



Snoopy Gems

Volume 48 Number 10 October 2022
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

Our Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show is around the corner. It is November 11-13. Dealers will set up on Thursday afternoon the 10th and we will provide light dinner for them with a brief member meeting and election after dinner. It will not be a late evening. Members are needed all three days of the show to cover key activities. Please consider where you can help and which days you are available. Activities/Jobs are: entry table taking money, raffle table selling raffle tickets, membership and information table, demonstration area, kitchen operations, children's activities, and door prize/announcements, and general show monitoring. We may need to consolidate these tasks as necessary depending on our staffing. It's fun to work the show and you get to see what all the dealers are selling and have a chance to shop. Wear your badge if you have one or we'll have a name tag for you to use.

Come to the workshop/meeting on 15 October at the Mary C to sign up for a job and learn more details of the show. If you have a raffle item to donate, bring it on the 15th. If you need time to finish, bring it for help or to work on. As you know, this show is our only opportunity to earn a little money for our yearly activities including new equipment and supplies, scholarships to federation workshops, and any paid workshops we want to provide for members. The show is good for all of us.

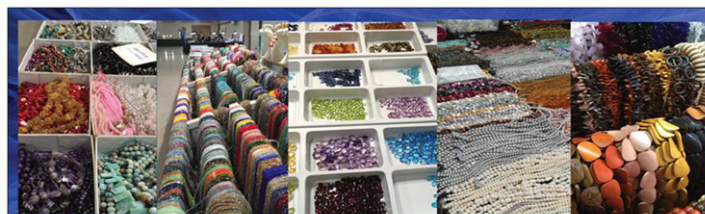
Sincerely,
Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

October Workshop:

We will be working on items for the show! Feel free to bring any project you want to finish or that you need help with. You can also work on an item to donate for the show raffle. We can accept raffle donations all the way up to the day of the show, but I would like have them sooner if possible. I will be taking pictures of them to add to social media and the website.

Please Bring a Donation for the Show Raffle!

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.



Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, & Jewelry Show



Show setup will be Thursday Nov 10th. The doors open at 8:00am. Please come to help as soon as you can. We will be adjusting table placement, skirting tables, moving and setting up showcases. If you want to show your items in a showcase please let us know, so we know how many showcases to set up. Please bring a side dish or desert for the Pot Luck vendor/member dinner.

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Meeting Minutes:

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY September 2022



Meeting Call to Order: Called to order by Treasurer Barbi Beatty, at 12:57pm

Minutes: August minutes approved, Vicki Reynolds motioned to accept, Angie Troutman 2nd, motion carried.

Treasurer Report: Provided by Treasurer, Barbi Beatty. Two more booth fees collected/provided from Vendors. Insurance payment received from insurance coverage of storage in Pascagoula. Balance provided for all accounts. Next month payment for Sue Sheldon's scholarship will come through on that statement. Angie Troutman motioned to accept, Rosalind Norvel-Daniels 2nd, motioned carried.

Library: Aurora King brought books to add to the club's library. Kayla Greco offered to bring some books.

Workshop: Harvey Marcum stated, "we're working".

Equipment: Per Harvey Marcum, we changed the blade on the ring saw last month. All other equipment is fine.

Sunshine: Per Barbi Beatty, Buddy Shotts is doing a lot better, Mrs. Reba Shotts is hanging in there, Liz Platt and John Guglik are overcoming Covid. Liz was in the hospital with dehydration but was given some fluids and sent home. Vicki Reynolds had her shoulder surgery and is back with us.

Show: Harvey Marcum stated that we need to know what size lights we are going to get for the display boxes. This needs to be handled before the show. We may also need more plug-in strips. Barbi Beatty will go unlock the unit so that Harvey Marcum can measure then check with Lowes to see what they have. Received two additional vendor's fees, Vicki Reynolds will give Barbi her fee next week, and Dan, "Dan's Gemstones" from Gautier, will meet with Barbi to give her his vendor fee making it 15. Harvey Marcum suggested that we put the Display Boxes across the stage for easier set up. Several members inquired about providing a discount or something to Veterans. Barbi asked that everyone think about it and discuss it further at next month's meeting.

Communication: Angie Troutman stated that she spoke with the Chamber of Commerce. She spoke with them about including MGCGMS to their calendar and inquired about how to make that happen so that people are aware that we are a club, and that we meet at the Mary C every 2nd Saturday monthly, since we are part of the Mary C. Angie stated that she has tried to talk with Sarah but has not been able to speak with her yet. Spoke with Jackson County Chamber, and they said that we are in their rest area and that perhaps we could come to one of their meetings and demonstrate what it is that we do. Per Vicki Reynolds, October 2nd, 2022, the Gautier Library is having an arts and craft event. Prices are reasonable for a booth.

Old Business: Nothing to discuss

New Business: Per Angie Troutman, they will try to do proper prongs on Wednesday, if anybody is interested. The group has already made fake prongs, are learning how to saw, and starting to incorporate a little more as we go. The group would like to start casting, enameling, and experimenting.

Gem of the Month: Harvey Marcum educated us on Sapphires.

