



Snoopy Gems

Volume 50 Number 5 May 2024
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope to see everyone at the Saturday meeting. Let us know your plans for summer and what you'd like to learn to make the next few months. We can concentrate on metal work or cabbing or wire or beading. We have a good assortment of equipment to work with. And could purchase more if indicated. We are still looking for volunteers to teach upcoming workshops. Please let us know if you are willing to lead a class.

Our cabinet for display at the MS Welcome Center must be picked up so we need to decide what to do with it. Help make these decisions with us. Also the **Harrison County show is coming up on May 18 and 19.** We want to support them with our attendance.

See you on Saturday!

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

"The Golden Ticket"



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

May Workshops:

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

Saturday Workshop: May 11th 10am

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching pearl & wire bracelet. Kits will be available for \$3.

Materials:

- 3 strands of 24ga round wire Wrist size +3 1/2 to 4 inches
- 7-8mm round beads or crystal pearls
- 8-6mm round beads or crystal pearls
- 7-4mm round beads or crystal pearls
- 8-3mm metal beads to match wire color (with big enough hole to fit 3 strands of 24ga wire through)
- 2" matching chain
- 3 jump rings
- 1 clasp



Tools:

- Wire Cutter
- Chain nose pliers
- Round nose Pliers
- Ruler

Wednesday workshop May 15th 11:00 am

Connie Boyd will be teaching a wire wrapped ring with gemstone beads. The class will be \$35 plus kit \$5. It is open to the public @ The Mary C. O'Keefe.

Materials:

- 5-7" 22ga dead soft ss wire
- 8" 21ga half round half hard
- 1-8mm big bead
- 3-3mm round beads
- 6 double spacer beads



Tools: Flat nose, round nose, & chain nose pliers, ruler, wirecutter, fine sharpie marker

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. As always, we will have the club machines available for metal & gemstone testing, gemstone cutting, and cabbing. There is a \$3 tool maintenance fee to use the machines.

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: Minutes as published in Snoopy Gems. Vicki Reynolds made a motion to approve, second by Harvey Marcum. Minutes approved.

Treasurer: Barbi Beatty, Treasurer provided account balances for show, checking, and savings. John Guglik made a motion to accept, Buddy Shotts second, motion carried.

Committee Reports

Sunshine: Reba Shotts has been sending out birthday and get-well cards. Liz passed out a list of current members with contact information and birthdays. If your birthday is not on the list, please let Reba know the date.

Membership: There is a packet available for new members.

Library, Closet, Inventory: Nothing to report.

Equipment: Members were asked to remember to return equipment and supplies to their proper place after use.

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

Newsletter: Newsletters will be printed and available at Wednesday workshops for any new members. The website has been rebuilt and updated.

Facebook: No changes or updates.

Show: We are asking Jackson County for a discount on the rental of the building for the show based on our 501c3 non-profit classification. We have not heard back yet on this request. This year's show will be the 50th anniversary of the club. Suggestion made to get special advertisement, such as bag stating 50th anniversary, for the show. Last year radio advertisement was dropped and social media boosted. We will be increasing the Social Media advertising budget this year. Hoping to purchase wind feathers this year for placement on main roads at entrance to the show. Barbi contacted 30 vendors from previous shows to see if they will be attending this year. She is expecting about 25 vendors this year.

Scholarship: Nothing to report.

Workshops: Teachers for are still needed for both our Wednesday and Saturday classes.

New Business: Barbi would like members to submit articles for the newsletter. The Mary C will be holding "Monthly Mashup" the last Saturday of the month. Mary C partners will have to opportunity to participate for free. This will be on the lawn. If interested, contact Sarah Posey.

Old Business: We need to finalize the storage situation before the May meeting (May 11th). Bill Lince and Vicki Reynolds want to get display cases, then we can dispose of the remaining contents and discontinue rental of the storage facility, saving the club \$900 per year.

Gem of the Month: Diamonds are April's birth stone. Write-up in the newsletter on this.

Motion to Adjourn: 2:20 pm motion made to adjourn by Barbi Beatty, second by Vicki Reynolds, motion carried.

