



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 51 Number 2 February 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,

February is important as it sets the pace for the rest of the year. We will be working on many of the same topics but we plan to learn new techniques and make major changes that we expect will improve our club.

February also makes me think of Valentine's Day. Perhaps we could make some special Valentine jewelry. We will have a workshop but let's also think of ideas using red or heart shaped beads or cabs. Bring any ideas have and samples of Valentine jewelry.

We will do the scholarship drawing at the meeting and find out any additional information on the show venue.

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

## Workshops:

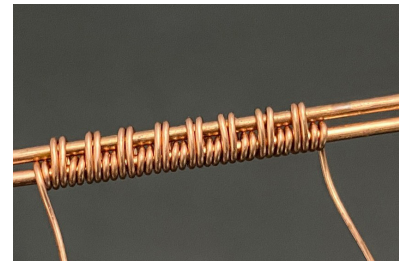
Our Wednesday classes from 11-4:00 in our room at the Mary C. All members are welcome!

**Saturday Workshop: Feb 8th @10am Barbi Beatty** will be teaching wire weaving techniques. Kits will be available for \$3 Specialty tools will be provided.

**Materials:** 18ga sq wire and 26ga round wire

**Tools:**

needle nose, flat nose, and round nose pliers, wire cutters, ring clamp, & ruler



**Wednesday workshop open to the public 2/19/25: Jennie Schaefer** will be teaching chain and bead lariat necklace. Kits will be \$10.



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

### January 2025 Minutes



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

**Meeting Minutes:** Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes made by Vicki Reynolds, second by Buddy Shotts. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer:** Treasurer's report gave totals for accounts and show proceeds. The motion was made by John Guglik, second by Reba Shotts. Report was approved.

#### Committee Reports

**Sunshine:** Birthday cards were sent out by Reba Shotts.

**Membership:** Dues for 2025 are due. Some new members have joined online and a few at recent workshops. We should revisit the mentorship suggestion. Stephanie Hatcher will get the contact information for members and spearhead this effort.

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

**Communication:** No report.

**Newsletter:** Some emails are bouncing back for the newsletter, so please make sure your email is correct. Please contribute any articles to Barbi to help out.

**Show:** Starting this year, our annual show will move to the OS Civic Center and the date will change to the 4th weekend of September. This will be a permanent change. This will be a smaller venue but it will be cheaper for the club. We will sign a memorandum of understanding which will guarantee this location and time for our show for the next 4 to 5 years. We will have to have security of 2 officers during the open hours of the show. We will lose vendor tables, but the pricing will go up slightly. The actual cost per table will depend on the analysis of the number of tables the location can accommodate and other costs for the show. The rental will be about 1/3 of the cost for the Jackson County location, but the cost of security will approximately double.

**Scholarship:** The drawing for a scholarship will be held during our next monthly meeting in February.

**Workshops:** Chainmail class was conducted today. We need teachers to commit to Saturday classes. John suggested that we teach something on gem and mineral identification. Greensboro GM club is hosting a field trip to North Carolina on February 15th, \$20 for the day. For more information see Mark Daynes.

**New Business:** Two new officers were sworn in: Vicki Reynolds and Stephanie Hatcher. SFMS workshops are being held at William Holland in June. No announcement for Wildacres yet. Access to that area should be prepared later. Tuition is \$625 for room, board, tuition and all meals for the week, double occupancy. Private room is \$870 for the week. Supplies are not included in the price. The club will give one scholarship to an active member (attending meetings or activities at least once per quarter) who has been a member for a minimum of one year and has paid dues by January 31st. The scholarship will pay the double occupancy fee and \$100 towards travel. Motion for this was made by Barbi Beatty, second by Reba Shotts. Motion carried.

