



Snoopy Gems

Volume 49 Number 4 April 2023
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

Thank you to all members and exhibitors who participated in our 2nd annual Art and Jewelry Fair on the 25th of March. There was more foot traffic than last year but we want to continue to build our base of attendees. The MaryC has the very best location for our one-day event with shelter, food, facilities, and assistance readily available. Let's continue to build and promote this event next year.

Please think about what you could share or teach at a monthly or a Wednesday workshop. You will have assistance with the workshop content, as well as purchasing supplies for kits and actual help with the class. If you have an idea, let's explore it.

Think about how you would like to help at the fall show and put it on your calendar now. It's always the 2nd weekend in November.

Come to a meeting/workshop and participate in whatever capacity you can. We always learn from each other. It's always fun.

Sincerely

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

April Workshop:

Our Wednesday classes from 11-3:00 in our room at the Mary C. All are welcome!

April Workshop:

Joni Arias will be teaching earring jackets. Kits will be available.

Materials

12" 20 ga dead soft wire

8" 20 ga dead soft square wire cut into (2) 4" pieces

12" 20 ga dead soft square wire cut into (4) -3" pieces

13" 20 ga dead soft square wire twisted and cut into (4) -3" pieces

(excess/cut off untwisted ends of wire)

Pair of stud earrings



Tools

Flat nose pliers

Round nose pliers

Wire cutters, pencil

Old paring knife to separate wires

Tape, Ruler, & Fine point sharpie

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

March 2023



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

Meeting Minutes: Liz welcomed Kelcey Morris who was introduced to the club by Belinda and Harvey M. Liz recommended that everyone print out the minutes from last month as a reference to what the club will do throughout the year. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds to approve February minutes, Harvey M. second, motion carried.

Treasurer: Barbi Beatty, Treasurer not available to provide a report. She is attending a Rockhound event offered by SFMS. Liz stated that we bought the tools we approved last time, that we are ready to go with the classes offered through the Mary C for the benefit of the Mary C and for the club.

Committee Reports:

Equipment: Harvey brought a lap to demonstrate different methods to polish, cut, and shape gemstones. Liz Platt stated that it doesn't take up a lot of space, that she does not feel it's time for us to buy one, and that we do not have extra money to buy one right now for the club, but for personal purchases it might not be a bad idea. Vicki Reynolds stated that it would probably be better to have at our shows rather than hauling the big one around. Harvey M. asked that if anyone pulls out the saw and uses it to please make sure to oil the blade after using it because it will rust.

Communication: Joni Arias, Vice President stated that she will teach a three-bead wire wrapped bracelet next week for the Mary C. Classes for the Mary C. will be on the third Wednesday monthly, 10 people maximum. Club members can come in and work on other projects. Harvey M. inquired about putting up a sign downstairs showing that the club is upstairs. Linda Templeton stated that she is not getting the newsletter. Liz Platt asked for volunteers to teach for the Mary C. Vicki Reynolds offered to teach Chainmaille.

Newsletter: Linda Templeton stated she is not receiving the newsletter, all other members in attendance stated that they are receiving them.

Facebook: No changes or updates.

Show: Annual Art and Jewelry show will be held Saturday April 25, 2023. Harvey M. mentioned sandbags for the kids.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Expectation for the winner is to attend a class, come back and teach the club. Drawing for the scholarship held. Rosalind Norvel-Daniels won, 1st alternate is Jewel Pugh, 2nd alternate is Allen Elliott. John Guglik explained qualifications for eligibility which are: you must be an active member for at least 1 year, attend 1 meeting per quarter, dues must be paid on time. The classes are very serious, and you will have an opportunity to make a lot of things. Per Vicki Reynolds you can bring your own material. They provide all of the tools and material is available to purchase.

Gem of the Month: John Guglik gave us an overview of Aquamarine. Emerald, Morganite and Aquamarine are Beryl. Can be found in Brazil, and South America. Per Harvey they can also be found in Colorado.

