



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 51 Number 1 January 2025  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



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

MGCGMS Established in 1974

## President's Message

Dear Members,

Happy NewYear!

Join us for our first meeting and workshop of 2025. You will learn of changes to our annual show and some new workshop formats. You can improve your knowledge and skills and then you can help teach someone else. That's how we grow a stronger club.

Reminder: You need to pay your 2025 dues by the end of January to be eligible for the SFMS workshop drawing in February.

So, join us on Saturday for fun, food, and friendship. Remember the handicap ramp is temporarily located on the east side of the building. See you on Saturday and/or Wednesday.

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

## Workshops:

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

**Saturday Workshop: Jan 11th @10am Vicki Reynolds** will be teaching wire wrapped pendant. Kits will be available for \$5

**Materials:** cabochon bead, 20 or 18 gauge round wire, 21 gauge half round wire

**Tools:** needle nose, flat nose, and round nose pliers, wire cutters, Sharpie, & ruler



**Wednesday workshop open to the public 1/15/25: Reba Shots & Barbi Beatty** will be teaching chain mail bracelet. Kits will be \$5.



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

November 2024 Minutes

**Meeting called to order:** 6:30pm by Liz Platt, President.

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the October meeting are on the website. We did not review at this meeting.

**Treasurer:** No report.

**Committee Reports Sunshine:** No report

**Membership:** No report.

**Library, Closet, Inventory:** No report.

**Equipment:** No report.

**Communication:** No report.

**Newsletter:** No report.

**Facebook:** No report.

**Show:** Set up for the show was successful and we had the vendor dinner before this meeting. Discussed the assignments for working the show the next two days. Barbi made a list of the raffle prizes. Door prizes (2 from each vendor) will be picked up early Saturday. We did not get a discount on the show location as we were promised earlier. Also, the location was dirty and messy when we arrived and we had to clean the kitchen before we could use it.

**Scholarship:** Nothing to report.

**Workshops:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Some new officers will be installed for 2025. All previous officers have agreed to stay on except Reba Shotts term has expired and Vicki Reynolds has agreed to run for that spot. The officers nominated are as follows:

**President:** Liz Platt, **Vice President:** Joni Arias, **Secretary:** Stephanie Hatcher, **Treasurer:** Barbi Beatty, **Members at Large:** Sue Shelton and Vicki Reynolds

Motion to accept nominations by acclamation was made by Reba Shotts, second by Bruce Giamalva. Motion carried. Sixteen members were present and there are 20 active members, which is in compliance with the by-laws. All members present voted to accept the slate of officers.

**Old Business:** None discussed

**Gem of the Month:** Nothing discussed

**Motion to Adjourn:** 7 pm motion made to adjourn by John Guglik, second by Belinda Marcum, motion carried.

**Report By:** Secretary Stephanie Hatcher



# Happy

# January

# Birthday

Joni Arias Lisa Fitch Alex Marcum  
Belinda Marcum Angie Troutman  
Lettie White Billie Kelly

*Garnet*

STRENGTH  
PERSISTENCE  
PROSPERITY



## The Spectrum of Garnet: Colors and Their Origins

Garnet, a group of silicate minerals, is renowned for its diverse colors and broad geological distribution. We will explore the wide range of garnet colors—red, orange, yellow, green, purple, pink, brown, black, and even colorless—and their origins. Garnet coloration arises from the mineral’s chemical composition and trace element incorporation, with variations influenced by geological conditions during formation. By examining garnet varieties such as almandine, pyrope, spessartine, grossular, and andradite, this article highlights the mineralogical factors contributing to their unique hues and the geographic regions where these gems are commonly found.

Garnet has been valued for centuries as a gemstone and industrial mineral. While it is commonly associated with deep red hues, garnet encompasses a kaleidoscope of colors due to its complex chemical

composition. Garnets are isometric minerals with a general formula of  $X_3Y_2Si_3O_{12}$ , where X can be calcium, magnesium, iron, or manganese, and Y can be aluminum, iron, or chromium. The interplay of these elements, along with trace impurities and geological formation conditions, results in a rich palette of colors.

