



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 42 Number 12 December 2016  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral  
Society Inc.



MCGCMS Established in 1974

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## Presidents Message

Members,

I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. It has been a pleasure to be President of your Gem and Mineral Club this year. You have been kind and supportive to me and generous with your time and energy. Because of your hard work at our show, it was a success. Many of you came early and stayed late or even spent the night at a nearby hotel to be ready to work the next morning. Your contributions to the effort are significant and greatly appreciated by all.

You have elected the 2016 board to serve again in 2017. We thank you for your support. We will do our very best to make the club fun and worthwhile. Help us think of better ways to encourage new members, support long time members while educating the community about the intriguing field of lapidary arts and sciences.

The 10 December meeting is really a potluck Christmas party where the only business is a quick installation of officers. Then we enjoy each other's company, eat holiday foods, and have fun. The club supplies a turkey so bring sides or dessert to add to the "banquet." If you want to participate in our version of "Sneaky Santa," just wrap a helpful or desirable tool, hand crafted creation, or lapidary related gift that you would be happy to receive. (\$15 value) We will also have a tree of hand crafted ornaments.

See you at the party so we can celebrate a successful and creative year!

Liz Platt  
MCGCMS President

## Club Christmas Party!



Dec 10, 2016 at the Ocean Springs Library. Set up will be at 11:00am. Pot Luck Lunch and the Party will start at 12:00pm. The club will provide a Turkey. Please bring any Christmas tree ornaments you made for our tree. These will be given as door prizes. We will be playing a game of dirty Santa. If you wish to participate please bring a wrapped gift valued at \$15.00.



## November Meeting Minutes 2016

Pascagoula Civic Center

Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society  
November 10, 2016

**Meeting Called to Order:** 6:37 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** 20

### **Meeting:**

President Liz Platt called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Dealers said that the food was good. Thank you all for the food. We are going to skip all the reports and deal with just show issues.

**Minutes to Accept:** President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our October 2016 minutes printed in the November Newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Dave Cook and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barbi Beatty. Motion Carried.

**Treasury Report:** Given by Barbi Beatty. We have outstanding bills due to the show so it would not be accurate right now.

### **Show Reports:**

**Welcome Table:** Given by Liz Platt  
It is mostly covered. Door Prizes will be located at the front door and called every half hour. The ticket will be attached to the brochure. Every cash box will have \$100.00 bank. Do not throw away the door stubs as we will be creating a data bank of our customers. Every ticket will have a brochure attached except the 3-day ticket only gets one brochure. Ticket colors are: Friday/blue, Saturday/yellow, Sunday/green and the 3-day ticket is grey.

**Raffle Table:** Report by Lisa Fitch  
So far we only have one volunteer. Please sell your tickets or return them. Some money has been collected.

**Show News:** Report by Bill LaRue  
We lost 2 dealers but we gained 2 as well with a total of 31 dealers. We need a sign that says, "No Entry" for the side door and to keep it locked so no one can get into the show without paying. Vendors can use the back door to take a break. Jim Kirchner said, "pick up all the wedges". Barbi will notify the vendors to use the back door. We need an entry sign on the front door. Bob Marousky said that an officer told him that hobos live under the pavilion and we need to be careful especially at night. The show starts at

The sluice guys will not be here because he didn't have anyone to run it. So maybe next year.

**Signs:** Barbi needs volunteers to put signs out to point people here.

**Membership Table:** Lynn Tate will handle the membership table. Natalie and Lisa will be there also at the same table so they can cover for each other.

### **Election of 2017 Board Officers:**

President – Liz Platt, Vice President – Bill LaRue, Secretary – Lisa Fitch, Treasurer – Barbi Beatty, and Members at Large – Buddy Shotts and Bill White. Accepted by acclamation by Bob Marousky and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lettie White. John Guglik wants the opinion of the parliamentarian, Dave Cook. Dave said it is fine.

### **Communication:**

Bob Marousky has a birthday card for John Wright for everyone to sign. It's his birthday today and he is going out with his daughter for dinner.

The Mary C is having a Christmas Bazaar December 17<sup>th</sup>. A 10 x10 space is \$45.00 for non-members and \$35.00 for members.

### **Unfinished Business: None**

### **New Business:**

**Christmas Party:** Our party at the Ocean Springs Library on December 10, 2016. Set up will start at 11am. We will eat at noon so everyone please bring a dish and arrive by 11am to help set up. The club will provide a turkey. Bring a \$15.00 gift to play "Dirty Santa".

**Board Meeting:** The board will meet at December 10, 2016 at 10am before our Christmas Party. This will be our fourth and final meeting of the year.

