



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 47 Number 7 July 2021  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: [mgcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgcgms@bellsouth.net)

MGCGMS Established in 1974

## President's Message

Hello Members,

June 12 was our first meeting and workshop in over a year as we met in our new home, the Mary C. Cultural Center. It was so good to see our gem club friends again. One friend and guiding light for our club, David Cook, was unfortunately absent and sorely missed. David planned, directed, and led many of the workshops for the last few years. He was always willing to help and generously shared his expertise and time. He was a treasure and inspiration for all of us. Rest in peace, dear friend.

As we continue to figure out our partnership role with the Mary C., I believe this will be a mutually beneficial relationship. Please be thinking of classes and workshops that you would like for us to offer either for our monthly meeting or to the public. If you could provide a demonstration, a workshop, a program, or a discussion on a lapidary related topic, mention it to Claire or me or Barbi or Natalie and we can help you work on it or point you in the right direction. We can consider topics and use equipment that we couldn't in other settings. We can also help you explore individual sales through the gift shop.

The annual Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry show date is the second weekend in November (weekend after the Peter Anderson Festival). This is our only money-making event of the year and it allows us to purchase equipment and offer scholarships for the federation workshops. Come help us plan and get ready.

See you on Saturday!

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

## July Workshop:

Joni Arias will be teaching how to make earring jackets for our July workshop project.

Kits will be available.

Materials:

12" 20ga DSoft HRound Wire

2-4" 20ga DSoft Square Wire

4-3" 20ga DSoft Square Wire

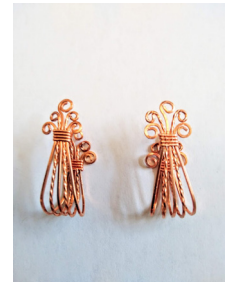
13" 20ga DSoft Square Wire twisted and cut into 4-3" pieces

Tools:

Round nose and flat nose pliers, wire cutters, pocket or old paring knife to separate wires, pencil or down to bend bundle of wire, ruler, masking tape, pair of stud earrings, and a fine point sharpie pen.

Machines: Members of our workshop 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  
228-366-3612  
[ladycomfms@yahoo.com](mailto:ladycomfms@yahoo.com)



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



# Meeting Minutes:

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

June 12, 2021



**Meeting called to order** at 12:40 by Liz Platt, President. There were 22 members present. New members were welcomed. The 2021 Board Members were introduced: Liz Platt (President) Natalie Webb (Vice President), Rosalind Daniels (Secretary, absent due to injury), Barbi Beatty (Treasurer), Harvey Marcum and Reba Shotts (Members-at-Large), John Guglik (Parliamentarian) Buddy Shotts (SFMS State Director) and Patrick Barrett (Past President).

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** of March 2020 minutes Not available for review and approval. We did have drawing for two scholarships. (1st. David Spencer, 2nd. Barbara Saavedra, 1<sup>st</sup> alt. Rosalind Daniels, 2<sup>nd</sup> alt. Reba Shotts) were the happy winners. Recipients have the responsibility of teaching what they have learned

**Treasurer's Report** was given by Barbi Beatty. The club's CD was moved back to savings account due to a higher and more favorable interest rate. Ms. Beatty also reported the expenses from purchase of new furniture, shelves, carts and supplies needed at our new venue. John Guglik moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Buddy Shotts seconded, motion carried.

**Workshop** Tammy Crump taught a class making a wire bracelet. John Guglik offered gem and metal testing. Members used the machines. Workshops will be held the 2nd Saturday of the month except for November when we have our show and December when we have our Christmas party.

**Tools and Equipment Report** Harvey Marcum reports that we need to purchase the new lapidary saw approved by the membership prior to the COVID shutdown. He also recommends that users of machines bring their own safety goggles since the club only has two pairs available. For the benefit of new members, Mr. Marcum is on the committee responsible for the oversight, care and upkeep of the club's machine and other pertinent equipment.

