



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 48 Number 5 May 2022  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



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

MGCGMS Established in 1974

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Thanks to all members who helped with the April 30 "Jewelry & Art Fair ." Thanks also to the partner participants and our affiliated Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society.

For our second annual event, we want to be on a greater community calendar, plan earlier, and increase publicity. We appreciate the City and Mary C O'Keefe leadership for providing a beautiful location and amenities.

Join us as we begin learning about working with precious metals including copper, brass, bronze, and silver. Our introduction will begin on Saturday May 14 with copper wire soldering led by Angie Troutman. More topics and practice will continue throughout the year.

See you there!

Liz Platt  
MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

## March Workshop:

Angie Troutman will be teaching basic soldering. Kits will be available. Tools will be provided.



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. You may also bring a personal project to work on.

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



## Meeting Minutes

### GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

April 2022



Meeting called to order: at 1:00pm by Liz Platt, President.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Vicki Reynolds motioned to accept March's minutes, Barbi Beatty 2nd, motioned carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** provided by Barbi Beatty, Treasurer. Account balances provided. Money spent on club insurance for the SFMS, the new storage locker, still had one payment on the old storage locker, took in a couple of memberships, and gained cents interest on savings. Next month we will have a big payment coming out. A prior payment to the radio station never got to the right people so never cleared the account. Payment was stopped on the check and had to be reissued. John Guglik asked how many members are insured for the club? Believed to be 34 per Barbi Beatty. Reba Shotts made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Allan Elliott 2nd, motion carried.

**Meeting:** Club is preparing for the 1st Annual Fair with the Mary C. OSAA, MGCGMS, HCGMS, and the city Pottery club have all been invited to participate. Hope to have minimum of 20 vendors. Will meet with Mary C. to obtain clarification on the layout outside. Tablecloths will be provided for the tables inside. There is a small group meeting at Joni Arias's house once a week. A plan for 2022 workshops has been put together but is not etched in stone. A PDF can be found on the websites home page. If any changes are made, they will be shown on the website. Changes made in the workshop to include lapidary education/demonstration. Gives us all an opportunity to do both.

**Workshop:** AM session John Guglik taught Gem Identification, PM session Barbi Beatty taught a wire wrap bracelet.

**Sunshine:** Per Reba Shotts, Mrs. Lettie had her surgery, is doing allot better and is back home. Thomas Simmons is having a scope to find out what is going on. Buddy is having difficulty walking due to pain in his hip.

**Equipment:** Nothing to report on equipment. Dawn liquid spilt on the floor in the closet and was cleaned up by Liz Platt. Please be careful when placing things in the closet or when taking things out.

**Show:** Per Barbi Beatty, nothing has changed. Will send out applications for the vendors by May's meeting.

**New Business:** See "Meeting" notes.

**Motion to Adjourn and Door Prizes:** Sue Shelton, Barbi Beatty, Liz Platt, John Guglik, Joni Arias, Allan Elliott, and Rosalind Norvel-Daniels all won door prizes. No 50-50 today. 1:50pm Vicki Reynolds motioned to adjourn, H. M. 2nd.

# BENCH TIPS

You know the old saying, “anything that can go wrong will go wrong”? Well, it’s just as true in the jewelry studio as anywhere else. If you’re nodding your head in recognition, you aren’t alone. But there are some things you can do to minimize mistakes at the jeweler’s bench.



## Measure Twice, Cut Once

Measure twice, cut once. Oh, the heartache that could be avoided if we would all remember to do this! 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.



Xuron® Model 9100F properly positioned with the back of the cutter toward the saved piece

## 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, unless you’re using a flush cutter with wire retaining clip #9100F.



The Xuron® Model 2193 is designed specifically for cutting hardened wire

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 #2193. 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 #483 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.



Don’t get hammered. 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.



Remember to clean your metal between soldering joins. 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.



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 tweezers 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.

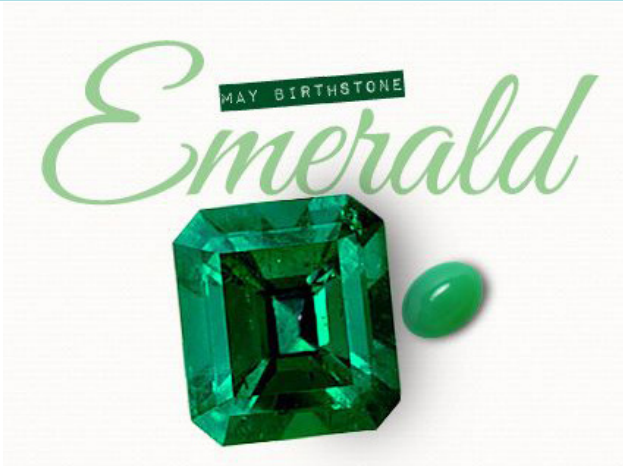


# Happy

## May

# Birthday

Joni Arias Tammy Crump  
Kathy Lounsberry Buddy Shotts



### EMERALDS

May's Birthstone

By: John Wright, RPG



Emerald is the birthstone for May and in many cultures the symbol of Springtime, youth, and eternal love. Astrologists believe that emeralds have clairvoyance and prophetic powers. The name "emerald" is derived from French "esmeraude" via Latin to the Greek root "smaragdos" meaning green stone. Rooted in antiquity they were used as gemstones by the Pharaohs of Egypt, the High Priests of ancient Central and South American societies, and worldwide by kings and potentates throughout history.

