



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 49 Number 9 September 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,

September is a great month for attacking new projects and reviewing the rest of the year's goals.

Coming up in October is Spooky Springs at the MaryC and in November we host the annual show in Pascagoula. Please bring your raffle item for the November show to the meeting or call me to pick it up. It should have a value of \$25 or more and be related to geology, earth sciences, or art that comes from those fields such as hand-crafted jewelry. Barbi needs to photograph the raffle items to publicize appropriately.

Plan to attend the meeting. Rosalind will be teaching a beaded bracelet and machines will be available for cutting and polishing. We always offer many fun activities for you to enjoy.

See you on Saturday!

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

## September Workshops:

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

### Saturday Workshop:

Rosalind Norvel Daniels will be teaching a beaded flower bracelet. Kits will be available for \$10 each.

#### Materials:

100-120 super/mini, Duo's  
10-12 4mm pearls  
Size 11 seed beads  
2 Wire Guards (optional)  
2 Jump Rings  
1 Lobster or Toggle clasp  
Fireline beading thread 6 or 8 lbs  
Bee's candle wax

#### Tools:

Size 12 needle (or 10)  
needle nose pliers  
Scissors or thread cutter



John Guglik will be available to test stones and metals.

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



# Meeting Minutes

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Aug 2023



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

**Meeting Minutes:** Liz Platt asked if minutes were read, or if there were any corrections needed. Barbi Beatty made a motion to accept the July minutes, Harvey Marcum seconded, motion carried.

**Treasurer:** Barbi Beatty, Treasurer provided account balances for show, checking, and savings. Belinda Marcum made a motion to accept, Allan Elliott seconded, motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Sunshine:** Reba Shotts has sent out birthday and thinking of you cards for the month of August.

**Library:** Nothing to report.

**Equipment:** Purchasing new wheels for the cabbing machines were discussed. Money collected from the collection jar will be used to replace wheels and pump for the cabbing machines. Also we will be ordering new metal testing fluid. Allan Elliott asked that we add silver solder (hard medium and soft) to our wire order. Precious metals were discussed.

**Communication:** Kelcey Morris volunteered to help with any administrative work.

**Newsletter:** Great newsletter as always. Liz stated she saves the news letters to look back on because they are full of great information. 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. She also asked for jewelry bench tips for members to share for the newsletter. Allan Elliott reminded everyone about the SFMS newsletter the load star and all the great information in it. You can find it posted monthly at [www.southeastfed.org](http://www.southeastfed.org)

**Show:** Show coming up in November. 10 Vendors have returned their contract with a deposit. Harvey Marcum has suggested that we make a list of gemstones might be found in the rock bags for the kids corner. That way we can make a sign to show what they might find in their bag. Allan Elliott offered to let us use the showcase he built for our raffle items. Barbi Beatty said to let us know if you would like to display your work in a showcase at the show. Harvey asked that we work on mounting the new lights in the showcases. We need volunteers to set up tables at the venue Thursday night at 5:00pm after the voting machines are removed from the building. Members were asked to sign up to work in the different areas of the show. Possible raffle items were discussed. Barbi Beatty asked that donated items be turned in quickly for the raffle. Would like to take photos and post them as soon as possible. Barbi Beatty suggested that we purchase tote bags with our club logo and info on them for the show. Harvey Marcum suggested we change the street listing on our advertising to the street the building faces. Electronic payment methods were discussed.

**New Business:** Liz Platt asked the membership to consider running for office. The Mary C. has asked us to participate in their Halloween Spooky Springs event. Making Christmas ornament for the Mary C and our Christmas trees was discussed. Stephanie Hatcher will be teaching the Wednesday class to the public for the Mary C. for August. John Guglik made a motion seconded by Barbi Beatty to make a limit of 60days to pick the raffle prize or it will go back in for next years raffle. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** NA

**Gem of the Month:** Peridot was shared by Harvey & Belinda Marcum. Liz Platt showed some of her peridot jewelry. John Guglik educated us on Peridot.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 2:14pm motion made to adjourn by Kelcey Morris, second by Belinda Marcum, motion carried.

