Snoopy Gems

Volume 51 Number 3 March 2025
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Established in 1974

President's Message

Dear Members,

Hope to see you all on Saturday for the meeting, the March project, or to work on a machine. Join like-minded friends to work on your lapidary skills. And if you need some help, there's always someone willing to give advice or help you get started.

Remember, our Spring Jewelry and Art Fair on March 22. If you want an inside space let us know ASAP. This is an easy way to try selling your handmade items. We will help you with preparations if needed.

We are looking for volunteers to teach workshops for our Saturday meetings. Please let myself or Barbi Beatty know if you are willing to teach.

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

Workshops:

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

Saturday Workshop: March 8th @10am Barbi Beatty & Vicki Reynolds will be teaching wire wrapped Pendant class. Kits will be available from $5 to $25

Materials:
1 medium to large cabochon
4.5' 20ga square wire
2' 21ga half round wire
small beads for embellishment
Tools:
Sharpie, ruler, painters tape,
flush cutters, needle nose, flat nose,
round nose, & bail pliers.

Wednesday workshop open to the public 3/19/25: Jennie Schaefer will be teaching Dream Datchers. 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.

Meeting Minutes
GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
February 2024 Minutes

Meeting called to order: 1:10pm by Liz Platt, President.

Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes made by Barbi Beatty, second by Vicki Reynolds. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer: Barbi gave the treasurer's report with totals for accounts and show proceeds. Motion to accept by Belinda Marcum, second by Karen Anderson-Williams. Report was approved.

Committee Reports

Sunshine: Birthday, get well and thinking of you cards were sent out.

Membership: Twelve new members have joined since the show.

Library, Closet, Inventory: No report. Equipment: No report. Communication: No report. Facebook: No report.

Newsletter: The newsletter was distributed at the meeting.

Show: The annual show will permanently move to the fourth weekend in September at the Ocean Springs Civic Center. Barbi and a group of members will go to the Civic Center to determine how the tables can be laid out and how many will fit in the space. This will happen next Thursday February 13th at 3 PM. Depending on how many vendors and tables we can fit will determine the price per table for the vendors.

Scholarship: One scholarship for the SFMS sponsored workshop will be awarded. The drawing will happen after the meeting today. The person who attends on scholarship will be responsible for sharing the knowledge with the club.

Workshops: Barbi Beatty instructed a Weaving class today. SFMS classes are open to any member and the cost for a week is well below $1000. The link for the classes is on our website. There are classes during other times of the year besides the weeks reserved for SFMS, though we encourage supporting the SFMS weeks.

New Business: If you are not getting emails from the club email, please let Barbi know so she can make sure we have the correct email address. The club has had a Jewelry and Art 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 on Saturday March 22nd. The cost is $50 for the day, either inside the building or outside. Inside will have a table provided, outside will have to provide their own. If you would not like to have a booth, you can still come to participate in the demonstrations or the kid's table activities.We would like to rotate different things in our club showcase on the first floor. We would like to put information on upcoming classes also. If you have any pieces you would be willing to loan for the display, please let Stephanie Hatcher know. The case is locked and secure.

Old Business: None discussed

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

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

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

Report By: Secretary Stephanie Hatcher

Happy March Birthday

Saida Allen-Smith Connie Boyd
Harvey Marcum Rosalind Norvel-Daniels
David Rodriguez Jennie Schaefer

Aquamarine: Geological Origins, Crystal Structure, and Cultural Significance

Aquamarine is the greenish blue to blue variety of Beryl. It forms in beautiful crystals that can be quite large and totally transparent. Aquamarine can form in stunning flawless crystals, creating some of the most beautiful mineral masterpieces.

Duller or greenish colored stones can be heated to very high temperatures at which they can attain a beautiful sky-blue color. In fact, many of the Aquamarines used as gemstones are heat treated. Aquamarine crystals are often perfect six-sided hexagons. They are usually in individual prismatic crystals. Occasionally the crystals can be short and stubby, in tabular (thin and often four-sided crystal) or in flattened hexagonal plates. The bases of the crystals are usually flat. Pyramidal terminations are less common. Also occurs in columnar aggregates, in distorted etched crystals, and in massive form. Crystals may be striated lengthwise.

