



Snoopy Gems

Volume 43 Number 3 March 2017

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCMS Established in 1974

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

We are back at the Ocean Springs Library for the afternoon this month. Please come on time so we can set up and have some good working time. Meeting will be first, and then Dave will teach us how to make a (unisex) wire wrapped hug ring and if time allows, a wire cage for a stone. Bring a light snack if you wish.

I'm looking for volunteers to work on **publicity**; manage the **library**; and develop **programs** (1-2 per year). As a part of publicity, I have e-mails addresses from the 2016 show to contact people about our next show. Let me know if you can help out in any of these areas.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners this year: Ed and Aurora King!

See you at the meeting/workshop. A picnic is planned for April 8.

Liz Platt
MGCMS President



Our Deepest Sympathy

We would like to express our sincere condolences to club member Tom Simmons and his Family on the loss of Tom's Mother. You will be in our prayers.

Workshop:

At this workshop we will be making wire wrapped hug ring. Please come prepared with the following tools: ruler, marker, tape, wire cutter, and flat nose pliers. I will supply a ring mandrel. Wire needed is 30" of 21 gauge dead soft square wire and 12" of 18 or 20 gauge half hard half round wire. We will make the ring first with copper wire and then make a second one with silver or gold wire. I will have kits of copper wire available for \$0.50 and silver wire for \$5.00. Bring your own wire if you have it. This ring looks nice in gold, silver, or a mixture of gold and silver wire. You will have to supply your own gold filled wire. At the February meeting, Bill LaRue gave each person an amethyst stone. Bring those with you to the meeting and if time permits, we will demonstrate how to cage your stone.

Please remember that we will be meeting in the Ocean Springs Library starting at 1:00 p.m. March 11, so please be on time. Call me if you have any questions.

David W. Cook
cell 228-341-9944
dwcook@cableone.net



February Meeting Minutes:

Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society
February 11, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: 1:22 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 16

Meeting:

President Liz Platt called the meeting to order thanking everyone for making an effort to attend.

She welcome our guest, Miku Daynes (Mark's daughter). Due to the fact that several of our members have another meeting to attend our audit will be postponed until next month.

Our Snoopy is wonderful and from now on I will not be printing the minutes to handout at the meetings.

SFMS workshops is what our scholarships are all about and we will be drawing for the scholarships this month.

SFMS Raffle: Buddy Shotts announced that the Stamp Program is no more. We will sell tickets for prizes. The clubs that sell the most tickets will be pro-rated for the drawing. The scholarship will be given to the club who wins. Individual prizes will also be awarded to individuals who purchased tickets. You can also donate prizes for the drawing. John Guglik already donated and Mr. & Mrs. Dave Wayment is in charge of the gifts. Gifts should have a \$50.00 value. This was explained in detail in last months' Snoopy Gems by our Editor, Barbi Beatty on page 7.

AFMS Raffle: Reba Shotts has tickets to sell and they are \$5.00 each and \$20.00 for 5 tickets.

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our January 2017 minutes printed in the February 2017 newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Dave Cook and 2nd by Bob Marousky. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: No report given. Barbi is on her way just running late. There is a parade downtown.

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by Dave Cook.

Next month we will meet at the Ocean Springs Library 12:30pm with meeting and workshop from 1pm to 5pm. Workshop for March to be announced. We have 3 workshops this month. Barbara S. (3 students) will teach the Fancy

Beaded Earrings, Vicki R. (1 student) to teach the Wired Earrings with a bead, and I (1 student) will teach the Earring Stud Enhancers.

Equipment Committee: Report given by John Guglik.

A waiver of Liability form should be signed by now and a pair of safety glasses is needed for classes. Cabbng and Saw Machine is heavy equipment. Jim Kirchner repaired the other Cabbng machine and will have it at the next meeting. I have the test equipment with me if you have any jewelry you want tested.

Sunshine Committee: Report by President Reba Shotts

Wanda Stigler is healing and I sent out a few cards. Bob M. said that John Wright is healing but won't be attending meeting.