The club has had an Art and Jewelry fair at Mary C. for the last 3 years on same weekend as OS Spring Art Festival. It is already posted on the website for this year. We will do this again this year. March 22nd. Mississippi Sales tax of 7% will be collected at the end of the event

**Old Business:** None discussed

**Gem of the Month:** Information on Garnets included in Snoopy Gems.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 2:20 pm motion made to adjourn by Barbi Beatty, second by Stephanie Hatcher, motion carried. Door

**Prizes:** Drawings held for door prizes and 50/50 raffle.

**Report By:** Secretary Stephanie Hatcher

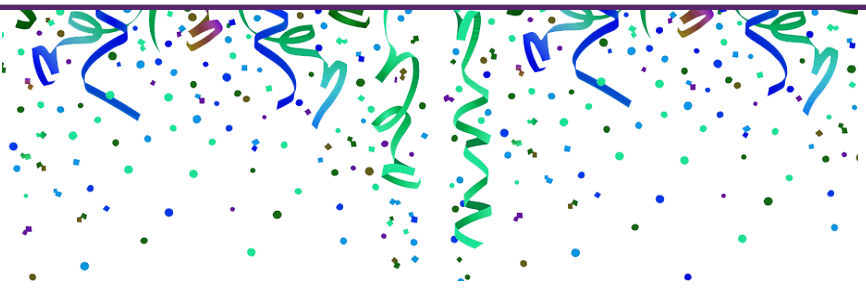


# Happy

# February

# Birthday

Connie Anderson Heather Carter  
 Cindy Robertson Frank Smith Shannon Mallory  
 Glenda Clune Vicki Reynolds



## Amethyst: February's Radiant Birthstone

Article by: Barbi Beatty

Amethyst, the alluring violet gemstone, stands as the proud birthstone for the month of February. Renowned for its captivating color and rich history, amethyst has fascinated civilizations throughout the ages, earning its place as a symbol of royalty, spirituality, and healing.

Geologically, amethyst is a variety of quartz, a common mineral found in Earth's crust. What sets amethyst apart is its striking purple hue, ranging from delicate lavender to deep violet. The captivating coloration is attributed to the presence of iron impurities and irradiation during the crystal's formation.



One of the most intriguing aspects of amethyst is its association with ancient beliefs and cultures. The name "amethyst" is derived from the Greek word "amethystos," meaning "not intoxicated." This stems from the belief that wearing or drinking from vessels made of amethyst would protect one from drunkenness, a notion deeply ingrained in ancient Greek



The regal connection with amethyst persists, with many historical figures adorning themselves with amethyst jewelry. Royalty, clergy, and nobility often valued amethyst not only for its aesthetic appeal but also for its perceived spiritual and protective qualities.

Amethyst is not only a visual delight but also carries metaphysical attributes. In various cultures, it is believed to promote clarity of thought, calmness, and spiritual awareness. Some even consider amethyst to be a talisman against negative energies and stress, encouraging a tranquil state of mind.



Geologically, amethyst typically forms in cavities within rocks, often as six-sided prismatic crystals. Its occurrence spans the globe, with notable deposits found in Brazil, Uruguay, Russia, and Zambia. The uniqueness of amethyst's coloration can be attributed to the combination of geological processes, including the presence of iron and exposure to natural radiation.



Beyond its historical and spiritual significance, amethyst has earned a place in the realm of modern healing practices. Some holistic practitioners associate amethyst with benefits such as stress relief, improved sleep, and enhanced spiritual development. While scientific evidence supporting these claims is limited, the gem's enduring popularity suggests a lasting fascination with its purported properties.



In conclusion, amethyst stands as a gemstone with a rich geological history, cultural significance, and enduring allure. Its radiant purple hue and association with both ancient beliefs and modern spirituality make it a gem that transcends time, capturing the imaginations of those born in the month of February and gemstone enthusiasts alike.



**Ammonite fossils** are one of the most visually striking and widely recognized fossils in the world. These ancient marine creatures have been extinct for over 65 million years, but their spiral shells can still be found embedded in rock formations all over the globe. Ammonites are an important source of information about prehistoric marine life, and they are also highly valued by collectors and enthusiasts for their beauty and historical significance.



Ammonites were marine creatures that lived during the Paleozoic and Mesozoic eras, from about 400 million to 65 million years ago. They were cephalopods, related to modern-day squids and octopuses, and had a distinctive spiral shell that could range in size from less than an inch to more than 6 feet in diameter. The shell was divided into chambers, which the ammonite would fill with gas or water to control its buoyancy and move up and down in the water column.