The first documented discovery of Aquamarine took place in 1723 in the Adun-Chalon Mountains in Siberia. Deposits found at this site were rather abundant and it quickly became the primary site for mining it. The peak in production took place in 1796. More than seventy kilograms of gem-quality aquamarine was mined that year. Since then, plenty of additional sites have been found. In the early 20th century, a number of deposits of aquamarine were discovered in Colorado. These deposits were once abundant enough that individuals could hike up the mountain and collect fragments and gems from the ground, without needing to dig or mine. While the mountains are still producing a considerable amount of Aquamarine, it has become increasingly

difficult to find abundant deposits due to both tourism and commercial mining operations. California is also known to have several mines with aquamarine veins, although they typically produce smaller yields. These mines have largely been relegated to tourist experiences. One of the most popular locations for doing so is the California State Gem Mine, located in Coalinga. An overwhelming majority of the aquamarine in circulation today is sourced from several mines located in Brazil. The most prolific mines, though, exist in the state of Minas-Gerais, which literally translates to "General Mines." The state was originally founded in 1719 when mines rich in gold and topaz were discovered. By the 1800's the state capital of Ouro Preto became a major international hub for the gem trade. A virtually limitless supply of aquamarine was discovered, and the area has been responsible for most of the world's supply ever since. While many commercial mines exist, plenty of freelance miners, referred to locally as "garimpo" earn a living with shallow mines. The garimpo are responsible for the majority of the gemstones collected from the area.

The site responsible for producing the largest amount of aquamarine is in the Marambaia valley area. In 1910 a monstrous, nearly perfect stone was found. It weighed over 500,000 carats (244lbs). Several other large, nearly perfect gems were found in nearby areas, including the Marta Rocha aquamarine (173,000 carats) and the Estrela de Alva aquamarine (96,000 carats). In the late 1980s, an exceptionally large aquamarine crystal was found by three Brazilian miners in Pedra Azul, Minas Gerais, Brazil. These Brazilian prospectors, garimperos, accidentally dropped the meter-long aquamarine, breaking it into three pieces. A Brazilian buyer, whose identity is unknown to us, purchased the fragmented pieces. The finest and largest piece was saved and transformed into what is now known as the Dom Pedro Aquamarine. The other two pieces, both of exceptional colors, were cut and faceted into gems that were sold commercially. The portion of the crystal from which the Dom Pedro emerged weighed almost 60 pounds and was approximately 2/3 meter (2 feet) in length. This fabulous aquamarine was considered too extraordinary to simply be faceted into many smaller gemstones. Ultimately, it found its way into the hands of gem connoisseurs and experts who realized its importance and potential. Dom Pedro Aquamarine, largest cut aquamarine in the world. 35 cm tall x 10 cm wide at base, weighing 10,363 carats (13.75" tall x 4" wide at base and 4.6 pounds). The Dom Pedro started off as a mass that was 2/3 meters (2 feet) long and weighed close to 60 pounds. It was cut in Idar-Oberstein, Germany by Bernd Musteiner. He spent four months studying the crystal and six months cutting, faceting, and polishing. It is housed in the Smithsonian in Washington, DC today. Whether your curiosity in aquamarine gemstones comes from your interest in the jewelry that can be made from them, or you have a fascination with mining, one thing is very clear: the aquamarine is a precious stone that can be mined by both hobbyists and professional, commercial operations. Like all rare mineral deposits, the richest sources have been greatly depleted, but new mines are found on a regular basis. Madagascar, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka all currently produce modest aquamarine finds, but many geologists suspect that large veins will be found soon.

How Aquamarine Gemstones Are Formed Geological Process

One of the most interesting topics you can study, if you're interested in the Aquamarine gemstones, is the geological processes through which it's formed. While like many other crystals, the process of forming aquamarines is almost entirely dependent on the presence of two components: beryl and iron. Beryl is largely comprised of beryllium aluminum cyclosilicate. Depending on the impurities it may be many different colors including yellow, white, red, green, and blue. In its purest form it is clear. When iron is present, the beryl takes on a turquoise or blue color and is then known as Aquamarine.