Door Prizes: 50/50 drawing held and won by Liz Platt. Drawings held for door prizes. Winners were Buddy Shotts, Stephanie Hatcher, Reba Shotts, Bill Lince, Barbi Beatty, Harvey Marcum and Belinda Marcum.

Happy



May

Birthday

Jack Arias Tammy Crump Buddy Shotts



The Allure of Emerald: A Gemstone of Beauty and Mystery

Emerald, the vibrant green gemstone, has captivated humans for millennia with its mesmerizing color and timeless allure. From ancient civilizations to modern jewelry lovers, emeralds have held a special place in the world of gemstones. Let's delve into the science and history behind this fascinating gem.

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/cm³ normally, can be as much as 2.90 g/cm³

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



LIGHT DARK GREEN MEDIUM MEDIUM DARK DEEP INTENSE



Grade B Grade A Grade AA Grade AAA

Formation and Composition

Emeralds belong to the beryl family, which also includes aquamarine and morganite. What sets emeralds apart is their rich green color, caused by trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium in their crystal structure. The presence of these elements during its formation gives emeralds their signature hue.

Emeralds typically form in hydrothermal veins, where hot water carrying dissolved minerals flows through cracks in rocks. The beryllium-rich solutions that form emeralds often infiltrate into rocks like schist or shale, where they slowly crystallize over millions of years.



Characteristics

One of the most desirable features of emeralds is their color. While emeralds can range from yellow-green to blue-green, the most prized hue is a deep, pure green with a slight blue undertone. The intensity of the green color and its even distribution across the gemstone are critical factors in determining its value.

Another important characteristic is clarity. Unlike diamonds, emeralds often contain inclusions, which are natural imperfections within the crystal. These inclusions, known as *jardin* (French for garden), can include other minerals, gas bubbles, or tiny fractures. While some inclusions can detract from the stone's beauty, others, such as "silk," can create a desirable velvety appearance known as "emerald glow."



History and Lore

The allure of emeralds dates back thousands of years. Ancient civilizations, including the Egyptians, Greeks, and Incas, treasured emeralds for their beauty and perceived mystical properties. In Egyptian mythology, emeralds were associated with fertility

and rebirth, while the Incas believed they were the tears of the sun god, Inti.

The Spanish conquistadors encountered vast quantities of emeralds in South America, particularly in present-day Colombia, where some of the world's finest emeralds are still found today. The legendary Muzo, Chivor, and Coscuez mines have produced emeralds for centuries, captivating royalty and nobility around the world.

Modern Uses

In modern times, emeralds continue to be highly prized gemstones. They are often used in high-end jewelry, including rings, necklaces, earrings, and bracelets. Emeralds are also popular in engagement rings, symbolizing love, rebirth, and the promise of a new beginning.



Care and Maintenance

Due to their relative softness compared to other gemstones, emeralds require gentle care to maintain their beauty. They are rated 7.5-8 on the Mohs scale of mineral hardness, which means they are more prone to scratching and chipping than harder stones like sapphires and diamonds. To preserve their luster, emeralds should be stored separately from other jewelry to avoid scratching and cleaned with mild soap and water.

In conclusion, emeralds are more than just exquisite gemstones; they are symbols of beauty, history, and mystique. With their rich green color and fascinating formation, emeralds continue to captivate and enchant people around the world, making them a timeless treasure for generations to come.

Article By: Barbi Beatty

Beading Basics with Seed Beads

Needles

Sizes

Selecting the right size and type of beading needle will reduce the occurrence of broken beads and make beading more enjoyable. The larger the number of a beading needle, the smaller the needle. Typical beading needle sizes are 10, 11 and 12. There are other sizes for much smaller needles, but those are rarely called for.

Types

English beading needles

English beading needles are long, thin and flexible. In addition, they come in a range of sizes to fit even the tiniest seed beads. John James English needles are a widely known brand in this type of needle.

Japanese beading needles

These needles are also thin and flexible but have a reinforced eye and a slightly rounded point. The rounded tip has the added advantage of decreasing the chance that you split the thread as you make multiple passes through beads. Japanese beading needles are quite similar to English ones but are more durable and cost more. They do not bend or break as often as English needles do. Tulip is a popular brand of Japanese needles.

