



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 49 Number 5 May 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,

Thank you all for supporting the Wednesday workshops. Those who have taught the Third Wednesday workshops have generously given their time and effort to make a productive day. Thank you Joni and Connie! Wednesdays give us a chance to improve our skills. We learn from each other and share. Come and join us.

Mark your calendars for the Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society annual show on May 20 and 21 at the Joppa Shrine Center. It's always a good show and a chance to buy beads, gemstones, and specimens. We wish them a successful show.

See you at the next meeting.

Sincerely

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

## May Workshop:

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

### **May Workshop:**

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching Wire wrapped Pendants. Kits will be available \$3.

### **Materials**

16 inches of round wire 18 or 20 gauge  
5 inches of half round 20 or 21 gauge  
4 inches of 24 or 26 rd wire  
three beads 8 to 10 mm in size

**Tools** round nose pliers, chain nose and if you have them, ball pliers



**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

April 2023



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

**Meeting Minutes:** Liz Platt asked for a motion to approve March minutes as posted in the Snoopy Gems Newsletter. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds to approve March minutes, Joni Arais second, motion carried.

**Treasurer:** Barbi Beatty, Treasurer provided a report. Motion to accept the Treasurers report made by Harvey Marcum, second by Allan Elliott, motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Sunshine:** Bruce Giamalva and Buddy Shotts are both recovering well after surgeries.

**Equipment:** Liz Platt stated we need to update our inventory list as we are buying new equipment that needs to be added to our list. Harvey made a motion to approve funds in the amount of \$750 to purchase a flat lap machine, second by Barbi Beatty, motion carried. Maintenance and supply replacement was discussed. Funds are already allocated to maintain equipment and replace supplies. We would like to thank our members Jennie and Jessie Schaefer for donating a \$100 gift card to the club. We used the card along with workshop funds to purchase a dapping set. Joni Arias said we will be training how to use it soon.

**Library:** Liz Platt stated there are magazines in the cabinet and DVD's available to check out. The club owns a TV if we are interested in using it.

**Newsletter:** Barbi Beatty gave a talk about the article she wrote and published in the Snoopy Gems. It was about the shells of the mollusks known as Chitons "ky-tons". She passed around a pendant made of the Chiton shell. She asked the membership to participate in the newsletter by writing articles or sharing their knowledge about things pertaining to the club.

**Show:** Barbi Beatty stated contracts have gone out to vendors. The show has been shortened to two days. Setup and Vendor's dinner will be on Friday Nov 10th. The show will be Nov 11th and 12th. Entry fee will be \$5 per day for adult & kids 12 and under free with adult. We are collecting items for the raffle from now until the day of the show. Members please bring in a donation valued \$25 or higher as soon as possible to be placed in the raffle. The club will add a fifty dollar bill to the raffle. The club bought mineral specimens from auction provided by Allan Elliot. We will be placing a sliced blue thunder egg specimen from that auction in the raffle as well. Members were asked to consider where they would like to help out at the show. Sign up sheets will be available starting in June. Barbi Beatty asked if any members had small colorful stones, crystals, shark teeth, or fossils they would be willing to donate for the kids corner sandbags.

**Old Business:** Allan Elliot gave a Dixie Mineral/Field Trip update. We are still working out the logistics on becoming a member of the Dixie Mineral Club. If members want to attend digs right away they may consider also joining the Mobile Gem Club which is already a member of the Dixie Mineral Club. Possible future field trips were discussed. Our Wednesday workshops were discussed. Connie Boyd will be teaching a wire wrapped pendant for the Wednesday Mary C. Workshop for the month of April. Liz Platt discussed the success of the OS Jewelry and Art Fair and the benefits of it for our club going forward.

**New Business:** Liz Platt contacted Trailer McQuilkin. (<https://www.trailermcquilkin.com/>) He is a copper floral artist. He is willing to come and give a talk/demo for us and or the Mary C. The club would also be interested in bringing in a geologist or paleontologist. Liz suggested we bring in a paid teacher to teach enameling. She will look into it. Silver Clay classed were also discussed.

**Gem of the Month:** Diamonds were discussed.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 2:10pm **Door Prizes:** were given after meeting.



