



Snoopy Gems

Volume 42 Number 10 October 2016

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGGCMS Established in 1974

Email: mggcms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

Clear your calendar for our show dates – November 11-13. We will need every member to work as many days as possible and “wear as many hats” as needed to make the show a success. This upcoming October workshop/meeting is the last full meeting before the show.

Please bring your hand crafted raffle donation for the show to the October meeting so Lisa can finish the list of items and pictures can be taken. Let her know if you will need someone to pick up your donation. You should have received your numbered tickets by now to sell to your friends and neighbors. If your tickets don't sell and you don't purchase them, return them no later than the Dealer dinner/meeting on Thursday evening, November 10. We must account for all tickets and will want to be able to sell any remaining unsold ones at the show. This is a good money-maker for the club with little expense other than the ticket printing. Please do your best.

The club has been asked to fill the library display window/case in the front right of the entrance for November. This is good advertising for us. If you are willing to lend a specimen, fossil, or larger piece of jewelry you have made, bring it to the October meeting with clear labeling as to identification and ownership of the piece. Also, if you have a necklace stand or Lucite stand, we would like to borrow it for the month. The library has locks on their case for security.

At the October workshop, we will continue to make some new Christmas tree ornaments and machines will be available including the ring maker Pepe.

Remember that we now enter and leave through the library entrance. The other entrance is only for loading and unloading equipment.

Also, invite a friend to our workshops so they can have the thrill of creating jewelry or learning about the lapidary arts.

Liz Platt,
President

Workshop

Our October workshop will be devoted to making Christmas tree ornaments for the show. Each member is asked to select an ornament design, make an ornament and if possible bring enough materials so that others can make one following your pattern. You should be prepared to demonstrate how the ornament is made and have patterns available for others. Ornaments can be wire, beading or anything that fits in with the club workshops. Go on the web and search for designs and tutorials. They are not hard to find. After the show these ornaments will be used to decorate our club Christmas tree and will be given away as door prizes at our club Christmas party in December. Have fun! We can't wait to see what everyone comes up with.

Machines will be available for those cutting and capping stones. Jim Kirchner will be teaching how to use the Pepe Jump ring maker and cutter.

October Meeting

The meeting will start at 1:00 This will be the last meeting before our Show in November. We need to complete our volunteer forms for the show. Please sign up for more than one area. Remember this is this is a 4 Day event.

Thursday includes booth set up, Display case setup, vendors dinner, clean up and club elections.

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday we will need help at the Welcome Table, Demonstration Booth, The Raffle Table, The Membership Table, Kids Corner, and in the Kitchen. Each day we will need someone to draw and announce door prize winners. On Sunday we will need help breaking down and packing up the displays, demonstration booth, the welcome table and the kitchen.

The Show is the one event that financially supports our club for the year. Our dues cover only a small amount of our annual expenses. Many members are there all four days from start to finish. We know everyone can't do that, but please plan to be there to help as much as you possibly can. Sign up for multiple areas and we will strive to have the best show ever.

<http://www.mggcms.org>

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

Meeting Minutes September 10, 2016

Meeting Called to Order: 1:07 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 14

Meeting:

Meeting was called to order by President Liz Platt. She welcomed everyone. Natalie and Wanda came back. Thanks Natalie who made the delicious chocolate squares.

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our August 2016 minutes printed in the September Newsletter. A correction made by Natalie Webb that under "Show and Tell" her last name was spelled wrong with only one "B". It is Webb with two B's. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction by Barbara Saavedra and 2nd by Aurora King. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: Given by Barbi Beatty. Show banners were ordered. Aprons for the show were purchased. A few Vendor booth fees were deposited. Wanda Sigler volunteered to sew club patches on the aprons. A motion was made to accept by Vicki Reynolds and 2nd by Barbara Saavedra. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by President Liz Platt. The Christmas ornaments we made today will be on our tree at the show and will become our door prizes at the Christmas Party. You can share your ideas on our website. Save the pattern in PDF format and our Webmaster, Barbi Beatty will post it to our webpage for all to see and download at www.mcgms.org.

Faceting Committee: Report given by Buddy Shotts. Buddy thanked Bill White for letting us use his house. Barbi finished a stone. Lisa is almost done with hers. Buddy finished the Sunstone for the raffle. Buddy said "We are all just grinding away making dust."