Wide-Eye needles

Wide-eye needles, sometimes called Big-eye needles, are made of two pieces of metal soldered together at the top and bottom so the eye spans almost the entire length of the needle. The large eye makes these needles really easy to thread and for this reason, they are perfect for working with thicker stringing materials such as elastic cord. Beadsmith and Beadalon brands are available in this type of needle.

Twisted Wire needles

Twisted beading needles are ideal when working with wide stringing material such as ribbon. They are very easy to thread as they are made of twisted flexible wire that has a large loop eye. When the needle is passed through a bead, the loop collapses and secures the stringing material. The fact that the eye closes after its first use means that twisted wire needles are not good for multiple uses. They also bend much more than regular beading needles. These needles are available in fine, medium and heavy sizes.

Thread or Wire

Threading the needle

In order for your needle to pass through a bead as many times as possible, the eyes of beading needles are very narrow. This can make threading them a bit tricky. When working with Fireline, Wildfire and Nymo, flatten the end of the thread using your thumb and index finger or flat-nose pliers. Don't hold your needle out in front of you and pass the thread through the eye. Instead, try holding the thread between the thumb and index finger of your non-dominant hand with the thread barely sticking out. Then, using your other hand, slide the eye of the needle down over the thread.

Types of Thread

Nylon thread feels more like typical sewing thread. Some of the more popular brands are Nymo and Miyuki. Those are both high quality, strong threads. Nymo thread is a cheaper option and a good choice for a beginning beader. It comes in many colors and is widely available. However, this thread will need to be conditioned with wax to prevent breaking and has a tendency to split, knot or fray. It also has a natural stretch which may present tension problems in a project. Miyuki thread has the same pros and cons but seems to be a bit stronger than Nymo, does not need waxing and has more of a tendency to fray.

Monofilament

This is standard fishing line. Beginning beaders can use this for practice, but I would not make anything I expect to last with this thread. Monofilament will erode over time and leave your hard work as a pile of beads.

Braided Micro-fused

This is usually my thread of choice. The brand name is Fireline. It is very thin, extremely strong, does not need conditioning and does not fray, tangle or stretch out of shape. However, it is only available in three colors: crystal, smoke and black satin. It is more expensive than other threads but will give your project durability and a professional finish.

Types of beading wire

Beading wire is basically braided metal thread. These come in different strands, usually 7, 19 or 49. The more strands you have, the more flexible the wire will be. But even the most flexible is still pretty stiff for my liking. It is also thicker than thread, so not appropriate for weaving, only for stringing.

Thread vs. Wire

Whether you use thread or wire depends on your project and personal preference. Wire is almost never used with seed beads but is quite often used for stringing, especially for bulky or heavy items.

Stopper

When working with bead weaving thread a stopper prevents the initial beads from falling off the end of your thread. You can purchase a spring bead stopper, such as the one shown here, or just use any bead. To use a bead, choose one that is preferably significantly different from the beads in your project. Before starting the project, run your thread through this stopper bead. Slide the bead to within 6" or so from the end of the thread and pass through the bead once, then one or two more times. This will fix the bead near the end of your thread so it will not slip but is not permanent. Alternatively, you could use a piece of tape at the end of your thread. Just be sure it is secure so you don't lose your hard work.



Seed Bead

Types

Japanese seed beads are made using state-of-the-art technology. They are very uniform in shape and size, making them perfect for projects requiring these attributes. Since they are made with state-of-the-art technology, they will be more expensive than other types of seed beads. The most popular manufacturers of these beads are Miyuki, Toho and Matsuno.

Cylinder beads, also commonly known as Delicas, are cylindrical in shape with large holes. They are made from high quality glass.

Round or Rocaille are round like most seed beads, but the Japanese varieties have a larger hole and are uniform in size and shape. These also are made from high quality glass.

Chech are glass beads made in the Chech Republic and have a more donut shape than their Japanese counterparts. These are not uniform in size and shape and cost less than the Japanese beads.

