



Snoopy Gems

Volume 49 Number 2 February 2023
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

It will be great to meet again in our room at the Mary C. Come and find out what the Wednesday group is doing and learn plans for the Spring Fair, workshops, and the rest of 2023. You can sign up for the Fair at the meeting. Be sure that your dues are paid at the meeting or no later than Feb 28.

Plans are to offer one scholarship for the SFMS workshops this year. The dates are:

- June 4-9 at William Holland in Young Harris, GA and
- August 14-20 or Sept 11-17 at Wildacres in Little Switzerland, NC

If you plan to enter your name in the scholarship drawing, your dues must be paid by the above date. Normally, the deadline is Jan 31, but since we were not able to meet, the deadline is extended one month. Other requirements to be in the drawing are that you are an active member and have been a member for at least a year. If you are interested or unsure if you qualify, please call a board member to inquire. If you qualify and wish to participate in the drawing, you must notify Barbi or me as soon as possible. Guidelines will be available at the meeting. We expect to hold the drawing at the March meeting.

Come join the fun on Saturday and catch up with the latest plans for 2023! See you there.

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

February Workshop:

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

February 11th Workshop:

Barbi Beatty will be teaching bead stringing, crimping, how to finish your piece, and adding a clasp. Bring any beads you like and a clasp. Kits will be available for \$5 ea.



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.



Meeting Minutes

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Jan 2023



There was no meeting in January

Happy Birthday to those we missed in January! (Lisa Fitch, Sandy Hunt, Belinda Marcum, Angie Troutman, Lettie White, & Billie Kelly)

Garnets By John Wright



The Garnet group of minerals show crystals with a habit of dodecahedrons and trapezohedrons. They are nesosilicates with the same general formula, $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$. Many different chemical elements are included in the several varieties of garnet, including calcium, magnesium, aluminium, iron²⁺, iron³⁺, chromium, manganese, and titanium. Garnets show no cleavage, but do show a dodecahedral parting. Fracture is conchoidal to uneven; some varieties are very tough and are valuable for abrasive purposes. Hardness is 6.5 – 7.5, specific gravity is 3.1 – 4.3, luster is vitreous to resinous, and they can be transparent to opaque. Garnets come in a wide variety of colors including red, yellow, brown, black, green, or colorless. The only color not reported for garnet is blue. The name “garnet” comes from the Latin granatus, a grain possibly in reference to malum granatum (pomegranate) a plant with red seeds similar in shape, size and color to some garnet crystals.

Grossularite is a calcium-aluminium garnet with the formula $Ca_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$, though the calcium may in part be replaced by ferrous iron and the aluminum by ferric iron. The name grossularite is derived from the botanical name for the gooseberry, grossularia, in reference to the green garnet of this composition that is found in Siberia. Other shades include cinnamon brown, red, and yellow. Grossularite is found in contact metamorphosed limestones. One of the most sought after varieties of gem garnet is the fine green grossular garnet from Kenya and Tanzania called tsavorite.

Pyrope, from the Latin pyropos meaning similar to fire. Sometimes called Cape ruby, it is ruby-red in color and chemically a magnesium aluminium silicate with the formula $Mg_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$, though the magnesium can be replaced in part by calcium and ferrous iron. The color of pyrope varies from deep red to almost black. The name pyrope is derived from the Greek word meaning “fire-like.” A variety of pyrope from Macon County, North Carolina is of a violet-red shade and has been called rhodolite, from the Greek meaning “a rose.” In chemical composition it may be considered as essentially an isomorphous mixture of pyrope and almandite, in the proportion of two molecules pyrope to one molecule almandite.

Almandite, sometimes called almandine, is the modern gem known as carbuncle (though originally almost any red gemstone was known by this name). The term “carbuncle” is derived from the Latin meaning “little spark.” The name Almandite is a corruption of Alabanda, a region in Asia Minor where these stones were cut in ancient times. Chemically, almandite is an iron-aluminium garnet with formula $Fe_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; the deep red transparent stones are often called precious garnet and are used as gemstones (being the most common of the gem garnets). Almandite occurs in metamorphic rocks like mica schists.

