



Snoopy Gems

Volume 49 Number 3 March 2023
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

Come on Saturday to learn all that your club has planned for the Spring and Summer. Now that we are doing workshops on Wednesdays we are able to expand and explore possibilities for jewelry and lapidary skills.

On Saturday we will the draw for the federation workshops in GA and NC. If you qualify and want to be in the drawing you must let me know before Saturday's meeting. This is worth over \$600 including a week of hands on learning, room, and board in a beautiful environment. Call me with questions and to place your name in the See you there.

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

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

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

March Workshop:

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

March 11th Workshop:

Joni Arias will be teaching ZIG-ZAG Earrings. Kits will be available \$3 ea.

Materials

18-gauge round dead soft wire, 1 foot
26-gauge round dead soft wire, 10 inches
Six 6mm round beads
1 pair ear wires

Tools

Flat nose pliers
Round nose pliers
Chain nose pliers
Wire cutters
Chasing hammer
Bench block
Ruler



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
Feb 2023



Meeting Minutes will be handed out at the meeting.

**OS JEWELRY
& ART FAIR**
SATURDAY March 25 10 AM - 4 PM
hosted by MS GULF COAST GEM AND
MINERAL SOCIETY INC and OCEAN
SPRINGS ART ASSOCIATION
**AT MARY C O'KEEFE CULTURAL ARTS
CENTER**
1600 GOVERNMENT ST OCEAN SPRINGS



jewelry • pottery • art • photography



Happy

March

Birthday

Cheryl Ashby, Robert Boyd, Dawn Brandt,
Rosalind Norvel-Daniels, Aurora King
Harvey Marcum, Jennie Schaefer,



March Birthstones: Aquamarine and Bloodstone

You may be aware that March’s birthstone is aquamarine, but did you know that bloodstone is an alternative birthstone? While they differ in appearance, the two birthstones symbolize strength and perseverance.

Aquamarine’s Color



A member of the beryl family, aquamarine gets its coloring from trace amounts of ferrous iron. Aquamarine ranges in color from blueish green, blue-green, greenish blue to deep blue, and its tones can be very light to moderately dark. The color is typically more intense in larger stones.

Aquamarine Meanings, Symbolism, and Folklore

The word “aquamarine” is derived from the Latin words aqua, meaning “water,” and marina, meaning “of the sea.” It’s said that Roman fishermen believed aquamarine would provide protection for sailors and those traveling on the water. It was also thought to bring luck in catching

fish. According to legend, aquamarine would create a calm sea for those during travel. Aquamarine was also thought to help cool tempers and allow those who possessed it to remain calm and levelheaded. In the Middle Ages, people thought that wearing the stone would prevent poisoning. Folklore surrounding aquamarine was not only related to the sea, but also to the heavens because of the sky’s reflection in water. Due to a belief that the aquamarine’s reflective properties could unearth things deep within a person’s soul, it was quite popular among healers and mystics. Long ago, the act of meditating with aquamarine made people believe it could enhance the possibility of epiphanies.

History of Aquamarine

Aquamarine was used by Roman doctors to treat overeating and ailments like bloating. Medicines were once made from aquamarine powder to cure infections and allergic reactions. Beads made of aquamarine have been discovered with Egyptian mummies. The Smithsonian Institute is home to the world’s largest cut aquamarine, the Dom Pedro—a 10,363 carat obelisk that is 14 inches long and 4 inches wide.

In 1936, the government of Brazil gave First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt a dark blue rectangular aquamarine that is now housed at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York.



Where is Aquamarine Found?

Brazil is known as the major source of the gem, but is found in other locations like Madagascar, Pakistan, and Nigeria, and the United States. The majority of aquamarine stones come out of the ground with a green tint, but the result of heating will result in a pure blue color. Aquamarine grows in large, six-sided crystals up to a foot in length, making it an ideal stone to be cut into large gems. One blue-green crystal found in Brazil—19 inches long and 16 inches across—weighed more than 240 pounds.



Aquamarine in Jewelry

With a Mohs Hardness rating of 7.5 to 8, aquamarine gems are suitable for everyday wear, require no special care, and are some of the easiest gems to polish. A feature of some aquamarine stones are its inclusions, made up of long, hollow tubes that can be transparent. The characteristic is an identifier for the beryl family, which also includes emerald (green), heliodor (yellow), goshenite (clear), and morganite (pink). The gem can also contain crystals. Some stones have snow stars—irregular shaped liquid droplets in a star formation.



Bloodstone

Bloodstone's Color

Bloodstone is a type of chalcedony—a form of cryptocrystalline quartz—and the amount of chlorite particles will determine the depth of its dark-green color.

Bloodstone is most known for its dark-green color with flecks of red spots. The red spots, which can resemble drops of blood, are due to the presence of iron oxide in the stone.



Bloodstone Meanings, Symbolism, and Folklore

Due to its spots, bloodstones have long been associated with blood. At times, the stone has been believed to help with hemorrhages and blood disorders. Aztecs used bloodstone to help regulate blood flow. The gem has been a symbol of bravery through its link to blood and vitality. Christians in the Middle Ages, according to legend, associated it with martyrdom and the crucifixion of Christ. Some believed the first bloodstone was created when Jesus' blood dripped on a jasper, turning it into a bloodstone. Egyptians believed bloodstones would aid in defeating enemies, as it helped to increase strength. In ancient times, it was thought that a bloodstone could turn the sun red, while also making thunder and lightning occur. In more modern times, a bloodstone is associated with being a lucky charm. In India, it is crushed and used as an aphrodisiac.