Show Committee: Report given by Liz Platt. Front Door - Liz Platt and John Guglik, Raffle - Lisa Fitch, and the Concession - Barbi Beatty and Reba Shotts. Clipboards are on the table for anyone who wants to volunteer. Please sign up for the positions we have available. Let Barbi or Bill LaRue know if you can't work. Vicki will help to setup and arrange the tables. John Guglik is putting a gemstone, mineral, and jewelry display in the St. Martin Library for the month of October. The Ocean Springs Library has asked if we will fill one of their entry display cases for the month of November. Liz Platt has formed a committee to put the display together. Barbi Beatty, Natalie Webb and Vicki Reynolds are on a committee. Please bring any items you are willing to have placed on display for the month of November to the October meeting. The case will be locked to keep your items safe. Please be sure to label your items so we can get them back to you.

Raffle Committee: Report by Lisa Fitch. Raffle tickets were handed out at the meeting today. Wanda, Barbara S., Barbi B., Vicki R., and President Liz Platt will donate gifts. Buddy faceted a modified Portuguese cut with 216 facets on a Champagne Sunstone pendant with Citrine accent stones that will be our Grand Prize. Reba has an earring and bracelet set. We also have the Selenite tower with a color changing lighted base (retail value \$100.00) Tickets can be ordered online. Please bring your raffle donations to the October meeting. Bill White will photograph all the items and they will be posted after the meeting on our website at www.mcgms.org.

Continued:

Equipment Committee: Report given by Jim Kirchner. "You need to see me if you need to use any of the equipment. I will demo the Pepe jump ring maker next month so bring wire. I will have copper to use if you don't have any wire. It's important everyone knows how to operate the jump ring maker. After I demo the equipment, I will let members cut rings." John Guglik said, "make sure you have safety glasses on when you do this to protect your eyes." John Guglik said the gemstone tester needs a new probe. Barbi said, "if it cost less than \$150 the board can authorize the purchase." President Liz Platt will email the board for a vote on purchasing a new probe. If we can't get a new probe because it's outdated, Buddy will look for a new one in January when he goes to Tucson.

Library Committee: Report given by Barbi Beatty. I have the Library in a tote if anybody wants something I will get it. Jim Kirchner and Lisa Fitch returned what they had checked out. Buddy needs to bring his back too.

Sunshine Committee: Report by Reba Shotts. Nothing much this month. John is doing well and Cathy Marousky is recovering from knee surgery.

Nomination Committee: Jane Cook, Reba Shotts, Vicki Reynolds. President Liz Platt: "Please contact one of the committee members if you are interested in running for a position on the board." The committee will present the slate of nominations at the October meeting. The vote will take place in November by ballot after the vendor dinner Thursday November 10, 2016. Nominations from the floor are permitted. Officers will be installed at the December meeting/Christmas party."

Communication: Report by president Liz Platt. **Projects:** Aprons were purchased and the patches will be attached. New member packets will be finished by Barbi Beatty, Lisa Fitch, and Rosalind Daniels. **Events:** Our Show will be November 11, 12, & 13 2016 at the Pascagoula Fairground Civic Center. Setup will take place all day Thursday November 10, 2016

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Report by president Liz Platt

Nomination Committee: The committee is chosen and they are Jane Cook, Reba Shotts and Vicki Reynolds.

Library Rules: We will no longer be doing the 50/50 raffle. All members will use the front door to enter the Library unless you have equipment. The door to the meeting room will only be used to bring supplies and equipment in and out of the room. We are not allowed to sell merchandise for profit on library property. Workshop supplies and materials can be sold.

Show and Tell: Report by Buddy Shotts. Buddy gave a detail explanation of Sapphires. We had several to pass around the room and show.

Door Prizes (5): They were given to the following members: Natalie Webb, Ed King, Aurora King, Barbara Saavedra and Barbi Beatty.

Adjournment: 2:07 p.m. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds and 2nd by Barbara Saavedra. Motion carried.

Happy Birthday!



Barbi Beatty

Karl Beatty

Stacy Reichel

Lynn Tate



OCTOBER



October also has two birthstones; Tourmaline and Opal. Tourmaline is a favorite gemstone for many because it's available in a rainbow of beautiful colors. Opal gemstones are truly unique because each individual gem is adorned with a one-of-a-kind color combination

Geological information:

Tourmaline is a crystalline boron silicate mineral compounded with elements such as aluminium, iron, magnesium, sodium, lithium, or potassium. Tourmaline is classified as a semi-precious stone and the gemstone comes in a wide variety of colors.

Opal is a hydrated amorphous form of silica; its water content may range from 3 to 21% by weight, but is usually between 6 and 10%. Because of its amorphous character, it is classed as a mineraloid, unlike the other crystalline forms of silica, which are classed as minerals. It is deposited at a relatively low temperature and may occur in the fissures of almost any kind of rock, being most commonly found with limonite, sandstone, rhyolite, marl, and basalt. Opal is the national gemstone of Australia.

