



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 49 Number 8 August 2023  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



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

MGCGMS Established in 1974

## President's Message

Dear Members,

This past week I sorted and evaluated my beads, wire, half-completed projects, stringing and other materials. Next week I'll work on tools including torches, cutters, solder, and assorted measuring equipment. It seems like I never have the right items together when I want to bring them for a workshop. So I'm hoping to be better organized and more efficient. It helps having many tools available in our club closet when we forget something. On Saturday, I am bringing items I don't need in hopes that they can find a home.

For our August meeting perhaps we can consider ideas for Christmas ornaments made with wire, beads, rocks etc. The MaryC always wants us to decorate a tree with ornaments for sale.

Bring your ideas and examples.

See you on Saturday!

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

## August Workshops:

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

### Saturday Workshop:

Barbi Beatty will be teaching Lariat style necklace.

#### Materials:

15 large beads 10mm +  
30 medium beads 6, 7, or 8mm  
30 e-beads  
15 eye pins  
4" of chain  
15 jump rings  
clasp

#### Tools:

Flat nose,  
needle nose,  
& round nose pliers,  
flush cutters & ruler



John Guglik will be available to test stones and metals.

**Machines:** Members of our tool committee will be available to help with cutting and capping gemstones.



# Meeting Minutes

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

July 2023



**Meeting called to order:** 12:50pm by Liz Platt, President.

**Meeting Minutes:** Liz Platt asked if minutes were read, or if there were any corrections needed. Vicki Reynolds made a motion to accept the June minutes, John Guglik second, motion carried.

**Treasurer:** Barbi Beatty, Treasurer provided account balances for show, checking, and savings. Rosalind Norvel-Daniels made a motion to accept, Belinda Marcum second, motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Sunshine:** Nice to see Reba and Buddy Shotts have returned. Ms. Billie Kelly (Lifetime Member) fell and broke her hip. Currently in a rehab facility. Card sent around for everyone's signature.

**Library:** Nothing to report.

**Equipment:** The club received a truck load of donated equipment that still has to be evaluated for usage. We have a little bit of the square and half round, argentum, dead soft and a little bit of the gold-filled wire, 21 gauge remaining in inventory. We've talked about replenishing our supply with some round, half hard, bigger gauges. Would like to know what people would like to work with so that we can put together a list before ordering from Rio Grande. Liz Platt, Vicki Reynolds, Allan Elliott, and Barbi Beatty will work on getting an order together. If any members in the club would like to order at the same time, we can all save on shipping and handling. Liz Platt recommended placing an order now due to current economic conditions and proposed a budget of up to \$750. Barbi made a motion to accept, Harvey Marcum second, motion carried. Log started on equipment that way we know what equipment is being used and what's required in maintenance.

**Communication:** Eventually we will get back to 50/50, we have a silent auction, money made will go to the club and we also have door prizes.

**Newsletter:** Great newsletter as always. Barbi asked if anyone has ideas, articles, or anything else they would like to share, or if there is something you would like to do, to please let her know.

**Facebook:** No changes or updates.

**Show:** Show coming up in November. Would like to have at least three projects for the Kids Corner this year. Barbi asked that donated items be turned in quickly for the raffle. Would like to take photos and post them as soon as possible.

**Fieldtrips:** Nothing to report on fieldtrips or Dixie Mineral Digs.

**New Business:** Every month on the third Wednesday, there is a class offered to the public for Mary C. Cost is \$35.00 for the Mary C. and cost of materials which either goes to the teacher, or to the club. Stephanie Hatcher is doing a Beaded Bracelet in August. Allan Elliott shared the projects he made at William Holland.

**Old Business:** NA

**Gem of the Month:** John Guglik educated us on Ruby's. The club has equipment to test stones.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 1:54pm motion made to adjourn by Barbi Beatty, second by Vicki Reynold, motion carried.

**Door Prizes:** Belinda Marcum, Buddy Shotts, Reba Shotts, Barbi Beatty, Liz Platt, John Guglik, Allan Elliott, and Tammy Crump all won door prizes.



