



Snoopy Gems

Volume 48 Number 3 March 2022
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

The workshop on March 12 will be on one method to make a gem tree in preparation for the elementary school activity event the next week. This partnership event with Mary C will be Friday, March 18. We will teach approximately 60 Connections students (four groups of 15) from Pecan Park Elementary how to make a gem tree. The club will pre-make the base with the students forming the branches and adding the gem beads for the leaves. Please help us put together "kits" so we can teach in an organized manner. Of course, if you don't know how to make a gem tree, you will want to learn so you can make your own. We have 30 kits made so far and will need approximately 30 more. We can learn this technique and prepare the rest of the kits at our next workshop.

We are also looking forward to the April 30 "JEWELRY & ART FAIR" on the grounds and inside the Mary C. Hope you all can participate by demonstrating or selling your creations. No charge if you are just demonstrating. We will have an area set up for demonstrators. \$25 for a table or an outside area to sell your creations with you keeping all your sales. Learn more at the next meeting.

Finally, we are offering two SFMS Workshop Scholarships to attend one of the week long lapidary room & board & learning events. Drawing will be Saturday, March 12 - at the meeting. If you qualify and are able and want to attend, we will place your name in the "hat." Call me or Barbi 228-238-9900 if you have questions about qualifications

Your board and workshop committee will soon publish a workshop schedule for the rest of the year to help you plan better on having the right supplies and tools. Look for that soon..

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

March Workshop:

Liz Platt will be teaching wire-wrapped gem trees. We will also be preparing tree kits to teach the connections students from Pecan Park Elementary.

Material list:

Small flat stone
22 Gauge Zebra craft wire Wire 7.5'
100 small gemstone chip beads or small beads

Tools:

Chain Nose Pliers, Large Nail or a Small Mandrel, Flush Cutters, & Ruler



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.

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Meeting Minutes

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

February 2022



Meeting called to order: by Liz Platt, President.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Barbi Beatty motioned to accept January's minutes, Reba Shots 2nd, motioned carried.

Treasurer's Report: provided by Barbi Beatty, Treasurer. changes from January. Balances provided for Gem show, checking, and saving accounts. Took in some membership dues, paid for storage unit, and purchased a few things from the estate sale for Vicki Reynolds. Vicki Reynolds made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Buddy Shotts 2nd, motion carried.

Meeting: Thanks, given to Harvey for coming and setting up the room for the club. Liz suggested moving some things out in the hall to expand our space. Explanation of the silent auction, door prizes, and split the pot/ 50-50 provided to the new members. Reba Shotts volunteered to handle 50-50 and Barbi Beatty agreed to continue handling the silent auction. Discussion pertaining to the Gem Show held in Pascagoula each year in November. Harvey Marcum stated that we really need to work on our display cases. Liz Platt asked if we could hire someone to build what's need? Harvey offered to sand and varnish the ones we have. John Gulick said OSHS has a wood working class we can check with. Allan Elliott offered to look at them to see what he can do. Jessica Worth offered to assist. Communication is through the monthly Newsletter, emails, and Facebook page. There is a Gem Show in Jackson MS February 26-27, 2022. SFMS is sponsoring the Rockhound Round Up in Live Oak, FL the end of the February. It is open to all members of Mineral Societies. We are setup with the Mary C. to do a spring mini show, April 30th, 2022. You can purchase a table for \$25 to set up and sell jewelry and anything artistic. Each individual is responsible for their own taxes. We will use tables from the club inside. If setting up outside you will need to bring your own table. Tables will be available at no cost for individuals demonstrating use of the equipment. This show helps to promote the Gem and Mineral Society, and OSAA. Barbi Beatty and Alexis of Mary C will do a banner and poster to share on all social media. Event will help towards our partnership with the Mary C. Reba Shotts asked if the money collected for the number of tables sold exceed the clubs quarterly obligation, does the extra apply towards the next quarter or does it come back to the club? Will discuss with Sarah, Director of Mary C. to determine how it will be used. The center has asked us to do something for second and third graders. Barbra Saavedra did gem trees with children during the Gem and Mineral Show and Liz Platt feels this would be a good creative project to do with the children. The club has the material and there will be no cost. SFMS (Southeast Federation Mineral Society) offers classes. Information can be found at www.southeastfed.org. The Board will discuss drawing names for scholarships after February's meeting. Welcome to new members, Jewel Pugh, Jessica Worth, and Rae Quadara.

Workshop: Claire Martin is our Workshop Chair and is working behind the scenes. She works through Joni Arias, and Barbi Beatty to work on our workshops to find teachers, and projects to do. February's workshop was held by Joni Arias and per Joni went very well. Our new members caught on quickly and did very well. Barbi Beatty is teaching Photoshop at the Mary C in late March. Information can be found on the Mary C website: www.oceansprings.gov/maryc

Sunshine: Per Reba Shotts, sent out several cards, heard from Barbra and Miquel. Vicki Reynolds received her Birthday card. Sent Aurora a card with the donation made in Ed's memory. Per Liz Platt, decision was made by Board to donate to the Education Fund. Per Barbi Beatty, her mom Lettie White is having a heart valve replacement in March.