# Happy

## May

# Birthday

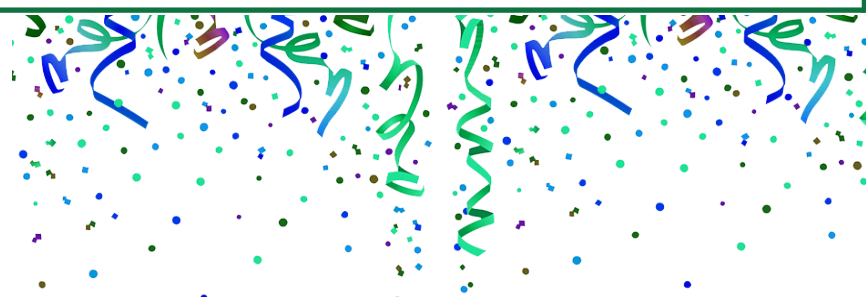
Jack Arias, Tammy Crump,  
Kathy Lounsberry, Buddy Shotts



### EMERALD MAY BIRTHSTONE

The Emerald has always been one of the most treasured among gemstones. Emeralds were once the preferred gemstone of India's Maharajas and Egypt's most famous female Cleopatra. The name for this May birthstone comes from the ancient Greek word for green, "smaragdus." Emeralds were mined in Egypt, dating from at least 330 BC into the 1700s. Taking their name from their famous Queen, the Cleopatra Mines, also known as the Mons Smaragdus (Emerald Mountains), were one of the oldest mining complexes of the ancient world.

When Spanish explorers invaded the New World in the sixteenth-century, Emerald from what is now Colombia was a significant part of the plunder. Incas had been using Emerald in their jewelry and religious ceremonies for over 500 years by the time the Spanish arrived.



Far more interested in gold and silver, they traded Emerald for precious metals. Along the way, their eyes were opened to the majesty of the Emerald and the trading opportunities they presented to European and Asian royalty.



Today, Columbia is the largest supplier of Emeralds, responsible for more than 60 percent of world production. Emeralds are also sourced from Brazil, Zambia and Zimbabwe, while historically Emeralds were also mined in Egypt and India.

## Physical properties

Family: Beryl

Chemical Composition: Silicate of Beryllium & Aluminum – w – Chromium.  
 $BE_3(ALCR)_2SI_6O_{18}$

Crystal System: Hexagonal prism with tabular habit, flat well terminated surfaces, etching, and growth marks

Birefringence: 06

Refractive Indices: Variable from ne 1.560 , nw 1.570 to ne 1.595, nw 1.602

Density: 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm<sup>3</sup> normally, can be as much as 2.90 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

Hardness: 7.5 – 8 (often brittle)

Cleavage: Imperfect or ill-defined, parallel to basal plane

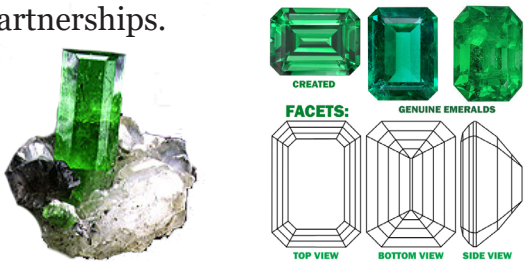
Pleochroic: Intensity varies according to body color from weak to distinct



### FORKLORE OF EMERALDS

Emeralds have long been valued for their unique properties. Legends tell that Emeralds allowed the wearer to foretell the future. When placed under the tongue, Emeralds were said to reveal the truth and protect against evil spells. Some tales say that wearing an Emerald could make one an eloquent speaker. In times before modern medicine, Emerald was used to cure diseases like cholera and malaria.

Emerald is associated with the heart chakra and is thought to have a healing effect on the physical as well as the emotional heart. Emeralds bring loyalty and enhance unconditional love, unity and promote friendship. Keep your Emerald birthstone close to bolster balance in your partnerships.



### ATTRIBUTES OF THE EMERALD

The color green heralds the coming of spring, regeneration, and new growth. Emeralds lush green color makes it the perfect birthstone choice for the month of May.

Emerald is in the Beryl family. It's color is created when chromium, vanadium, and iron are present. Emeralds typically have inclusions that may be visible to the naked eye.



### EMERALD CLEANING

Clean your Emerald jewelry with a mix of mild soapy, water, and clean with a soft-bristled brush (like a toothbrush). Avoid chemicals and harsh professional cleaners like ultrasonic or steam as these can damage the gem.



### ALTERNATIVE BIRTHSTONE FOR MAY

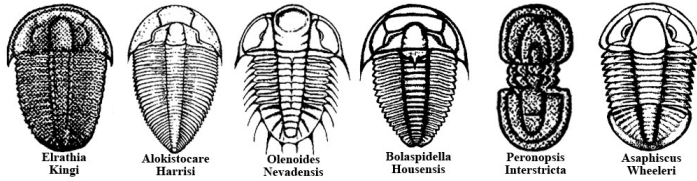
Green Onyx is a beautiful alternative birthstone for May that taps into our desire to grow and be close to nature. Strength, willpower, and discipline are properties that are most closely linked with Green Onyx. Connected with your heart chakra, Green Onyx creates a bridge between your upper and lower chakras. With strong associations to the planet Mercury, Green Onyx imparts self-confidence on the wearer and is thought to relieve tension and stress.

