



Snoopy Gems

Volume 48 Number 1 January 2022
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

My 2022 wish for you all is that you will be healthy, happy, and as productive as you wish to be. As for the MGCGMS, we have a chance to envision what we want it to be and plan accordingly. Please think about some new activities and learning.

The category of lapidary arts is very broad and includes craftsmanship and the skills we can learn and develop over our lives. The larger field of earth science includes learning about the geology, formation, and composition of the earth's gemstones, minerals, precious metals, and even meteorites. Our appreciation for the earth and what it has to offer leads us to conservation, re-cycling, and improving our environment for future generations.

Thanks to Claire as she schedules workshops and demos for the year. She needs to know what you would like to learn. Do you like hands on workshops, demonstrations, or discussions? What instructors do we need to bring in from the outside? What equipment is needed for various classes? Does anyone have a connection to college geology departments or specialized instructors or field trips? Give it some thought. This should be educational and FUN too!

I'm looking forward to Vicki's workshop and a special demo on Saturday. Hope to see you there.

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

January Workshop:

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching a wire-wrapped seahorse.

Mark Daynes will be giving a mystery demonstration.

Material list:

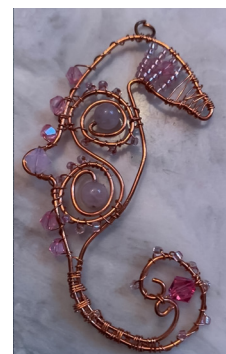
Beads

1 - 20 x 25mm (approximately) oval bead with hole.
50 3 or 4 mm beads with center hole
2 - bicone beads, approximately 4 to 6 mm
(see photo for pink seahorse)

Wire:

18 gauge round wire - 1 foot approximately
24 gauge round - 3 feet approximately

Vicki will supply copper wire for \$1.00 and will also have a few (very few) kits available for around \$5.00.



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

Claire Martin
Workshop Chair
228-366-3612
ladycomfms@yahoo.com

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Christmas Party

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Dec 2021



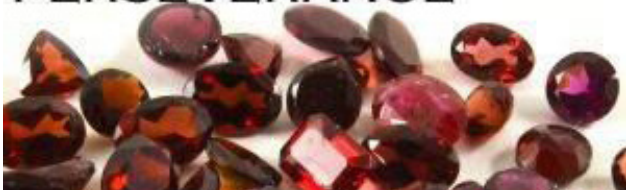
Happy



January

Birthday

Garnet
PROSPERITY
STRENGTH LOVE
CONTENTMENT
PERSEVERANCE



Joni Arias Lisa Fitch Belinda Marcum
Ruth Odem Meredith Picchi Eileen Sundberg
Angie Troutman Lettie White Billie Kelly



GARNET GROUP
By

John Wright



Garnets as a group form under high temperatures and/or pressure and are most commonly found in highly metamorphosed rocks, but in some instances they may also occur in igneous formations. Garnets are often used by geologists as a gauge for determining how much temperature and pressure host rocks have endured. They are also used as an indicator or bench mark in the search for other more precious stones and/or certain types of mineral deposits. Garnets have all the characteristics desirable in a gemstone, high indices of refraction, hardness, clarity, variety of colors, lack of cleavage, and durability. They are an ancient gemstone and garnet jewelry items are often found in archeological excavations. Garnets as gemstones range from the very common semi-precious stones to the extremely rare and expensive variety.

The Garnet group of minerals show crystals with a habit of dodecahedrons and trapezohedrons. They are nesosilicates with the same general formula, $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$. Many different chemical elements are included in the several varieties of garnet, including calcium, magnesium, aluminium, iron²⁺, iron³⁺, chromium, manganese, and titanium. Garnets show no cleavage, but do show a dodecahedral parting. Fracture is conchoidal to uneven; some varieties are very tough and are valuable for abrasive purposes. Hardness is 6.5 – 7.5, specific gravity is 3.1 – 4.3, luster is vitreous to resinous, and they can be transparent to opaque. Garnets come in a wide variety of colors including red, yellow, brown, black, green, or colorless. The only color not reported for garnet is blue. The name “garnet” comes from the Latin *granatus*, a grain possibly in reference to *malum granatum* (pomegranate) a plant with red seeds similar in shape, size and color to some garnet crystals.

Six common varieties of garnet are recognized based on their chemical composition. They are pyrope, almandine or carbuncle, spessartite, grossularite (varieties of which are hessonite or cinnamon-stone and tsavorite), uvarovite and andradite. The garnets make up two solid solution series;

1. pyrope-almandine-spessartite and 2. uvarovite-grossularite-andradite.

Grossularite is a calcium-aluminium garnet with the formula $\text{Ca}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$, though the calcium may in part be replaced by ferrous iron and the aluminum by ferric iron. The name grossularite is derived from the botanical name for the gooseberry, *grossularia*, in reference to the green garnet of this composition that is found in Siberia. Other shades include cinnamon brown, red, and yellow. Grossularite is found in contact metamorphosed limestones. One of the most sought after varieties of gem garnet is the fine green grossular garnet from Kenya and Tanzania called tsavorite.



Pyrope, from the Latin *pyropos* meaning similar to fire. Sometimes called Cape ruby, it is ruby-red in color and chemically a magnesium aluminium silicate with the formula $\text{Mg}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$, though the magnesium can be replaced in part by calcium and ferrous iron. The color of pyrope varies from deep red to almost black. The name pyrope is derived from the Greek word meaning “fire-like.” A variety of pyrope from Macon County, North Carolina is of a violet-red shade and has been called rhodolite, from the Greek meaning “a rose.” In chemical composition it may be considered as essentially an isomorphous mixture of pyrope and almandite, in the proportion of two molecules pyrope to one molecule almandite.