Chinese are the cheapest of the seed beads and are suitable for crafting where uniformity is not required. They may be made from any number of materials

Sizes

As a general rule, the higher the number of the size of the bead, the smaller the bead and bead hole. Typically, seed beads come in 15/0 (smallest), 11/0 (most commonly used), 10/0, 8/0 and 6/0. There are various other sizes, but these are the ones commonly used. There is a slight difference in actual sizes between some Japanese manufacturers, so it is usually best to stay with one manufacturer's products in a project. For example, a Toho size 11/0 bead is just slightly larger than a Miyuki 11/0 bead.

Why pay more for your beads?

If I am constructing a class project with my 6-year-old granddaughter, Chinese seed beads will be sufficient. However, if I am making a quality item, especially one that I wish to sell, I will use Japanese beads every time.

Stitches

Peyote

Even Count

This is the simplest and probably most used of the bead weaving techniques. It has an even number of vertical columns.



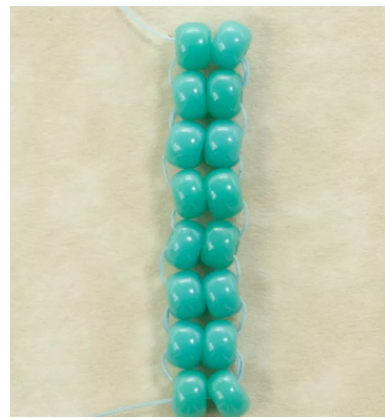
Odd Count

This stitch has an odd number of vertical columns and is more difficult than the even-count version since it requires weaving your thread back through the work to reposition your needle at the end of every second row.



Brick

Brick stitch is unique in that it is considered to automatically decrease by one bead per row. This causes the beadwork to taper into a triangle. You can take advantage of this taper to intentionally create triangles and diamond shapes. To make rows that are equal in length, you need to perform a simple increase at the start of each row. Many will begin brick stitch beadwork with a base row of ladder stitch.



Square

This stitch allows a square or rectangular pattern. You can also use this stitch to adapt patterns intended for loom work.



Right-Angle Weave

With this open stitch, each bead is positioned at a right angle to each surrounding bead. The traditional approach to right-angle weave uses two needles: one on each end of the thread. A more popular, modern approach is a single needle right angle weave. Because of the gaps between its beads, embellished right-angle weave is common.

Herringbone/Ndebele (pronounced N-di-bell-a)

This stitch is believed to have originated with the Ndebele tribe of South Africa. It's called herringbone because it has double columns of beadwork that resemble fish spines. There are two versions of flat Ndebele herringbone stitch: a beginner flat Ndebele herringbone stitch that begins with an initial row of ladder stitch, and traditional start herringbone that does not start with a ladder stitch.



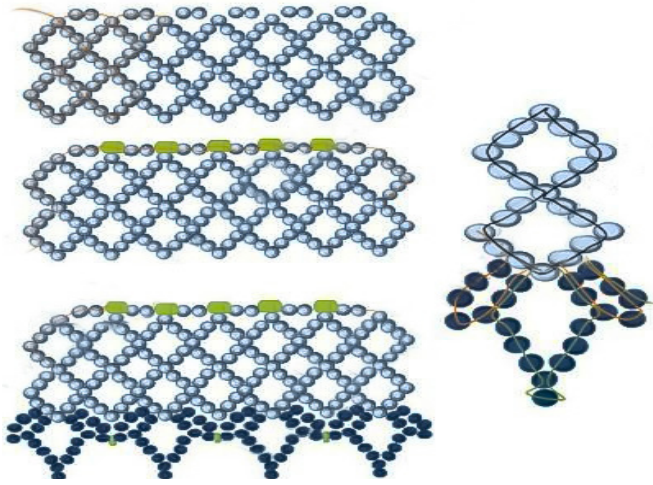
Ladder

You can perform a ladder stitch with either one or two needles. Once you get the hang of it, the two-needle version usually results in a ladder with straighter beads than the single-needle version, where the beads are often slightly tilted. Ladder stitch is often used as the start of other stitch types.



