



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 48 Number 9 September 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,

September and the fall is an exciting time to learn new skills and try new lapidary techniques. Our monthly Saturday workshops explore a different jewelry project each time as well as a chance to practice on a machine. On most Wednesdays we can practice "copper and silver smithing" design and new equipment skills. I hope to have a good turnout at the Saturday Workshop. If you haven't been in awhile, try to come in and see what new tools and equipment we are learning to use. It will soon be time for our 33rd annual Gem and Mineral show, and special workshops. Have you learned something that you can share with us? Share your knowledge. Come and see your gem club friends. We are so grateful that our members who have had surgeries and medical problems are now on the mend. John and I have tested positive for Covid so will be unable to attend this weekend. We are doing okay. See everyone next time. Sincerely,

Liz Platt  
MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

## September Workshop:

Bring your rocks! We will be learning how to cab and cut starting at 9:30. Belinda Marcum will be teaching a cage pendant for the afternoon class following the meeting.

Materials:

5-7" 20-21ga. square wire

5" 1/2 round 21ga. wire

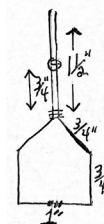
Tools:

Wire cutters, chain nose pliers,

Square flat nose pliers, ruler or tape

Measurer, fine line marker, wire twister, and tape

Kits available for \$2



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



PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



# Meeting Minutes:

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY August 2022



**Meeting called to order:** at 1:00pm by Joni Arias, Vice President.

**Meeting Minutes Approval:** Meeting minutes for July 2022 approved, Barbi Beatty motioned to accept July's minutes, Harvey Marcum 2nd, motioned carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** provided by Barbi Beatty, Treasurer. Balances provided for the Gem Show, main and saving accounts, in addition to interest on the saving account. Last rental payment on storage in Pascagoula was paid. Some vendor fees received. Reimbursement to Liz Platt for workshop supplies for the month of July. Barbi heard back from the company that insured the storage unit that was burglarized. Payment was made for items taken minus 10% depreciation per year of age of item. John Guglik made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Harvey Marcum 2nd, motion carried.

**Meeting:** Joni Arias inquired about 50-50, Door Prizes, and Silent Auction. John Guglik suggested we table these until fall. Barbi Beatty stated that Reba Shotts normally handles 50-50 and she is not here. Harvey Marcum donated our one door prize. Barbi picked up some clear totes per Liz Platt's request and will label them so that we can see what all we have in our closet.

**Library:** Books are in a box on the bottom shelf if anyone would like to view them. Items removed are based on the honor system. Per John Guglik, The club has a TV with DVD player that we can use at the club. It will need to be picked up from John and Liz's home.

**Workshop:** Etching workshop taught by Rosalind Norvel-Daniels. Excellent turn out and everyone did a great job.

**Sunshine:** Buddy Shotts is home from the hospital. Tom Simmons said he is feeling better, gaining some weight, and is making jewelry again. Belinda Marcum is feeling better. Liz Platt had something stuck in her throat and had to have her esophagus stretched. She is doing much better.

**Equipment:** No Report

**Show:** John Guglik asked if Barbi Beatty has negotiated with the people from Jackson County. Barbi Beatty stated that she will go over and sit with Tammy, who runs the facility. She will help write the request. Last year the cost to use Civic center was \$3,600.00, it has gone up again, and this may help bring it back to where it was before. We got two more contracts in. Currently have received 11 contracts back. We had 19 vendors last year. Some vendors do not pay until they come to the show. John Guglik asked what are we going to do if we do not have enough volunteers. Per Barbi Beatty we will need 12-15 members, so all active members will need to stick it out. Joni Arias stated that she can get her sister to volunteer some of the time. Barbi Beatty stated that her parents will work also.

**Communications:** Per Barbi Beatty, communication is us getting the club information out via our Facebook page, website, and brochures. John Guglik and Liz Platt attended a dinner mixer hosted by the Mary C. Everybody from City Hall was invited and our club had presence there. Mary C is looking at us as a money-making organization because we have/use the room, so basically what we are doing is paying rent by having a class. Another way to look at it is, we could pay rent on the room then we would not have to offer a meeting/training or classes. There are things Mary C has going on, but our club is not mentioned in their leaflet or in things that they do. There appears to be a glitch in what they are doing. Angie Troutman volunteered to speak with Sarah or someone in reference to marketing for our club with the Mary C.