# Happy



## August

# Birthday

# Peridot

Alan Anderson Van Crump  
Mark Daynes Claire Martin Linda Myers



*August Birthstone*  
PERIDOT, SPINEL, & SARDONYX



### Peridot: The Gem of Olivine's Elegance and Geological Intrigue

Peridot, a captivating gemstone with a distinct olive-green hue, has fascinated humans for centuries with its unique beauty and intriguing geological origins. Formed deep within the Earth's mantle, peridot holds within its crystalline lattice a story of extreme heat, pressure, and geological processes that spans millions of years. This article delves into the science behind peridot's formation, its mineral composition, historical significance, and its role in modern-day applications.

### Peridot's Geological Origins:

Peridot, also known as "olivine," is a silicate mineral belonging to the forsterite-fayalite series. It is one of the few gemstones that forms not in the Earth's crust but in the mantle beneath it. The process begins with the crystallization of olivine-rich magma deep within the mantle. Over time, this magma can rise to the surface through volcanic activity, bringing peridot-bearing rocks along with it.



## Mineral Composition and Color:

The green color of peridot arises from the presence of iron within its crystal structure. Depending on the iron content, the color can range from a pale yellow-green to a more intense olive-green. The gemstone's color is also influenced by trace elements and the presence of chromium and nickel. Peridot's brilliant luster and transparency are the result of its high refractive index, which contributes to its gemological appeal.



## Formation and Gemstone Quality:

Peridot often forms in igneous rocks such as basalt, peridotite, and kimberlite. As these rocks cool and solidify, peridot crystals develop within the voids and fractures. Occasionally, peridot can also be found in meteorites, offering a rare glimpse into extraterrestrial mineralogy. The size, clarity, and color intensity of peridot crystals are key factors in determining their value and quality as gemstones.



## Historical Significance and Cultural Symbolism:

Peridot's history dates back thousands of years, with its origins intertwined with ancient civilizations. It was particularly popular in ancient Egypt, where it was known as the "gem of the sun." Egyptians believed that peridot had protective powers and could ward off evil spirits. In various cultures, peridot has been associated with wealth, renewal, and healing properties. Its vibrant green color has often been linked to nature and vitality.

## Modern Applications and Uses:

Beyond its ornamental and aesthetic value,

peridot has practical uses as well. Due to its unique optical properties and high double refraction, peridot has found applications in various optical instruments. Its use in lasers and other high-tech devices underscores its importance in modern technology. Additionally, peridot's availability in various sizes and price ranges has made it a popular choice for both high-end jewelry and affordable fashion accessories.



Peridot's allure lies not only in its captivating green hue but also in the remarkable geological journey that brings this gemstone to the Earth's surface. From its formation deep within the mantle to its historical significance and modern-day applications, peridot embodies the beauty and intrigue of Earth's dynamic processes. Whether cherished for its cultural symbolism, admired for its aesthetic charm, or harnessed for its scientific properties, peridot continues to hold a special place in both the world of gemology and human imagination.

Article by: Barbi Beatty

## Sardonyx: Geological Origin, Mineral Composition, and Historical Significance



**Sardonyx** is a captivating gemstone renowned for its distinctive banded appearance, rich historical significance, and intriguing geological origins. This scientific article delves into the intricate details of sardonyx, encompassing its formation, mineral composition, physical properties, and cultural significance throughout history. By combining geological insights with archaeological discoveries, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of sardonyx that underscores its enduring allure.



Sardonyx, a type of layered chalcedony, has captivated human fascination for millennia due to its vibrant bands of contrasting colors and its prominence in various cultures throughout history. This article presents an in-depth analysis of sardonyx's geological origin, mineral composition, physical properties, and the roles it has played in cultural and historical contexts.

### **Geological Formation:**

Sardonyx is primarily formed within the cavities of rocks, particularly in volcanic or sedimentary environments. The intricate banding patterns, which are the hallmark of sardonyx, result from successive layers of silica-rich solutions depositing different mineral impurities over time. These layers, often varying in color and transparency, contribute to the stone's unique aesthetic appeal.

### **Mineral Composition:**

Sardonyx is a variety of chalcedony, a microcrystalline form of quartz. Its mineral composition comprises silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>), with traces of iron oxide, manganese, and other mineral impurities responsible for the distinctive banding patterns. The arrangement of these minerals gives rise to the diverse color combinations observed in sardonyx, ranging from reddish-brown to white, black, and shades in between.

