



Snoopy Gems

Volume 49 Number 7 July 2023
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message



Dear Members,

Come cool off with us at the Saturday workshop. We'll have cool foods, cool drinks, and cool lapidary activities. After this heat wave and hot July 4th, we all need some easy and uncomplicated days.

We will be collecting donations for the show raffle. Please consider donating a jewelry or lapidary item. Donations should be valued \$25 or more.

Hope to see you there!

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

July Workshops:

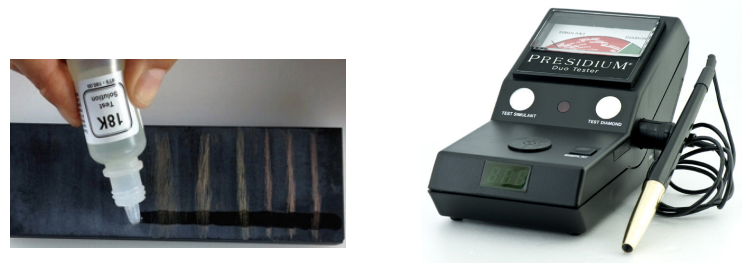
Our Wednesday classes from 11-3:00 in our room at the Mary C. All members are welcome!

Saturday Workshop:

We will be teaching Lapidary arts. Teaching how to cut gemstones using the wet saw, flatlap, and capping machines. All materials will be provided. There is a \$3 tool maintenance fee to use the machines.



John Guglik will be available to test stones and metals.



If you have a project you would like to finish or need help with, please bring it. Members will be there to help. We are looking for volunteers to teach workshops Aug 12th & Sep 9th.

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

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Meeting Minutes

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

June 2023



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

Meeting Minutes: Liz Platt welcomed everyone. Barbi Beatty recorded the minutes for June 2023. Vicki Reynolds made a motion to accept the May Meeting minutes, David Spencer second, motion carried.

Treasurer: Treasurer report given by Barbi Beatty. Harvey Marcum made a motion to accept the treasures report, John Guglik second, motion carried

Committee Reports:

Workshop: Barbi Beatty taught a wire wrapped bracelet. Everyone did a great job. David Spencer was able to complete two bracelets.

Equipment: Liz Platt made a sign in log for those using the tools and equipment. Tool use needs to be monitored. All Members need to sign the waiver form, use safety glasses and pay the \$3.00 per day equipment fee. We have a new flat lap machine. Harvey Marcum has experience with the machine and will be happy to teach us how to use it.

Library: Per Liz Platt, magazines are under the sink. We have the TV with DVD player available to use to further our education.

Silent Auction: Donations are made to the club. Some of these are given as door prizes. Others are used for workshop materials, and some are used in our silent auction. Monies collected go to the club to buy supplies.

Newsletter: Liz Platt states, Barbi Beatty is continuing to create a wonderful club newsletter. This month's newsletter contains articles on Alexandrite, Pearls, bench tips for our new flat lap machine and much more. Barbi said there is a newsletter link on the homepage of our website each month. She will begin archiving them on the newsletter page again soon.

Show: Per Barbi Beatty, 7 Vendors have mailed in their contracts and deposits. All contracts have been sent to vendors. Barbi will contact the rest to make sure they are still coming. Our cost has gone up and the show has been shortened to two days. It will be November 11th and 12th, with set up on Friday November 10th. We should be able to start setting up tables Thursday after 5:00pm. We will need volunteers to help set up the tables. The entry fee will be \$5.00. Allan Elliott has offered to make us a new show case for our raffle items. Updating our show cases was discussed as well as reducing the size of our storage needs for the cases. We currently pay \$802.00 per year to store items we only use once a year. Barbi Beatty stated if we can consolidate our storage items, maybe we could rent a smaller unit for less money. Our members Stephanie Hacker and Belinda Marcum have volunteered to handle the kids corner at the show. Stephanie offered to loan us adjustable tables for the kids to use. Liz Platt and Vicki Reynolds volunteered to help with the preparations for projects in the kids corner. Harvey Marcum and John Guglik will work on a interactive display of glow in the dark rocks for the show. We are asking each member to donate a lapidary or jewelry item with a value of \$25 or more for the show raffle. Barbi Beatty will be collecting the raffle items. She would like to have them as soon as possible so they can be promoted on the website and social media.