Motion to Adjourn: 1:30pm

Door Prizes: Won by Sue Sheldon, Linda Templeton, Harvey M., Vicki Reynolds, Bruce Giamalva, Allen Elliott, Beth Carden, and John Guglik

Happy



April

Birthday

Jane Cook

Kristen Roy



DIAMOND



DIAMONDS

April's Birthstone

By: John Wright, RPG

Birthstone: April

Family: Native Carbon

Crystal System: Isometric (octahedral or cubic form)

Birefringence: 0.044 (Highest for colorless minerals)

Refractive Indices: $n_{2.417} - n_{2.42}$

Density: 3.62 g/cm³

Hardness: 10

Cleavage: Easy – parallel to octahedral faces.

Color: Usually pale yellow or colorless, but can be brown, blue, green, orange, red, and black

April's birthstone is the diamond and its name comes from the Greek "adamas" meaning "invincible" alluding to its exceptional hardness and resistance to abrasion. Diamond is the "King of Gems" and sets

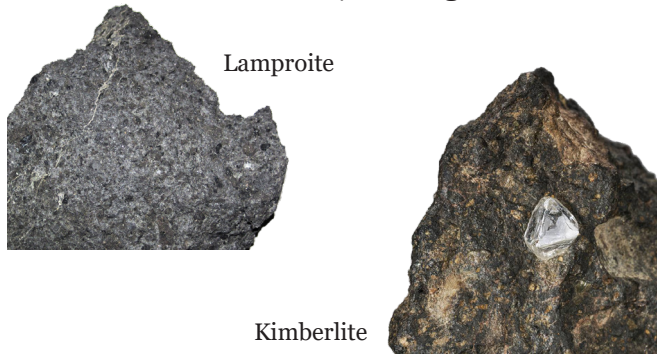


the standard by which all gemstones are rated. It symbolizes purity, strength, and longevity, is the token of everlasting love, the undisputed worldwide gemstone preference for engagements, and the symbol of the 75th wedding anniversary.



Diamond, composed of carbon, is the hardest natural substance in the world. It is the only "10" on the MOHs' scale (Mineral Order of Hardness scale) and depending on the methods of measurement used, is anywhere from 10 to 150 times harder than corundum which is the only mineral with a hardness of rating of 9 on the MOHs' scale.

Scientists believe that diamonds may be up to 3 billion years old having formed more than 300 miles (200 km) below the surface in the bowls of the earth under extreme (probably more appropriately - unimaginable) heat and pressure. Here the diamond crystals remain until some unique geologic event or set of circumstances occur, which allows the special host-matrix, usually kimberlite and less often lamproite, containing these very desirable little gemstones, find passageways to the surface normally in the form of volcanic pipes. This is where (with a lot of luck) we get our greedy little hands on diamonds and the work/fun begins.



Another unique property of diamonds is its extremely high thermal conductivity, higher than any other known mineral. It is four times greater than copper, its closest competitor. I understand they have survived intact with absolutely no damage being heated to over two thousand degrees and then very quickly submerged in liquid nitrogen. It could very well be true, but I just don't believe that I want to try that method of testing one and I certainly don't encourage anyone else to try it.

Diamonds are also highly resistant to the corrosiveness of acids and alkaline. This coupled with their hardness and thermal conductivity give them the chemical and physical properties required for superior cutting ability that is required by our modern day industry. It may surprise you to learn that the majority of the world's production of natural diamonds, about 75 – 80 % are used for industrial purposes. Only about 15% end up being used for jewelry. The other 5 – 10 % are used in research, for displays, the medical profession for precision surgical blades and drill bits (dental mostly), and by craftsmen for cutting diamonds and other gemstones. I guess that waste would also fall in this category.

Diamonds were first mined in India. Today they are mined on every continent except Europe. They have been found in all but six of the states in the U.S. Mississippi is one of the six. Maybe we should start panning the Mississippi river since it drains such a large area of the country. Currently, the most productive mines are found in Australia, Canada, Russia, Angola, South Africa, and Brazil

Diamond Grading:

Who grades diamonds? How do they compare them and determine their value? Because they needed a way to determine the value of diamonds, a grading system was created as well as the Gemological Institutes such as GIA, AGS & IGI to implement this new system.

What Are the Gemological Institutes?

