



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 50 Number 2 February 2024  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



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

MGCGMS Established in 1974

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Come to the workshop and meeting on Saturday so you can catch up with the latest information on our scholarship for this year and any planned workshops. Learn what the Wednesday group is doing. And sign up for the March Spring Art and Jewelry show on March 23 at the Mary C.

You can work on machines, do your own project, ask for help, or do the project of the day. We promise fun and information.

See you on Saturday!

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

## February Workshops:

Our Wednesday classes from 11-4:00 in our room at the Mary C. All members are welcome!

### Saturday Workshop:

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching a Wire wrapped cabochon pendant with patina. Kits will be available with small cabochon in copper for \$4.

#### Materials:

1 Cabochon  
5' 20ga Square wire dead soft  
5' 22ga Half round dead soft wire.

#### Tools:

Flat nose pliers  
Round nose pliers  
Wire cutters  
Marker  
Bail pliers  
Ruler

**Supplies** for  
Patina will be  
Provided



John Guglik will be available to test stones and metals.

**Machines:** Members of our tool committee will be available to help with cutting and cabling gemstones. As always, we will have the club machines available for metal & gemstone testing, gemstone cutting, and cabling. There is a \$3 tool maintenance fee to use the machines.



# Meeting Minutes

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

January 2023



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

**Meeting Minutes:** There were no minutes to approve from December 2023.

**Treasurer:** Barbi Beatty, Treasurer provided account balances for show, checking, and savings. The final net from the show in November was given. Vicki Reynolds made a motion to accept, John Guglik second, motion carried.

### Committee Reports

**Sunshine:** Nothing to report.

**Library:** Nothing to report.

**Equipment:** Vicki Reynolds suggested that all equipment belonging to the club be kept in house and not loaned out. Suggestion was discussed but no motion made. John will demonstrate the spectrometer for the group using his personal equipment and research cost of obtaining one for the club. Then the group can decide if a purchase is needed. The club is short a couple of tool kits and one dop pot. The trim saw was left with water after the last use and has rusted. Reminder to clean up after equipment use and also to donate \$3 per machine use. All machine wheels are new and broken in, ready for use.

**Communication:** Everyone was encouraged to check out the club website and Facebook site.

**Newsletter:** Great newsletter as always. 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.

**Facebook:** No changes or updates.

**Show:** 2023 final reported in treasurer's update. Club discussed the possibility of moving the November show to the Ocean Springs Civic Center. It was agreed to research this and gather info on the space. The cost for the storage unit has increased and we only store display cases there. The board will sort through what is stored and make a recommendation. Club discussed finding a solution to the rising price of storing the show cases used at the show. We still have a couple of months before our annual payment to the storage unit comes due.

**Field trips:** Nothing to report on field trips or Dixie Mineral Digs.

**New Business:** Club spring show will coincide with the Ocean Springs Spring Art Festival, March 23rd & 24th. Still undecided if club show will only be for 23rd or for both days. Booth fee will be \$50. Allan Elliott brought up the fact that there was not enough advertisement during last year's show letting people know that something was happening inside the Mary C. A sign-up sheet was sent around asking for volunteers for this year's class teachers. The OS calendar of events was distributed and it was discussed how we can fit into that.

**Old Business:** The club participated in Spooky Springs during the fall and in December the club participated in the annual tree lighting at the Mary C.

**Gem of the Month:** John Guglik educated us on garnets. Show and tell was shared by several members.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 2:20 pm motion made to adjourn by Barbi Beatty, second by Belinda Marcum, motion carried. Door prizes were given after we adjourned.





# Happy

## February

# Birthday

Mike Martin Vicki Reynolds David Spencer



### Amethyst & Jasper

Unveiling the Geological Wonders of February's Birthstone's

**Amethyst**, the exquisite violet gem that graces the month of February, is more than just a visually stunning adornment. It is a testament to the intricate geological processes that shape Earth's treasures.

Category: Silicate mineral

Color: Purple, violet, dark purple

Hardness (Mohs hardness scale):  $\geq 7$

Luster: Vitreous

Chemical formula:  $\text{SiO}_2$

Crystal system: Trigonal

Crystal habit: 6-sided prism ending in 6-sided pyramid

Cleavage: None

Fracture: Conchoidal

Specific gravity: 2.65 constant

Refractive index:  $n_\omega = 1.543\text{--}1.553$   $n_\epsilon = 1.552\text{--}1.554$

At its core, amethyst is a variety of quartz, a mineral composed of silicon and oxygen atoms arranged in a tetrahedral crystal lattice. The captivating purple color of amethyst is attributed to the presence of iron impurities within the crystal structure. These iron ions absorb specific wavelengths of light, giving rise to the gem's characteristic violet hues.