Mary C. O'Keefe Partnership: Liz Platt discussed our agreement to teach with the Mary C. We teach a class the third Wednesday of each month with the class fee going to the Mary C. Each teacher is a club member volunteering their time and skills to teach our members and the public a class. The teacher charges a kit fee to cover their cost for supplies. By doing these classes it gives back to the Mary C. for letting us use the room and have our lockable storage closet for our equipment. The last Class was a metal etching class taught by Rosalind Norvel Daniels and Joni Arais. The next class will be pearl tying by Barbi Beatty. Also David Spencer has some of his jewelry items for sale at the Mary C. Gift shop. How selling in the gift shop works was discussed.

Old Business: Liz Platt is still working on getting some lectures in to provide us with continuing education. Allan Elliot is attending a SFMS Workshop this week at William Holland School. Rosalind Norvel Daniels won our scholarship and will be attending her workshop at Wildacers in August. We will have additional chairs for our next meeting.

New Business: N/A

Gem of the Month: Barbi Beatty educated us on pearls, & John Guglik educated us on Moonstones & Alexandrite.

Show and Tell: Vicki Reynolds and Liz Platt brought pearls to show. John Guglik showed Moonstones.

Motion to Adjourn: Vicki Reynolds made a motion to adjourn at 1:15pm, Harvey Marcum second. Motion passed

Door Prizes: John Guglik, Harvey Marcum, David Spencer, Joni Arias, Linda Templeton, & Barbi Beatty all won door prizes.

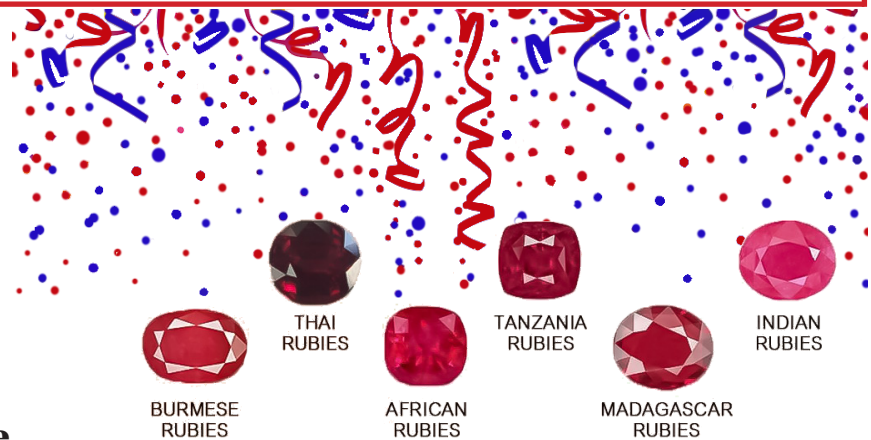
Happy



July

Birthday

LeeAnn Anderson Jessie Schaefer



The Radiant Ruby: July's Birthstone Shining Bright

When it comes to birthstones, few can match the fiery beauty and timeless allure of the ruby. As the gemstone associated with the month of July, the ruby holds a special place in the hearts of those born in the seventh month of the year. With its captivating red hue and rich historical significance, the ruby stands as a symbol of love, passion, and vitality. Join us as we delve into the mesmerizing world of the July birthstone and discover why it continues to captivate admirers around the globe.

Physical Properties

Family: Corundum

Chemical Comp.: 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 (barrel shape that's been stretched a little); 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/cm³

Hardness: 9

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

Fracture: Conchoidal

Pleochroic: Variable from different viewing directions. Red color intensifies in strong artificial light, ultraviolet Light or direct sunlight.

The Ruby:

A ruby is a pinkish red to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum. Ruby is one of the most popular traditional jewelry gems and is very durable. The word ruby comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. The color of a ruby is due to the element chromium. The quality of a ruby is determined by its color, cut, and clarity, which, along with carat weight, affect its value. The brightest and most valuable shade of red, called blood-red or pigeon blood, commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality.