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.



**Trilobites** are one of the most fascinating and enigmatic groups of extinct marine arthropods that roamed the world's oceans for over 270 million years. These ancient creatures lived during the Paleozoic Era, which spanned from around 540 to 250 million years ago. Trilobites have a unique morphology and an exceptional fossil record, making them an important subject of study for paleontologists and evolutionary biologists.

In this article, we will explore the fascinating world of trilobites, including their physical characteristics, life history, distribution, and extinction.



## Physical Characteristics of Trilobites

Trilobites were diverse in their morphology, ranging in size from less than a centimeter to over 70 centimeters. They were characterized by their three-part body plan, which gave them their name. The head, or cephalon, was fused with the thorax and was covered by a hard, mineralized exoskeleton made of chitin and calcium carbonate. The exoskeleton provided protection and support to the body and was responsible for the excellent fossilization of trilobites.

Trilobites had a pair of large, compound eyes located on the cephalon, which could be highly complex and evolved to adapt to different environments. Some trilobites had eyes that were specialized for low light conditions, while others had eyes that were adapted for bright light environments.

The body of trilobites was divided into three distinct regions: the cephalon, the thorax, and the pygidium. The cephalon was the head region, and it contained the mouthparts, eyes, and other sensory organs. The thorax was composed of a series of segments that varied in number depending on the species. The thorax was responsible for the locomotion of the trilobite and was covered with legs and gills. The pygidium was the tail region, and it contained the anus and reproductive organs.

## Life History of Trilobites

Trilobites had a complex life cycle, with various

stages of development. They hatched from eggs as small, blind larvae known as protaspis. The protaspis would molt its exoskeleton several times, growing into a larger, more complex form known as a meraspis. The meraspis would continue to molt and grow, eventually developing into an adult trilobite.

Trilobites were primarily bottom-dwellers, living in a variety of marine environments, including shallow seas, reefs, and deep oceans. They were diverse in their feeding habits, with some species being predators, scavengers, or filter feeders.

Trilobites were capable of rapid movement, using their legs to scuttle along the ocean floor. Some trilobites had the ability to roll themselves into a ball as a defensive mechanism, protecting their vulnerable underbelly from predators.



## Distribution of Trilobites

Trilobites were a highly successful group of arthropods, with over 17,000 species described to date. They were widely distributed throughout the world's oceans, with fossil evidence found on every continent. The oldest known trilobite fossils date back to the Lower Cambrian period, around 520 million years ago.

Trilobites were particularly abundant during the Ordovician and Silurian periods, between 485 and 420 million years ago. During this time, they were the most diverse and dominant group of arthropods in the oceans, playing a vital role in the marine ecosystem.



## Trilobite Extinction

Despite their long evolutionary history, trilobites eventually went extinct at the end of the Permian period, around 250 million years ago. The cause of their extinction is still a subject of debate.

Artical by Barbi Beatty

# 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

## BENCH TIPS

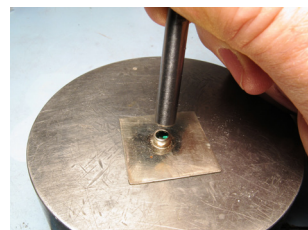
### DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering. If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howlite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work. There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.



### BEZEL CLOSER

A bezel closer is a steel punch that makes quick work out of setting small 2-8mm round cabs or faceted stones. It works with regular bezels, with tube settings, and with prong settings. Stones can be set in as little as 30 seconds. The working end is a concave cavity that fits over the bezel and is pushed and twisted to close the bezel and capture the stone. Sets can be purchased but are \$60-\$80 and contain many sizes you'll probably never use.



A smarter strategy is to select one or two gemstone sizes that you like for accent stones and make your own bezel closer for them. All you need is a round steel rod or bolt that's a couple millimeters larger than your bezel cup, some drills and a large ball bur.

Source: Brad Smith  
"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and  
"Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"  
are available on Amazon

# FROM ROCKS TO RICHES

It's the Jed Clampett syndrome. The wish to go out in your back yard and find buried treasure.

