



Snoopy Gems

Volume 42 Number 8 August 2016

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

Members,

John and I are looking forward to our Wildacres classes in late September for a week of learning the arts of chain mail and casting ---and to also experience some cooler weather in the mountains.

The board will meet prior to the workshop on Saturday, the 13th. We expect to discuss some possibilities of streamlining the November meeting and the election process which we historically do after the dealer welcome dinner on the Thursday before the show. It makes for a very long day for many of our members. If there are other issues, please let someone on the board know. This is generally the most efficient method of researching possibilities, problems, or issues. In this manner, our workshop time is optimized and meeting time is shorter.

I am exploring additional ways to publicize our club; if you have contacts at the media, please share with me. We now have a brochure to place at the Ocean Springs Chamber of Commerce and to share with interested people. Remember to invite a friend to the workshop so they can have the thrill of creating jewelry or learning about the lapidary arts with us.

MGCGMS President
Liz Platt

August Workshop 2016

Elegant Orb Earrings taught by Lisa Fitch

Material List:

- 8 - 6mm Swarovski Pearls or any Round Bead
- 2 - 4mm Swarovski Pearls or any Bead for Dangle (Omit if you do not want a dangle on earring)
- 10 - 3mm Bicones (may substitute a round bead)
- 20 - 4mm Bicones
- 2 gm size 15 seed beads (128 seed beads total)
- 2 - Ear wires 2 - 2" Headpins or (2 each: 1 1/2 inch Headpin & 1/2 inch headpin)

Tools:

- 2 - 2.125" Needle (Big Eye) or #12 Needles
- 8 ft. of Fireline (4, 6, or 8 lb. weight will work)
- Round Nose Pliers, Flush Cutters, Mat Ruler or Measuring Tape, Thread Conditioner (Optional) I will bring some for the workshop, Scissors or Thread Burner.



Note: The inexpensive pearls at Michaels will not work for this project as they are flat on the ends. However, they do sell Swarovski Pearls. The pearls at Hobby Lobby called "Bead Treasures" will work for this project.

KITS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST - EMAIL or CALL NO later than Wed August 10, 2016

@ lapidaryarts@hotmail.com (228) 467-4684

Kits are 1st come - 1st serve while they last

Kit #1 \$13.00 Swarovski Pearls & Swarovski Bicone Crystals Sterling Silver Earwires & Headpins Toho Seed Beads

Kit #2 \$9.00 Hobby Lobby Pearls & Swarovski Bicone Crystals Tarnish Resistance/Non-Allergic Earwires and Headpins Toho Seed Beads

** Needles and Fireline NOT included with kits can be purchased - I just ordered some. **

For members who will not be making earrings, Dave Cook will be available to repeat his cross making project.

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

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MGCGMS P.O. Box 857
Ocean Springs, MS 39566

Happy Birthday!



Bob Marousky

AUGUST



Peridot, the birthstone of August, carries a lime green color and is one of only a few gemstones that exists in only one color. Peridot is believed to instill power and influence as well as bring the wearer magical powers and properties that protect against nightmares

Geological information:

Peridot is gem-quality olivine. Olivine is a silicate mineral with the formula of $(Mg, Fe)_2SiO_4$. As peridot is the magnesium-rich variety (forsterite) the formula approaches Mg_2SiO_4 . Source:GeologyIn.com

Caring for your Peridot Jewelry

The best and safest way for you to clean your peridot, is with warm, soapy water. You should take special care of your peridot to ensure that it does not come in contact with drastic temperature changes, which can damage the stone. You should also protect your stone from scratches and sharp blows and avoid any contact with chemicals. Peridots should not be cleaned in ultrasonic or steam cleaners



Peridot is named after the French word peridot, meaning gold, because the mineral can vary towards this color. Peridot is the birthstone for the month of August. It is also the stone given to celebrate the 16th year of marriage. Peridot has a very long written history. Ancient papyri record the mining of these stones as early as 1500 BC. The main source of peridot in the ancient world was Topazo Island (now Zabargad or St. John's Island) in the Egyptian Red Sea. In Ancient times, peridot stones were used for carved talismans. Island habitants were forced to collect the gems for the Pharaoh's treasury. Legend says that jealous watchers who had orders to put to death any trespassers guarded the entire island. The story continues that the miners worked in the daytime as well as night, as the gems could be found after nightfall due to their radiance. The miners would mark the spot at night for retrieval the following day.