Scholarships: Report by President Liz Platt and Lisa Fitch

Lisa Fitch conducted the drawing for scholarships 1st place: Ed King, 2nd Place: Aurora King. Alternatives are: 1) Reba Shotts, 2) Buddy Shotts, 3) Dave Cook, and 4) Lisa Fitch.

Reba Shotts recommended that we publish our guidelines in the Snoopy Gems. Working at the show can count as one of the meeting/workshops. President Liz Platt announced that when attending our meetings/workshops to please "sign-in" as this is the record that our Secretary, Lisa Fitch uses as proof you were here.

Show and Tell: Report by Bill LaRue, Jane Cook, Kathy Marousky and Reba Shotts
Jane and Kathy had some antique Amethyst jewelry they passed around for everyone to see. Bill LaRue gave everyone a piece of Uruguay Amethyst. Reba Shotts brought magazines from Tucson Arizona.

Door Prizes: They were won by several members but Bill LaRue had an Amethyst Cluster as the #1 door prize and President Liz Platt's won this beautiful piece.

Adjournment: 2:00 p.m. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds and 2nd by Bob Marousky. Motion carried.

Secretary's Note: MGCGMS is bound by our By-laws dated March 11, 2012 Article V, Number 6-2 Acceptance of Minutes. Minutes are subject to corrections (additions or retractions) and are not accepted until majority vote of the members at the next meeting. Your participation in any way as a member(s) is sincerely appreciated.

Happy Birthday!



Ginger Criss Rosalind Daniels Aurora King Bradley Troutman

Aquamarine



Aquamarine is the greenish-blue to blue variety of Beryl. It forms in beautiful crystals that can be quite large and totally transparent. Unlike Emerald which is usually flawed or heavily included, 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 in which they can attain a beautiful sky-blue color. In fact, much of the Aquamarines used as gemstones are actually 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 of 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 a majority 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 actually responsible for the majority of the gemstones collected from the area.

The site responsible for producing the largest amount of aquamarine is located 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, garimpos, 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 color, 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.

How Aquamarine Gemstones Are Formed:

The process of forming aquamarine 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 beryl takes on a turquoise or blue color, and is then known as Aquamarine. 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. 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.



Photo courtesy of Barbi Beatty

Gemstone quality aquamarine crystal:

Most of the geological processes 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. You might be surprised to learn that the largest, nearly flawless aquamarine gemstone ever found weighed in at over 500,000 carats. That's a lot of money!

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.



Aquamarine Crystal Owned by John Wright
Picture courtesy of Barbi Beatty

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 further impact 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 result in stones that are not as desirable as flawless gems found in naturally occurring deposits.

Sources:
naturalhistory.si.edu
aquamarinenecklacereviews.com
m.minerals.net

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies (SFMS) Meeting Information:



May 13, 2017

Hosted By Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin NC

The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, N.C. Invites all Officers and Members of the Southeastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. to join them for their May Rock Show.

We have reserved rooms at the Gateway Inn located in Dillard, Georgia. Address is 64 White Oak Lane, Dillard, Ga. 30537. Rooms have double beds, with a complimentary hot breakfast included. Rooms are \$80.10, plus tax. A total of 20 rooms have been blocked off. Price good till May 2nd, 2017.

Phone number is: 1-706-746-3585. Contact name: Shandale. Mention the SFMS block to secure the special rate. Dillard, Ga. Is about 20 min. South of Franklin, NC – US 441

CALL NOW, rooms are being filled quickly due to upcoming Rock Shows.

SFMS Events:

May 12, 2017 - Friday night 7:00 p.m.- “Cracker Barrel” at – Sunset Restaurant - 498 Harrison Ave. Franklin, N.C. 28734, 1-828-524-4842 , Miss Chantelle This is just Northwest of town center about 3/4 mile on road towards Cowee Valley. You leave Main St. Go North on Harrison Ave., you will make a turn to the left, go a few blocks and as the road turns back right, the Sunset is on your Left.

