



# Snoopy Gems

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Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



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MGCGMS Established in 1974

## Message from the Editor

Members,

Our Show is coming up real soon. We have 8 weeks! Please remember to turn in your raffle prize donations. We will need all hands on deck. I will bring back the volunteer list to the meeting Saturday. Please sign up to work the show & let us know what you will be bringing for the vendors dinner pot luck.

At the August meeting I will be teaching different wire wrapping techniques for wrapping a cabochon.

There will be a speaker before our workshop this month. Her name is Amanda Spencer. She owns Spencer promotions and Treasures on Beachview. The talk will be on advertisement and promotion for businesses.

Barbi Beatty  
MGCGMS Editor

## Workshops:

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

### **Saturday Workshop: August 9th @10:30am**

Barbi Beatty will be teaching a wire wrapped pendant. All tools and supplies will be provided. Kits will be available \$20-\$35

#### **Materials:**

cabochon  
18ga 1/2 hard round wire  
20ga 1/2 hard square wire  
21ga 1/2 hard half round wire  
small matching beads to embellish pendant



#### **Tools:**

flush cutters, chain nose,  
round nose pliers, bail making pliers, ruler, painters tape,  
and Sharpie.

### **Wednesday workshop open to the public 8/20/25:**

#### **Bracelet By Stephanie Hatcher**

##### **Materials:**

18ga round wire dead soft  
24ga round wire dead soft  
3 coin beads



#### **Tools:**

flush cutters, chain nose, round nose pliers, and nylon pliers.

**Machines:** Members of our tool committee will be available to help with cutting and cabling gemstones. As always, we will have the club machines available for metal & gemstone testing, gemstone cutting, and cabling. There is a \$3 tool maintenance fee to use the machines.

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



# Meeting Minutes

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

### July 2025 Minutes



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

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

**Treasurer:** Barbi gave the treasurer's report with totals for accounts. Motion to accept by Belinda Marcum, second by Rachel. Report was approved.

#### Committee Reports

**Sunshine:** No report.

**Membership:** No report.

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

**Equipment:** No report.

**Communication:** No report.

**Newsletter:** The newsletter was distributed at the meeting.

**Facebook:** No report.

**Show:** The annual show will permanently move to the fourth weekend in September at the Ocean Springs Civic Center. Our usual raffle is for prizes donated by club members. This year Allan suggested he could make a workbench as a grand prize. Discussed whether we should have one big raffle item or many and cost of raffle ticket. It was suggested to have one large prize and possibly a limited number of smaller but very nice prizes. The motion was made by Barbi with a second by Rachel to continue to take donations for the raffle prizes with a value of \$40 and up with only one raffle. It was also discussed whether we should increase the price of the raffle ticket to \$2. The motion was amended by Barbi to include the ticket price (\$1 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$5). Becky seconded the amendment. The motions were passed, which will basically leave it the same as in the past.

**Scholarship:** Peter will be attending the William Holland workshop on this year's scholarship.

**Workshops:** Every third Wednesday will be a class open to the public. The remaining Wednesdays of the month will be working meetings for members. We were still needing volunteers for teachers for Saturday workshops. August will be working on the show.

**New Business:** Harrison County gem show is coming up the next weekend. Entry is \$6, with a \$1 discount with the postcard. Discussed how our club could be more visible on social media. Election of officers will remain for our November meeting as is stated in the bylaws.

**Old Business:** None discussed

**Gem of the Month:** Information on Emeralds included in Snoopy Gems and examples were passed around.

**Motion to Adjourn:** 2:10 pm motion made to adjourn by Vicki Reynolds, second by Peter, motion carried.

**Door Prizes:** Drawings held for door prizes.

**Reported by:** Secretary Stephanie Hatcher





# Happy

## March

## Birthday

Karen Anderson-Williams   Steve Williams  
Van Crump   Sharon Warwick

# Peridot

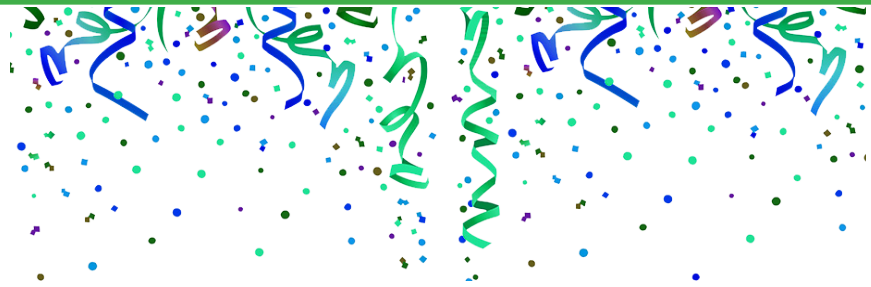


### Peridot: The Scientific Story of August's Birthstone

Peridot, the vibrant green gem celebrated as the birthstone for August, has a rich geological and extraterrestrial history. Its formation deep within the Earth's mantle, distinctive chemical structure, and unique optical properties make it a gem of both aesthetic and scientific interest.