Historical Significance:

The ruby has been cherished for centuries across various cultures. In ancient times, it was believed that wearing a ruby bestowed good fortune upon its wearer, protecting them from misfortune and bringing prosperity. The gemstone has been associated with love and romance, symbolizing passion and deep affection. In some cultures, rubies were believed to possess the power of invulnerability, granting protection and strength to warriors in battle.



Birthstone Meanings and Symbolism:

As the birthstone for July, the ruby carries deep symbolism and meaning. It is believed to bestow its wearer with vitality, energy, and confidence. The ruby is often associated with love, passion, and the intense fire of the human spirit. It is believed to enhance courage, promote self-confidence, and inspire the pursuit of one's dreams. As a symbol of devotion, the ruby is a fitting gift for anniversaries or as a token of love. As we celebrate July birthdays, let us embrace the radiant beauty of the ruby and appreciate the profound meaning it holds for those born in this special month.

Glorious Imperfection:

All natural rubies have imperfections in them, including color impurities and inclusions of rutile needles known as "silk". Gemologists use these needle inclusions found in natural rubies to distinguish them from synthetics, simulants, or substitutes. Usually, the rough stone is heated before cutting. These days, almost all rubies are treated in some form, with heat treatment being the most common practice. Some rubies show a three-point or six-point asterism or "star". These rubies are cut into cabochons to display the effect properly. Asterisms are best visible with a single-light source and move across the stone as the light moves or the stone is rotated. Such effects occur when light is reflected off the "silk" in a certain way. This is one example where inclusions increase the value of a gemstone. Rubies can show color changes as well as chatoyancy or the "cat's eye" effect.



Ruby in Modern Times:

Today, rubies continue to be highly sought after and cherished gemstones. They are widely used in jewelry, ranging from exquisite engagement rings to statement necklaces and earrings. The allure of the ruby extends beyond its beauty, as it is also valued for its durability and hardness, making it an excellent choice for daily wear. The gemstone's timeless appeal has made it a favorite among collectors and gemstone enthusiasts worldwide.

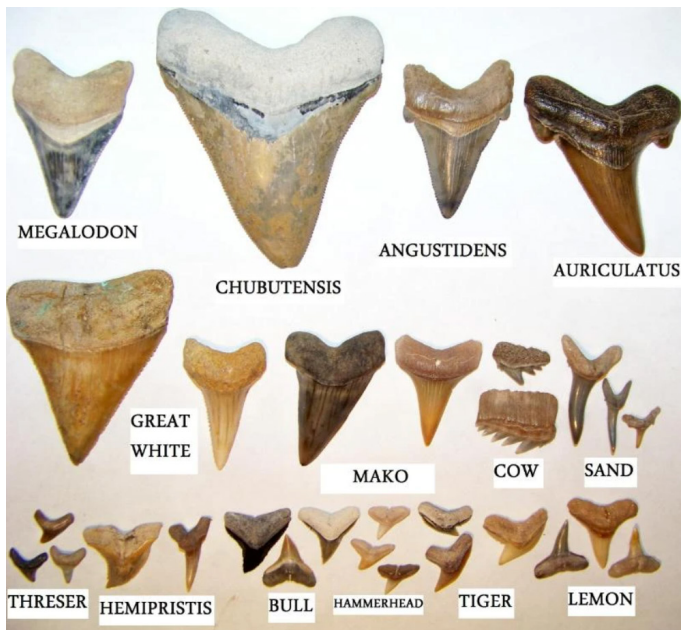


Unveiling the Secrets of Fossilized Shark Teeth

Sharks, the apex predators of the ocean, have roamed the seas for over 400 million years. While their formidable presence strikes awe and fear, their teeth possess a remarkable ability to withstand the test of time. Fossilized shark teeth are windows into prehistoric worlds, providing valuable insights into the ancient oceans and the evolutionary history of these remarkable creatures. In this article, we delve into the fascinating realm of fossilized shark teeth and explore the wonders they reveal.