And if you don't know who Jed Clampett is, pull up an episode of "The Beverly Hillbillies" on the internet. How Jed came by his good fortune is right there in the theme song. "Then one day he was shootin' at some food, when up through the ground come a'bubbleing crude. Oil that is." Etc. Etc. I loved that show when I was in the eighth grade. Ellie May was a lot easier to look at than my American History homework.

But wouldn't that be nice? To walk out in your driveway and find a gold nugget just lying there in the gravel? Or something like that? Well, now we have a shot at it in Mississippi! Well, not gold or diamonds, exactly. But a precious gem has been discovered here.

My friend James Starnes is a geologist with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. One of their tasks is to do geological mapping of the state. James told me that while rummaging around the sands and loose gravels in the creeks and waterfalls that cut through the limestone bedrock of southwest Mississippi, lo and behold, they came up with an opal! And not just a pebble — a sizable hunk of rock. They call it "The Mississippi Opal."

Now, I don't know if there is just the one opal, or if they are tucked into the sandstones in most any old limestone-bottomed creek in Mississippi. Me and Jed Clampett would hope they are everywhere. But most likely they are rare.

(Just an aside — if you decide to go opal prospecting in the hollows of southwest Mississippi, keep in mind there isn't a single square inch of land in the nation, much less Mississippi, that someone doesn't have the deed to and probably wouldn't see the humor in anyone trespassing on their property. Besides, that area of Mississippi has more rattlesnakes in it than it has people. That's probably why it took so long to find this opal to begin with. Guard snakes.)

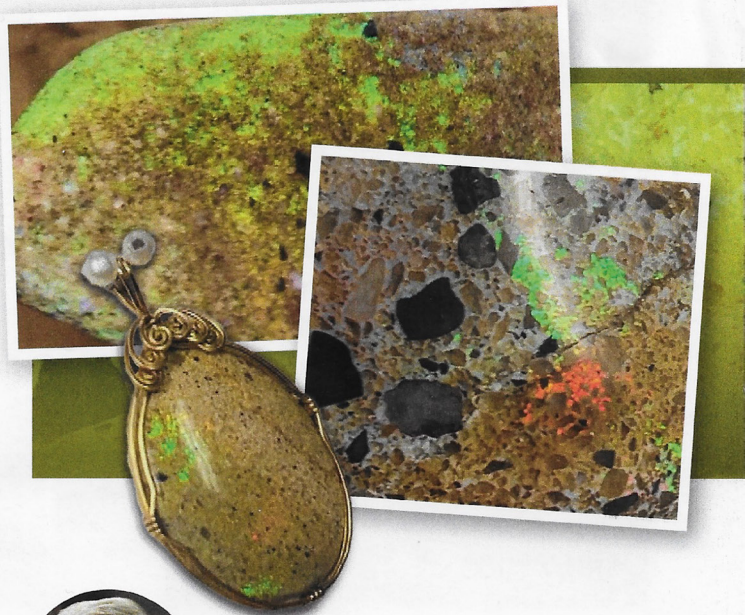
“

A bill was introduced in the Legislature to make the Mississippi Opal the official "Precious Gemstone of Mississippi."

James says the opal is a sandstone that formed from the leftovers of a sand bar that was generously peppered with volcanic ash back eons ago when that part of Mississippi was a flat sand delta and volcanos were quite active out west. The volcanic ash was embedded in the rock when the sand turned to stone. And now, light refracting off that ash becomes iridescent when you look at it just right.

A bill was introduced in the Legislature to make the Mississippi Opal the official "Precious Gemstone of Mississippi." We have a state mineral — petrified wood. A state fossil — the whale skeleton at the Natural Science Museum. A state bird — No, it's not the mosquito. So, let's put a State Precious Gemstone in there with the rest of it.

I can just hear ole' Jed saying, "Well doggies" when the bill passes. 🌿



by Walt Grayson


Walt Grayson is the host of "Mississippi Roads" on Mississippi Public Broadcasting television and the author of two "Looking Around Mississippi" books and "Oh! That Reminds Me: More Mississippi Homegrown Stories." Walt is also a reporter and 4 p.m. news anchor at WJTV in Jackson. He lives in Brandon and is a Central Electric member. Contact him at [walt@waltgrayson.com](mailto:walt@waltgrayson.com).

Re-Published with written permission from Mr Walt Grayson

# 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: _____			

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc. P.O.  
Box 857 Ocean Springs MS 39566  
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**Snoopy Gems**  
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**AFFILIATIONS**  
 The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies,  
 Inc.  
 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,  
 Inc.  
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 & 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

**May 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			

# Snoopy Gems

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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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