Meeting Adjourned: Adjourned at 1:29pm, Angie Troutman made a motion to adjourn, Harvey Marcum 2nd, motion carried.

Door Prizes: Harvey Marcum, Vicki Reynolds, Angie Troutman, Rosalind Norvel-Daniels, Kayla Greco, and Aurora King all won door prizes.

Happy



October

Birthday

**Barbi Beatty, Karl Beatty,
Miku Daynes, Melinda Gerhart,**



Opal the Birthstone of October

HOW IS OPAL FORMED?

Opal is formed from a solution of silicon dioxide and water. As water runs down through the earth, it picks up silica from sandstone and carries this silica-rich solution into cracks and voids created by natural faults or decomposing fossils. As the water evaporates, it leaves behind a silica deposit. This cycle repeats over very long period of time, and eventually, opal is formed.



Occasionally, when conditions are ideal, spheres of silica, contained in silica-rich solutions in the earth, form and settle under gravity in a void to form layers of



silica spheres. The solution is believed to have a rate of deposition of approximately one centimeter thickness in five million years at a depth of forty meters. If the process allows spheres to reach uniform size, then precious opal begins to form. For precious opal, the sphere size ranges from approximately 150 to 400 nanometers producing a play of color by diffraction in the visible light range of 400 to 700 nanometers.

Each local opal field or occurrence must have contained voids or porosity of some sort to provide a site for opal deposition. In volcanic rocks and adjacent environments, the opal appears to fill only cavities and cracks whereas in sedimentary rocks, there are a variety of voids created by the weathering process. Leaching of carbonate from boulders, nodules, and many different fossils, combined with the existing cracks, open centers of ironstone nodules, and horizontal seams provide a myriad of molds ready for the deposition of secondary minerals such as opal.



Opal is a hydrated amorphous form of silica ($\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$); its water content may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Because of its amorphous character, it is classed as a mineraloid, unlike crystalline forms of silica, which are classed as minerals. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock, being most commonly found with limonite, sandstone, rhyolite, marl, and basalt. Opal is the national gemstone of Australia. There are two broad classes of opal: precious and common. Precious opal displays play-of-color (iridescence); common opal does not. Play-of-color is defined as "a pseudochromatic optical effect resulting in flashes of colored light from certain minerals, as they are turned in white light." The internal structure of precious opal causes it to diffract light, resulting in play-of-color. Depending on the conditions in which it formed, opal may be transparent, translucent or opaque and the background color may be white, black or nearly any color of the visual spectrum. Black opal is considered to be the rarest, whereas white, gray, and green are the most common.



Play-of-Color and Opalescence

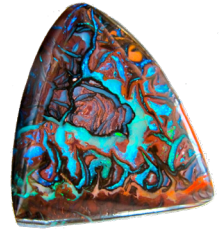
Opal is a very common material, found throughout the world. Most opal is common opal or opal that lacks the colorful flashes known as play-of-color. Some people use the name potch for this type of opal. Most common opals have an unremarkable appearance and are almost invariably overlooked in the field. It is often assumed to be quartz or a variety of chalcedony, but a surprising amount of common opal exists. The rare specimens of opal that exhibit a play-of-color are known as precious. If the play-of-color is of high quality and large enough to cut, the material can be used to produce valuable gemstones. If you examine a specimen of precious opal under bright light, play-of-color can be observed in three situations: 1. when the stone is moved, 2. when the light source is moved, or 3. when the angle of observation is changed. The word opalescence is often misused. Some people believe that opalescence and play-of-color are the same, which is not true. The common definition given for opalescence is the pearly luster of common opal. In truth, most common opal does not have a pearly luster, even when it is polished.

What Causes Play-of-Color?

Areas within an opal that produce a play-of-color are made up of millions of microscopic silica spheres arranged in an orderly network. These spheres are only about 1/2 micron in size, and they act as a diffraction grating. As the light passes through, it is diffracted into the colors of the spectrum. The size of the spheres and their geometric packing determine the color and quality of diffracted light.

10 Awesome Facts About Opals

Opal is one of the most beautiful gemstones in the world. Here at Opal Auctions we live and breathe everything there is about Opals. We all know they are beautiful, but here are 10 awesome facts about opals that you might not know.



1) Birthstone

Opal is the official birthstone for October.

2) Formed By Rain

Opal is formed from rain. There is some conjecture on how exactly this precious gemstone forms, but many believe it is formed when water from rain seeps down into crevasses in the rock. Once the water evaporates, the silica that is left behind dries out and hardens into precious opal.

3) Martian Opal

Opal has been found on Mars! It is one of only a handful of gemstones that have ever been discovered outside of our planet.