### **Physical Properties:**

Sardonyx possesses a hardness of 6.5-7 on the Mohs scale, making it relatively durable and suitable for use in jewelry and ornamental artifacts. Its specific gravity ranges from 2.58 to 2.65, and it exhibits a vitreous to waxy luster when polished. The banded structure of sardonyx can be meticulously carved to create intricate cameos, enhancing its desirability among artisans and collectors.



### **Historical and Cultural Significance:**

Throughout history, sardonyx has held a prominent role in various civilizations. In ancient Rome, sardonyx was prized for its supposed protective properties and often used to create signet rings and seals. It featured prominently in Greek and Roman cameos, showcasing the stone's versatility for intricate carving. In Islamic art, sardonyx was revered for its use in intaglio carvings, often bearing inscriptions or religious motifs.



### **Modern Applications:**

In contemporary times, sardonyx continues to be valued for its aesthetic and spiritual qualities. Jewelry designers incorporate sardonyx into necklaces, earrings, and bracelets, capitalizing on its diverse colors and patterns. Additionally, sardonyx's historical associations with protection and strength contribute to its popularity in spiritual and holistic practices.

Sardonyx stands as a testament to the Earth's geological creativity, offering a stunning blend of color, pattern, and historical significance. Its formation within the Earth's crust, mineral composition, physical properties, and enduring cultural roles underscore its enduring appeal. As we continue to explore the world of minerals and gems, sardonyx remains an exemplar of nature's ability to create enduring beauty and captivate the human imagination.

Article by: Barbi Beatty

### **Spinel: Properties, Synthesis, and Applications**



Spinel, a fascinating class of minerals and compounds, has captured the attention of scientists and researchers for decades due to its unique crystal structure and diverse properties. This article presents a comprehensive review of spinel, discussing its crystallographic features, synthesis

methods, and wide-ranging applications across various fields. Through an in-depth analysis, we aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of spinel's significance in both natural and synthetic forms.

Spinel, a member of the oxide mineral family, has gained prominence in scientific research and industrial applications due to its exceptional characteristics. This article delves into the crystallography of spinel, its synthesis techniques, and the multitude of sectors where its properties have been harnessed.



### Structure:

Spinel is characterized by the  $AB_2O_4$  formula, where A and B represent metal cations and O represents oxygen. The octahedral and tetrahedral coordination of metal cations within its cubic crystal structure forms a distinctive arrangement that influences its properties. The cation distribution and lattice parameters have a significant impact on spinel's physical and chemical behavior.

### Natural Occurrence and Varieties:

Natural spinel can be found in a range of colors, from red to blue to black, and is often confused with precious gemstones like ruby and sapphire. The article explores the geological origins of spinel and highlights its occurrence in various regions around the world.



### Synthetic Methods:

Researchers have developed numerous synthetic routes to produce spinel, enabling the tailoring of its properties for specific applications. Techniques such as sol-gel synthesis, hydrothermal methods, and solid-state reactions have been employed to create spinel with controlled characteristics.

### Physical and Chemical Properties:

Spinel exhibits a wide array of properties, including excellent hardness, thermal stability, and resistance to chemical corrosion. Its semiconducting, magnetic, and luminescent properties have paved the way for applications in electronics, catalysis, and optoelectronics.



### Applications:

Spinel's versatility has led to its utilization in various industries. Its refractory properties find application in ceramics and high-temperature coatings. The transparent spinel variety is used in optical windows and lenses. Additionally, spinel-based materials have shown promise in lithium-ion batteries, fuel cells, and photocatalysis.

### Future Prospects:

As research continues to unveil new facets of spinel's properties and behavior, the possibilities for its application in emerging technologies are boundless. The development of novel synthesis techniques and a deeper understanding of spinel's fundamental properties will likely open doors to uncharted territories in materials science and engineering.

Spinel stands as a captivating and versatile material with a rich history and a promising future. Its unique crystal structure, synthesis methods, and multifaceted properties have positioned it as a cornerstone of scientific exploration and technological innovation across various disciplines.

Article by: Barbi Beatty



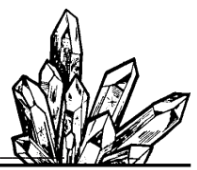




# We always welcome new members!



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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**Snoopy Gems**  
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**AFFILIATIONS**  
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 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

**August 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	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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