New Business: Barbi Beatty won a rolling mill through an online Facebook wire wrapping page and will share it with the club. Mary C has asked for a minimal inventory of our closet. The club purchased some tools, wire, trays, and some little things Liz Platt thought the club could use from the Estate Sale offered by Vicki Reynolds.

Gem of the Month/Show and Tell: John Guglik and Buddy Shotts discussed the Gem of the month, Amethyst.

Motion to Adjourn and Door Prizes: Vicki Reynolds made a motion to adjourn, Harvey Marcum 2nd. Door prizes won by Rae Quadara, Liz Platt, Jessica Worth, Allan Elliott, John Guglik, Vicki Reynolds, Buddy Shotts, and Harvey Marcum,



Happy

March

Birthday

Cheryl Ashby Lois Reahard Dawn Brandt
 Rosalind Norvel-Daniels Eddie Ray Hard Kathe Kincaid
 Aurora King Harvey Marcum Smantha Odem



AQUAMARINE
 March's Birthstone
 By: John Wright

Aquamarine is the birthstone for March and derives its name from "sea water" (i.e. the Latin terms "aqua" meaning water and "mare" which refers to the sea). According to legend, aquamarine comes from the treasure chest of mermaids and is a powerful charm for keeping you safe when at sea. On land it is suppose to have a soothing influence on the wearer and is an ideal anniversary gift, because according to tradition giving an aquamarine ensures a long, happy, and prosperous marriage. It is one of the most popular gemstones as the light to medium blue color is complimentary to most any skin tone or complexion and is highly suitable for ware with casual or formal attire. Aquamarine is characterized by many excellent features and is the inspiration for new gemstone cuts more often than any other stones.



Family: Beryl, $Be Al_2 Si_6 O_{18}$
 Crystal System: Hexagonal
 Birefringence: 0.004 – 0.008
 Color: Various shades of blue to blue-green
 Density: Normally 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm³, as much as 2.90 g/cm³
 Hardness: 7.5 – 8, but can be fairly brittle
 Refractive Indices: Variable 1.560 – 1.570 to 1.596 – 1.602
 Cleavage: Ill-defined cleavage parallel to basal plane
 Pleochroic: Weak



Aquamarine is classified as a precious gemstone and while not as expensive as some of the others in this category due to its relative abundance and widespread occurrences, its beauty and breathtaking brilliance make it one of the most popular. When compared to the much more expensive emerald, another member of the beryl family, the aquamarine's color is usually more evenly distributed or uniform, frequently found free or almost free of inclusions, and in much larger crystals. With the exception of diamonds the crystalline character of aquamarines is seldom found in other natural occurring precious or semi-precious gemstones. I attribute this to the crispness of the light blue shades combined with the velvety sheen of the beryl family.



Iron is the substance responsible for the color of aquamarine, and the shade of blue range from almost colorless (just a hint of blue) to a bright medium blue with some stones typically having a slightly greenish hue. The stones with the more intense color have the higher value with other factors such as no or very limited inclusions, clarity, and size/weight.

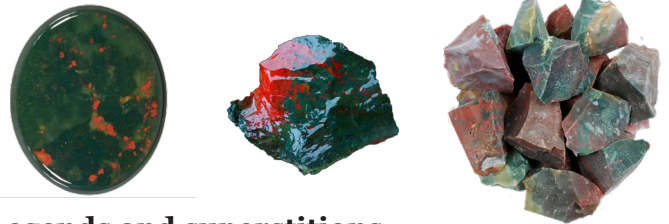
Aquamarine are found usually in small deposits widely dispersed all over the world including deposits here in the United States (western North Carolina). Major deposits found in Brazil provide most of the uncut rough sold in the world market, but other important sources include Nigeria, Madagascar, Mozambique, the mountains along the Pakistan and Afghanistan border, and and three areas in Russia.



Aquamarines are referred to among professionals by names normally associated with the areas where they were found and are identified by their distinguishing color shades. An example is the rare intensely deep blue "Santa Maria" aquamarines found at the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil. Similar ones found in Africa are named "Santa Maria Africana" which makes sense. It seemed like a pretty good system of identification to me, but then someone had to go and name a particular color "Martha Rocha" in honor of a beauty queen.

Bloodstone

Bloodstone is the traditional March birthstone. This dark green, opaque chalcedony with red to orange spots is a variety of plasma gemstone. The mineral aggregate heliotrope, also known as bloodstone, is a cryptocrystalline mixture of quartz that occurs mostly as jasper (opaque) or sometimes as chalcedony (translucent). The "classic" bloodstone is opaque green jasper with red inclusions of hematite. The red inclusions may resemble spots of blood, hence the name bloodstone. The name heliotrope derives from various ancient notions about the manner in which the mineral reflects light.