Topazo Island (now Zabargad or St. John's Island) in the Egyptian Red Sea

Peridot is the National gem of Egypt. Ancient Egyptians knew it as "the gem of the sun." Peridot was mined for over 3,500 years on St Johns Island. As late as the 19th Century, the Kedge of Egypt had a monopoly on the mines. At one point, the island's exact whereabouts became a mystery for several centuries until being rediscovered in 1905. Joel Aram, from the "Color Encyclopedia of Gemstones 2nd Edition," writes "Zabargad is an island in the Red Sea that is often shrouded in fog, making it difficult for ancient navigators to find. The location has been lost in fact, for centuries, and was rediscovered in about 1905. The island is located 35 miles of the Egyptian coastal port of Berenica." In the 19th Century, the mines on Zabargad Island produced millions of dollars worth of peridot. After 1905, production of the gems peaked, but by the late 1930's it tapered off to practically nothing and reached a virtual stand still in 1958, when the mines were nationalized. Although parcels of St. Johns peridot still come into the market once in a while, it is not known whether it is new or old. Most assume it is old. Peridot was known in old times as chrysolite. The name chrysolite however, was used at a time when we did not have the ability to so accurately identify stones as we do today. The word "chrysolite" was also used for some colors of topaz until we began to be able to recognize the differences between these stones.

Once upon a time, ecclesiastical treasures in European cathedrals included some fine, large peridots, but wars and pillage have dispersed many of them. The ones that disappeared probably do exist today but have been cut down to smaller size and set in jewelry.

Continued from page 2:

Before a coup d'état in 1962, that left the country a socialist totalitarian state controlled by its army, Burma was a thriving peridot producer, principally in its North Central Mogok district. Now, Burma is in economic shambles, completely poor and depressed. The only Burmese peridot available now is decent, but far from great, yet the price is a hundred times that of Burma's best before the country was shut off from the world. Politics are the reason Burma can no longer be counted on for peridot. Burma still produces some gems, but mining is clandestine and most goods are passed onto the outside world through a rather elaborate network of smugglers. Thailand is actually a cheap conduit for Burmese contraband.

One famous large peridot gem adorning the shrine of the Three Holy Kings in the cathedral at Cologne was for centuries, believed to be an emerald, and only identified as peridot late in the last century. A few jewelry historians are now convinced that some, or possibly all of the emeralds Cleopatra was famous for wearing, were not actually emeralds, but Peridots from Egypt. This emerald-looking shade of green is almost never encountered in peridots under ten carats. To find stones of such color, one must look in Egypt and Burma, where production has reached a virtual standstill in recent years.

Peridot has long been called "an Evening Emerald," for under artificial light, the stone glows a brilliant green. Peridot is similar to the emerald but softer in intensity. Peridots of two or three carats are expensive, and a fine eight-carat stone is extremely rare. Any stones beyond eight carats are collectors or museum pieces. Two of the finest peridot displays containing some of the largest and best specimens are in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and the Field Museum in Chicago. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC has a cut peridot stone of 310 carats.



Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC Burma Peridot
Photos by Chip Clark

Throughout history, there have been many legends that state the strong magical power that peridot possesses. Legend says that if the gem is set in gold, it will develop its full potential as a talisman and will have the power to dispel terrors of the night-fears and bad dreams. However, according to Pliny The Elder, the Great Roman authority on such matters, for peridots to work their strongest magic, they must be worn on the right arm.

Several experts believe that the second gemstone in Aaron's breastplate was a peridot. There is also an argument that has never been settled as to which gem was used as the seventh foundation stone for the New Jerusalem of the Bible. Some authorities maintain that this too was peridot. Another note about the power of the gem is contained in a statement made by the Bishop of Mainz about 1,100 years ago to the effect that "...in the peridot is shown true spiritual preaching accompanied by miracles."