## Garnet Varieties and Their Colors

1. Red Garnets: Almandine and Pyrope

Color: Deep red to violet-red.

Origin: Red garnets derive their color primarily from the presence of iron ( $Fe^{2+}$ ) in the octahedral site of their crystal structure.

Common Sources:

Almandine: Found in metamorphic rocks such as schists and gneisses in regions like India, Brazil, and the United States.



Pyrope: Often associated with ultramafic rocks and kimberlites, with notable sources in South Africa, Australia, and China.



## 2. Orange Garnets: Spessartine

Color: Orange to reddish-orange.

Origin: The color is due to manganese ( $Mn^{2+}$ ) content in the -site.

Common Sources: Spessartine is found in pegmatites and metamorphic rocks in countries like Madagascar, Brazil, and Nigeria.



## 3. Yellow Garnets: Grossular and Andradite

Color: Golden yellow to greenish-yellow.

Origin: Grossular garnets owe their color to calcium and trace iron, while andradite's yellow hues arise from ferric iron ( $Fe^{3+}$ ).

Common Sources:

Grossular: East Africa, Canada, and Sri Lanka.

Andradite: Russia, Namibia, and Italy.



## 4. Green Garnets: Tsavorite and Demantoid

Color: Vivid green to yellow-green.

Origin: The vibrant green color is caused by vanadium and chromium in the case of tsavorite (a variety of grossular) and ferric iron and chromium in demantoid (a variety of andradite).

Common Sources:

Tsavorite: Found in East Africa, particularly Kenya and Tanzania.

Demantoid: Russia's Ural Mountains and Namibia.



## 5. Purple and Pink Garnets

Color: Purple and pink hues.

Origin: These colors arise from varying proportions of manganese and iron. Rhodolite garnet, a blend of almandine and pyrope, typically exhibits pink to violet tones.

Common Sources: Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and the United States.



## 6. Brown and Black Garnets: Andradite and Melanite

Color: Dark brown to jet black.

Origin: The dark coloration is primarily due to high concentrations of titanium and iron.

Common Sources: Found in skarns and other calcium-rich metamorphic environments in Italy, Russia, and the United States.



## 7. Colorless Garnets: Leuco-Garnet

Color: Transparent or white.

Origin: The lack of significant chromophores (color-causing elements) results in a colorless appearance.

Common Sources: Rare and often associated with calcium-rich garnet varieties like grossular.

## Geological Origins of Garnet Colors

Garnet forms under a wide range of geological conditions, from high-temperature metamorphism to low-pressure crystallization in pegmatites. The chemical environment during formation plays a critical role in determining the garnet's variety and color. Key factors include:

1. **Elemental Composition:** The availability of specific elements like iron, manganese, chromium, or vanadium.
2. **Pressure and Temperature:** High-pressure environments favor garnet varieties like pyrope, while low-pressure settings favor grossular and andradite.
3. **Trace Element Incorporation:** Small amounts of elements such as titanium, vanadium, or rare earth elements can shift garnet's color spectrum.

### Geographic Distribution

The diversity of garnet colors is mirrored by the wide distribution of garnet deposits worldwide. Notable sources include:

**Africa:** Tsavorite from Kenya and Tanzania, spessartine from Namibia.

**Asia:** Almandine from India, rhodolite from Sri Lanka.

**Americas:** Pyrope from Arizona, almandine from Alaska.

**Europe:** Demantoid from Russia, melanite from Italy.

**Australia:** Pyrope and almandine deposits in Queensland.



Garnet's spectrum of colors is a testament to the mineral's chemical complexity and the diversity of geological processes that produce it. From the fiery reds of almandine to the lush greens of tsavorite and the radiant yellows of grossular, garnet continues to captivate gem enthusiasts and scientists alike. Understanding the origins of garnet's colors enhances our appreciation of this

versatile mineral and its role in Earth's geological history.

Article by: Barbi Beatty References:

Deer, W. A., Howie, R. A., & Zussman, J. (1997). *Rock-forming Minerals: Volume 1A: Orthosilicates*.

Dirlam, D. M., et al. (2002). "Garnet Varieties and Their Geological Occurrences." *Gems & Gemology*, 38(4).