Legends and superstitions

Heliotrope was called "stone of Babylon" by Albertus Magnus and he referred to several magical properties, which were attributed to it from Late Antiquity. Pliny the Elder (1st century) mentioned first that the magicians used it as a stone of invisibility. Damigeron (4th century) wrote about its property to make rain, solar eclipse and its special virtue in divination and preserving health and youth. A Christian tradition states that the red spots come from blood falling upon the stone during the crucifixion of Jesus, as he was stabbed in the side by a Roman soldier. Ancient Roman soldiers believed that the stone had the ability to slow bleeding and wore it for this reason. In India it is held that one can staunch the bleeding by placing upon wounds and injuries after dipping it in cold water, which may have a scientific basis in the fact that iron oxide, contained in the stone, is an effective astringent. The Gnostics wore the stone as an amulet for longevity, for wealth and courage, to strengthen the stomach, and to dispel melancholy. In the Middle Ages it was considered useful for animal husbandry. The ancient Greeks and Romans wore the stone to bring renown and favor, to bring endurance, and as a charm against the bite of venomous creatures. Greek and Roman athletes favored it as talisman for success in their games.



Sources

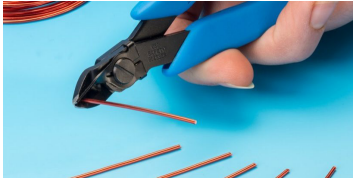
It has been found in Western Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Italy, Nova Scotia, Isle of Rum, in Scotland, and numerous locations in the ⁴ United States.

BENCH TIPS

Measure twice, cut once. It's so important anytime, but particularly necessary when you're using precious metals. Keep a small ruler handy on your bench so you aren't tempted to "eyeball" your next cut.



Turn the back of your wire cutters to your work. Turn the back of your wire cutters to your work. Save yourself some finishing time and make sure that the flat portion of the blades is pressing against your piece. That way, the flat wire end stays behind as the pinched end of the wire is removed. Be sure to cover the wire end as you cut so it doesn't go flying.



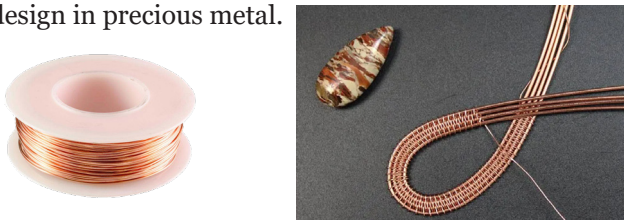
Memory Wire Cutting. Don't use your regular jewelry wire cutters to cut hardened wire. Memory wire is made of tempered stainless steel and should be cut with memory wire cutters. If you use ordinary wire cutters to cut it, the wire will leave an indentation in the blades to remind you to use your hard wire cutters next time.



Close jump rings completely. Use a pair of short flat nose pliers on each side of the ring and turn the ring open rather than pulling the ends directly apart. Brush the ends past each other until you hear a little "click," then bring the ends together. This is important whether you are soldering your jump rings closed or leaving them unsoldered.



Make it in copper first. It can be tempting to dive in with sterling silver or gold-filled, but it's a good idea to work out your design with copper first. It's less expensive and very forgiving, so you can work out the kinks before you attempt your design in precious metal.



Hammering. Pay extra attention when you're hammering metal. It's no fun to hammer your fingers or thumb. If you can use pliers to hold your piece, then that gives you a little more space and makes it less likely that you will accidentally strike your non-dominant hand.



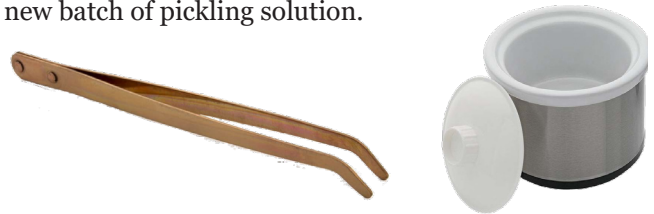
Clean Solder Joints. Remember to clean your metal between soldering joints. Oxidation acts as a barrier in soldering, so metal that hasn't been cleaned prevents the solder from flowing. Take time to pickle your piece between each round of soldering or you're going to have trouble soldering your metal together.



When it's Hot. Don't touch hot metal. Always keep a pick in your dominant hand and the torch in your non-dominant hand. Immediately quench pieces so you don't accidentally grab a piece of hot metal. If you do touch hot metal, don't panic! Shut off your equipment and take care of the burn.



Use copper tongs with your pickling solution. Steel tweezers will cause any metal in the pickle to become copper plated. This is not irreversible, but it is a big pain to clean the plating off your metal and you will need to make a new batch of pickling solution.




Make sure you're working safely. It only takes one time to learn the hard way. Wear safety glasses, an apron and tie long hair back when you're working in the jewelry studio. If you're using a jeweler's torch, make sure you have proper ventilation and a fire extinguisher. Keep long hair out of the flame and away from rotary tools.



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: _____			

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc. P.O.
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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)

OFFICERS 2022

President	Liz Platt
Vice President	Jodi Arias
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty
Secretary	Rosalind Norvel-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 Plan- ning, Past President, Past State Director

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 13 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

March 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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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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