**Old Business:** Fire Fly open house was successful. There was a mix up on the time because people were still/just coming as club members were leaving.

**New Business:** Per Joni Arias, we are trying to get some classes together in conjunction with the Mary C for the public every other week on Wednesday's. We can offer 2-3-hour workshops doing something with wire wrapping, beading/stringing, gemstone identification, provide general information, etc. John Guglik stated a release must be signed by anyone that uses the club's equipment. The club workshops are covered by Liability Insurance through the Southeast Federation. Per Joni Arias we should start working on list of classes that can be offered. Per Barbi Beatty, in conjunction with Chef Clay, we will kick it off with a "Drink, Dine, and Pearl" class. It will be a byob, with horderves, and Pearl Knotting. A sign-up sheet is placed out for those interested in teaching. Brochures have been made and ordered but are not here yet. Post Cards, and the trifold will be issued at the Chamber for Cruising the Coast, and for Peter Anderson, they will have some their rack, and the Mary C will have some here. Joni Arias recommended putting some at the library. Harvey got a light from Vicki to see if we want to replace what we use in our show cases. We will probably look into how many units we will use this year so if you plan on putting a showcase together, please let us know so that we will know how many lights to get for this year. Mary C asked if anyone interested in being a part of their gift shop, they can apply to put your stuff in. They are asking for a 40-60 split, and they do make you sign something stating that they are not responsible if your stuff is lost or stolen.

**Gem of the Month:** peridot

**Motion to Adjourn and Door Prizes:** Jewel Pugh motioned to adjourn, Barbi Beatty 2nd, meeting adjourned at 1:57pm.

# Happy



# September

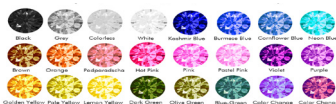
# Birthday

Bonnie Jenkins, Liz Platt, Terri Nichols,  
Jewel Pugh, & Sue Shelton,

Sapphire  
SEPTEMBER BIRTHSTONE



**Sapphire** is September's birthstone. These beautiful and popular gemstones have been prized by many civilizations for their rich color. Sapphires have been worn by royalty and clergy for centuries. The gemstone was thought to attract wealth as well as protect its owner from envy and harm. Sapphires were also often associated with the heavens. Ancient Persians believed the blue color of the sky was caused by the reflection of sapphires. Sapphires are formed from corundum, an extremely hard and durable mineral. In fact, sapphires are second in hardness only to diamonds, making them a great alternative for unique wedding and engagement rings. Sapphires have long been associated with romance and are a traditional gift for 45th wedding anniversaries. Because sapphires are traditionally associated with a rich blue color, many people don't realize that natural sapphires come in nearly every color of the rainbow from pink and green to yellow, purple and black. In fact, the only color they don't come in is red. When gemstones in the family of corundum are red, they are rubies. The presence of various trace elements in its chemical composition is responsible for the different hues of this gem.



## Physical Properties

**Family:** Corundum

**Chemical Composition:** Aluminum Oxide  $Al_2O_3$

**Crystal System:** Trigonal (bar 3 2/m)

**Crystal Habit:** Typically, a six-sided elongated tapered crystal with close transverse striations that resemble a bipyramid; sometimes hexagonal prisms; can also be tabular.

**Birefringence:** (0.4)

**Reflective Indices:** ne 1.760, nw 1.769 (+0.009, -0.005)

**Density:** 4.00 (+/- 0.05) g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Hardness:** 9

**Cleavage:** Absent, sometimes there is parting which occurs in three directions.

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Pleochroic:** Variable from different viewing directions and color intensifies in strong artificial light, ultraviolet light or direct sunlight

**Blue Sapphire:** They are the most popular of all the different types of sapphires, and are found in hues ranging from pale baby blue to an intense royal blue. Also, there is a cornflower blue variation of this sapphire which is well-liked for having the same beautiful blue hue as a cornflower.