May 13, 2017 - Saturday 8 AM, Registration, 9AM Executive Meeting at Macon County Public Library, 149 Siler Rd., Franklin, N.C. 28734. 1-828-524-3600 Siler Rd. is just south of Town off 441, below Hwy. 64, at Walgreens.

Gem& Mineral Society of Franklin NC Events:

The Franklin Gem and Mineral Show will be May 12-14, Fri. 10-5, Sat. 10-5, and Sun. 10-4. Location will be announced at later date. Their Show building in under renovations.

Scholarship Committee

At the 2016 Annual Meeting, the SFMS replaced the stamp collecting program with a drawing to raise funds to provide full Scholarships to the SFMS Workshops. We are asking all member clubs and societies to participate in two ways. The first way to participate is to donate an item to be a drawing prize. Each member club will receive acknowledgement if it donates a prize, or if a member of the club donates a prize. All prizes should be mailed to Dave Wayment, PO Box 780791, Sebastian, FL 23978.

Each prize should be identified, include the value of the item (we request that prizes have at least a \$25 value), identify who made the item if it is hand descriptions of all prizes will be posted made, and who donated the item. Photographs and on the SFMS website and published in the Loadstar.

The second way to participate is to sell the drawing tickets. Each member club is being sent 100 tickets for the drawing. The tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. We ask that each member club’s treasurer, or another member chosen by the club, be in charge of selling the tickets, collecting the funds, and returning the ticket stubs, monies and unsold tickets to Dave Wayment at PO Box 780791, Sebastian, FL 23978.

The drawing for the prizes will be held at the Annual Meeting. We will need the ticket stubs, etc, returned no later than 3 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. For 2017, October 1st is the date we are looking to have the items returned by.

Please remember, the scholarships to SFMS workshops are NOT prizes in the drawing. The donations are. All member clubs that participate will be entered into a drawing for the scholarships as outlined in the By-Laws: FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING, EACH MEMBER CLUB WILL HAVE 1 CHANCE IN THE DRAWING FOR EACH PRIZE ITEM DONATED FROM THE CLUB. FOR THE DRAWING TICKETS SOLD, EACH MEMBER CLUB WILL RECEIVE CHANCES IN THE DRAWING BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF TICKETS SOLD DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS, AS REPORTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY THAT YEAR. IF THIS PERCENTAGE IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.25 THEY WILL RECEIVE 1 CHANCE IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 0.25 BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.5 THEY WILL RECEIVE 2 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 0.5 BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 0.75 THEY WILL RECEIVE 3 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 0.75 BUT LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 1.0 THEY WILL RECEIVE 4 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING. FOR PERCENTAGES GREATER THAN 1.0 THEY WILL RECEIVE 5 CHANCES IN THE DRAWING.

If you have any questions, please contact Dave Wayment, SFMS Workshop Scholarship Committee Chair, at 772-532-6432

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/>

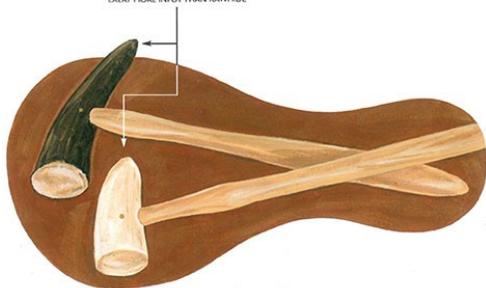
Bench Tips:



There's the Rub: Applying an Ultra High Polish to Tools

Every tool that rubs against metal leaves a mark corresponding to the tool's finish. That means some tools, such as gravers, need to be maintained with an ultra high polish. When sharpening a graver, you generally polish the belly, since it is the underside that leaves the finish on the metal. To do this, hold the graver flat and rub the belly firmly against a series of progressively finer grades of abrasive paper; the paper should rest on a very flat surface, such as a piece of glass. If the tool is new and needs a lot of work, begin with 220 grit, then proceed to 400 and 600 grit. Next, lap the surface on 4/0 polishing paper, which is extremely fine and leaves a polished surface. However, if you want to achieve the absolute highest luster, here's a trick. After the final polish, take a regular graphite pencil and charge up a section of the same 4/0 paper, until the area is covered with graphite (a lubricant). Now re-polish on this section, applying strong pressure. You can then take out your work, use the graver and note the smile you see in the brilliant reflection!