Physical Properties and Science of Peridot

Peridots are transparent with a distinct oily luster. Peridot's color can be described as yellow-green, green with a golden tone, olive or bottle green, deep chartreuse, or simply a brilliant light green. The proportion of iron present causes the shade and depth of the green of a peridot stone; the deeper the green, the smaller the amount of iron present. Peridot is one of a few gems that are not routinely treated. While it is not particularly brilliant (peridots have moderate to high brilliance), the richness of its color can be exceptional and is completely natural. Because of its rarity, peridot is not usually seen in its deeper pure green colors however newly discovered sources may change this. New sources include Arizona, Mexico, Oregon, Norway, Pakistan, Russia and Sri Lanka.



Discovered in 1997 at the Datso Mine in Pakistan

As with all fine gem crystals, small crystals are relatively common and larger stones seldom occur free of flaws. The larger the crystals are, the easier they flaw, from such seismic disturbances as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The ways in which the stones are cut and faceted are designed to eliminate these imperfections. It is not uncommon for a 20-carat stone in the rough to only yield three or four gems of only one-half to three carats each. Because large stones have become so rare, the green for which this gem has for centuries been praised, is seldom seen these days. This saturate green was so highly prized, that one of antiquities favorite compliments to peridot, was to mistake it for emerald.

Peridot was formed early in the solidification of the Earth. As the earth's magma slowly cooled to form igneous rock, peridot was born. Parts of the magma which cooled particularly slowly created large and clear specimens of peridot. These rich deposits are located in Egypt, and in Burma as well as surrounding areas

Peridot has been part of the lava and magma spewed forth from volcanic eruptions. In Hawaii, the black basalt rock and beaches are studded with millions of tiny peridot grains. Although most of the peridot on Hawaii is either too small to use, or is locked up in very hard rock and cannot be mined, some pieces of Hawaiian peridot have led to jewelry quality stones.

Peridot is also an important component of kimberlite, which is the mineral matrix in which diamonds are found. Kimberlite deposits are rich in microscopic grains of peridot. In South Africa, the ground around several diamond mines is blue-green in color due to the saturation of tiny peridots.



Kimberlite from the Finsch Diamond Mine in South Africa

Peridot is not only born of fire here on earth, but it has also arrived to Earth from outer space. Although many different gems can be found in meteorites that have fallen to earth, peridot is the only one that is found in large enough sized to make jewelry from. In 1749, a meteorite landed in a desolate area of Siberia. It was found to contain many pieces of peridot crystals large enough to be set into peridot jewelry.

Peridot is a relatively soft stone, rating a 6.5 to 7 on the hardness scale, making it a little softer than amethyst or emerald. Peridot should be spared rugged wearing if mounted in rings. The stone is also highly sensitive to rapid temperature changes. Peridots can also lose their polish if they come in contact with commonly used hydrochloric or sulfuric acid.

Source: jewelsforme.com

Bench Tips :

Repair a Fine Chain with a Soldering Technique:

Chain repair is a set of fundamental skills and techniques every goldsmith needs to master, but the structure and design of the chain dictate what you need to do for a successful repair.

This bench trick focuses on fine cable and rope chains with tiny links made from extremely thin wire. It is difficult to manipulate these links, reconnect them and then solder them. Study the chain to determine how each link connects to the next and remove all damaged links, leaving only the sound links that will be joined back together.

Use a permanent marker to color some of the links near the joint so you can find the links that need to be soldered. Cut open one or more links, depending on the style of chain, and open them slightly to connect to the other section of chain. Make sure you fit the cut ends of the link together as tightly as possible to ensure a good solder joint.

The next and most important step is to solder the open links together so they are joined in an inconspicuous way. The chain should look as if it had never been damaged. So easy to say and so hard to do!