Where Beryl Deposits Are Found

To understand where Aquamarine deposits are located, you'll first need to understand how and where beryl forms. It is primarily located in deposits known as granitic pegmatites, which are large structures comprised of interlocking minerals and rocks. Granitic pegmatites are especially high in granite deposits. These deposits are sometimes pushed to the surface through natural geological processes. Many mines have been located thanks to the gemstones found on the surface. Miners and gemologists are typically able to locate mines by starting with these finds, as evidenced by recent discoveries in Colorado. When beryl deposits are forming in the presence of iron it is likely that the crystallization process will result in aquamarine gemstones. As the beryl crystals form iron is essentially trapped inside, fusing with them. If little or no other impurities are present these processes result in aquamarine gems. When other impurities are present the beryl may form into maxixe, emeralds, or golden beryl, amongst others.

Gemstone quality aquamarine crystal.

Most of the geological processes described above result in aquamarine gemstones that are rife with inclusions, such as cracks or less valuable minerals stuck inside of the crystals. It is, indeed, rare to find high quality aquamarine suitable for jewelry, and because of this, a flawless aquamarine stone can be worth as much as $1,500 for a single carat. Pegmatites are formed with the help of geological pressures. As magma works its way to the surface or tectonic plates shift, many stones are forced together. Those that are softer are slowly squeezed together, forming large deposits. Some of these deposits undergo lengthier amounts of pressure, resulting in beryl gemstones with many impurities. Those that are pushed to the surface or discovered in mines earlier in the process are far more likely to have pure, gem quality aquamarine crystals. It is suspected that the prolific amounts of gem quality stones found in Brazil are the result of the specific composition of earth found in the area. Many of the stones are of a softer nature, allowing geological pressures to push pegmatite deposits nearer to the surface without forcing significant inclusions in aquamarine deposits. The similar composition of earth found in Colorado, where aquamarine was also once found in abundance, lends credibility to this theory. At the end of the day there is little that can be done to understand how and why some deposits of beryl result in higher quality gemstones than others. The geological processes responsible for creating these deposits require hundreds of thousands of years. By the time a deposit is uncovered there is nothing that can be done to have further impact on the quality of the stones coming from it. While modern techniques exist to manufacture synthetic aquamarine gemstones in the lab it is very difficult to do so and often results in stones that are not as desirable as flawless gems found in naturally occurring deposits. Aquamarine, a captivating gemstone with a mesmerizing blue-green hue, has been revered for centuries for its beauty and cultural significance. This scientific article delves into the geological processes that give rise to aquamarine, examines its crystal structure, and explores its historical and contemporary importance.

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.

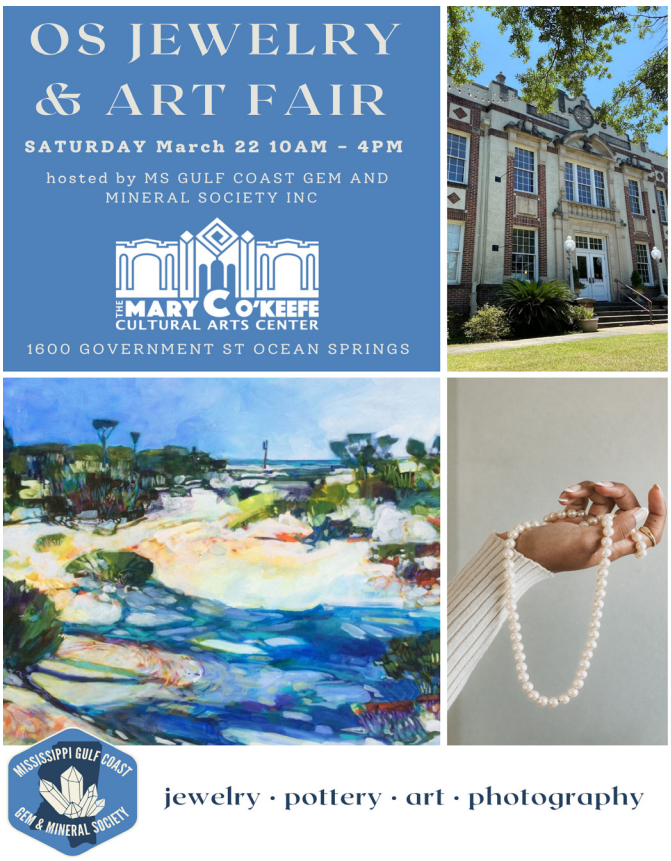
Gemological Properties: Gemologists evaluate aquamarine based on various properties, including color, clarity, cut, and carat weight. The most prized aquamarines exhibit a vivid blue or greenish-blue color, minimal inclusions. Cutting techniques are crucial in maximizing the gem's brilliance and enhancing 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.

