



Snoopy Gems

Volume 48 Number 7 July 2022
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

Don't miss this July meeting. Joni has a great wire project, the machines are available including our (loaned from Barbi) rolling mill, and you can see examples of our Wednesday beginning mixed metal soldering projects. If you have some interesting scrap metal or spare wire, bring it so we can see what the rolling mill can offer. We will have fun and learn from each other. See you there!

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

July Workshop:

Joni Arias will be teaching a wire earrings for the AM workshop.

Tools: wire, paring or pocket knife, flat nose pliers, chain nose pliers, round nose pliers, flush cutters, and a ruler.
Kits will be \$3ea.



We will be learning how to use the rolling mill at the PM Workshop after the meeting.



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 June 2022



Meeting called to order: at 1:03pm by Liz Platt, President.

Meeting Minutes Approval: Meeting minutes for June 2022 approved, Vicki Reynolds motioned to accept June's minutes, Barbi Beatty 2nd motioned carried.

Treasurer's Report: provided by Barbi Beatty, Treasurer. Balances provided for the Show Account, Checking, and Savings accounts. Money earned doing the gem trees with the students for the Mary C. will be used to pay for soldering supplies. We no longer have a safety deposit box, because we were not using it.

Meeting: A group of members volunteered to move our storage items from the Pascagoula storage unit to the unit at Gulf Park Estates in Ocean Springs. Vicki Reynolds, Harvey & Belinda Marcum, & Karl & Barbi Beatty will meet on Tuesday 6/14/22 to move our storage items. The club wire was discussed. John Guglik asked for an update on the wire inventory. Barbi Beatty replied that we have plenty square and half round in both the argenteum silver and gold plate, but if members want round wire, we will need to order some. The wire is brought to each meeting and available to all members at cost plus shipping. Liz Platt thanked Vicki Reynolds for teaching the spiral bracelet at our workshop. Pictures will be taken of the finished projects to be added to the website and social media pages. Liz Platt mentioned the show in November is our main source of income. The money earned is used for scholarships, equipment, and club supplies. She feels we are doing well, but if we fall short, we can use some of our savings to cover any added expense. Liz Platt stated she believes the metal work classes are moving the club in the right direction and may encourage new memberships. Liz Platt said we need a club information package. Barbi Beatty said we already have them and showed them to the club. Belinda Marcum said she has a potential new member and was given a packet to hand out. Barbi Beatty said we will prepare some additional club packets to give new members when they join. She also suggested we include a copy of the latest snoopy gems newsletter.

Workshop: Vicki Reynolds taught Spiral beaded bracelet. All participants did a great job. Some members were working with our machines to cut and polish gemstones.

Sunshine: Liz Platt reported Rosalind Norvel-Daniels is doing well and recovering from her knee surgery. Barbi Beatty spoke with Reba Shotts who stated that Buddy Shotts is having a heart procedure coming up. Liz Platt said "Buddy is a Treasure to our club and we miss him when he is not here". Thomas Simmons is still back and forth with his recovery and we wish him well.

Equipment: Buddy Shotts was going to order some new saw blades, but since he is under the weather, John Guglik has volunteered to take care of it.

Show: Barbi Beatty reported all contracts have been mailed out to vendors, and we have received two back. The show per table price has increased from \$50 to \$60 per table, because the venue price has increased. The additional funds should cover the venue rental fee, security, and most of our advertising. She has invited back some of our previous vendors hoping to regrow the show. All of last years vendors indicated they plan to return this year. Barbi stated the venue has new rules about electricity. All drop cords must fall inside of booth. We will not be allowed to run additional extension cords across the floor or from the outlet on the soffit. We are unsure if we will have the rock sluice this year. Harvey Marcum suggested we sell the kids a bag of sand with a set number of stones in it and provide a sifting area for the children to sift out their rocks. Liz volunteered to teach gem trees if needed. Security was discussed. We discussed different payment options for customers at the show.

New Business: Satisfying our obligations at the Mary C. were discussed, like holiday events and teaching classes. The Mary C. offered us the option of selling our personal items in the Mary C. Gift shop for a 60/40 split. Applications were provided to our club. The Mary C. has indicated they want us to move to another room. Liz Platt said we like our room and our closet and would like to keep it. Liz Platt said we need to show the Mary C. our value. Barbi Beatty suggested we offer more consistent weekly or biweekly classes given by our members. The teacher would get 75% & the Mary C. 25%. The idea was discussed. We were asked to participate in the Firefly Open House at the Mary C. on July 14, 2022 6-9:00pm.

Gem of the Month: John Guglik educated us on rubies and pearls.

Motion to Adjourn and Door Prizes: Everyone received a door prize. Barbi Beatty motioned to adjourn the meeting at 14:10. Joni Arias 2nd, motioned carried.

Happy



July

Independence Day!