You will likely have problems if you apply flux and solder to the open link, then heat it directly with the torch:

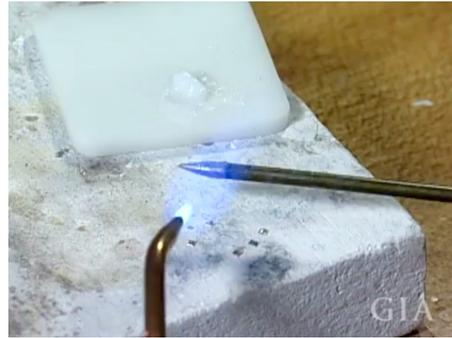
- The solder might not flow to both sides of the joint
- A lump of excess solder will adhere to the link because it is impossible to cut solder into small enough pieces for fine gauge links
- Heating the links directly may fuse several links together, which means you must start over on a now shorter chain

This “Sneaky Goldsmith Trick” makes it possible for you to avoid all the pitfalls and do a clean job every time.



Source: www.gia.edu

The secret weapon is the trusty soldering pick. Normally, goldsmiths use a pick to hold a piece of solder in place or position it on the work. In this case, you will use the tip of the soldering pick to expose the clean metal and apply the flux.



Pick up a piece of easy solder about 1.0 mm square with the pick and heat it directly with the torch until it flows and covers the tip of the pick with a thin layer of solder. Be sure to choose a steel pick, because solder won't adhere properly to titanium or tungsten.



Bring the solder-coated pick into contact with the open joint of the link. Instead of pointing the torch directly at the chain, heat the pick about 8 to 10 mm from the tip. The pick will act as a thermal conductor to carry the right amount of heat to the joint to be soldered. When the solder flows again, a small amount of solder will transfer to the joint. Lift the pick quickly. Allow the chain to cool, pickle and clean up as needed.



This trick simplifies the soldering process and enables the goldsmith to do better work, faster and with fewer mistakes.

July 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 16

Meeting:

President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone and said she looking forward to hear all about Bob & Kathy's trip out West. They brought rocks back for everyone to see. Since this month is Ruby she also wants to see the Ruby's members brought to the meeting for "show and tell".

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our June 2016 minutes printed in the July Newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Vicki Reynolds and 2nd by Dave Cook. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: Given by Barbi Beatty. A motion was made to accept by Ginger Criss and 2nd by Barbara Saavedra. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by Dave Cook. Barbara Saavedra taught a beaded bracelet. Three members took her workshop. Next month Lisa Fitch will teach the "Elegant Orb Earrings". For September and October, we will make Christmas ornaments to display at the show, put on the club Christmas tree and then give as door prizes at the club Christmas party. John Guglik said he will teach a class after he returns from the workshops will be taking at Wildacres.

Show Committee: Report given by Barbi Beatty and Liz Platt. Our show advertising committee members are: Bill LaRue, John Wright, Bill White, Reba Shotts, and Barbi Beatty. Liz said she liked the post cards the Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society used for their show and would like to have something like that to advertise our show. Barbi priced post cards (4x6) for 1000 count at \$125.00.

Barbi Beatty made a motion to eliminate the one-dollar discount coupon for entry into the show. The motion was 2nd by Reba Shotts. In discussion, Bob Marousky spoke against the motion. Reba stated the Jackson and New Orleans clubs charge a \$6.00 entry fee. Barbi said "Our price is the lowest of all shows and maybe in the future we can think about raising the price, but not right now. We do offer a 3-day pass at a discount as opposed to paying full price all three days". All voted one opposed. Motion carried.

Barbi found a local shop to get engraved name tags for \$5.50 with a magnet. Nine members want name tags. Barbi said she will bring the name tags to the August meeting. Liz asked, "Do we want to have hats, aprons, shirts, etc. for the show"? Barbi demonstrated a blue apron from Sam's Club with our logo patch added to the front. She also showed the hats she had with the patch on the front. The price at Sam's Club for 6 aprons is approximately \$25.00.

Liz Platt made a motion to purchase aprons for the show at the club's expense. Barbi Beatty 2nd the motion. John Guglik amended the motion to "purchase five – six packs of aprons for the show at the club's expense". Buddy Shotts 2nd the amendment. Motion carried. Some members asked if they could buy their own for workshops. Barbi volunteered to pick up extra aprons if members wanted to get together to buy a six pack.