**Pink Sapphire:** The presence of chromium gives this sapphire its distinct pink hue. Interestingly, some say that pink sapphires are lighter rubies as they have the same trace elements in lesser quantities. These sapphires come in hues ranging from light baby pink to an intense magenta. The feminine and delicate shades make this gem the second widely popular type of sapphire.



**Yellow Sapphire:** Nothing can match the delightful and bright beauty of a stunning yellow sapphire. The trace element iron in the chemical composition gives this gem its vivid hue. They exist in colors that range from greenish yellow to orangish-yellow. Their bright canary yellow hue is however the most loved by jewelry enthusiasts.



**Star Sapphire:** These sapphires are considered unique due to their special feature – ‘asterism’ which lends them a mystical beauty. This phenomenon simply indicates the presence of a six-rayed star, which can be seen floating on the surface of a cabochon sapphire. This gives them the name of ‘star sapphires’. They are available in almost all colors, although yellow, green and orange star sapphires are uncommon.



**Fancy Colored Sapphire:** A lesser known fact about sapphires is that they come in almost all the colors of the rainbow. Sapphires are found in purple, violet, peach, orange, green, brown and gray too. Also, there are colorless sapphires known as white sapphires. All these different types of sapphires are called ‘fancy sapphires’. They are exceptional and less available as opposed to their blue, pink and yellow counterparts.



**Padparadscha Sapphire:** One of the rarest and coveted sapphires is the padparadscha sapphires. The name is derived from a Sinhalese word signifying aquatic lotus blossoms that have an unusual salmon color. The color range of this gem falls within the blend of two colors, namely pink and orange. The distinctive beauty

of this gem, combined with its spectacular hue makes these sapphires an absolute treat for the eyes. With the Padparadscha Sapphire being extremely rare, they often times have asymmetrical cuts. Clarity is important in the padparadscha’s because with their light coloration inclusions are easily revealed. High clarity may need to be sacrificed to obtain a brilliantly colored stone. It is difficult to find a padparadscha over two carats in weight. When one is found it is considered exceptional and extremely rare. Padparadscha’s are also be considered rare because of their limited locale. They are commonly from Sri Lanka but are also found to be from Madagascar and Tanzania. The finest padparadscha sapphires are believed to come from Sri Lanka. Stones coming from Madagascar are usually found to be pinker in color than orange and they are sold for about 20% less than those from Sri Lanka.



Padparadscha sapphires from Madagascar are at times heat treated to intensify their pink coloration. They are heat treated at very low heat temperatures, where as padparadscha’s from Sri Lanka will be heat-treated at higher heat temperatures when heat-treated. The heat-treated padparadscha’s from Madagascar are often recommended over the ones from Sri Lanka because of the temperature they are treated at. The padparadscha is by far the world’s most rare sapphire. They have become a collector’s stone and are generally purchased as quickly as they are found. Padparadscha’s are sold at a price close to that of a fine blue sapphire and it is not unheard of finding them priced at several thousand dollars per carat. Padparadscha’s are one of the world’s most expensive gemstones, their value will vary due to size, quality and color.

### Care & Cleaning:

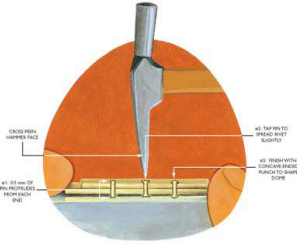
Sapphires are relatively hard, ranking 9 on the Mohs scale. It has excellent toughness and no cleavage. Gemstones with cleavage have a tendency to break when struck. This makes it a great choice for rings and other mountings subject to daily wear.

Sapphires are often treated to improve their color or clarity. Heat treatment is common and the results permanent, so it is well accepted in the trade. Less common treatments such as lattice diffusion, fracture filling and dyeing may require special care. In some cases, the color induced by lattice diffusion is so shallow it could be removed if the stone was chipped or had to be recut. Fracture-filled and dyed sapphires can be damaged by even mild acids like lemon juice. Before you buy a sapphire, always ask if it is treated and by what method.