Spessartite is manganese aluminium garnet, $Mn_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$. It's name is derived from Spessart in Bavaria. It occurs most often in granite pegmatite and allied rock types and in certain low grade metamorphic phyllites. Spessartite of a beautiful orange-yellow is found in Madagascar. Violet-red spessartites are found in rhyolites in Colorado and Maine.

Uvarovite is a calcium chromium silicate with the formula $Ca_3Cr_2(SiO_4)_3$. It is a rather rare garnet, bright green in color, usually found as small crystals associated with chromite in peridotite and serpentinite or sometimes crystalline marbles and schists. It is found in the Urals of Russia and Outokumpu, Finland. Knorringite is a rare variety in which magnesium replaces calcium. It is often found in kimberlites and used as an indicator mineral in the search for diamonds.

Andradite is a calcium-iron garnet, $Ca_3Fe_2(SiO_4)_3$, is of variable composition and may be red, yellow, brown, green or black. The recognized subvarieties are topazolite (yellow or green), demantoid (green) and melantite (black). Andradite is found both in deep-seated igneous rocks like syenite as well as serpentines, schists, and crystalline limestone. Demantoid has been called the “emerald of the Urals” from its occurrence there, and is one of the most prized of garnet varieties.

Happy



February

Birthday

Mike Martin Vicki Reynolda David Spencer



Amethyst belongs to the quartz group of minerals. It is recognized as the official birthstone for the month of February. Amethyst belongs to the macrocrystalline branch of quartz. It gets its violet/purple color to iron and aluminum impurities. Like other varieties of macrocrystalline quartz, amethyst has transparent to translucent clarity and a vitreous luster.

Amethyst Gemological Properties:

Chemical Formula: SiO_2 - Silicon dioxide

Crystal Structure: Trigonal; hexagonal prisms

Color: Violet, pale red-violet, purple

Hardness: 7 on the Mohs scale

Refractive Index: 1.544 - 1.553

Density: 2.65

Cleavage: None

Transparency: Transparent to semi-translucent

Double Refraction / Birefringence: 0.009

Luster: Vitreous

Amethyst Origin and Sources

The most important amethyst deposits are in Brazil, namely the "Palmeira" amethysts of Rio Grande do Sul and the "Maraba" amethysts of Para. Other significant amethyst deposits are located in Bolivia, Canada, India, Madagascar, Mexico, Myanmar (Burma), Namibia, Russia, Sri Lanka, United States (Arizona), Uruguay and Zambia.

Amethyst Color

Amethyst owes its color to iron and aluminum impurities. The colors range from purple and violet to pale red-violet. The deep colors are the most valuable, particularly a rich purple with rose flashes. Amethyst does not display its best color in artificial light. Amethyst looks best in daylight; especially, slightly after sunrise or just before sunset when the light is soft and warm. Amethyst is distinguished by its violet-purple colors. The best specimens have a deep purple color and good saturation with minimal color zoning. Amethyst is typically untreated. Some amethyst stones may be enhanced though heating, but heating of amethyst will reduce coloring agents and result in 'heated citrine'. The only difference between amethyst and citrine is the level of iron impurities in amethyst. When amethyst is heated at high temperatures of around 470°C to 750°C, iron impurities are reduced and can turn from violet to golden creating a 'heated' citrine. Lower grade amethyst stones are often heated to produce golden colored citrine stones. Heated citrine will typically appear more reddish when compared to unheated citrine. What is being called green amethyst is produced by heat treatment, but since amethyst is defined by its purple color, green amethyst is not considered to be a true amethyst. Ametrine is the bicolored combination of both amethyst and citrine.

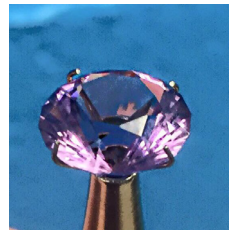


Amethyst Clarity and Luster

Fine amethyst is transparent, which means the light passes through the stone unhindered. In translucent amethyst, the passage of light is slightly weakened as it travels through the stone. The best quality amethyst is "clean" and free of visible inclusions of any kind. Since amethyst is quite plentiful, there is little reason to buy stones with visible inclusions.