**Door Prizes:** Vicki Reynolds donated art work as door prizes. There were also a couple of cabochons donated by Liz Platt. John Guglik, Allan Elliott, Kelcey Morris, & Belinda Marcum, all won door prizes.

# Happy



# September

# Birthday

Lisa Roberts Bob Boyd Bonnie Jenkins  
Liz Platt Jewel Pugh Sue Shelton Morgan Dodge

# Sapphire




SEPTEMBER  
BIRTHSTONE



## Sapphires: Nature's Gemstone Masterpiece

Sapphires, with their mesmerizing hues of blue, have captivated human fascination for centuries. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, these gemstones hold a treasure trove of scientific marvels waiting to be explored. In this article, we will delve into the world of sapphires, uncovering the geological processes, chemical compositions, and unique properties that make them a truly exceptional gemstone.



Category	Oxide mineral	
Formula	Aluminium oxide, Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	
Crystal system	Trigonal	
Crystal class	Hexagonal scalenohedral (3m)H-M symbol: (32/m)	
Space group	R3c	
Color	Typically blue, pink, orange, yellow, green, purple, and violet	
Crystal habit	As crystals, massive and granular	
Twinning	Both growth twins (in various orientations) and polysynthetic glide twinning on the rhombohedron [1011]	
Cleavage	Poor	
Fracture	Conchoidal, splintery	

Mohs scale hardness	9.0
Luster	Vitreous
Streak	Colorless
Diaphaneity	Transparent to nearly opaque
Specific gravity	3.98–4.06
Optical properties	Abbe number 72.2
Refractive index	$n\omega = 1.768-1.772$ $n\varepsilon = 1.760-1.763$ ,
birefringence	0.008
Pleochroism	Strong
Melting point	2,030–2,050 °C
Fusibility	Infusible
Solubility	Insoluble

### Formation of Sapphires

Sapphires are a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminum oxide), and their formation begins deep within the Earth’s crust. They are typically found in metamorphic and igneous rock formations, where extreme heat and pressure play a crucial role in their creation. One of the fascinating aspects of sapphire formation is the incorporation of trace elements during their growth, which gives rise to their stunning array of colors.

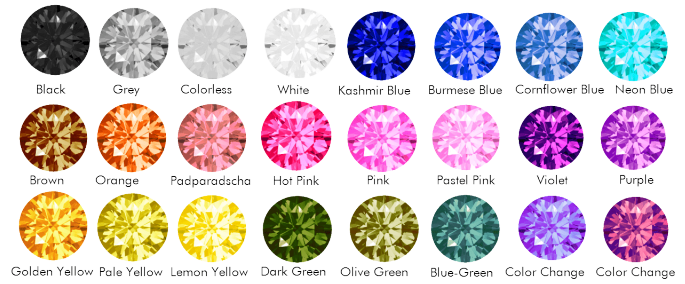


### Colors and Trace Elements

The blue color of sapphires, which is the most famous and desired hue, is primarily the result of iron and titanium impurities within the crystal lattice. The specific shades of blue can vary, from pale sky blue to deep royal blue, depending on the concentration of these trace elements. Interestingly, sapphires come in other colors as well, including yellow, green, pink, and even

colorless varieties. These variations are due to the presence of different trace elements such as chromium, vanadium, and iron.

SHADES OF SAPPHIRE



### Optical and Physical Properties

Sapphires are renowned for their exceptional hardness, ranking at 9 on the Mohs scale, just one step below diamond. This remarkable hardness makes sapphires highly resistant to scratches and abrasions, contributing to their enduring beauty. Moreover, sapphires have a unique optical property known as asterism, which results in a star-like pattern when light is reflected from the gem’s surface. This phenomenon is particularly prized in star sapphires, where needle-like inclusions align to form a mesmerizing star-shaped design.