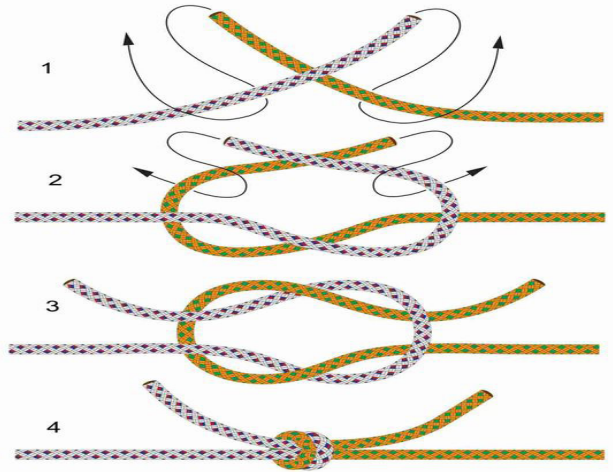
Netting

Netting is a simple stitch that produces exactly what you think: little nets of beads. Think fishnet stockings, rope hammocks, or onion sacks.



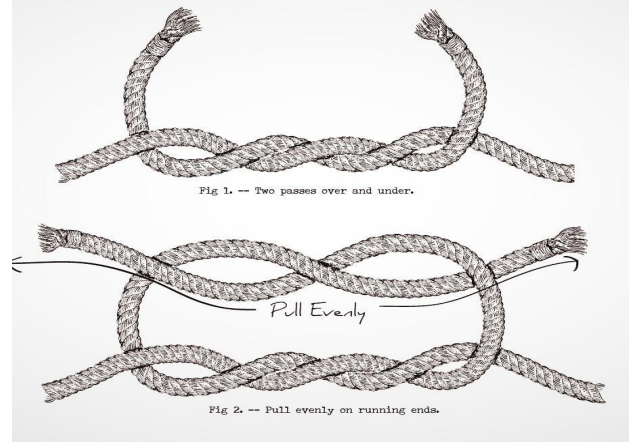
Square

HOW TO TIE A SQUARE KNOT



Surgeon's

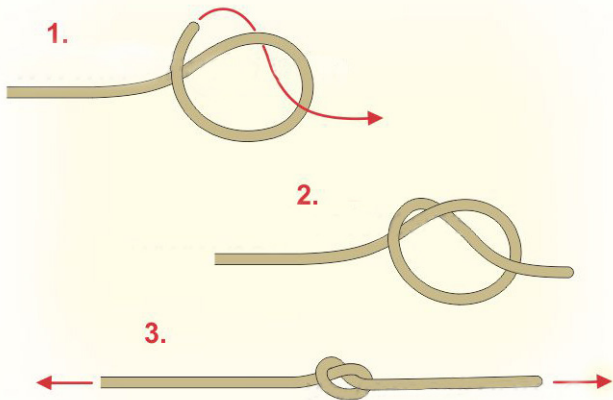
THE SURGEON'S KNOT



Knots

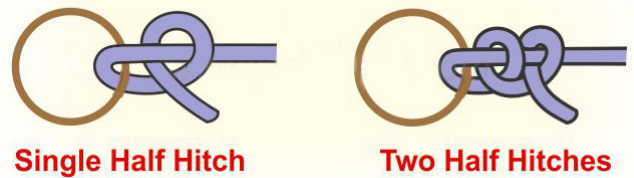
Overhand

OVERHAND KNOT

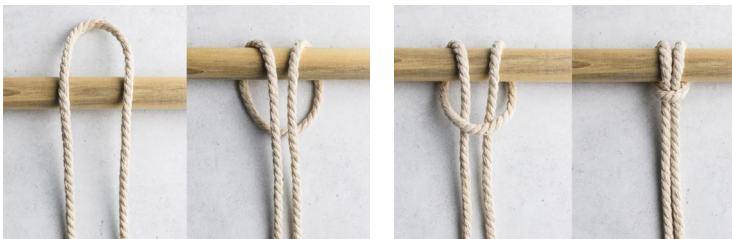


Half Hitch

HALF HITCH



Lark's Head



Article by: Stephanie Hatcher

Up Coming Gem & Mineral Shows

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society

May 18 – 19, 2024

Joppa Shrine Temple 13280 Shriners Blvd. Biloxi, Ms. 39532

North of 1-10 / Woolmarket Exit #41

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society presents 44th Annual Gem & Jewelry Show

Sat. 9-5 pm & Sun. 9-4 pm Adults \$6.00 / Kids 10 & Under - Free

Joppa Shrine Temple

13280 Shriners Blvd. Biloxi, Ms. North of 1-10 / Woolmarket Exit #41

Come shop for Jewelry/Rocks/Gems/Beads/Fossils/Minerals.