**Adjournment:** 7:08 p.m. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ginger Criss. Motion carried.





# Happy Birthday!



To: Karen Teague

## DECEMBER



December birthdays are; Zircon, and Turquoise. Each of these gemstones carries a unique blue tone making it a perfect birthstone for Minnesota's frigid December winters. Zircon can be found in a variety of colors, but blue is the overwhelming favorite.

### Geological information:

**Zircon** is a mineral belonging to the group of nesosilicates. Its chemical name is zirconium silicate and its corresponding chemical formula is  $ZrSiO_4$ . The crystal structure of zircon is tetragonal crystal system. The natural color of zircon varies between colorless, yellow-golden, red, brown, blue, and green. Colorless specimens that show gem quality are a popular substitute for diamond and are also known as "Matura diamond".

**Turquoise** is an opaque, blue-to-green mineral that is a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum, with the chemical formula  $CuAl_6(PO_4)_4(OH)_8 \cdot 4H_2O$ . It is rare and valuable in finer grades and has been prized as a gem and ornamental stone for thousands of years owing to its unique hue. In recent times, turquoise, like most other opaque gems, has been devalued by the introduction of treatments, imitations, and synthetics onto the market.

Source: geologyIN.com





## Poinsettia

plants are native to Central America, especially an area of southern Mexico known as 'Taxco del Alarcon' where they flower during the winter. The ancient Aztecs called them 'cuetlaxochitl'. The Aztecs had many uses for them including using the flowers (actually special types of leaves known as bracts rather than being flowers) to make a purple dye for clothes and cosmetics and the milky white sap was made into a medicine to treat fevers. (Today we call the sap latex!) The poinsettia was made widely known because of a man called Joel Roberts Poinsett (that's why we call them Poinsettia!). He was the first Ambassador from the USA to Mexico in 1825. Poinsett had some greenhouses on his plantations in South Carolina, and while visiting the Taco area in 1828, he became very interested in the plants. He immediately sent some of the plants back to South Carolina, where he began growing the plants and sending them to friends and botanical gardens.

One of the friends he sent plants to was John Barroom of Philadelphia, who gave the plant to his friend, Robert Buist, a plants-man from Pennsylvania. Robert Buist was probably the first person to have sold the poinsettias under their botanical, or latin name, name 'Euphorbia pulcherrima' (it means, 'the most beautiful Euphorbia'). It is thought that they became known as Poinsettia in the mid 1830's when people found out who had first brought them to America from Mexico.

There is an old Mexican legend about how Poinsettias and Christmas come together, it goes like this:

There was once a poor Mexican girl called Pepita who had no present to give the the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Services. As Pepita walked to the chapel, sadly, her cousin Pedro tried to cheer her up.

'Pepita', he said "I'm sure that even the smallest gift, given by someone who loves him will make Jesus Happy."

Pepita didn't know what she could give, so she picked a small handful of weeds from the roadside and made them into a small bouquet. She felt embarrassed because she could only give this small present to Jesus. As she walked through the chapel to the altar, she remembered what Pedro had said.

She began to feel better, knelt down and put the bouquet at the bottom of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into bright red flowers, and everyone who saw them were sure they had seen a miracle. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the 'Flores de Noche Buena', or 'Flowers of the Holy Night'.

The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity.

Source: whychristmas.com

## Cranberry Compote



### Ingredients

Makes 1 1/2 cups Servings

1 orange

2 cups (8 oz.) fresh (or frozen, thawed) cranberries

1 cup pure maple syrup

1/4 cup fresh orange juice

1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract

### Preparation

Finely grate zest from orange and set aside. Peel the orange. Working over a small bowl, cut between membranes to release segments into bowl.

Combine zest, cranberries, syrup, juice, and vanilla in a medium saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until cranberries have burst and sauce has thickened, 5-10 minutes. Chill until cold.

Gently stir orange segments into compote. Cover and chill.

## FSMS:

First Quarterly meeting to be hosted by the Pinellas Geological Society, in Largo, FL. The meetings will be held in conjunction with their Annual Show held January 13-15, 2017 at the Largo Cultural.

Registration and meeting information can be found at

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/brd-meeting-details.html>

## MGCGMS:

Congratulations to our club for receiving 5 awards in the 2016 editors contest.