Padparadscha sapphire

### Heat Treatment and Enhancement

In the world of gemstones, heat treatment is a common practice used to enhance color and clarity. Sapphires are no exception to this, and controlled heating can improve the overall quality of the stone. While this process has been practiced for centuries, modern techniques have refined the art of heat treatment, allowing gemologists to produce sapphires with intense and vibrant colors.



## Sapphires Beyond Jewelry

Sapphires find applications beyond their ornamental use in jewelry. Their exceptional hardness makes them ideal for use in various industries. Sapphire is used in the manufacturing of watch crystals, optical lenses, and even in the aerospace industry for windows on spacecraft. The scratch-resistant nature of sapphire ensures the longevity and durability of these applications.



Sapphires are not just dazzling gemstones but also scientific wonders formed over millions of years. From their geological origins deep within the Earth to their unique optical properties and versatile applications, sapphires continue to fascinate scientists, gemologists, and admirers alike. These precious gems stand as a testament to the incredible forces of nature and the intricate interplay of chemistry and geology that shape the world's most beautiful treasures.

## Mookaite

If you are looking for a unique gemstone to add to your collection or wear as jewelry? Look no further than mookaite! This stunning stone is known for its rich and vibrant colors. Whether you're a gemstone enthusiast or just looking for a new piece of jewelry, mookaite is definitely worth learning more about. Let's dive in and discover all there is to know about this unique and beautiful stone.



## What Is Mookaite?

Mookaite is a type of jasper found in Mooka Creek in Western Australia and is known for its unique and vibrant colors. Mookaite formed from the preserved remains of tiny sea creatures called radiolaria, which have transformed into a beautiful silicified rock over time. It is found in a range of colors, including yellow, red, pink, purple, and cream.



Category	Mineral
Formula	SiO <sub>2</sub> (with varying impurities)
Crystal system	Hexagonal
Crystal class	Quartz (Chalcedony)
Color	Yellow, red, pink, purple, and cream
Cleavage	Indiscernible
Mohs scale hardness	6.5-7
Luster	Vitreous
Diaphaneity	Opaque
Specific gravity	2.5-2.9
Refractive index	1.54-2.65
Birefringence	0.009

## How was it formed?

Mookaite is created over millions of years through a natural process. It starts with tiny marine organisms called radiolaria, which have intricate mineral skeletons made of silica. As these skeletons sink to the ocean floor and accumulate with other sediments, the pressure and heat transform them into a sedimentary rock known as radiolarite. Over time, through geological changes like regional metamorphism and silicification, this radiolarite evolves into the Mookaite Jasper we admire today. This unique journey gives Mookaite its stunning colors and patterns, making it highly prized for its beauty.

## Hardness

Mookaite has a hardness on the Mohs scale of between 6 and 7, making it a relatively hard stone, which makes it ideal for jewelry as it is resistant to scratches and damage.



## History & Origin

It is a type of jasper found in Australia and is believed to have been formed millions of years ago. It is named after the Mooka Creek in Western Australia, where it was first discovered.

The stone is believed to have been used by the Aboriginal People of Australia for centuries and is thought to have been used for spiritual and healing purposes.

It is also believed to have been used to make tools and weapons. Today, mookaite is used due to its unique physical and metaphysical properties.



## Is Mookaite Rare?

Mookaite Jasper is a relatively rare variety of Jasper since it can only be found in Australia. Not to mention the collectors and jewelers that are very much eager to own one of these beautiful pieces, which also makes demand higher especially outside Australia.

## Uses Of Mookaite

Mookaite is commonly used as a gemstone in jewelry for its vibrant colors and patterns. It is often used in necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and rings. Its patterns, hues, and shapes make it a desirable stone for jewelry, and its durability and strength make it an excellent choice for everyday wear. Mookaite is also used to make tools, such as arrowheads, as its hardness makes it durable and able to withstand pressure.



