



Snoopy Gems

Volume 50 Number 3 March 2024
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

I think our weather might be getting a little better now for being outside. Our Art and Jewelry Fair is scheduled for March 23, Saturday, 10-4 pm. If you haven't reserved your spot yet there are lawn spaces available now. Tell Barbi where you'd prefer to be located. Publicity for the event will be increased.

Be sure to come on Saturday to find out more about this and other activities. Two projects are scheduled for the day and machines will be available.

Congratulations Reba for winning the scholarship this year to a federation sponsored week long workshop.

See you at the MaryC!

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

March Workshops:

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

Saturday Workshop:

Harvey and Belinda Marcum will be teaching a Wire wrapped cage pendant. Stephanie Hatcher will be teaching a pair of wire wrapped earrings. Kits will be available for both projects for \$2.

Materials: Project 1

1 small polished stone
7" 20ga Square wire
5" 21ga Half round wire.

Tools:

Wire Cutter
Chain nose pliers
Square Flat nose Pliers
Ruler or Tape Measure
Fine Line Marker
Wire Twister (optional!)
Tape - is our Friend



Materials: Project 2

28" 20ga round wire
2- 4 or 5mm bead to fit on wire

Tools:

Chain nose pliers
Round nose pliers
Flush cutters



John Guglik will be available to test stones and metals.

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. There is a \$3 tool maintenance fee to use the machines.



Meeting Minutes

GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
February 2023



Unavailable at this time.



Happy

March

Birthday

Connie Boyd, Rosalind Norvel Daniels,
Harvey Marcum, Jennie Schaefer



Aquamarine & Blood Stone

Aquamarine: Geological Origins, Crystal Structure, and Cultural Significance

Aquamarine, a captivating gemstone with a mesmerizing blue-green hue, has been revered for centuries for its beauty and cultural significance. This article delves into the geological processes that give rise to aquamarine, examines its crystal structure, and explores its historical and contemporary importance.

- Family:** Beryl, $Be Al_2 Si_6 O_{18}$
- Crystal System:** Hexagonal
- Birefringence:** 0.004 – 0.008
- Color:** Various shades of blue to blue-green
- Density:** Normally 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm³, can be as much as 2.90 g/cm³
- Hardness:** 7.5 – 8, but can be fairly brittle
- Refractive Indices:** Variable 1.560 – 1.570 to 1.596 – 1.602

Cleavage: Ill-defined cleavage parallel to basal plane
Pleochroic: Weak

Geological Origins:
Aquamarine belongs to the beryl mineral family, and its formation is closely tied to geological processes involving the metamorphism of pegmatite rocks. Typically found in granite pegmatites, aquamarine develops under specific temperature and pressure conditions, often in conjunction with minerals like mica, feldspar, and quartz. The presence of trace elements, such as iron, contributes to the gemstone's distinctive coloration.



Crystal Structure:

Aquamarine possesses a hexagonal crystal structure, characterized by six-sided prismatic columns terminated by pyramidal faces. The crystalline lattice of aquamarine accommodates the incorporation of iron impurities, which are responsible for the gem's varying shades of blue. The interaction between light and the crystal lattice results in the gem's remarkable transparency and brilliance.



Gemological Properties:

Gemologists evaluate aquamarine based on various properties, including color, clarity, cut, and carat weight. The most prized aquamarines exhibit a vivid blue or greenish-blue color, and their value increases with larger carat sizes and minimal inclusions. Cutting techniques are crucial in maximizing the gem's brilliance and enhancing its visual appeal.

Cultural Significance:

Throughout history, aquamarine has been associated with various cultural and metaphysical beliefs. Ancient civilizations believed that aquamarine had protective properties, providing sailors with safe journeys across treacherous waters. In modern times, aquamarine is often linked to qualities such as tranquility, clarity, and communication, making it a popular choice for jewelry imbued with symbolic meaning.