Rubies

Rubies are a variety of corundum crystal, the same species as sapphires. The key difference is their red color, caused by trace amounts of chromium. This spectacular red color is why rubies have a distinct separation from sapphires in the gemstone world. There are also different types of rubies including natural rubies, treated rubies, and synthetic rubies.



Natural Ruby

A natural ruby is one that formed in the earth through natural geological processes. Most rubies on the market are natural rubies, although the vast majority of rubies have been treated in some way.

Treated Ruby

Most natural rubies are also treated rubies. Treated rubies still qualify as natural rubies since the stone formed in the earth. Of all available treatments, the one that is most widely used and accepted is heat-treating. In this process, the rubies are heated

to certain temperatures in order to heal internal fractures. These fractures happen when the crystal is forming. Heating removes undesirable coloring, and dissolves inclusions to improve clarity.

Other treatments for rubies include beryllium diffusion, which adds a layer of coloring to the outside of the corundum crystal, filling the fractures with colored glass. These coated rubies are then heated with flux to make them more durable.

There is controversy over use of treatments in the industry, which causes a fluctuation in pricing. Treated rubies cost less than untreated ones due to rarity of untreated material. These factors, amongst others, make full disclosure of any ruby treatment before purchase a necessity.

Untreated Ruby

An untreated ruby is a natural ruby that has not been treated at-all. The color of the stone in front of you is how it looked when being mined from the earth. These are the rarest, and most valuable rubies.

Synthetic Ruby



A synthetic ruby has the same chemical and crystal composition as a natural ruby, but was grown in a laboratory rather than the

earth. There are different methods of growing them, but any ruby grown by man-made means is synthetic. There are also some basic ways to identify them with an in-depth chemical analysis by a gemological laboratory.

Not all gemstones thought to be rubies are actually rubies. Stones like garnets and spinel's may look like rubies, but do not have the same chemical makeup. These other gemstones sometimes grow with rubies, and can be mistaken for rubies.

The 4Cs Of Rubies

Color, Carat Weight, Clarity, & Cut

The quality of rubies is assessed by the same four criteria that diamonds are assessed. In diamond evaluation, all four criteria are equally weighted. That is not the case for rubies. Color is the most important quality when assessing rubies, then carat weight, clarity, and cut.



Color

Historically, it has been difficult to describe color variation in rubies. For centuries, gem dealers were forced to rely on descriptive terms that were not universally recognized or understood. Ancient Indian manuscripts classified ruby into distinct colors such as “China rose,” “saffron,” “pomegranate,” and “partridge eyes.” In Burma (now Myanmar), the finest rubies were said to be the color of “pigeon’s blood.” Today, gemologists seek a more universal and objective means of assessing color in rubies. Their color, and that of other colored gemstones, is now described by the hue, tone, and saturation. The description of the ideal color in ruby—vivid, medium-dark red to slightly purplish red—incorporates all three of these terms.

The hue is the gemstone’s basic color. While a ruby’s color is basically “red,” in many cases, purple or orange secondary colors can also be found. While absolute red is the ideal hue, many fine rubies from Myanmar are slightly purplish red. As a ruby’s hue becomes increasingly purple or orange, the quality is thought to suffer and the ruby loses value.

Ruby’s color boundaries are subject to considerable debate in the gemological industry. The best way to evaluate and compare a ruby’s color is with actual gemstones. Many gem labs use a set of master stones to evaluate whether corundum is true “ruby” or whether it is pink, purple, or orange sapphire. To distinguish between rubies and pink sapphires, tone and saturation must be considered.

Tone, which describes how light or dark a stone’s color is, will also influence a ruby’s value. Most fine rubies have a medium to medium-dark tone. A ruby should not be so dark that its color is obscured, nor so light that its color appears dilute or indistinct. Some Thai rubies are described as having a “garnet red” color due to their dark tone. On the

other hand, if the tone is too light, the stone may be considered a pink sapphire, even if the color saturation is high.

Saturation describes how pure or intense a color appears, and it is a key component in determining a ruby’s value. Rubies with high saturation levels have more of the color-inducing trace element chromium. They can reach highly saturated hues without becoming dark in tone. A ruby with poor saturation would be described as brownish red. The very finest rubies have vivid saturation, but rubies with strong saturation are also highly prized.

A number of other factors may also contribute to the color of a ruby. The red hue of a ruby can be intensified if it has the ability to fluoresce. Inclusions can also improve the color of a ruby. Minute needles of rutile silk are highly reflective, and they scatter light within the stone, which may improve the color. A ruby’s color may also depend on how it is cut. Skilled gemstone cutters fashion rubies to maximize their brilliance, minimize color zoning, and exhibit their best pleochroic color.

Star rubies come in all shades of pink and red, although the most sought after color is the same vivid, medium-dark red preferred in the transparent faceted stones. Because they contain so much silk, however, star rubies rarely attain the bold, saturated red of the best transparent stones. Those few that do will draw high prices.