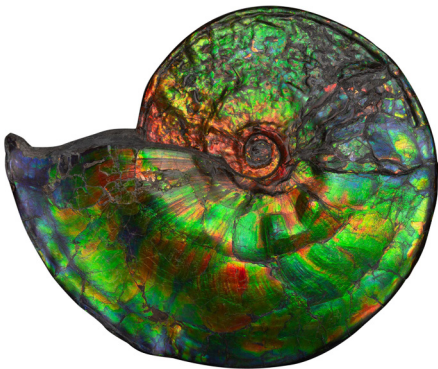


Ammonites were extremely successful and diverse creatures, with over 10,000 species identified from around the world. They lived in a variety of marine environments, from shallow reefs to deep ocean trenches, and their shells evolved to suit their particular lifestyles. Some ammonites had smooth, streamlined shells for swimming quickly through the water, while others had more complex shells with ridges and spines for protection against predators.

Despite their success, ammonites went extinct at the end of the Cretaceous period, along with the dinosaurs and many other marine and terrestrial species. The exact cause of their extinction is still a subject of debate among scientists, but it is likely that a combination of factors such as climate change, volcanic activity, and asteroid impacts played a role.



Today, ammonite fossils can be found in rock formations all over the world, but some of the most famous and abundant deposits are in the United Kingdom, Madagascar, and the Western United States. Collectors and enthusiasts prize ammonite fossils for their beauty and historical significance, and they can be found in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors.



One of the most popular types of ammonite fossils is the iridescent ammonite, which has a colorful, rainbow-like sheen caused by the interference of light in the layers of the shell. These fossils are highly prized for their aesthetic appeal, and they can be found in a range of colors from bright reds and greens to more subtle blues and purples.

Ammonite fossils are also an important source of information about prehistoric marine life. By studying the morphology of the shells and the distribution of different species in different environments, scientists can learn about the evolution of ammonites and their role in the marine ecosystem. Ammonite fossils have also been used to date rock formations and to correlate geological events across different regions.



In conclusion, ammonite fossils are fascinating and beautiful remnants of a prehistoric world. These ancient marine creatures may be long gone, but their spiral shells continue to captivate scientists and enthusiasts alike. Whether you are a collector, a scientist, or just a lover of natural history, ammonite fossils offer a glimpse into a lost world and a reminder of the amazing diversity of life that has existed on our planet.



Article by: Barbi Beatty

7th Annual  
Southeast Federation  
Mineralogical Societies

## Rockhound Roundup

February 28 - March 2, 2025  
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)**

## 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/>

### SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

March 7 – 9, 2025

6340 126th Ave N, Largo, FL 33773

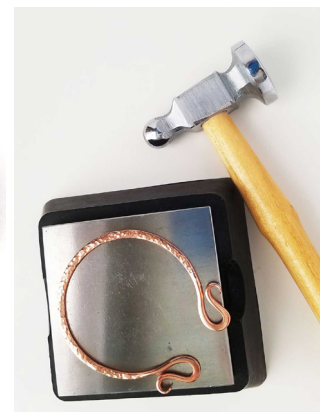
Show starts at 10am each day. FRI-SAT Closes at 6PM, SUN Closes at 5PM. Ticket is good for all 3 days. Adults \$6 Children under 6 free, students with ID \$5

Link(s): [SGAMS.COM](http://SGAMS.COM)

## BENCH TIP

### Texturing Metal Using Ball Pein Hammer



A 'hammered' finish has been used to decorate silverware for centuries and is applied after the main shape had been raised, using a small ball pein (or peen) hammer with a rounded end. This is struck onto the surface using a series of blows to create a gentle dimpled pattern, rather than planishing which achieves a smooth finish and requires a flat head.



# We always welcome new members!



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

<a href="http://www.mgcgms.org">http://www.mgcgms.org</a>		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: _____		
<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: _____			

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 Soci-  
 eties, Inc.  
 The American Federation of Mineralogical Societ-  
 ies, Inc.  
 S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing In-  
 volved Bulletin Editors)

**OFFICERS 2022**

President Liz Platt  
 Vice President Joni Arias  
 Treasurer Barbi Beatty  
 Secretary Stephanie Hatcher  
 Parliamentarian John Guglik  
 Editor Barbi Beatty  
 Web master Barbi Beatty  
 Member at Large Sue Shelton  
 Member at Large Vicki Reynolds

**COMMITTEES**

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

**AFFILIATIONS**

ALAA John Wright: Past Director  
 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

**February 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	

# 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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