#### Mineralogy and Composition

Peridot is the gem-quality variety of the mineral olivine, a silicate composed primarily of magnesium iron silicate with the formula  $(\text{Mg}, \text{Fe})_2\text{SiO}_4$ . The green coloration of peridot arises from iron content within the crystal lattice. Unlike many other gemstones, peridot is idiochromatic, meaning its color comes from elements essential to its structure rather than trace impurities.



The iron concentration not only determines its hue but also gives insight into the environmental conditions during its formation. Most peridot displays a yellowish-green to olive or brownish-green color, with the finest specimens being a pure, bright green with little or no brown or yellow tint.

#### Geologic Formation and Sources

Peridot forms under high-pressure conditions in the Earth's upper mantle, at depths of about 20 to 55 miles (32 to 88 kilometers), and is brought to the surface by volcanic activity or tectonic uplift. It is commonly found in basaltic lavas and xenoliths—pieces of mantle rock carried to the surface by magma.



Notable terrestrial sources include:

Zabargad Island (St. John's Island), Egypt – One of the oldest known sources, mined for over 3,500 years.

San Carlos Apache Reservation, Arizona, USA – A major modern supplier, producing gem-quality peridot in volcanic basalt.

Pakistan (Kohistan region) – Yields large, gemmy crystals in high-altitude, metamorphosed peridotite rocks.

Myanmar (Burma) – Known for its high-quality deep green stones.

#### Extraterrestrial Origins

Peridot is one of the few gemstones found in meteorites. Specifically, it has been identified in pallasites, a rare class of stony-iron meteorites. These peridot crystals formed over 4.5 billion years ago, predating Earth's formation, and offer researchers rare clues about the early solar system.



#### Optical and Physical Properties

Crystal system: Orthorhombic

Hardness: 6.5–7 on the Mohs scale

Specific gravity: 3.27–3.37

Refractive index: 1.65–1.69

Birefringence: 0.036–0.038

Pleochroism: Weak to none (shows little to no color change from different angles)

Due to its moderate hardness, peridot is more susceptible to scratching than harder gemstones like sapphire or diamond. It is also sensitive to rapid temperature changes and acids, requiring careful handling during setting and cleaning.

#### Gemological Identification

Peridot can be identified through several distinguishing features:

Double refraction: Viewed through a loupe, the stone's internal features may appear doubled due to high birefringence.

Lily pad inclusions: Characteristic disk-like or oval fractures often form around crystals or inclusions, resembling lily pads.

Lack of fluorescence under UV light, helping distinguish it from some lookalikes such as green glass or synthetic spinel.



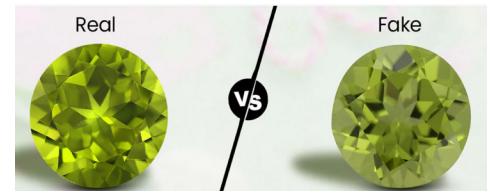
#### Synthetics and Imitations

Peridot is rarely synthesized due to its relative abundance and moderate price. However, it may be imitated by:

Green glass

Synthetic spinel

Green zircon



Proper gemological tools such as a refractometer or polariscope can reliably differentiate genuine peridot from imitations.

#### Cultural and Historical Significance

Ancient Egyptians called peridot the “gem of the sun”, believing it protected its wearer from nightmares and evil spirits. It was also used in religious jewelry and often mistaken for emerald due to its vivid green color. Medieval crusaders brought peridot to Europe, where it adorned churches and religious artifacts.





In modern times, peridot is the designated birthstone for August and symbolizes strength, protection, and prosperity.



#### Conclusion

Peridot is not only a beautiful and historically significant gemstone but also a mineralogical window into Earth's interior—and in rare cases, the cosmos. Its presence in both volcanic rock and ancient meteorites underscores its unique role in linking terrestrial and celestial geology. For those born in August, peridot is more than just a birthstone—it's a piece of Earth's deep-time story.

Article by: Barbi Beatty

### Psilomelane



Psilomelane is a group name for hard, black manganese oxides and this particular stone has a silvery, metallic lustre 'wood grain' pattern through the deep black. Psilomelane is a group name for hard black manganese oxides including hollandite and romanechite. Psilomelane consists of hydrous manganese oxide with variable amounts of barium and potassium. Psilomelane is erroneously, and uncommonly, known as black hematite, despite not being related to true hematite, which is an iron oxide.

Psilomelane is a general term for a group of hard, black manganese oxide minerals that are a mixture of several manganese oxides, including romanechite:

- **Composition** Psilomelane is a hydrous manganese oxide with varying amounts of barium and potassium. Its chemical formula is  $\text{BaMn}_2\text{+Mn}_4\text{+8O}_{16}(\text{OH})_4$ .
- **Appearance** Psilomelane is typically black with a smooth surface and can form grape-bunch-shaped or stalactitic masses. It can also appear as earthy crusts. Psilomelane is often layered with gray

pyrolusite, creating bands of metallic gray and sub-metallic black.