Warm, soapy water is always a safe choice for cleaning Sapphires. Ultrasonic and steam cleaners are usually safe for untreated, heat treated and lattice diffusion treated stones. Fracture filled or dyed material should only be cleaned with a damp cloth.

# BENCH TIPS

## The Basic Rivet Joining Two Pieces of Metal



Riveting is frequently used at the bench to join parts, create moveable components or to cold-join heat-sensitive items. If you want to rivet two pieces of metal together in a fixed position, clamp the pieces together and drill a 1 mm hole through them. Separate the pieces and remove the burrs around the holes. Now draw a piece of wire to fit the holes' diameter as tightly as possible, with no play or wobble. Trim the wire to about 1 mm greater than the thickness of the materials to be joined, and file the ends flat. Line up the parts and insert the pin into the aligned holes, centering it so that 0.5 mm protrudes from each end. Support the bottom of the pin on a steel plate, then use the thin fin of a cross peen (such as a goldsmithing hammer) to gently tap the top of the pin, spreading it slightly. This is called "upsetting" a rivet. Be sure that the pin remains centered between the materials, while using the hammer in one direction so that the metal stretches and the cross section of the end becomes elliptical. Flip the work over and repeat the process to begin to upset the other end of the pin. Now turn the work 90 degrees and strike across the previous marks, spreading the metal in the other direction so that the head of the upset rivet returns to round. By now the metal has flared and the parts are locked together. Tighten carefully as needed by hammering. Avoid slipping which would mar the surfaces. To create a dome head, finish with a polished concave-ended punch, like a beading tool.

## Swirling Surfaces Creating an End Mill Finish



You've probably noticed an attractive pattern that looks like overlapping swirls on some machined metal surfaces. This is the result of end milling, through which a series of circles can cover a surface evenly and uniformly. While jewelers may not be able to replicate the machine precision of professional milling, alluring optical surfaces can be

created pretty easily at the bench. Here's how to create one that looks great on recessed or protected surfaces, such as the inside a box or the back of a brooch. Put a cylindrical rubberized abrasive wheel in your flex-shaft and flatten the front with a file as it turns. To increase the effect of the pattern, dip the working end of the wheel into an abrasive paste—pumice mud, household detergent, or even toothpaste. Now place the wheel perpendicular to the surface of the metal, turn on the motor, and press gently; the wheel will leave a very perfect set of concentric circles. Make a second impression in the same way, covering 1/4 or so of the prior circle. Continue moving this way along a straight line, then start a second and third row, until the area fills completely. If the impressions are even and spaced regularly, the effect is tantalizing and beautiful. But remember, as lovely as this texture is, it is also superficial and very sensitive to wear and abrasion.

## A Hole in One, Two, Three: Tips for Accurate and Easy Drilling



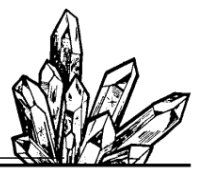
Anyone who works at the bench frequently uses a flex-shaft to drill holes. Try these helpful tips to make drilling easier and more accurate: Lubricate often: Use a lubricant to keep the drill bit cool and sharp. Almost anything can be used: motor oil, soap, kerosene, oil of wintergreen, machine oil, and even saliva. Newer lubricants, such as BurLife last longer than traditional lubricants because they do not evaporate. Use low speed, high feed. This maxim is the cornerstone of proper drilling. Rather than drilling at a high rpm, use a relatively low speed (just make sure it's fast enough so the bit doesn't grab) and press the drill into the metal. If you rev your flex-shaft like a hot rod, you'll end up burning drill bits and decreasing accuracy. Drill straight. Drill bits, especially small ones, can break when not guided straight into the metal. Rotate the work periodically so you can view it from different angles to ensure perpendicularity. Use graduated sizes. To achieve the most accuracy and make drilling easier, always start with a small pilot hole followed by progressively larger drill bits up to the desired size.

Source: 101 BENCH TIPS BY ALAN REVERE

# 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: _____			

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**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)

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Vice President	Joni 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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Show Chair	Barbi Beatty
Historian	Lettie White
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

**September 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	

# Snoopy Gems

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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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