The geological journey of amethyst begins deep within the Earth's crust. Quartz crystals form in cavities and voids, undergoing a process known as hydrothermal activity. During this process, hot fluids rich in silica and other minerals circulate through the rocks, depositing quartz crystals in open spaces. Amethyst's distinctive purple coloration is a result of the incorporation of iron impurities during its formation.





One intriguing aspect of amethyst's geological history is its sensitivity to natural radiation. Exposure to gamma rays or sunlight can alter the color of amethyst, leading to variations in shade and intensity. This phenomenon adds an extra layer of complexity to the gem's formation and contributes to the uniqueness of each amethyst specimen.



Geographically, amethyst deposits are widespread, with notable occurrences in locations such as Brazil, Uruguay, Russia, and Zambia. Each region imparts its distinct geological fingerprint to the amethyst it produces, resulting in variations in color, size, and overall quality.



Beyond its geological origins, amethyst boasts a rich cultural history. The name "amethyst" finds its roots in ancient Greek, meaning "not intoxicated." This association with sobriety led to the belief that wearing or carrying amethyst could protect against drunkenness, a notion embraced by various cultures throughout history.



While amethyst's geological and cultural significance is well-established, its metaphysical properties have also captured the interest of enthusiasts. Some attribute calming and protective qualities to amethyst, linking it to enhanced spiritual awareness and stress relief. However, it's essential to note that these claims lack robust scientific support and are often rooted in historical beliefs and holistic practices.



### Value

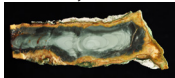
Up until the 18th century, amethyst was included in the cardinal, or most valuable, gemstones (along with diamond, sapphire, ruby, and emerald). However, since the discovery of extensive deposits in locations such as Brazil, it has lost most of its value. Collectors look for depth of color, possibly with red flashes if cut conventionally. As amethyst is readily available in large structures the value of the gem is not primarily defined by carat weight; this is different to most gemstones where the carat weight exponentially increases the value of the stone. The biggest factor in the value of amethyst is the color displayed. The highest grade amethyst (called "Deep Russian") is exceptionally rare and therefore, when one is found, its value is dependent on the demand of collectors.



In conclusion, amethyst stands as a geological marvel, a testament to the intricate interplay of minerals, hydrothermal processes, and environmental influences. As February's birthstone, amethyst not only captivates with its stunning violet hues but also invites us to explore the depths of Earth's geological wonders, reminding us that the beauty of gemstones is a reflection of the planet's rich and dynamic history.



**Jasper**, also a birthstone for February, boasts a rich history and diverse range of types. Composed primarily of chalcedony, it is renowned for its vibrant colors and unique patterns. Jaspers are found worldwide, with notable deposits in Australia, Brazil, India, Russia, Madagascar, and the United States. In the U.S., the Morrisonite jasper from Oregon stands out for its exceptional coloration and intricate designs. The name "jasper" is derived from the Greek word "iaspis," signifying spotted stone. Various types of jasper exist, each displaying distinctive characteristics.



**Red Jasper:** Boast deep crimson shades attributed to the presence of iron oxide. This variety is revered for its grounding properties.



**Yellow Jasper:** Radiating warmth, yellow jasper showcases sunny hues ranging from pale yellow to golden tones. Its color is attributed to the presence of iron minerals.



**Green Jasper:** Infused with earthy tones, green jasper is linked to growth and balance. Its color results from the presence of minerals like chlorite.



**Brown Jasper:** Displaying warm, earthy browns, this variety often contains intricate patterns and is associated with stability and grounding.



**Picture Jasper:** Celebrated for its scenic patterns resembling landscapes, picture jasper encompasses a spectrum of earthy tones, creating captivating and unique images within the stone.



**Dalmatian Jasper:** Known for its distinctive black or brown spots reminiscent of the Dalmatian dog's coat, this variety exudes a playful charm.



**Brecciated Jasper:** A captivating variety formed from cemented broken rock fragments, brecciated jasper displays a mosaic-like appearance, often featuring reds, browns, and grays.



**Ocean Jasper:** Hailing from Madagascar, ocean jasper is characterized by vibrant orbs and swirls in a range of colors, creating captivating and intricate designs reminiscent of underwater scenes.



These diverse color varieties make jasper a favorite among gemstone enthusiasts and jewelry artisans, offering a wide array of options to suit various tastes and preferences. Jasper has been revered by ancient civilizations for centuries, it was believed to provide protection and nurture a connection to the Earth. Today, jasper remains a popular choice for jewelry and artistic creations, celebrated for its diverse aesthetics and cultural significance. Jasper exhibits a kaleidoscope of colors, each variety enchanting with its unique hues and patterns.