**SFMS Workshop and Scholarship** Reba Shotts has raffle tickets available for this year's scholarship drive. One ticket for \$5 and 5 tickets for \$20. Ticket sale is available until October 2021.

**Library** books and magazines related to gemology and jewelry making are available to all members for their own perusal. They can be checked-out and returned, on honor basis, from Liz Platt.

**Sunshine** Reba reported that birthday and get well cards were sent to members.

**Membership** Barbi informed the group that we have 78 members, 29 of whom are new. Please inform Barbi Beatty if you are interested in getting a name badge.

**Outside Classes/Workshops** Barbi Beatty and Vicki Reynolds are scheduled to teach Jewelry making classed at Mary C under the umbrella of our club.

**Gem Show** Magnolia Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show will be on November 12, 13, 14, 2021 at the Pascagoula Fairground Civic Center. Venue has been booked and vendors are signing-up.

### Old Business

**Snoopy Gem Newsletter** Old newsletter are available on our website. Liz Platt stated there is a lot of good information to see in the articles and bench tips. [www.mgcgms.org](http://www.mgcgms.org)

Buddy Shotts, on behalf of the club, thanked Bill and Lettie White for hosting the faceting class at their home for more than 3 years. Liz Platt also took the occasion to thank Yvonne P. of the Ocean Springs Library, for the use of their facility for our monthly workshop and meetings.

**Gem of the Month/Show and Tell** Buddy Shotts talked about Alexandrite; John Guglik and Barbi Beatty talked about Pearls, the gem for the month of June. Van and Tammy Crump went rock hounding at the Crater of Diamond in AK. Van found a .43 carat diamond he mounted into a ring for his wife Tammy. They brought it for show and tell. Buddy Shotts showed the group a big and fiery Ethiopian opal he faceted from a rough during the workshop.

### New Business

**New Location and Relationship with the Mary C.:** The move to Mary C O'Keefe Cultural Center required a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by our President Liz Platt. Under this memorandum the club agreed to have members teach at least one class or for the club hold one event per quarter. This event or class will be any educational activity that is open to the public, and will generate an income for the teacher and the Mary C. The breakdown for classed is 20% of the class teaching fee going to the Mary C. and 80% going to the person teaching the class. Kits for classes are separate from the class fee. The kits will be provided by the teacher and purchased by the student at the class. Each person teaching will have to fill out an application and a W9 form with the city before scheduling their class. Currently the financial commitment to the Mary C. for Events is 20% going to the Mary C. and 80% going to the club with the Mary C. receiving a minimum of \$150 per event. In exchange for all of this the Club will have use of the facility for our workshops and a lockable storage closet to keep our supplies and equipment in at no charge. Several concerns were raised by Natalie Webb and a lengthy discussion ensued. Discussed were issues relative to nomenclature especially with the word "event", Mary C's guidelines and its consistency with the club's bylaws, ways and means to generate income to meet our financial obligation to Mary C. Additional publicity for classes is available through Mary C's flyers and website.

Barbi Beatty made a motion to purchase another shelf for the closet. Reba Shott seconded the motion, motion carried.

For the time being, we will continue to bring sack lunches until we resume a pot luck later in the year.

**Motion to Adjourn and Door Prizes** Harvey Marcum gave the motion to adjourn, seconded by Reba Shott, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2PM. Tom Paquin, Joni Arias, and Dave Spencer won the door prizes.

# Happy



## July

# Birthday

Ed King    George Uran    Jenny White



**Rubies** are variety of corundum. Pure corundum has no color. The vivid red color in a ruby comes from trace amounts of the element chromium. Finding facet-quality, ruby material usually requires miners to go through tons of rock material before finding any rough crystals that qualify. Most rubies come from two sources: Myanmar, previously known as Burma, and Mozambique. Burmese rubies are considered the standard for rubies since Myanmar is the historical producer of the gem. Other sources can produce material of overlapping color and quality, since ruby material produced from each location is a range of colors and inclusions, though some have region-specific characteristics.

Finding an untreated ruby with perfect color, clarity, and cut in anything above a carat is difficult since they are incredibly rare.