4) Ancient Opal

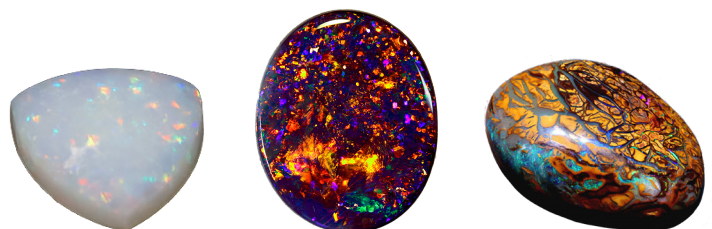
Opallios is the Greek word for Opals, meaning to see a change of color. The Roman word for Opal is Opalus meaning precious stone. The ancient Greeks believed that opals were formed from the tears of joy wept by Zeus when he defeated the titans and that the opal bestowed prophetic powers.

5) The Queen Of Gemstones

The ancient Romans considered it a symbol of hope and good fortune. A Roman scholar in 75 AD summed up our beautiful opal saying: "Some opals carry such a play within them that they equal the deepest and richest colors of painters. Others...simulate the flaming fire of burning sulphur and even the bright blaze of burning oil." He marveled that this kaleidoscopic gem encompassed the red of ruby, the green of emerald, the yellow of topaz, the blue of sapphire, and the purple of amethyst. This is why Opal is commonly called the Queen of Gemstones.

6) Australian Opal

Australia produces around 95% of the world's opals. The majority of this Opal is white Opal from the fields of Coober Pedy in South Australia.



7) Opals In Aboriginal History

Australian native aborigines tell us that opal is our creator's footprint that touched the earth at the base of a rainbow to bring harmony.



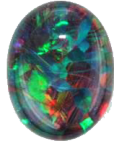
8) Are Opals Luck Or Not?

Opal is a Lucky gemstone. Most civilizations see opal as a lucky stone. There have been some exceptions to this including an English writer in the 1800's and other gemstone marketers who say Opal is bad luck in their marketing. Maybe they realized opal is the best gemstone on earth and had to discredit it! But this campaign has failed, and now Opal is even considered a talisman in some countries and a status symbol to own in others.



9) Royalty Loves Opals

Queen Victoria's favorite gemstone was Opal! She had Sapphires, Rubies, and Diamonds from all over the British Empire but fell in love with the intoxicating colors of Opals.



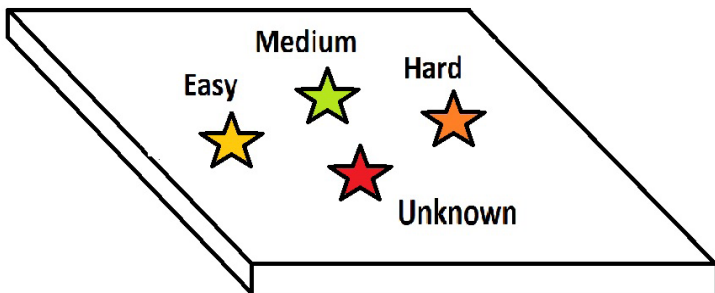
10) More than Meets The Eye

The play of color you see in Opal is due to millions of tiny silica Spheres of different sizes. These spheres refract light and cause the beautiful spectral colors you see in opal. The spheres have to be just the right size and of a uniform nature to create enough color for our eyes to see.

Bench Tip

IDENTIFYING UNMARKED SOLDERS

There are plenty of ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, but suppose you forgot to mark them and have a couple that you can't identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknowns with that of a known solder. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium, and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then, I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



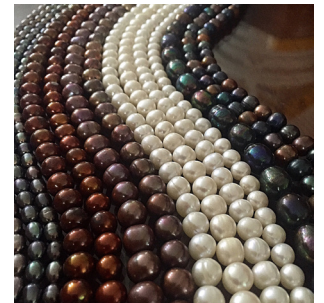
The 33rd annual "Magnolia State Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show"

hosted by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society Inc. will be at the Jackson County Fairground Civic Center in Pascagoula, MS November 11, 12, & 13. Friday and Saturday from 10-6:00 and Sunday 10-5:00.

There will be vendors selling gemstones, minerals, fossils, and jewelry from all over the world.



There's fun for the whole family. There will be a coloring contest for the kids as well as sand bags for kids to purchase to search for their own gemstone treasures! Our members will demonstrate how to make cabochons (shaped and polished gemstones). Our gem club members will be demonstrating many different jewelry-making skills including: Faceting, Capping, Pearling, Beading, Wire wrapping, and more.




Cost to get in is \$3 for a one-day pass or \$5 for a 3 day pass. Kids 12 and under get in free with a paying adult. Door prizes will be given out hourly! There is a Raffle full of wonderful prizes of jewelry, gemstones, art, mineral specimens, and more. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets will be available at the Show and on our website: www.mgcmgs.org. The winners will be drawn at the end of the show. Winners need not be present to win. No need to leave hungry. The concession stand will be open, offering hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken gumbo, red beans and rice, potato salad, and coleslaw. There will snacks available as well. If you get thirsty we will have iced tea, coke products, or a fresh glass of lemonade. Be sure to check our displays of fossils, minerals, and gemstones from around the world. Come join the fun and shop for some treasures of your own!



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="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: _____			
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<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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AFFILIATIONS
 The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
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 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
 Inc.
 S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved
 Bulletin Editors)

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 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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 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 15 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

October 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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