A Treasure Trove of Paleontological Discoveries:

Fossilized shark teeth are among the most common and well-preserved relics found in the geological record. Their robust nature and high mineral content enable them to survive the processes of fossilization, making them invaluable to paleontologists and enthusiasts alike. These teeth offer a glimpse into the diverse array of shark species that inhabited ancient seas, shedding light on their evolution, ecological roles, and the changing dynamics of marine ecosystems throughout history.



Ancient Shark Species:

Shark teeth fossils come in various shapes, sizes, and forms, each characteristic of a particular species. By examining these fossilized teeth, scientists can identify and classify ancient shark species, even when other skeletal remains are scarce. The morphology of teeth provides vital

clues about a shark's diet, hunting strategies, and ecological niche. Researchers can reconstruct the ancient marine food web by analyzing the types of teeth found in different geological layers, allowing them to understand the intricate interplay between sharks and other marine organisms throughout time.

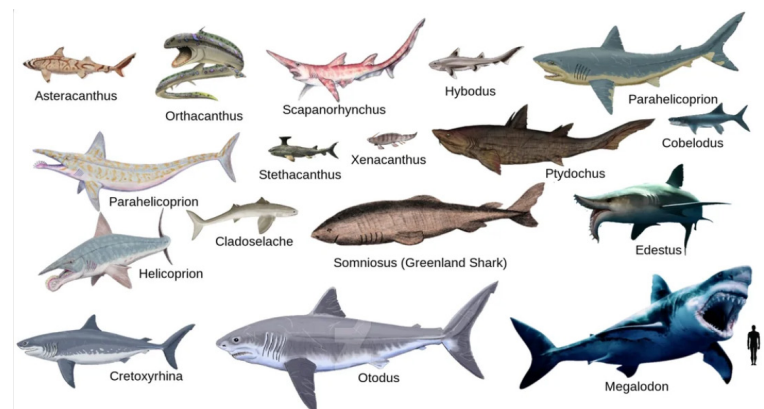


Ancient Shark Tooth Hunters:

Fossilized shark teeth have captivated the imaginations of collectors and fossil enthusiasts for centuries. Often referred to as "devil's teeth" or "tongue stones" in folklore, these captivating fossils have been collected, treasured, and traded for their aesthetic appeal and historical significance. Coastal areas, riverbanks, and ancient seabed deposits are popular hunting grounds for these prized artifacts. Enthusiasts scour these locations, armed with a keen eye and a sense of adventure, hoping to unearth a hidden treasure from the past.

Beyond Aesthetic Appeal:

While fossilized shark teeth certainly possess an allure, they offer more than just visual splendor. Researchers utilize these ancient relics to understand climate change, past marine ecosystems, and even human history. By examining isotopes within the tooth enamel, scientists can reconstruct temperature variations, migration patterns, and even determine the presence of specific chemicals or pollutants in ancient seas. This multidisciplinary approach enables us to piece together a comprehensive narrative of Earth's history and the intricate relationship between life and the environment.



Preservation and Conservation Efforts:

Preserving and conserving fossilized shark teeth is of paramount importance. These ancient artifacts hold immense scientific and educational value, allowing us to appreciate and learn from our planet's rich natural history. It is crucial to respect fossil sites, adhere to ethical collection practices, and support scientific research initiatives that contribute to our understanding of Earth's past. Furthermore, promoting awareness about the significance of these fossils and advocating for responsible collecting practices ensures their availability for future generations.



Fossilized shark teeth serve as remarkable time capsules, offering glimpses into ancient marine worlds that have long since vanished. Their resilience and abundance make them invaluable to scientists, collectors, and enthusiasts alike. Through the study of these teeth, we continue to unravel the mysteries of the deep oceans, reconstructing the evolution and ecology of sharks throughout millions of years. As we cherish and protect these fossilized treasures, we gain a deeper appreciation for the intricate web of life that has shaped our planet over time.

The Enigmatic Megalodon:

One of the most famous and awe-inspiring sharks of all time is the Megalodon (*Carcharocles megalodon*). Often referred to as a "giant shark," Megalodon lived approximately 23 to 2.6 million years ago during the Cenozoic Era. This colossal predator is estimated to have reached lengths of up to 60 feet (18 meters), making it one of the largest known sharks to have ever existed.