- **Formation** Psilomelane forms as a weathering product of other manganese minerals, or as concretions or dendrites deposited by groundwater or lake water.
- **Uses** Psilomelane is an important ore mineral of manganese, which is essential for steel production, battery manufacturing, and other applications.
- **Locations** Psilomelane has been found in Germany, France, Belgium, Scotland, Sweden, India, and the U.S. The name psilomelane comes from the Greek words for "smooth" and "black".

Its applications in the chemical industry are vast; it is used in quantitative analysis, medicine & for agricultural purposes such as disease & soil treatment. You will also find it in alkaline batteries & glass.

psilomelane, Barium and manganese hydrous oxide,  $\text{BaMnMn}_8\text{O}_{16}(\text{OH})_4$ , an important ore mineral of manganese. What was formerly called psilomelane is now known to be a mixture of several manganese oxides of which romanechite is a major constituent. Such manganese oxide mixtures may form large deposits and may occur in lake or swamp bedded deposits and clays; it has been found in Germany, France, Belgium, Scotland, Sweden, India, and the U.S. The name psilomelane (from the Greek words for "smooth" and "black") refers to its typical black, smooth-surfaced, grape-bunch-shaped or stalactitic masses.

Psilomelane has a specific gravity of 4.40 – 4.72 (g/cm<sup>3</sup>) and the refractive index of  $n_{\text{Calc}} = 2.11 - 2.26$ . Moh's Hardness is 5.0 – 6.0. Psilomelane is often layered with gray Pyrolusite creating bands of metallic gray and sub-metallic black.

In terms of magnetic properties the pyrolusite and psilomelane varieties showed paramagnetic (antiferromagnetic) responses comparable to that of hematite.

#### The difference between pyrolusite and psilomelane?

There is not much difference chemically. Both are manganese oxide (usually the dioxide). Both are used as ores for manganese production. Psilomelane more often includes barium in its composition than pyrolusite does.

Article by: Barbi Beatty



# Magnolia State Gem Mineral and Jewelry Show Sept 27 & 28, 2025



Ocean Spring Civic Center  
3730 Bienville Blvd  
Ocean Springs, MS 39564  
Saturday 10AM to 6PM  
Sunday 10AM to 5PM

Admission: Adult \$5/Kids 12 and under free  
One door prize ticket with each paid  
admission

Door Prizes awarded hourly!

Come see

Exhibits

Demonstrations

Educational Resources

Fossils

Vendors will be selling Jewelry, Gemstones,  
Jewelry Making Supplies, Mineral  
Specimens, & Fossils

Enter our Raffle for Prizes!

Tickets are \$1ea or 6 for \$5

Enjoy a great meal or snack at our  
Concession Stand!



RAFFLE  
TICKET



GEM SHOW  
INFO



MGCGMS  
CLUB



# Bench Tips

## Organization:

### Layout:

Right-handed jewelers should place tools on the right and materials on the left. Essential tools should be within easy reach to minimize reaching and potential errors, according to a YouTube video on jewelry bench setup.

### Storage:

Group similar tools (e.g., hammers, pliers) together. A magnetic strip can hold files and stamps. Maintain a consistent system for tool placement for quick access.

### Space:

Ensure sufficient workspace for laying out metal and planning. Consider space limitations and storage needs when setting up.

### Ergonomics:

Ensure the bench pin is at chest height to prevent excessive bending and blade breakage while sawing.

### Lighting:

Adequate and adjustable lighting is crucial for precision work and reducing eye strain, according to Metalsmith Society.

## Sawing and Bench Pin Techniques:



### Blade Loading:

Always load blades with the teeth facing down, like a Christmas tree.

### Tension:

Ensure the blade is properly tensioned for a high-pitched "ting" sound when flicked. A loose blade will bend and break easily, according to Halstead - Jewelry Supplies.

### Lubrication:

Use lubrication (cut lube, beeswax, or soap) to reduce friction and prevent blade breakage.

## Bench Pin Modifications:

Consider adding grooves to the bench pin for filing flat inside ring contours and shallow depressions to hold stones or cutting lubricant.

## Additional Tips:

### Dust Collection:

Utilize a dust collector to manage particles from grinding, sanding, and polishing.

### Ventilation:

If soldering, ensure adequate ventilation to remove fumes.

### Micro Motors:

Consider a micro motor for drilling, as they are generally smoother and quieter than traditional pendant motors.

## Tool Modifications:

Household items like dental floss and paper clips can be repurposed as useful bench tools.

## Warranty:



Don't forget to inquire about the warranty provided with any jewelry purchase



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

#### OFFICERS 2025

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

## August 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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