Mitchell, R. H. (1991). *Kimberlites and Lamproites*.



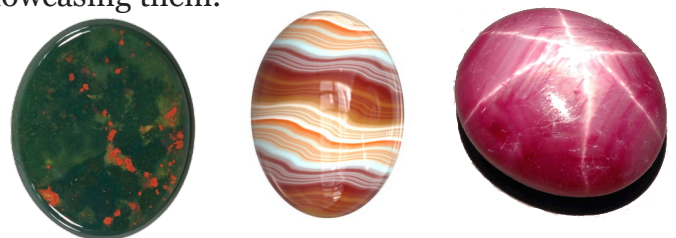
## The Joy of Cutting Cabochons:

Cabochon cutting, or capping, is a mesmerizing art form that has captivated gem enthusiasts and lapidary artists for centuries. This age-old practice involves shaping and polishing gemstones into smooth, domed forms, highlighting their natural beauty and unique characteristics. The joy of cutting cabochons lies in the combination of creativity, skill, and the intimate connection with the natural world it fosters.



### The Allure of Cabochons

Cabochons are gemstones cut with a convex, rounded surface that is polished but not faceted. This style of cutting emphasizes the stone's color, texture, and inclusions, often resulting in a more organic and natural appearance. Unlike faceted stones, which rely on light refraction for their sparkle, cabochons draw attention through their inherent qualities and the artisan's skill in showcasing them.



## The Artistic Process

1. **Selecting the Rough:** The journey of a cabochon begins with selecting the rough gemstone. This step is crucial, as the stone's natural features will dictate the final product. Artists look for stones with interesting patterns, vibrant colors, or unique inclusions that will shine when polished.



2. **Shaping the Stone:** After selecting the rough, the next step is shaping the stone. This involves grinding away excess material to achieve the desired shape. Cabochon cutters use various tools, including diamond saws and grinding wheels, to carefully shape the stone while preserving its natural beauty.

3. **Dopping:** To handle the stone more efficiently during the cutting and polishing process, it is often attached to a stick with wax or glue, a process known as dopping. This step provides stability and allows for precise control over the shaping and polishing.



4. **Grinding and Sanding:** Once the stone is securely attached, the grinding and sanding process begins. This involves using progressively finer grits of diamond wheels or sanding pads to refine the shape and smooth the surface. Each stage removes scratches and imperfections, bringing out the stone's natural luster.

5. **Polishing:** The final step is polishing, which gives the cabochon its finished, glossy appearance. Polishing compounds and specialized wheels are used to achieve a mirror-like finish, enhancing the stone's color and clarity.

## The Meditative Craft

Cabochon cutting is more than just a technical process; it is a meditative and fulfilling craft. The rhythmic motion of grinding and polishing, the sound of tools working against stone, and the gradual transformation of raw material into a polished gem create a deeply satisfying experience. This hands-on engagement with natural materials fosters a profound appreciation for the beauty and complexity of gemstones.

## The Connection with Nature

Working with gemstones connects cabochon cutters to the natural world in a unique way. Each stone tells a story, formed over millions of years by geological processes. As artists shape and polish these ancient materials, they become part of that story, unveiling the hidden beauty within each gem. This connection to nature adds a layer of meaning and joy to the craft that is hard to find in other artistic pursuits.



## The Joy of Discovery

One of the most exhilarating aspects of cabochon cutting is the element of discovery. Each stone holds potential surprises—hidden patterns, unexpected colors, or unique inclusions that only reveal themselves during the cutting process. This sense of discovery keeps the craft exciting and ensures that no two cabochons are ever the same. The joy of cutting cabochons lies in the harmonious blend of artistry, craftsmanship, and a deep connection with the natural world. It is a craft that rewards patience, skill, and a keen eye for beauty, offering endless opportunities for creativity and personal expression. For those who engage in this timeless practice, the satisfaction of transforming rough stones into polished gems is a source of endless joy and inspiration.