## Proper Care Of Mookaite Jasper

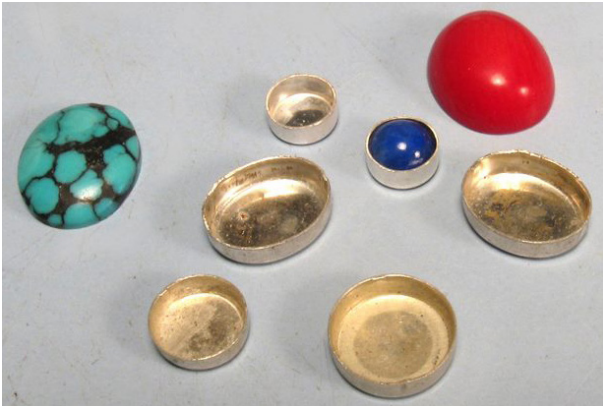
Clean Mookaite Jasper with a soft cloth and warm, soapy water. Avoid using harsh chemicals or abrasive materials, as these can damage the stone. It would be best to store Mookaite Jasper away from other gemstones, as it can be scratched or chipped by harder stones. Mookaite Jasper should be kept away from extreme temperatures and direct sunlight, as this can cause fading or discoloration.

In conclusion, Mookaite is a unique gemstone that is valued for its beauty. It can be used to create stunning pieces of jewelry. Its rarity makes it a valuable commodity, and it should be handled with care.



# BENCH TIPS

## PRE-MADE BEZEL CUPS



As a general rule of thumb I assume it's going to take me 15 - 20 minutes to make a bezel for an ordinary cabochon, so for some projects buying pre-made cups can save a lot of time. But if you go this route, keep in mind three things. First, try to get cups made from fine silver, not sterling. Fine silver is softer and burnishes over the stone more easily. Second, you may have trouble matching the shape and size of the stone with the shape and size of the bezel cup. Purchased cups can only be found in a limited number of standard sizes. You may have to adjust your choice of gemstone to match the cup. The other consideration is that pre-made cups often have fairly low side walls. While these are fine for low-dome stones, they're not dependable for stones with steep side walls. Lastly before setting, check the fit of your gemstone in the cup, particularly around the bottom. The bottom corners of a stamped cup are much more rounded than a bezel you would fabricate yourself. This causes a problem with stones that have a sharp edge around the bottom. Burnishing the bezel over one of these stones will place a lot of stress on the stone and may cause it to crack. To avoid this, I round off the bottom edge of the stone with a diamond file (or use sandpaper on soft stones).

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

# Wildacres Classes

## Wildacres Week 2 - September 11-17, 2023

Cindy Moore/Weave-Tap-Drop



Stacey Stinton/Polymer Clay (Wait List Only)



Susan Brooks/Metal Clay



Wayne Parker/Leather Bi-Metal Bracelet (Wait List Only)



Kristi Ross and Stephanie Savic Polk/Acid Etching & Enameling




Chuck Bruce/Silver II- Inlay with Knives



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



**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,  
 Inc.  
 S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved  
 Bulletin Editors)

**OFFICERS 2022**

President	Liz Platt
Vice President	Jodi Arias
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty
Secretary	Roslind Daniels
Parliamentarian	John Guglik
Editor	Barbi Beatty
Web master	Barbi Beatty
Member at Large	Harvey Marcum
Member at Large	Reba Shotts

**COMMITTEES**

Membership	Barbi Beatty
Show Chair	Barbi Beatty
Historian	Lettie White
Librarian	Vicki Reynolds
Sunshine	Reba Shotts

**AFFILIATIONS**

ALAA	John Wright: Director
SFMS	John Wright: Past President
SFMS	Barbi Beatty: Treasurer & 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

**September 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

# Snoopy Gems

Official Publication of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



<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

Snoopy Gems MCGMS  
P.O. Box 857  
Ocean Springs, MS 39566