Source: Geologyin.com

Opal:

Precious, Black, Fire, Boulder, Jelly, Crystal, White Opal

What is Opal?

Gem quality opal is one of the most spectacular gemstones. A single stone can flash every color of the spectrum with an intensity and quality of color that can surpass the "fire" of diamond. The best opals can command prices per carat that rival the most expensive diamonds, rubies and emeralds. They are very popular gems.

Opal is a wonderful stone for earrings, pendants, brooches and rings. However, it is softer than most other gemstones. Opal has a hardness of about 5.5 to 6.0 on the Mohs hardness scale. Because of that opal works best in earrings, brooches and other pieces that rarely encounter skuffs and impacts. When used in a ring the best designs have a bezel that protects the stone - instead of being placed in a prong setting that allows the edges of the stone to be exposed.

Opal is a hydrous silicon dioxide ($\text{SiO}_2 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$). It is amorphous, without a crystalline structure, and without a definite chemical composition. Therefore it is a "mineraloid" rather than a "mineral".

What Causes "Play-of-Color"?

Areas within an opal that produce a play-of-color are made up of microscopic spheres of silica arranged in an orderly network. As the light passes through the array spheres it is diffracted into the colors of the spectrum. The size of the spheres and their geometric packing determine the color and quality of diffracted light.

Sources of Opal

Although opal is found throughout the world, almost all of that opal is common opal of very little value. Most of the precious opal deposits that have been discovered are in Australia. The mines of Australia produce at least 90% of the world's precious opal. Famous mining areas in Australia include: Coober Pedy, Mintabie, Andamooka, Lightning Ridge, Yowah, Koroit, Jundah and Quilpie. Other countries that produce precious and fancy varieties of common opal include: United States, Mexico, Hungary, Indonesia, Brazil, Peru, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Slovakia, Czech Republic and Ethiopia. Source:geology.com

Tourmaline:



Tourmaline derives from the Sinhalese term "turamali", which translates as "stone of mixed colors". The very name refers to the unique spectrum of colors displayed by this gemstone, which is second to none in the realm of precious stones. One of the most versatile of gemstones, tourmaline is available in every color, from colorless to black. It can show every tone from pastel to dark, and can exhibit various colors in the same stone.

The many different colors of tourmaline mean that this stone can easily be mistaken for just about any other gemstone. Many stones in the Russian Crown Jewels from the 17th century once thought to be rubies are actually tourmalines. It is not only designers who love the tourmaline, Scientists too are interested in it because of its astonishing physical qualities. Tourmalines can become electrically charged when they are heated and then allowed to cool. Then, they have a positive charge at one end and a negative one at the other. This is known as 'pyro-electricity', derived from the Greek word 'pyr', meaning fire. The gemstone also becomes charged under pressure, the polarity subsequently changing when the pressure is taken off and when the charge changes, the tourmaline begins to oscillate. The Dutch, who were the first to bring the tourmaline to Europe, were familiar with this effect a long time before it was able to be provided with a scientific explanation. They used a heated tourmaline to draw up the ash from their meerscham pipes. They nicknamed tourmaline "aschentrekker" or "ash puller"

Tourmaline is of high clarity, has very few inclusions and is quite durable (rating of 7-7.5 on the Mohs hardness scale), all of which make tourmaline a very attractive buy. Large sizes are affordable as well. Tourmaline is indeed one of the most popular varieties of gemstones, and is frequently used in gemstone rings. All tourmaline is very-well suited for other types of gemstone jewelry too, including gemstone earrings, pins and brooches, as well as in necklaces and fashionable gemstone pendants



Tourmaline Colors, Names and Nicknames

In order to understand this variety of color, you will have to brush up your knowledge of gemology a little: tourmalines are mixed crystals of aluminum boron silicate with a complex and changing composition. The mineral group is a fairly complex one. Even slight changes in the composition cause completely different colors. Crystals of only a single color are fairly rare. The same crystal will often display various colors and various nuances of those colors. And the trademark of this gemstone is not only its great wealth of color, but also its marked dichroism. Depending on the angle from which you look at it, the color may be different or more or less intense. It is always at its most intense when viewed looking toward the main axis, a fact to which the cutter must pay great attention when lining up the cut. This gemstone has excellent wearing qualities and is easy to look after.

In the trade, the individual color variants have their own names. For example, a tourmaline that has an intense red color is known as Rubellite, but only if it continues to display the same fine ruby red in artificial light as it did in daylight. If the color changes when the light source does, the stone is called a pink or shocking pink tourmaline. Blue tourmalines are known as Indigolites. Yellowish-brown to dark brown tourmalines are dravites and black ones as schorl. The last mentioned, mostly used for engravings and in esotericism, is said to have special powers with which people can be protected from harmful radiation.