The few Biblical references that many ascribe to emeralds are questionable and while possible, it is more than likely that the gems were feldspars

(Amazonite?) or some other common variety of green stone. It should also be noted that Biblical and many other ancient references did not always consider emeralds to be green or in the beryl family, but just beautiful stones.

While emeralds are a green variety of beryl not all green beryl is emerald. The chemical composition of emeralds which includes chromium normally gives them a soft lustrous green color (emerald green). Often green beryl (no chromium) is commonly accepted as emeralds. Yellow-green or olive heliodors from Brazil, which contain traces of iron instead of chromium, are also sold as emeralds. Now, just to muddy the water up a little bit and add to the challenge, you cannot use color alone to identify emeralds. Light to medium shades of emerald and darker shades of green beryl and heliodors can make identification extremely difficult. All are species of the beryl family and many of their physical properties are the same.

## Physical properties

Family: Beryl

Chemical Composition: Silicate of Beryllium & Aluminum – w – Chromium.  $BE_3(ALCR)_2SI_6O_{18}$

Crystal System: Hexagonal prism with tabular habit, flat well terminated surfaces, etching, and growth marks

Birefringence: 06

Refractive Indices: Variable from ne 1.560 , nw 1.570 to ne 1.595, nw 1.602

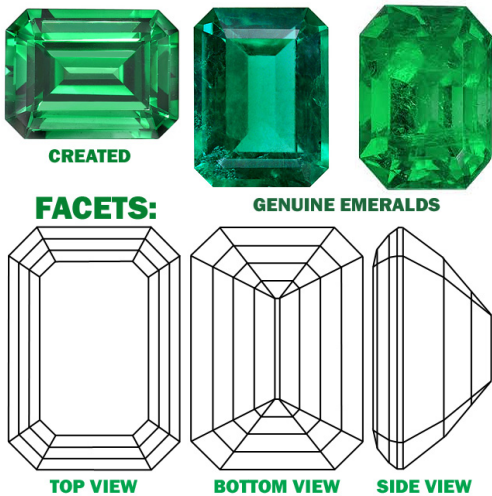
Density: 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm<sup>3</sup> normally, can be as much as 2.90 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

Hardness: 7.5 – 8 (often brittle)

Cleavage: Imperfect or ill-defined, parallel to basal plane

Pleochroic: Intensity varies according to body color from weak to distinct

All emeralds have inclusions, but in the better-quality stones they are very faint and not visible to the naked eye. The most common shape for gem stones is the step or trap cut which is also know as the “emerald cut”.



### Step or Emerald Cut

Antique emeralds are found with hexagonal step cuts, pear shapes, and made into cabochons with a hole in them for use as a pendant. Early jewelry worn by royalty and priests in Pre-Columbian Central and South America used matched uncut emerald crystals mounted on a horizontal axis to the

necklace or bracelet strand with a larger emerald or medallion at the center. These stone were normally tied on with gold wire, but on some occasions, they were drilled.

One of the largest emeralds in the world is the “Mongol Emerald” and originally belonged to an Indian Maharaja. It dates back to the year 1695, weighs 217.80 carats and is about 10 cm high. This stone was auctioned by Christie’s of London and purchased by an anonymous buyer for 2.2 million U.S. dollars about 20 years ago.



Emeralds are one of the oldest gemstones and deposits are found widely dispersed around the world. We know that they were mined by Egyptians along the Red Sea during the reign of the Pharaohs and by the Incas and Aztecs a thousand years before Columbus discovered America, so the question arises, why are they so expensive. The majority of emeralds found are not of gem quality, the ones that are of gem quality are usually small and most importantly there is a huge market. All things being equal (quality, size, weight, etc.), emeralds are equal too or even more expensive than diamonds.


Most of us know that the majority of gem quality emeralds come from South America and that the Emerald Capitol of the world is Bogota, Columbia. Small deposits have been found in many other areas of the world but they are usually small and of poor quality. There are exceptions and some of the larger more famous emeralds were found in Africa and northern India, but deposits in these areas were limited and for the most part larger gemstones were mined out many years ago.

The magical lure of the emerald is still as strong as ever and there are still many people willing to risk everything to find them. I think most of us have heard the story about the individual in western North Carolina who after many years of frustration and near bankruptcy finally located a deposit that contained gem quality material, some quite large and of considerable value. Deposits have also recently been found in Alaska, but my understanding is that while they contain gem quality emeralds most are small. Rumors also persist those deposits are known to exist in the Pacific Northwest. I know that there are a lot of people hunting for them, but I have not heard of any actually being found.

# 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. P.O.  
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**Snoopy Gems**  
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 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**

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 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

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 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. 9:00-4:00  
 February 13 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 March 12 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 April 9 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 May 14 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 June 11 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 July 9 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 August 13 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 September 10 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 October 8 Mary C. 9:00-4:00  
 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

**May 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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