About 90% of rubies in the world market come from Myanmar (Burma) and they are mined in Mogok, which is north of Mandalay. The Myanmar term for ruby is “padamyar,” and the finest hue of ruby is referred to as “pigeon’s blood.”

When discussing ruby color, it is also necessary to mention that the point between the “pink sapphire” and “ruby” is a heavily contested topic in the gem industry. Every stone is a unique combination of colors, and what is considered a pink sapphire in America might qualify as a ruby elsewhere in the world.

Ruby color is not a single color, but a range. It goes from pinkish red, to purplish red, to orangish red, and an unmodified ruby red as well.

The three main components to any color are hue, tone, and saturation.

Hue – The actual color, as in red, blue, yellow, etc. There are also modifying colors like purplish red, orangish red, etc.

Tone – How light or dark the stone is.

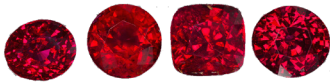
Saturation – How pure the color is. This is the difference between having ruby red and a reddish brown. It can also be the difference between a ruby and a pink sapphire, or brown corundum.

## Ruby Cuts

The cut of any gemstone is based on potential inclusions, pleochroic color, quality of the crystal rough, and ultimately how the cutter adapts to all these factors. No two gems will be exactly the same unless cut exclusively for that purpose, especially in larger carat sizes.

Most colored gemstones have a modified step cut on the bottom, like the round, cushion, oval, pear, marquise, trillion, and heart shapes. An exception to this is the emerald cut, which has a completely different cut. Other cuts like radiant and princess are more uniquely cut too, but much less common since they are not as adaptable as the modified step cut.

## About Ruby Clarity



Rubies can be transparent and clean looking with inclusions difficult to find even with magnification, but these are few and far between. Clarity affects the value of rubies based on the type, location, number, and size of the many possible inclusions. These factors can dictate a large part of the value.

Having inclusions in the center of the stone is less attractive than having those same inclusions towards the edge at the girdle. Inclusions around the edge can be hidden in a setting too, depending on the location and desired setting. Once the stone is set as a ruby ring, ruby necklace, or whatever piece of ruby jewelry is preferred, inclusions often become much less visible.

There are other natural factors affecting clarity, including the host material for rubies. There are two main types, marble and basalt. Marble hosted rubies often have a brighter, softer red partially due to having a certain amount and types of inclusions like rutile needles known as silk. Basalt hosted stones are often darker and clearer looking, often lacking any silk.

Note that the keyword above is often and not always, as nature is rarely consistent and full of special exceptions. It is very possible for an untreated Mogok ruby to not have any silk, and a Mozambique ruby to be full of silk.

## About Carat Weight

Carat weight is another factor that determines not just price per carat, but also what type of jewelry stone gets made into. Particularly large, and subsequently

heavier stones usually are not chosen to make something like ruby earrings and might be worn more comfortably as a ruby pendant.

It is worth mentioning that rubies do not typically grow over a carat. This is because the element that causes the red color, chromium, is relatively rare. Rubies also form shallow, tabular rough, restricting cutters from faceting large rubies. This makes anything over a carat exceptionally rare.



## Rarity and Value

The price-per-carat of rubies, like any gemstone, increases exponentially with the carat weight. For example; two 1 carat rubies will be worth less than a single 2 carat ruby of comparable quality. Reason being is a 2-carat ruby is that much rarer than two 1 carat rubies.

While there are a number of factors that determine market value for rubies, the most important factor here is whether or not you are satisfied with the stone. Everyone has different preferences, and not every preference will lead to the industry defined "ideal ruby".

## Ruby Heat Treatment

Heat-treating rubies is widely accepted in the industry with disclosure due to the improvement in color, clarity, and the fact that it is a permanent, stable treatment. Rubies that need no treatment are rare and therefore more valuable. Two rubies that are very similar in color, cut, carat weight, and clarity, but one is untreated, that ruby will be more than double the value of the treated one. While the exact percentage will fluctuate, over 95% of all mined material gets treated, the most common one being heat-treatment.



