faceted from these crystals established Kashmir sapphire’s reputation as one of the world’s most coveted gems. Production has been sporadic since then, but auction houses occasionally sell fine pieces of Kashmir sapphire jewelry. The Mogok area of Myanmar (formerly Burma) is another locale famed for producing sapphire. Sapphire typically occurs alongside ruby deposits, but in much smaller quantities than its red counterpart. Burmese sapphire can possess a rich, intense blue hue, which has made it particularly prized.

Sapphire Lore

Besides being the September birthstone, the sapphire was said to represent the purity of the soul. Before and during the Middle Ages,

priests wore it as protection from impure thoughts and temptations of the flesh. Medieval kings of Europe valued these stones for rings and brooches, believing that it protected them from harm and envy. Warriors presented their young wives with sapphire necklaces so they would remain faithful. A common belief was that the stone's color would darken if worn by an adulterer or adulteress, or by an unworthy person. Sapphires were once believed to be protection against snakes. People believed that if poisonous reptiles and spiders were placed in a jar containing the stone, the creatures would immediately die. The French of the 13th century believed that sapphire transformed stupidity to wisdom, and irritability to good temper.



Care & Cleaning

Sapphires are relatively hard, ranking 9 on the Mohs scale. It has excellent toughness and no cleavage. Gemstones with cleavage have a tendency to break when struck. This makes it a great choice for rings and other mountings subject to daily wear.

Sapphires are often treated to improve their color or clarity. Heat treatment is common and the results permanent, so it is well accepted in the trade. Less common treatments such as lattice diffusion, fracture filling and dyeing may require special care. In some cases, the color induced by lattice diffusion is so shallow it could be removed if the stone was chipped or had to be recut. Fracture-filled and dyed sapphires can be damaged by even mild acids like lemon juice. Before you buy a sapphire, always ask if it is treated and by what method.

Warm, soapy water is always a safe choice for cleaning Sapphires. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are usually safe for untreated, heat treated and lattice diffusion treated stones. Fracture filled or dyed material should only be cleaned with a damp cloth.

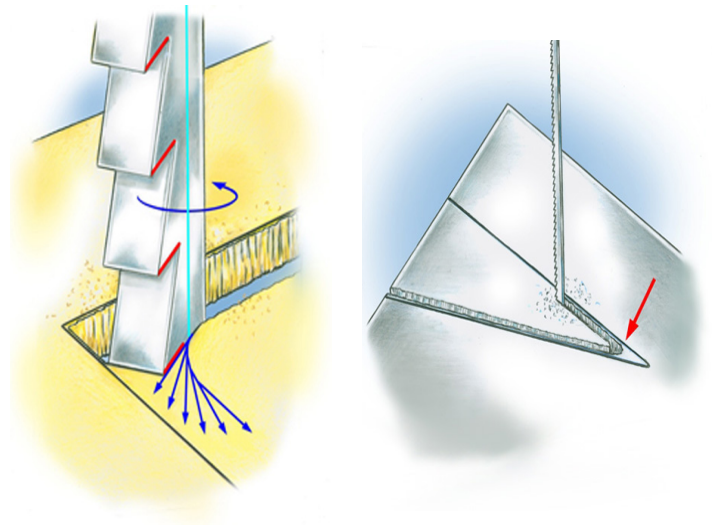
BENCH TIP

Saw around a sharp corner

Sawing is an essential skill for a bench jeweler. This tip will show you a technique that will increase your sawing speed and accuracy when you need to make sharp corner cuts and reduce your likelihood of breaking delicate saw blades. First, be sure to observe all sawing basics. Make sure the blade is properly held in the saw frame and that it is lubricated. In order to create a sharp corner, you can make a saw cut into the corner, then remove the saw blade and cut into the corner from another direction.

It is possible to make a crisp 90-degree corner without backtracking, however. The material you are sawing should be supported firmly on a flat and level bench pin that has a cutout for piercing. Be sure the saw blade is perpendicular to the work surface while you are cutting. If the blade is tilted left, right, forward or backward, it will distort the cut and likely break the blade.

Saw along your line as you approach the corner. When you reach the corner, stop the forward movement of the blade, but keep moving it up and down. Next, change the direction of the cut by either turning the saw frame or moving the object. It is important to keep the saw blade moving up and down as you change direction. The teeth of the saw blade, which are slightly offset, will cut the metal away as the blade is turning, allowing you to saw right around the corner without breaking the blade.



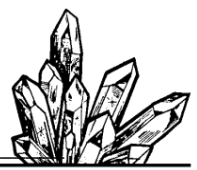
You can create a sharp corner by making the turn a short distance from it, then returning to touch it up.

With practice, you can make sharp corners of all angles. For corners less than 90 degrees, make your turn a short distance from the corner. This will leave the corner slightly rounded, but you can just come back and make the corner crisp with a few quick saw cuts.

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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Snoopy Gems
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 The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society,
 Inc.

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)

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Member at Large	Harvey Marcum
Member at Large	Reba Shotts

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

AFFILIATIONS

ALAA	John Wright: Director
SFMS	John Wright: Past President
SFMS	Barbi Beatty: Treasurer & Insurance Liaison
SFMS	Buddy Shotts: Past Long-range Plan- ning, Past President, State Director

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

**2021 Workshop/Meeting
 Dates**

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

**Dates subject to change.
 Be sure to check each month!**
 The November meeting is the Thursday eve-
 ning 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

September 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		

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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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