**SFMS** 1st place reginal winner Mini Bulletins (Snoopy Gems)

**AFMS** 1st place national winner Mini Bulletins (Snoopy Gems)

**SFMS** 3rd place reginal winner Special Publications ( Magnolia State Gem Show Program)

**AFMS** 8th place national winner Special Publications (Magnolia State Gem Show Program)

**SFMS** 4th place reginal winner Web Site Contest



## Tanzanite

Found in just one place on earth, tanzanite is a relatively recent discovery. This blue variety of zoisite was named for Tanzania, the country where it was found, by Tiffany & Co. Because crystals show different colors depending on viewing direction, cutters can choose bluish purple or the more favored pure blue or violetish blue hue depending on how much weight they want to retain from the rough. It is mined commercially only in one area of the world: the Merelani Hills of Tanzania. Tanzanite's appearance is influenced greatly by its pleochroism, which is the ability of a gemstone to show different colors when viewed in different crystal directions. Tanzanite can be violetish blue—similar to a sapphire color—or much more purplish. Often, both the violetish blue and purplish colors are readily visible in a fashioned stone when it is gently rocked and tilted.



### Tanzanite History and Lore

Tanzanite is relatively new to the colored stone galaxy. Although it's a newcomer to the gemstone industry, tanzanite has quickly become one of the most popular colored gemstones. As the most common story of the tanzanite mining boom goes, in 1967 a Masai tribesman stumbled upon a cluster of highly transparent, intense blue crystals weathering out of the earth in Merelani, an area of northern Tanzania. He alerted a local fortune hunter named Manuel d'Souza, who quickly registered four mining claims. D'Souza hoped that he'd been shown a new sapphire deposit. Instead, the deposit contained one of the newest of the world's gems. Within a short time, 90 more claims appeared in the same 20-square-mile area. No one was quite sure what the beautiful crystals were, but everyone wanted to lay claim to the profits they were certain to produce. The new gem would eventually be known as tanzanite, and it would, at times, rival the Big 3 in popularity.



Tiffany & Company recognized its potential as an international seller and made a deal to become its main distributor. Tiffany named the gem after the country it came from, and promoted it with a big publicity campaign in 1968. Almost overnight, tanzanite was popular with leading jewelry designers and other gem professionals, as well as with customers who had an eye for beautiful and unusual gems.

The instant popularity of this transparent blue to violet to purple gem was tied to its vivid color, high clarity, and potential for large cut stones.

Few people outside the gem industry realize the true nature of a gemstone's journey from the mine to the counter of a store. Whether the gem is being offered to consumer's at a traditional jewelry store's counter, an internet shopping site, or a television broadcast the journey always involves a great deal of effort. Tons of earth and countless hours of labor are needed to being a gem from mine to market.

### Birthstones & Anniversaries

Tanzanite is a birthstone for December, along with zircon, turquoise, and blue topaz. Tanzanite is also the gem for a 24th anniversary.

### Facts

Tanzanite has only one source: the hills of Merelani in northern Tanzania. Discovered in 1967

Masai tribesman Ali Juuyawatu is credited with finding the first tanzanite crystal.

Pleochroic

Tilt tanzanite and you'll see three distinct colors in three crystal directions.

Mineral: Zoisite

Chemistry:  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3$

$(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$

Color: Blue to violet  
to bluish purple

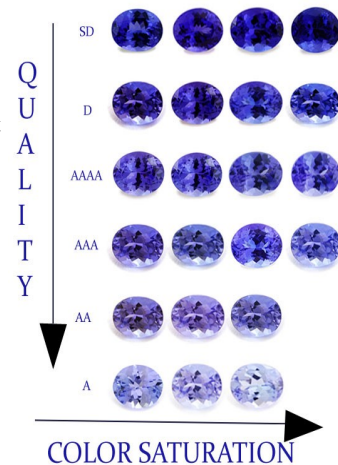
Refractive Index:  
1.691 to 1.700

Birefringence: 0.008  
to 0.013

Specific Gravity: 3.35

Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7

Source: [gia.edu](http://gia.edu)



## Snoopy Gems

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The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.  
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 10 2016 Christmas Party 11:00-4:00pm**  
**Ocean Springs Library**

**\*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 \*\***

# December 2016

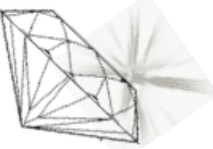

**Su M Tu W Th Fri Sa**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
				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



# We always welcome new members! Tell a friend!

Date: **Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society**

<a href="http://www.mgcgms.org">http://www.mgcgms.org</a>		Application for Membership	
Individual: \$16.00		Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	
		Junior Under 18: \$6.00	
Name: _____		Home Phone: _____	
Address: _____		Cell 1. _____	
City: _____		Cell 2. _____	
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
<b>Members in the Same Household</b>			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
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: _____			
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I authorize MGCMS 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  
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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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