Conclusion: 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.

Article by: Barbi Beatty



Upcoming Shows

SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
March 7 – 9, 2025
6340 126th Ave N, Largo, FL 33773
Starts at 10am on March 7,8 & 9TH.
Friday & Saturday show closed at 6PM
Sunday show closes at 5PM
Thickets are good for all three days.
Adults $6.00, Children under 6 free, Students with I.D. $5.00

Link(s):SGAMS.COM

GASTON GEM AND MINERAL CLUB SHOW

March 15 – 16, 2025
Gastonia Farmer's Market, 410 E. Long Ave, Gastonia, NC 28054
2025 Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry show presented by the Gaston Gem and Mineral Club. New date and larger location: Gastonia Farmer's Market 410 E. Long Ave Gastonia, NC 28054. Saturday, March 15th 10-6, and Sunday, March 16th 10-4. Free Admission for all!

Link(s):
gastongemclub.weebly.com

Wekiva Gem & Mineral Society
Saturday, April 12
1937 Lakeville Road Apopka Fl 32703
"Circle Up Swap Meet" April 12, 2025 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Rock clubs and individuals are invited to set up and buy, sell and swap anything LAPIDARY related. Everything from slabs, rough, specimens, polished stones, finished cabochons, handmade jewelry to tools and lapidary equipment can be swapped or sold.

Limited to 50 spaces. Outdoors in the circle under the trees
$40 per 12'x20'space
You bring your tables, tent and chairs. No electricity provided.
Rain or shine event

For more information contact Nancy Allman, 407-

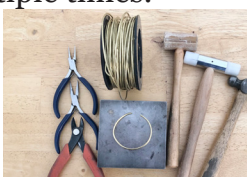
BENCH TIPS

Wire Wrapping Tips & Tricks

1: File the ends of your wire
Whatever wire jewelry designs you're working with, it's important to make sure that you finish off the ends of your wire by filing. Often when cutting your wire, some sharp edges can be left behind so filing makes the pieces safe to wear. Use a flat file, or flat needle file, to smooth away any sharp edges to create a professional finish.

2: Keep your Round Nose Pliers Close
Your round nose pliers will be invaluable when you're perfecting your wire jewelry designs, so make sure you keep them close. When you first start producing jump rings or other tight loops for your designs it can be difficult to keep them uniform. One way of conquering this is to mark a specific point on your pliers using a marker or scribers, to ensure that when you start forming loops with your pliers there's no need to guess; simply use the mark in your pliers for a consistent loop every time.

3: Don't forget to work-harden your wire when finished to ensure your wire wrapped jewelry stands up to everyday wear and tear, you'll need to work harden it. Work hardening is the process of forcing wire into a harder state, giving it strength and therefore allowing it to hold its shape. This can be done in several ways, hammering the wire with a rawhide mallet, twisting the wire with a pair of pliers or pulling the wire straight multiple times.



4: Remember to close loops to keep your gemstones in place if you are wire wrapping gemstones, your main concern will be making sure you close the loops in your wire to ensure your gemstones remain firmly in place. The great thing about wire wrapping jewelry is that you can close loops in a creative yet functional way to create unique pieces.

We always welcome new members!

Date_____ Misssissippi 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: _____

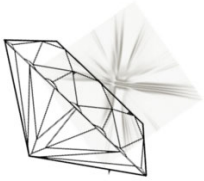
Adult: _____ Birthday M/D: _____

Junior: _____ Birthday M/D/Y: _____

Junior: _____ Birthday M/D/Y: _____

Please Check All Applicable Interests

- ○ Beading
- ○ Chain Mail
- ○ Field Trips
- ○ Fossils
- ○ Others:_____
- ○ Cabbing
- ○ PMC
- ○ Faceting
- ○ Wire Wrapping
- ○ Jewelry Making
- ○ Lapidary
- ○ Minerals
- ○ Silver Smithing



How did you hear of us?_____

Please check the following:

- ○ I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.
- ○ 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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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

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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

2025Workshop/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

March 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					

Snoopy Gems

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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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