## Upcoming Shows

### Central Brevard Rock & Gem Club

February 1 – 2, 2025

Kiwanis Recreation Center 951 Kiwanis Island Park, Merritt Island, Fl 32952

Show starts Saturday 02/01/2025 from 9:00am - 5:00pm, Sunday 02/02/2025 10am-4:00pm. Admission is \$6 for adults, children are free under 12 accompanied by an adult.

\$1 off coupon can be found on website [www.centralbrevardgems.com](http://www.centralbrevardgems.com). There will be vendors selling rocks, slabs, minerals, specimens, crystals and jewelry handcrafted and handmade. Activities for children include a sluice and spinning wheel with prizes. Hourly door prize drawings as well as grand prize raffles available. Club tables with silent auction.

Link(s):

[www.centralbrevardgems.com](http://www.centralbrevardgems.com)

### Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

February 22 – 23, 2025

1200 Mississippi St. Jackson, MS 39202

66th Mississippi Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show

Sponsored by The Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Sunday, February 23, 2025

Time: Saturday 9am – 6 pm

Sunday 9am – 4pm

Location: Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds

Jackson, Mississippi

Admission:

Adults \$8 Students \$3

Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2

Children 5 & under—Free

MGMS website: [www.missgems.org](http://www.missgems.org)

Information email: [mgmsshow@missgems.org](mailto:mgmsshow@missgems.org)

Over 25 dealers of gems, fossils, minerals,

jewelry, lapidary tools, beads, and more

Demonstrations of lapidary art including flint knapping, cabochon cutting, and jewelry making

Exhibits and educational opportunities by colleges and state organizations

Children's activities (adults are welcomed too)  
Touch and See Table

Displays by MGMS members of their own collections or lapidary work

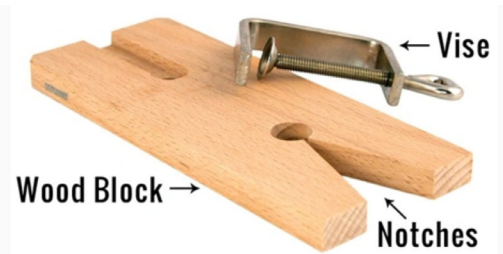
Link(s):

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1ZhivFnPMSAR36uY/>

## BENCH TIP

Bench Pin

A bench pin is a notched piece of wood you attach to your work table to aid with sawing. Bench pins also help steady your hands and tools, so you can do intricate work in small spaces. For example, you can snugly anchor numerous tools, such as ring clamps and pliers, into the bench pin's notch.



Common Uses

There is a plethora of ways you can use your bench pin. Sawing, filing, polishing, and drilling are the most common.



Filing

The grooves and openings in your bench pin are well-suited to brace your work against when filing. You can place it flat on top to file straight edges or wedge it into a small notch when filing smooth curves. You always want to support your work against something while filing – no air filing!! Support makes sure that each cut the file does is working to its fullest.

# 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="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: _____                    |  |  |   |
| <b>How did you hear of us?</b> _____                      |  |  |   |
| <b>Please check the following:</b>                        |  |  |   |
| <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: _____  |  |  |   |

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

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 Treasurer Barbi Beatty  
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 Parliamentarian John Guglik  
 Editor Barbi Beatty  
 Web master Barbi Beatty  
 Member at Large Sue Shelton  
 Member at Large Vicki Reynolds

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

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 SFMS John Wright: Past President  
 SFMS Barbi Beatty: Treasurer  
 & Past Asst Treasurer & Insurance  
 Liaison  
 SFMS Buddy Shotts: Past Long-range  
 Planning, Past President, Past State  
 Director

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

**2025 Workshop/Meeting  
 Dates**

January 11 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 February 8 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 March 8 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 April 12 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 May 10 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 June 14 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 July 12 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 August 9 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 September 26 After Vendor Dinner  
 October 11 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 November 8 Mary C. 9:30-4:00  
 December 14 Christmas Party Mary C.  
 11:00am-3:30pm

**Dates subject to change.**  
**Be sure to check each month!**  
 The September meeting is the Friday evening of the gem show after the dinner for the dealers at the Ocean Springs Civic Center Building.  
 December will be our Christmas Party and Installation of Officers

**January 2025**

| 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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