Almandite, sometimes called almandine, is the modern gem known as carbuncle (though originally almost any red gemstone was known by this name). The term “carbuncle” is derived from the Latin meaning “little spark.” The name

Almandite is a corruption of Alabanda, a region in Asia Minor where these stones were cut in ancient times. Chemically, almandite is an iron-aluminium garnet with formula $\text{Fe}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$; the deep red transparent stones are often called precious garnet and are used as gemstones (being the most common of the gem garnets). Almandite occurs in metamorphic rocks like mica schists.

Spessartite is manganese aluminium garnet, $\text{Mn}_3\text{Al}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$. Its name is derived from Spessart in Bavaria. It occurs most often in granite pegmatite and allied rock types and in certain low grade metamorphic phyllites. Spessartite of a beautiful orange-yellow is found in Madagascar. Violet-red spessartites are found in rhyolites in Colorado and Maine.

Uvarovite is a calcium chromium silicate with the formula $\text{Ca}_3\text{Cr}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$. It is a rather rare garnet, bright green in color, usually found as small crystals associated with chromite in peridotite and serpentinite or sometimes in crystalline marbles and schists. It is found in the Urals of Russia and Outukompu, Finland. *Knorringite* is a rare variety in which magnesium replaces calcium. It is often found in kimberlites and used as an indicator mineral in the search for diamonds.

Andradite is a calcium-iron garnet, $\text{Ca}_3\text{Fe}_2(\text{SiO}_4)_3$, is of variable composition and may be red, yellow, brown, green or black. The recognized subvarieties are topazolite (yellow or green), demantoid (green) and melantite (black). Andradite is found both in deep-seated igneous rocks like syenite as well as serpentines, schists, and crystalline limestone. Demantoid has been called the “emerald of the Urals” from its occurrence there, and is one of the most prized of garnet varieties.

- Mineralogy ISBN 0471032883
- Color Encyclopedia of Gemstones ISBN 0442203330
- mindat.org (<http://www.mindat.org/in-1651.html>)
- Minerals.net (<http://wwwminerals.net/mineral/silicate/neso/garnet/garnet.htm>)
- Simon and Schuster’s guide to Gems and Precious Stones, ISBN 0671604309
- Simon and Schuster’s guide to Rocks & Minerals, ISBN 0671244175

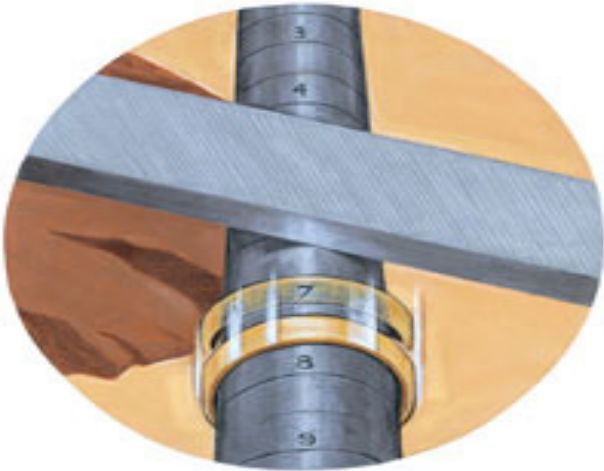


BENCH TIPS

File Force: Using a file to expand a ring

To make a ring larger, normally you just add a piece of metal or stretch the ring. But what if you need to go up half a size on a heavy gent's wedding band, and you don't want to add more metal? Or maybe you're sizing band with an outside pattern that you don't want to ruin, which either of the above options would do. If you have a ring stretcher, this would be the perfect time to use it. If not, and you need to coax the ring up the mandrel a little bit, there's another way: Use a file as a hammer!

That's right, as absurd as it may sound, you can effectively stretch a ring by hammering it with a file. Here's how:



Prepare an old, large, heavy flat file by grinding the teeth off of the edge; bring it up to about a 240-grit finish. Now place the ring on the mandrel and brace the mandrel firmly. Place the file/hammer on the large flat surface on the mandrel, with the finished edge against the ring. Now slide the file/hammer up to the small end of the mandrel and with a bit of force, quickly back down against the ring, forcing it up the mandrel. It is amazing how much force this can carry and how effectively you can move metal.

When finished, you need only to touch up and resurface the edge of your enlarged ring.

Because nearly every soldering operation presents new problems to be solved, there are many specialized soldering techniques that are not widely discussed. The problem nearly always boils down to the same issue: how to heat a piece of jewelry evenly, so that the parts being joined reach the solder temperature at the same time. Often if there is a large flat piece and a small upright piece to be joined, it is difficult to bring them to the solder temperature at the same time, because of their different masses and positions. Heating the larger lower item can be much more difficult than heating the smaller upright component.

One trick is to pre-heat a portion of your charcoal block. This is one of the reasons to choose charcoal, which absorbs heat, over a refractory soldering surface that reflects heat. Once the charcoal is glowing over a broad area, slide the work over it and it will be heated from below as well as with your torch from above.


The net result is like having two torches, one from above and the other from below, insuring a very even heating cycle.



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="checkbox"/> Beading	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabbing	<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry Making	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chain Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> PMC	<input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary	
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Faceting	<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fossils	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping	<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Smithing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____			
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<input type="checkbox"/> I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
 is the Official Publication of
 The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society,
 Inc.

AFFILIATIONS
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 Inc.
 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
 Inc.
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Annual dues are:
 \$16 Individual
 \$20 (2) Members in same house hold
 \$6 Junior

**2022 Workshop/Meeting
 Dates**

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

January 2022

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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