History of Bloodstone

Bloodstone has also been known as Blood Jasper. There are two forms of bloodstone, heliotrope and plasma. Heliotrope is more transparent with red spots, while plasma is opaque with little to no red spots.

“Heliotrope” comes from ancient Greek, meaning “to turn the sun” or “sun turning.” It is believed the definition stemmed from how the gem turned blood red in the setting sun. Bloodstones were used by Babylonians to make seals and amulets. The unique properties of a bloodstone made it popular for jewelry and signet rings.

Where is Bloodstone Found?

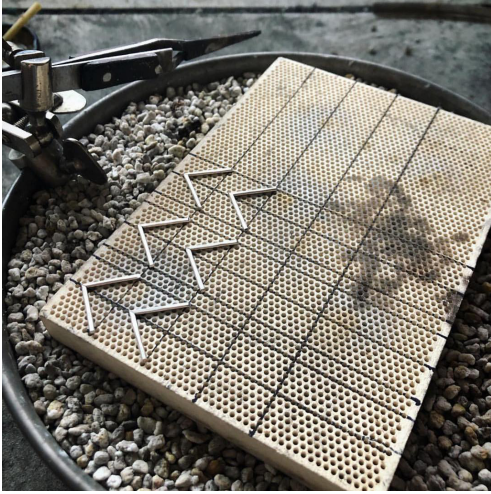
Bloodstones are found embedded in rocks or as pebbles in riverbeds. The most prominent source for the gem is India, although it is also found in Brazil, Australia, the United States, and Canada, among other locations around the world.

Bloodstone in Jewelry

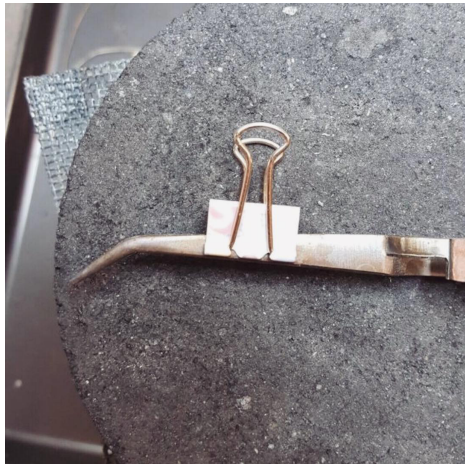
For the most part, bloodstones are relatively inexpensive. The stone's color and number of red spots are the primary factors in its worth. Those with a greater number of red spots typically are priced higher. With a Mohs Hardness rating of 6.5 to 7, bloodstones are suitable for everyday jewelry, but be careful not to store them next to harder stones, as scratching may result.

BENCH TIPS

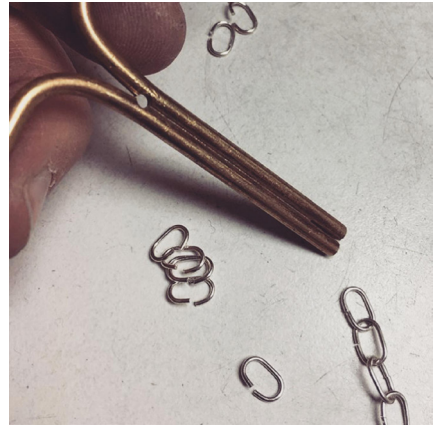
On the flat side of a honeycomb soldering block, draw grid lines with a fine point sharpie marker to help you line up your pieces symmetrically. The sharpie lines hold up pretty well to the heat but do fade and will need touching up. Taking the time to draw them on is worth it in time saved by getting clean angles the first time!" It is so helpful when soldering a nail or making sure production pieces are uniform!



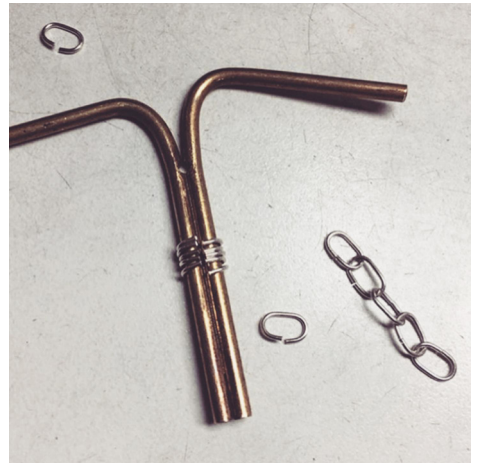
When your cross locking tweezers need some extra support! This binder clip (made from steel) will keep them tight!



Small part sanding tip for sanding many tiny details. Use a sticky paper double sided tape. It holds loose pieces in place for easier sanding.



Here is an amazing tip for creating chain links and getting nice ovals. Solder two round rods together to make an oval mandrel. Bend the top into "arms" to make the mandrel easy to hold and turn. Make several in different gauges to create different size links. The two rods give you a perfect indentation for cutting off your jump rings or bezels.




Here is a tip for laying out your work prior to soldering. Use clear packing tape. Cut off enough for the piece and lay it sticky side up on the bench. Then fold one corner over so you have something to hold on to. Place the stone, bezel and details on the tape the way you want them organized. Everything stays in place. It makes it easy to make slight adjustments to the placement.



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

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 Inc.
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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

March 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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