Equipment Committee: Report given by John Guglik. Jim is out of town and said that John Guglik can check out equipment for members to take home but it must be logged and it should be returned next month is good working condition. Dave Cook will take the Pixie home. Barbi Beatty will take the saw but only to bring it to Jim who she will see on Wednesday night at our faceting workshop.

Library Committee: Report given by Barbi Beatty.

"I have the library with me if anyone wants to check something out. Just let me know. Remember to return items you are finished with so other members will have a chance to use them."

Sunshine Committee: Report by Reba Shotts. John Wright says, "Hello" to everyone. Lettie White is doing fine.

Communication:

Liz said she and John Guglik went to the Welcome Center to clean the cabinet and set it back up. Everything was secured and now is better organized. Liz asked, "Buddy did you go demo"? Buddy responded and said, "No I didn't make it". You can still go and setup to demo but you should have two people. John Guglik said they met the security guy and he said it's nice to have rocks from Mississippi.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Liz wants someone to check out the newspapers to get us some free exposure. Bill White volunteered to talk to the Gazette and the Ocean Springs Record. John Guglik suggested Bill White submit pictures of our equipment and workshop. Everybody had different ideas: Bob Marousky – Christmas ornaments at the library, Vicki Reynolds – cracking a Geode, Lisa Fitch – a presentation, John Guglik – Dave Cook to do another workshop for the public. Dave Cook said he wants Liz and John to do a Gem ID workshop.

SFMS: Buddy said, "that the SFMS wants him to find someone to be the director for the State of Mississippi". You need to visit the clubs once per year. No interest at the moment.

Open Forum: Vicki Reynolds said that Dawn who owns "My Bead Hangout" above Gallery 782 located at 782 Water Street in Biloxi will give a discount to members. Her phone number is 228-243-3447.

Barbi posted the newsletter on Facebook and we had 67 views so far.

Show/Raffle – Report by Lisa Fitch
Remember to have your donated items in by September for the raffle. You only have two months left.

Show and Tell: Bob and Cathy Marousky went to Yosemite. They brought back Serpentine the official rock of California called "green stone". They also have a book, some rocks and information to share. They have lots of slate out there. They showed off Benitonite and Neptuneite from San Benito, California for all to see. Ebay has a 5ct. Benitonite for sale at \$175,000.00.

Barbi Beatty passed around her Ruby's. Jane Cook showed the Ruby's she brought and Lisa Fitch had on Rudy earrings. Buddy Shotts gave an explanation of Ruby's. It has a hardness of "9". But it also has a toughness. It can go from hard to soft. John Guglik gave a talk as well.

Adopt A Rock: Report by John Guglik
Bob Marousky, Barbi Beatty and Lisa Fitch all got a pet rock to take home.

50/50: Won by Vicki Reynolds.

Door Prizes: They were won by the following members: Bob Marousky, Barbara Saavedra, Barbi Beatty and Bill White.

Adjournment: 2:23 p.m. Motion made by Lisa Fitch and 2nd by Vicki Reynolds. Motion carried.

Snoopy Gems

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

OFFICERS 2016

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Member at Large (2 year)	Buddy Shotts (601)947-7245

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ALAA John Wright	Director (228) 875-9192
SFMS John Wright	Past President (228) 875-9192
SFMS Buddy Shotts	Long-range Planning &Past President (601) 947-7245

Annual dues are:

\$16 Individual

\$20 (2) Members in same house hold

\$6 Junior

2016 Workshop/Meeting Dates

January 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45
February 13 OS Library 1:00-4:45
March 12 St. Martin Public library 1:00-4:45
April 2 Club Picnic 11:00-5:00
Seashore Methodist Pavilion Biloxi, MS
May 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45
June 11 OS Library 9:30-4:45
July 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45
August 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45
September 10 OS Library 9:30-4:45
October 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45
November 10 After Vendor Dinner 7ish
December Christmas Party TBA 11:00am-4:00pm

*Be sure to check Dates each month! *

**The November meeting is the Thursday 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 **

August 2016

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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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