Amethyst Cut and Shape

Due to the variability of the color distribution in the amethyst crystals, it is often cut as brilliant rounds or ovals to maximize the color. Very rarely will amethyst be cut into a cabochon. Other shapes and modified cutting styles are quite popular, but typically, only amethyst specimens with good color distribution are cut into fancy stones. Amethyst is available in just about every shape, cut and size. Calibrated sizes are easily found and fancy shapes such as trillions, hearts and shields are very common. Amethyst is often carved into ornamental shapes, so there are many amethyst carvings available on the market today.



Amethyst Gemstone and Jewelry Care and Cleaning

Amethyst can easily be cleaned with warm water and a mild soap. Wipe down amethyst using a soft cloth or toothbrush. Amethyst is quartz and although it is relatively hard and durable, there are a number of other gemstones capable of easily scratching amethyst. Therefore, take caution and do not place other harder gems near amethyst when storing, cleaning or wearing amethyst jewelry. As with most other colored stones, do not use harsh household chemicals when cleaning amethyst gemstone jewelry. Avoid prolonged exposure to extreme heat, because heat can cause permanent damage to the gemstone. When storing amethyst, always store jewelry inside a fabric-lined box or wrap it in a soft cloth. Amethyst should be stored separately from other stones, whether of whether or not they are harder or softer.

BENCH TIPS

In the Rough

Polishing Cup Burs for Prong Work

Anytime you rub a steel tool against a gemstone, you risk scratching the stone. Whether it is a file or a burnisher or a cup bur, if the surface of the tool is rough, the risk of damage is high.



Unfortunately most factory tools are not finished sufficiently and require some fine-tuning at your bench before putting them to use. Just as finishing files are prepared with a polished safe edge for working around stones, and burnishers are always polished to impart a polish, so should cup burs be finished, to avoid damaging stones.

Every time you use a new cup bur, take a moment to polish the end first. Place the bur in the hand piece of your flexible shaft machine and hold the flat end against some 4/0 polishing paper. Spin the bur and polish the end, avoiding contact with the interior cuts of the bur. Now when you use this bur to work around prongs, even if the it accidentally touches the stone, there is far less risk of scratching it.

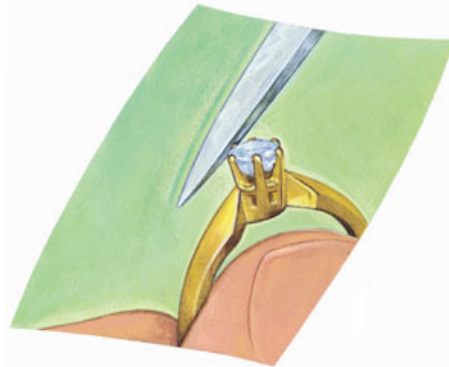
Source: revereacademy.com/bench-tips

A Quick Rub

Using the back of a file to burnish after setting

Here is a tip that will make you scratch your head and ask, Why didn't I ever try this before? During many jewelry operations, after filing, burring, setting, and even bend-ing, you are left with a rough or sharp edge on the metal. You can sand or file down the edge, but it's not always easy if the area is difficult to reach. A great solution to this problem is using the back of a barrette needle file as a burnisher.

Let's say you are finishing a setting job. No matter what type of setting it is, there is always a sharp corner or edge left by your work. You should remove this sharp corner because it is not only unattractive, but also dangerous for the wearer, who can catch it on clothing or flesh.




Grab a fine cut (#6 or #4) barrette needle file. You might want to prepare the back, which comes without teeth, by sanding and polishing it. At the end, use this file for the final cleanup, then flip it over and use the polished corner to rub against sharp corners and edges in your work. This beats polishing because it is more specifically directed, it does not remove metal, and it leaves a high luster. Use this technique as the final touchup after finishing prongs and bezels.

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 MGCMS 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
 is the Official Publication of
 The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society,
 Inc.

AFFILIATIONS
 The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
 Inc.
 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
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SFMS	Barbi Beatty: Treasurer & Past Asst Treasurer & Insurance Liaison
SFMS	Buddy Shotts: Past Long-range Plan- ning, Past President, 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 9 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 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

January 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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<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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