Fossilized Megalodon teeth are particularly prized among collectors and researchers. These teeth can measure over 7 inches (18 centimeters) in height and exhibit distinctive features, including a robust triangular shape, serrated edges, and a glossy enamel surface. Their enormous size and serrations suggest that Megalodon was a formidable hunter, capable of preying on large marine mammals, including whales.



Through the study of fossilized Megalodon teeth, scientists have pieced together details about this ancient shark's biology, behavior, and habitat. By analyzing the size and shape variations of these teeth, researchers can infer the age, size, and potential growth patterns of individual Megalodon specimens. Such insights provide valuable data for understanding the evolutionary history and ecological role of this prehistoric giant.

We Have a New Clue About What Caused The Megalodon to go Extinct– It May Have Been Warm Blooded

The body temperature of one of the mightiest predators ever to stalk Earth's oceans may have contributed to its downfall.

The exact cause of the Megalodon's extinction is not known for certain. However, A new analysis of the teeth left behind by megalodon shows that the extinct giant shark was at least partially warm-blooded, as some sharks are today.

But this trait, which would have given the predators an edge as a hunter, could have left them vulnerable to extinction as the worlds climate and food sources changed around them.

article by: Barbi Beatty

BENCH TIPS

On Coarse

Making a Renewable Sanding Stick



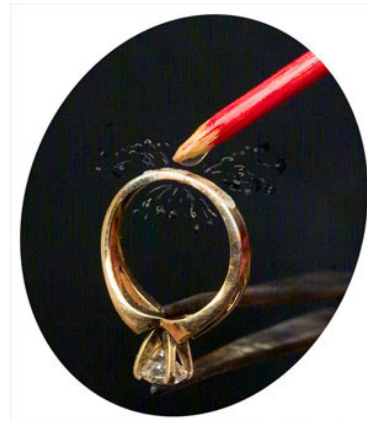
Essential bench tools, sanding sticks are used for finishing metal surfaces throughout the jewelry making process. Although some suppliers offer them, most bench jewelers make their own. Sanding sticks are used progressively from coarse to fine in preparation for buffing and polishing metal, and they are virtually indispensable for jewelry work.

To make one, take a paint mixing stick from your local paint or hardware store and place it on the back of a piece of abrasive paper. Line up the edges and then use a scribe to score a crease in the paper. Carefully roll the stick a quarter turn and make the second crease, third, and fourth. Wrap the paper tightly around the stick and continue to score and roll the paper until it is wrapped completely and tightly around the stick. Use a stapler to affix the paper at multiple points on the overlapping edge and rip off the excess. For easy identification, mark two, four, or six dots on the edge of the stick to indicate the grit: 220, 400, or 600, respectively. You now have a renewable sanding stick ready to jump into action for precision finishing.

Thank you Allan Elliott for suggesting this tip!

Applying Flux Drop by Drop

Anyone who has ever soldered jewelry, has a searing memory of sacrificing a flux brush in the name of expedient soldering. This occurs when, in the middle of an extended soldering operation, you observe that although the metal is hot enough, the flux is not sufficient for the solder to flow. Perhaps there was never enough or it burned off during extended heating (which should be avoided). So you put your flux-wet brush on the hot metal to add more of the vital liquid, which of course sears and ruins a few bristles on the brush. That's okay if your family owns a flux brush business or if you use the cheap kind. But I use a #00 Red Sable (artist's type) as a flux brush, and I want them to last.



So try this the next time you need to re-apply flux to a hot piece of metal. Use the sharpened end of the brush to transport it. After removing the paint, which would burn upon contact with hot metal, dip the bare wood into flux to saturate it and transport it to the needed joint. The flux splatters of course, but it winds up in the right place without losing a hair on your favorite brush

Bench Tips


FROM 101 BENCH TIPS BY ALAN REVERE

<http://www.revereacademy.com/bench-tips>

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: _____			

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AFFILIATIONS
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 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
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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

July 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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