Carat Weight

While a five-carat stone may be considered small for an aquamarine, a quality five-carat ruby is large enough to get the attention of serious gem collectors. As with any gem, ruby prices per carat increase with carat weight. Fine quality rubies over one carat are rare, but commercial quality rubies are commonly available in a range of different sizes. Fine quality ruby rough is extremely expensive, so quality stones are not usually cut to calibrated sizes because it could result in a significant loss of weight. Commercial quality ruby is more likely to conform to standard calibrated sizes. Because rubies have a high specific gravity, a one-carat ruby will appear smaller than a one-carat diamond.



Clarity

Rubies rarely exhibit high clarity. Rubies are host to many different inclusions, and even the best stones are not expected to be free of inclusions when viewed at 10x magnification. In fact, a ruby with no inclusions should be viewed with suspicion; it may be a synthetic stone or a glass imitation. The best clarity grade for ruby is “eye-clean,” which means no inclusions are visible to the naked eye. When evaluating the clarity, experts consider the size, number, location, and overall visibility of the inclusions. Inclusions are a natural consequence of crystal growth. Ruby inclusions vary with their source or origin and treatment history.

When a ruby with plentiful silk is cut as a cabochon, reflections from the rutile needles form a six-rayed star. Rarely, star rubies can have twelve rays, a doubling effect due to the added presence of hematite needles. Because the appearance of the star depends on silk inclusions, star rubies never achieve the degree of clarity possible in faceted stones. Nevertheless, the more transparent a star ruby, the more highly it is valued.



The condition of a ruby's silk is also a valuable clue to the stone's treatment history. Many rubies are heated to alter their color or enhance their clarity. The intense heat applied to treated rubies partially melts or decomposes silk. Intact silk is strong evidence that a ruby has not been heat treated, while degraded silk, recognizable under magnification indicates that a ruby has been heated.

Cut

The term "cut" can have several meanings when applied to rubies. It may describe the faceting style or shape of a finished gemstone. It may also mean a gemstone's proportion and finish. Like most other transparent gems, rubies reveal their full beauty when they are cut. The best cut maximizes the apparent color of the gem. However, because ruby rough is so valuable, dealers and consumers accept gemstones without the precision cuts required of other fine gemstones. Rubies are pleochroic, which means their color changes with the angle at which they are viewed. Consumers usually prefer a purplish red color to an orange-red color. Rubies are generally cut so that the preferred color is visible through the crown of the stone. A skilled gem cutter can also influence the apparent color of the stone by maximizing a stone's brilliance or amount of light returned to the viewer's eye. The desire to maximize the gemstone's final weight, the demand for certain cutting styles, minimize the appearance of undesirable inclusions or color zoning may conflict with each other. On occasion, cutters may be forced to compromise color or clarity to retain carat weight. For example, it may not be possible to orient a ruby for ideal color because the potential loss of weight would be too great. In other situations, an asymmetrical cut may be permissible because it maximizes color, conserves valuable ruby rough, and avoids highly included or fractured areas within the crystal.

Caring For Rubies

A few basic tips can help you maintain the beauty, luster, and brilliance of the stone so that it can last for generations to come. Rubies are incredibly durable. They have a hardness of 9 on the Mohs scale, which means they are very resistant to scratching. Diamonds are the only other precious stone that can scratch your ruby, so you will want to keep them stored separately in your jewelry box.

The best way to clean ruby jewelry is with warm soapy water or a warm soapy cloth. There is no need to soak your rubies in soapy water, and you'll want to avoid harsh detergents. Never soak rubies in any type of strong solvents such as alcohol, acetone, or paint thinner.

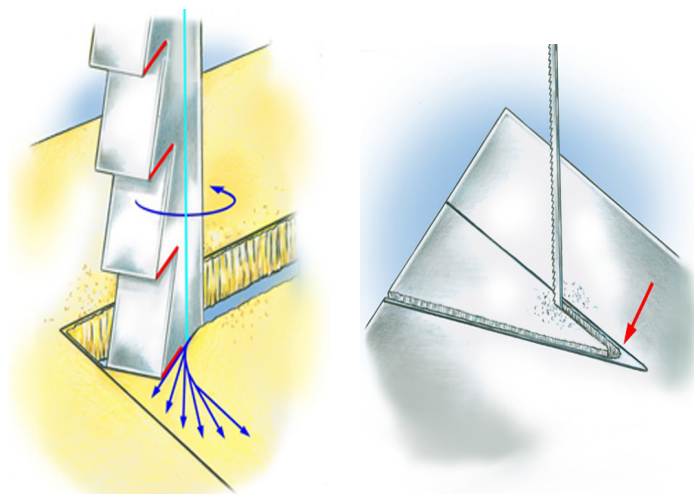
BENCH TIP

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="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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AFFILIATIONS
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Show Chair	Barbi Beatty
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Librarian	Liz Platt
Sunshine	Reba Shotts

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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 12 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

July 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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