# BENCH TIPS

# UPCOMING SHOWS

<https://www.southeastfed.org/all-events-calendar>

## Rock Show: The Georgia Mineral Society

When

Fri, July 9, 10am – Sun, July 11, 5pm

Where

Cobb Civic Center, 548 South Marietta Pkwy., SE, Marietta, GA 30060 (map)

Description

The Georgia Mineral Society's 52nd Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show. EXCITING SILENT AUCTIONS throughout the weekend!!! FREE Admission! FREE Parking! Over 30 Dealers! Door Prizes! SPECIAL Door Prize for Students! Win a Great Prize for Yourself and for Your School!

Link(s):

[gamineral.org](http://gamineral.org)

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Bxl\\_74UAKrScbH3F6lM3WeE7HwMJ5asl](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Bxl_74UAKrScbH3F6lM3WeE7HwMJ5asl)



<https://oceansprings-ms.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/July-August-2021-Roster-2.pdf>

## BEGINNER WIRE WRAPPING

Instructor: Vicki Reynolds

Date: July 23rd & 24th Time: 10 am – 1pm

Ages: 18+ Spots Available: 5

Using copper wire to make bracelets and pendants.

The first day will be making bracelets, and the second day will be making pendants. The students have the option to take class for one or both days.

Class Fee: One day - \$25, Both days - \$50



## Sharp Shooter

Protecting heat-sensitive materials during soldering

It used to be fairly common for bench jewelers to keep a loaded pistol nearby, sometimes actually mounted under the bench top. You can honor that tradition today in a much safer way: Rather than using a gun for protection, use one to keep things cool.



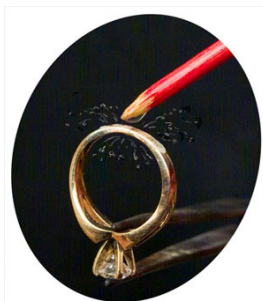
If you are a serious bench jeweler, try keeping a loaded water pistol nearby. When soldering, you often need to protect delicate gemstones, enamels, and other heat-sensitive materials from getting overheated and damaged. One way to do this is to submerge the sensitive part in water or wet sand while soldering an area that is exposed. But if you are quick with the torch, you can just shoot your way out of an overheating problem with a water gun.

As soon as you have finished soldering, immediately pick up your plastic special and squirt the hot part to drain the heat out. If you're a sharp shooter, you'll hit the mark and protect the heat-sensitive area, while keeping the rest of your bench dry.

## Applying Flux Drop by Drop

Anyone who has ever soldered jewelry, has a searing memory of sacrificing a flux brush in the name of expedient soldering. This occurs when, in the middle of an extended soldering operation, you observe that although the metal is hot enough, the flux is not sufficient for the solder to flow. Perhaps there was never enough or it burned off during extended heating (which should be avoided). So you put your flux-wet brush on the hot metal to add more of the vital liquid, which of course sears and ruins a few bristles on the brush. That's okay if your family owns a flux brush business or if you use the cheap kind. But I use a #00 Red Sable (artist's type) as a flux brush, and I want them to last.


So try this the next time you need to re-apply flux to a hot piece of metal. Use the sharpened end of the brush to transport it. After removing the paint, which would burn upon contact with hot metal, dip the bare wood into flux to saturate it and transport it to the needed joint. The flux splatters of course, but it winds up in the right place without losing a hair on your favorite brush



# We always welcome new members!



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

<a href="http://www.mgcgms.org">http://www.mgcgms.org</a>		<b>Application for Membership</b>	
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: _____	
<b>Members Birthdays</b>			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
<b>Please Check All Applicable Interests</b>			
<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: _____			
<b>How did you hear of us?</b> _____			
<b>Please check the following:</b>			
<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.  
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**Snoopy Gems**  
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**AFFILIATIONS**

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Soci-  
 eties, Inc.  
 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societ-  
 ies, Inc.  
 S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing In-  
 volved Bulletin Editors)

**OFFICERS 2018**

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

**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

**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  
 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

**July 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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<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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