The gemological institutes are objective gemstone graders who determine the attributes of gemstones. Their job is to judge the quality of gemstones, in this case a diamond. The quality of the gem is based on the grading system. The quality and size of the gem determines its value. Over the years more and more such gemological institutes were established. The most commonly known to date are:

GIA - Gemological Institute of America

AGS - American Gem Society

IGI - International Gemological Institute

EGL - European Gemological Laboratory

HRD - Hoge Raad voor Diamant

In 1953 the GIA established a system that later became the universal standard for grading diamonds. The grading system is based on the 4 Cs of Diamonds. This stands for Color, Cut, Clarity, and Carat Weight. The purpose of the system was to create a universal language for everyone around the world to be able to communicate when it comes to describing the quality and attributes of diamonds.

The Meaning of the 4 Cs of Diamonds



Diamond Cut:

Cut does not refer to the diamond's shape but rather to the quality of the diamond's cut for a given shape. Is the number of facets correct for the design? How are they aligned compared to

the other facets? Are the sizes of the facets correct for the design? Is the stone cut shallow or deep? Is a round diamond perfectly round? The answers to these questions determine how the diamond will reflect light giving it the best brilliance and sparkle it can have. The cut of a diamond is graded on polish, symmetry, and quality of facets. The range of the grade scales is Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, and Excellent.



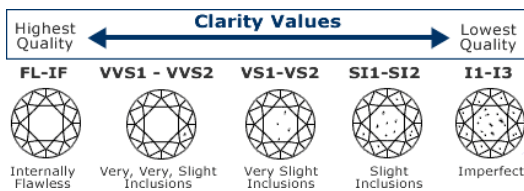
Diamond Color:

Excluding fancy colored diamonds, diamonds are graded for their lack of color. Colors are graded on a scale of D – Z alphabetically, D being the purest, completely colorless. As you go down the alphabet the diamond gets a slight tone of color, yellow or brown.



Diamond Clarity:

A diamonds clarity grade refers to the appearance of inclusions within or on the stone. The clarity chart range is from flawless to heavily included. (FL, IF, VVS1, VVS2, VS1, VS2, SI1, SI2, I1, I2, SI3 I3.)



Diamond Carat Weight:

Diamond's carat refers to its physical weight. Weight is very important when it comes to the pricing of diamonds, because diamonds are priced per carat.



Which is the Most Important C of the 4 Cs? When it comes to evaluating a diamond, the 4 C's usually live in equality. Moving up the scale in one of the charts will allow you to move down one scale in the other and stay within the range of diamonds of a similar value. In other words, one stone may have better color with reduced clarity, but have the same value as a stone with better clarity but a darker color. You can obviously also play with a diamond weight as well. If you reduce the carat weight on one hand and increase the clarity or color grades on another you can stay in the same price range.



Even though the 4 C's should be equal in determining value, some would say the cut of a diamond can have a greater impact on its value. You can have a large high clarity pure colorless diamond, but what good is it if it looks dull because of a poor cut? No matter the weight, clarity, or color of the diamond, the cut of it can increase or decrease its value. The cut is what allows the light to travel through the diamond and give it its shine, reflection of light, and brilliance. Diamonds have been used as decorative items since ancient times. The hardness of a diamond gives it durability and its high dispersion of light gives it true brilliance.



Chitons "Ky-tons"

Chitons, pronounced "ky-tons," are unique mollusks that are recognizable by their eight plates along their back, which give them a flat to lumpy appearance. They are also known as gumboots, sea cradles, coat-of-mail shells, suck-rocks, loricates, polyplacophorans, and occasionally polyplacophores. The plates of the chiton are gently arched and overlap slightly to form a slightly flexible roof. The plates are held in place by a leathery girdle that covers at least a little of the plates, and the color and shape of both the girdle and plates vary by species.



Chitons have a broad, flat foot on their underside that grips surfaces, with their round mouth at one end and anus at the other. Slits running along either edge house the gills, and most chitons feed on algae or other encrusting life. They are primarily nocturnal and move around at night, grazing and hiding in protected spots during the day.



The largest chitons in the world are the gumboot chitons, growing over a foot long. Their eight plates are entirely smooth and white, and the tough, slightly-warty, brick-red girdle completely covers them, earning them the nickname "butterfly shells." Lined chitons are rather flat, rarely reaching 2 inches long, and sport colorful, fine, zig-zag stripes on their plates.

Mossy chitons are known as the "prettiest when dead" and have a girdle that covers the outer two thirds of the plates, upholstered with short, stiff, brownish hairs that look like moss. The exposed center third of the plates may be decorated with etched lines but are often worn and camouflaged

by other life. When dead, the girdle is either devoured or rotted away, leaving behind the eight wide-V shaped turquoise plates that are often used to make jewelry.