Great place to get shop for birthdays, graduation or Fathers' Day gifts. Come see us!

We will have Displays, Kids Corner, Demonstrations, Exhibits, and more vendors than last year.

Visit us at Facebook.com/gulfportgems

Website: gulfportgems.org

Email: gulfportgems.show@gmail.com

Link(s):

www.gulfportgems.org

Greensboro Gem & Mineral Club

Saturday, June 1

Piedmont Triad Farmers Market, 2914 Sandy Ridge Rd., Colfax, NC

11th Annual Piedmont Outdoor Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show with 40 vendors. Gem mining sluice, handmade jewelry and wire wrapping, free geodes cut on site for kids 12 and under, gem trees, mineral specimens, cabachons, beads, fossils, crystals, books, t-shirts and ballcaps, grand prize raffle, half hour prizes. Free admission and free parking. Attendance ranges from 2500 to 4000.

Link(s):

www.ggmc-rockhounds.com

Gaston Co. Gem & Mineral Club

June 8 – 9, 2024

Johan Newcombe Event Center 1840 E. Franklin Blvd.

Gastonia, NC 28054

SUMMER GEMBOREE

45TH ANNUAL GEM, MINERAL, AND JEWELRY SHOW

June 8-9, 2024

Saturday 10-6, Sunday 10-4

Rocks, minerals, gems, fossils - sluice mining and geode cracking outside!

Fun for the whole family!

No Admission Fee

Link(s):

gastongemclub.weebly.com

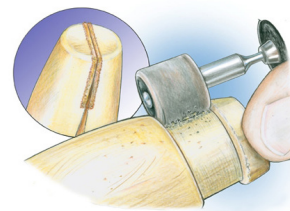
BENCH TIPS

How To Modify a Wooden Ring Clamp

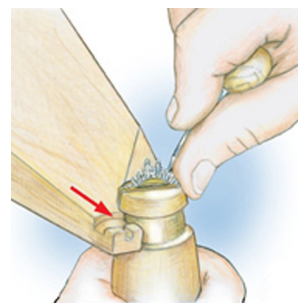
One persistent daily challenge a bench jeweler faces is trying to figure out the best way to hold onto tiny, delicate objects while performing mechanical operations such as sawing, filing or burring bearings for stone setting.

There are dozens of tools available for this purpose, some centuries old and some that are modern, sophisticated and often quite expensive. An alternative is to make a simple modification to a wooden ring clamp—which holds rings and other jewelry items—that turns it into a useful, multi-function holder.

The ring clamp is usually braced against the bench pin as you work. Trouble can develop if the clamp slips while you are applying pressure. When you push downward on the ring with a prong pusher, for example, the clamp can slip out of place, even slightly, and cause a sudden movement that results in a chipped stone, damaged prong or injury to your finger or hand.



If you grind a channel in the ring clamp, however, you can lock it in place with the bench pin. This provides more stable support for the work in progress and enhances your accuracy and safety.



An 80 grit 1/2" x 1/2" abrasive band and mandrel (drum arbor) works well for this modification. Draw a reference line on the ring clamp about 10mm from the end. Use the abrasive band to create a two-millimeter indentation around the ring clamp. Test the groove against your bench pin(s) and make adjustments as necessary so the clamp locks in place.



This simple modification will make your tool more stable and reduce the chance of damaged jewelry or injury.

<https://www.gia.edu/>

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"/> Jewelry Making
<input type="checkbox"/> Chain Mail	<input type="checkbox"/> PMC		<input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary
<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/> Faceting		<input type="checkbox"/> Minerals
<input type="checkbox"/> Fossils	<input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping		<input type="checkbox"/> Silver Smithing
<input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____			
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 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.
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AFFILIATIONS
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 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
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 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

May 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	30	31	

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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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