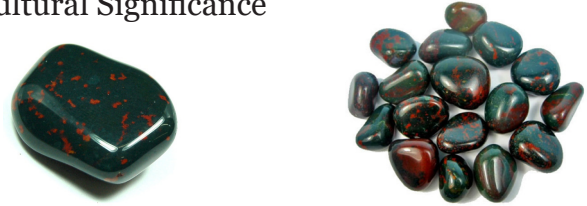


Contemporary Use and Market Trends:

Today, aquamarine remains a sought-after gemstone in the jewelry industry. Its popularity is driven by a combination of its aesthetic appeal, durability (7.5-8 on the Mohs scale), and relative affordability compared to other gemstones. Designers often incorporate aquamarine into various jewelry pieces, including rings, earrings, and necklaces, catering to a diverse range of consumer preferences. Aquamarine's allure extends beyond its stunning appearance, encompassing geological origins,

crystal structure, and cultural symbolism. As a gemstone prized for both its aesthetic and metaphysical qualities, aquamarine continues to captivate enthusiasts, bridging the gap between geological science and artistic expression.

Unveiling the Mysteries of Bloodstone: Geological Origins, Mineral Composition, and Cultural Significance



Bloodstone, a captivating gemstone renowned for its distinctive appearance and historical significance, has intrigued scientists, gemologists, and enthusiasts alike.

Bloodstone, also known as heliotrope, is a variety of chalcedony characterized by its deep green color adorned with red speckles, resembling drops of blood. This gemstone has a rich history, with mentions dating back to ancient civilizations, where it was revered for both its aesthetic appeal and believed metaphysical properties.

Geological Origins:



Bloodstone primarily forms in metamorphic rocks, often associated with volcanic activity. The green coloration arises from the presence of chlorite or amphibole minerals, while the red speckles result from iron oxide inclusions, most commonly hematite. Understanding the geological processes that contribute to bloodstone's formation enhances our appreciation for its natural beauty.

Mineral Composition:



Bloodstone's mineral composition is a fascinating interplay of various elements. The dominant chalcedony provides the gemstone with its durability and luster, while chlorite imparts the green hue. Hematite, an iron-rich mineral, creates the distinctive red spots, contributing to the gem's striking appearance. This intricate combination of minerals contributes to bloodstone's unique charm.

Cultural Significance:

Throughout history, bloodstone has held cultural significance in different civilizations. Ancient Egyptians believed it possessed protective qualities, associating it with life and fertility. In medieval Europe, bloodstone was linked to healing properties and was often carved into amulets and talismans. Its association with blood and sacrifice has contributed to its use in religious and ritualistic contexts.



Modern Uses and Market Trends:

In contemporary times, bloodstone continues to captivate jewelry enthusiasts and collectors. Its distinctive appearance makes it a popular choice for statement pieces, and lapidaries often craft intricate carvings to showcase its unique features. The gem's rarity and historical allure contribute to its value in the market.

Bloodstone's geological origins, mineral composition, and cultural significance make it a gemstone of enduring fascination. As science and technology advance, further insights into the intricate processes shaping this unique gem may emerge, deepening our understanding of its geological and cultural significance. Whether appreciated for its aesthetic appeal, historical connections, or perceived metaphysical properties, bloodstone remains a gemstone that transcends time and cultural boundaries.



BENCH TIPS

CHEAPER & BETTER PICKLE

Most jewelers use a granular pickle mixed with water. The active ingredient is sodium bisulfate. This can be purchased from local stores as a common pool chemical used for adjusting the acidity of the water. It's sold under various names, so be sure to check the list of active ingredients for a brand that is 95% or so sodium bisulfate. An added benefit, I believe, is that the pool chemical is more pure in form than what is sold for jewelry use and does not cause the brown grime floating on that you sometimes see the top of a pickle pot.



IDENTIFYING SOLDERS



Despite the many ways to mark your sheet or wire solders, I have sometimes forgotten to do it and had a couple that I could not identify. The answer is to compare the melting temperature of the unknown with that of a couple known solders. What I do is take a thick scrap of copper or nickel and arrange several solders on it. Ideally, I would have a sample of easy, medium, and hard known solders surrounding the unknown solder. Then I heat the plate from the bottom and watch the order in which the solders melt.



We always welcome new members!



Date _____ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

http://www.mgcgms.org		Application for Membership	
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: _____	
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="checkbox"/>	Beading	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cabbing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chain Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	PMC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faceting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fossils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wire Wrapping
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others: _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry Making
			<input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary
			<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals
			<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Smithing
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I authorize MCGGMS 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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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

March 2024

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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