6th Annual

Southeast Federation  
Mineralogical Societies

## Rockhound Roundup

March 1-3, 2024

9am to 4pm

**Spirit of the Suwannee River  
Music Park  
Live Oak, Florida**

*Join the fun at this outdoor event!*

- *Rough Rocks and Slabs*
- *Polished Stones*
- *Handmade Jewelry for Sale*
- *Lapidary & Silversmithing  
Tools & Equipment*

*Vendors must  
be a current  
member of  
an SFMS  
Club.*



**For more information contact Jerri Heer at [secretary@southeastfed.org](mailto:secretary@southeastfed.org)**



## BENCH TIPS

### **Minimize mistakes at the jeweler's bench.**

**Measure twice, cut once.** This is so important anytime, but particularly necessary when you're using precious metals. Keep a small ruler handy on your bench so you aren't tempted to "eyeball" your next cut.

**Turn the back of your wire cutters to your work.** Save yourself some finishing time and make sure that the flat portion of the blades is pressing against your piece. That way, the flat wire end stays behind as the pinched end of the wire is removed. Be sure to cover the wire end as you cut so it doesn't go flying.

**Don't use your regular jewelry wire cutters to cut hardened wire.** Memory wire is made of tempered stainless steel and should be cut with memory wire cutters. If you use ordinary wire cutters to cut it, the wire will leave an indentation and ruin your blades.

**Close jump rings completely.** Use a pair of short flat nose pliers on each side of the ring and turn the ring open rather than pulling the ends directly apart. Brush the ends past each other until you hear a little "click," then bring the ends together. This is important whether you are soldering your jump rings closed or leaving them unsoldered.

**Make it in copper first.** It can be tempting to dive in with sterling silver or gold-filled, but it's a good idea to work out your design with copper first. It's less expensive and very forgiving, so you can work out the kinks before you attempt your design in precious metal.

**Pay extra attention when you're hammering metal.** It's no fun to hammer your fingers or thumb. If you can use pliers to hold your piece, then that gives you a little more space and makes it less likely that you will accidentally strike your non-dominant hand.

**Remember to clean your metal between soldering joins.** Oxidation acts as a barrier in soldering, so metal that hasn't been cleaned prevents the solder from flowing. Take time to pickle your piece between each round of soldering or you're going to have trouble soldering your metal together.

**Don't touch hot metal.** Always keep a pick in your dominant hand and the torch in your non-dominant hand. Immediately quench pieces so you don't accidentally grab a piece of hot metal. If you do touch hot metal, don't panic! Shut off your equipment and take care of the burn.

**Use copper tongs with your pickling solution.** Steel tweezers will cause any metal in the pickle to become copper plated. This is not irreversible, but it is a big pain to clean the plating off your metal and you will need to make a new batch of pickling solution.

## Up Coming Gem Show:

**Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society**  
Mississippi Trademark on State Fairgrounds,  
1200 Mississippi street, Jackson MS 39202

Dates: Saturday February 24th from 9am to 6pm:  
Sunday February 25th from 9am to 4pm.

Fees: \$8 adults; \$3 students; Scouts and Leaders in Uniform \$2; age 5 and under are free.



Over 25 dealers of gems, fossils, minerals, jewelry, lapidary tools, beads and more. Exhibits and educational opportunities by colleges and state organizations. Children's activities and a Touch and See table. Hourly door prizes and a Grand Prize. Questions ? email: [mgmshow@yahoo.com](mailto:mgmshow@yahoo.com) or call 601-344-8171 leave a message if not available.

<https://www.facebook.com/MGMSociety23>

# 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: \$20.00  |   | Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$30.00   |   |
|  |   | 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<br><input type="radio"/> Chain Mail<br><input type="radio"/> Field Trips<br><input type="radio"/> Fossils<br><input type="radio"/> Others: _____   | <input type="radio"/> Cabbing<br><input type="radio"/> PMC<br><input type="radio"/> Faceting<br><input type="radio"/> Wire Wrapping |  | <input type="radio"/> Jewelry Making<br><input type="radio"/> Lapidary<br><input type="radio"/> Minerals<br><input type="radio"/> Silver Smithing |
| 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.<br><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**  
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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       | Rosalind Daniels |
| Parliamentarian | John Guglik      |
| Editor          | Barbi Beatty     |
| Web master      | Barbi Beatty     |
| Member at Large | Sue Shelton      |
| 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<br>& Past Asst Treasurer & Insurance<br>Liaison          |
| SFMS | Buddy Shotts: Past Long-range Plan-<br>ning, Past President, Past State Director |

Annual dues are:  
\$20 Individual  
\$30 (2) Members in same house hold  
\$6 Junior

## 2024 Workshop/Meeting Dates

January 13 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
**February 10 Mary C. 9:30-4:00**  
March 9 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
April 13 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
May 11 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
June 8 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
July 13 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
August 10 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
September 14 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
October 12 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
November 8 After Vendor Dinner 5ish  
December 14 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

## February 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | 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  |     |     |
|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

# 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

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