One particularly popular variety is the green Tourmaline, known as a Verdelite. However, if its fine emerald-like green is caused by tiny traces of chrome, it is referred to as a Chrome tourmaline. The absolute highlight among the tourmalines is the Paraiba tourmaline. This gemstone has an intense blue to blue-green which was not discovered until 1987 in a mine in the Brazilian state of Paraiba. Paraiba tourmalines are much sought after treasures today. Tourmalines from Malawi with a vivid yellow color are known as Canary tourmalines.

Tourmaline has even more names. Stones with two colors are known as bicolored tourmalines, and those with more than two as multicolored tourmalines. Slices showing a cross-section of the tourmaline crystal are also very popular. If the center of the slice is red and the area around it green, the stone is given the nickname 'water melon'. On the other hand, if the crystal is almost colorless and black at the ends only, it is called a Mohrenkopf (resembling a certain kind of cake popular in Germany).

Tourmalines are found almost all over the world. There are major deposits in Brazil, Sri Lanka and South and South-West Africa. Other finds have been made in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Tourmalines are also found in the USA, mainly in California and Maine. Although there are plenty of gemstone deposits which contain tourmalines, good qualities and fine colors are not often discovered among them. For this reason, the price spectrum of the tourmaline is almost as broad as that of its color.

Bench Tip:

File Force: Using a file to expand a ring



To make a ring larger, normally you just add a piece of metal or stretch the ring. But what if you need to go up half a size on a heavy gent's wedding band, and you don't want to add more metal? Or maybe you're sizing band with an outside pattern that you don't want to ruin, which either of the above options would do. If you have a ring stretcher, this would be the perfect time to use it. If not, and you need to coax the ring up the mandrel a little bit, there's another way: Use a file as a hammer!

That's right, as absurd as it may sound, you can effectively stretch a ring by hammering it with a file. Here is how:

Prepare an old, large, heavy flat file by grinding the teeth off of the edge; bring it up to about a 240-grit finish. Now place the ring on the mandrel and brace the mandrel firmly. Place the file/hammer on the large flat surface on the mandrel, with the finished edge against the ring. Now slide the file/hammer up to the small end of the mandrel and with a bit of force, quickly back down against the ring, forcing it up the mandrel. It is amazing how much force this can carry and how effectively you can move metal.

When finished, you need only to touch up and resurface the edge of your enlarged ring.

New Uses for Your Hammer and Vise

Like all tools, your hammer and vise have more potential than meets the eye. Let's say that you need a steel block on which to forge a small piece of metal. Not to worry: just grab a planishing hammer and mount it in a vise as shown above; you now have your flat anvil. When clamping steel tools, always use copper jaw liners on your vise. Also, be sure not to clamp down on the eye of the hammer, where the handle is mounted; it could snap the steel. Or let's say you need two convex forms to press a ring shank onto, in order to make it belled at both ends. Just take two round-ended ball peen hammers, place one in the vise, and use the other to apply top force. (You could also use a punch and hammer as the top force.) The key idea here is, as always, to find the new uses hidden in your old tools.



Source: <http://www.revereacademy.com/bench-tips/>

Magnolia State Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show November 11, 12, & 13 2016

Jackson County Fairground Civic Center,
Pascagoula, MS
Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Adult Admission: (\$3-1 day pass) (\$5-3day pass)
1 door prize ticket with each paid admission
Door Prizes awarded hourly (Must be present to win)
Children 12 and under, FREE with an Adult

Come See:

Exhibits, Demonstrations, Educational Resources

Available for Purchase:

Fossils, Gem Stones, Jewelry, Supplies & More

Raffle tickets (\$1 each) or (6 for \$5)
Take a Chance to Win Multiple prizes!



Grand prize:
Champaign
Oregon Sunstone
Round Modified
Portuguese Cut
with Citrine
accents set in
Sterling Silver
with chain.

Additional prizes will be posted on our website

**Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral
Society, Inc.**

www.mgcgms.org

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

OFFICERS 2016

President	Liz Platt (228) 818-5412
Vice President	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Secretary	Lisa Fitch (228) 467-4684
Parliamentarian	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
Editor/Webmaster	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Member at Large (1 year)	Bill White (228) 875-8716
Member at Large (2 year)	Buddy Shotts (601)947-7245

COMMITTEES

Membership	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Show Chairman	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Silent Auction	Liz Platt (228) 818-5412
Historien	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
Librarian	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Sunshine	Reba Shotts (601)947-7245
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 Ocean Springs Library 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 ****

October 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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