Chitons are ancient creatures, with their first appearance dating back 500 million years ago. They are the only known group of mollusks living today to have living tissue integrated within the outermost layer of their shells. Certain chitons have hundreds of small eyes integrated into their protective shell plates, with the eyes forming images using lenses of the mineral aragonite, a form of calcium carbonate. This unique feature allows the chitons to focus light and form images in both air and water, making it possible for them to monitor their environment for threats in all directions. Researchers now know that there are only about 80 species that have shell eyes, a small fraction of all chitons, of which there are about 1,000 living species.

Chitons have a relatively good fossil record, stretching back to the Cambrian period. The genus *Preacanthochiton*, known from fossils found in Late Cambrian deposits in Missouri, is classified as the earliest known polyplacophoran. Chitons evolved from multiplacophora during the Palaeozoic Era, and their relatively conserved modern-day body plan was fixed by the Mesozoic Era. Whether old or new, chitons are fascinating creatures.



artical by:

BENCH TIPS

BURNISHING BEZELS

A dapping ball can sometimes be used to burnish a bezel. I noticed this when setting some 10 mm cabs on a piece of filigree. It was difficult to get enough pressure with a pusher or a regular burnisher, so I tried a dapping ball and found it much easier. Make sure the ball is well polished (hit it with the Zam wheel) and let it ride along the base of your piece. Select a ball big enough so its curvature hits the top of the bezel at the best angle to burnish it down onto the stone.



SUPER PICKLE

We've all made the mistake of putting some steel in the pickle pot. This can cause all your pieces to be coated with copper. Easiest way I've found to clean it off is to fill half a coffee cup with new hot pickle and put in an ounce or two of hydrogen peroxide from the drug store. Throw your pieces in and the coating is gone in about 10 minutes. When finished, pour the solution back into your pickle pot.



SFMS Federation Week

William Holland

June 4th, 2023 – June 10th, 2023

RICK MARSHALL - CABOCHONS 1

JACK KING - CABOCHONS 2

BILL HARR – CASTING

TOM MITCHELL – FACETING

JERRI HEER - SEED BEADED CHINA CABS

JASON HAMILTON - SILVER I+

DEBORA MAUSER - SILVER II, PANEL BRACELET

DAVID WAYMENT - SILVER III - CHANNEL INLAY

BECKY PATELLIS - SOFT SOLDER

GENE SHERIDAN - WIRE II – BRACELETS

BOB HOHN - FLAME PAINTING ON COPPER

CINDY MOORE - WEAVE - TAP – DROP

DANNY GRIFFIN - WORKBENCH


Many people think that when some steel gets into the pickle, the solution is contaminated and should be thrown away. Not true as long as you can remove all the steel from the pickle. In fact, the pickle should work even better after the steel is removed. Pickle works by dissolving the copper oxides that form during soldering. Pickle gets "old" when it cannot hold any more dissolved copper. Putting steel in the pot forces some of the copper to come out of solution, meaning the pickle is then able to dissolve more copper.

Bench tips provided by: Brad Smith @ Brad's "How To" Books Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

We always welcome new members!



Date _____ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

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|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 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. | | | |
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AFFILIATIONS
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 Inc.
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 Bulletin Editors)

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| Vice President | Jodi Arias |
| Treasurer | Barbi Beatty |
| Secretary | Roslind Daniels |
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| Web master | Barbi Beatty |
| Member at Large | Harvey Marcum |
| Member at Large | Reba Shotts |

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| Historian | Lettie White |
| Librarian | Vicki Reynolds |
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AFFILIATIONS

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| ALAA | John Wright: Director |
| SFMS | John Wright: Past President |
| SFMS | Barbi Beatty: Treasurer & Past Asst 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

**2023 Workshop/Meeting
 Dates**

January 14 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 February 11 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 March 11 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
April 8 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 May 13 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 June 10 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 July 8 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 August 12 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 September 9 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 October 14 Mary C. 9:30-4:00
 November 10 After Vendor Dinner 5ish
 December 9 Christmas Party Mary C.
 11:00am-3:30pm

**Dates subject to change.
 Be sure to check each month!**
 The November meeting is the Friday evening
 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

April 2023

| 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 | | | | | | |

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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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