MALLETS CUT FROM A COW HORN OR AN ANTLER
EXERT MORE INPUT THAN RAWHIDE



Horn of Plenty: How to Carve Your Own Mallet

Goldsmiths often use mallets to form and smooth metal, in a process called "bouguing" (rhymes with "rouge-ing"). These days, bench jewelers can choose mallets of many different materials, such as rawhide, rubber, and plastic. But long ago, the best mallets were made of horn. Horn mallets seem to exert more impact and leave fewer surface blemishes than rawhide. And because horn has an interior grain, the working surface holds up for a long time, after which it can be reshaped for even further use. Unfortunately, horn mallets are not commonly found in jewelry tool catalogs, at least not in the U.S. Fortunately, they are fairly simple to make. The first thing you need is a cow horn or an antler. (Try finding them in a Western supply store.) Using a probe, determine where the hollow interior ends, then use a saw to cut the horn off in the solid area just beyond it. Drill a 3 mm hole from the inside to the outside of the curved horn, midway between the ends. Repeat the drilling with 6 mm bits. Now take a standard hammer handle and carve and re-shape it to fit the hole tightly.

Source: Allen's Bench Tips

MGCGMS Spring Picnic

Seashore Methodist Assembly Pavilion

Physical Address: 1410 Leggett Drive, Biloxi, Ms. (for GPS)

****We will have signs on Hwy. 90 and maybe some balloons.****

Traveling from Mobile: Travel I-10 West crossing into Ms. Merge onto MS-15 S via Exit 46A on the left toward Biloxi/Keesler AFB.

MS-15 becomes I-110 S.

Merge onto Beach Blvd/US-90 West via Exit 1B on the left toward Keesler AFB.

Travel West on US-90 for about 1.5 Miles (about 3 minutes).

Once you pass the White House Hotel on the corner of Hwy. 90 & White Ave. (red light intersection) you are 1/2 mile from Chalmers Drive.

Turn right on Chalmers Drive.

Traveling west from Ocean Springs: Once you pass the White House Hotel on the corner of Hwy. 90 & White Ave. (red light intersection) you are 1/2 mile from Chalmers Drive.

Turn Right on Chalmers Drive.

If you reach Veterans Ave. where "Pink Souvenir Shop" is and "Slap Ya Mamma Bar-B-Que Shop" you have gone too far.

Traveling East on Hwy. 90: Its exactly 3 miles east of the Ms. Gulf Coast Coliseum. Once you pass the large "Pink Souvenir Shop" on right (beach side) at Veterans Ave. you are 1 mile from Chalmers Drive. If you get to the next red light where the White House Hotel is located you have gone too far.

(Do not turn in where the cement entrance says "Seashore Oaks". It's the next street over.)

Turn left on Chalmers Drive.

Once you turn on Chalmers Drive:

Travel maybe 140 feet and you will see a two story green building (Police Academy).

Turn left in front of the green building (Police Academy) this is Leggett Drive.

On your right side: Go pass the "Casey Center" and "Office". The pavilion is just pass the office.

You can see the pavilion from the beach. We will have a beautiful view and a nice cool breeze.

This facility in right on Hwy. 90 but you will travel about 300 feet total to get to the pavilion once you turn off Hwy. 90.

If you get lost, call us at 228-216-4684 (Lisa), or 228-238-9900 (Barbi).

WELCOME

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Annual Picnic

You are cordially invited to COME JOIN OUR PICNIC

Saturday April 8, 2017 11 AM to 4 PM

Lunch served at Noon



Seashore Methodist Assembly

1410 Leggett Drive Biloxi, Ms. ***Under The Pavilion***

Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks provided

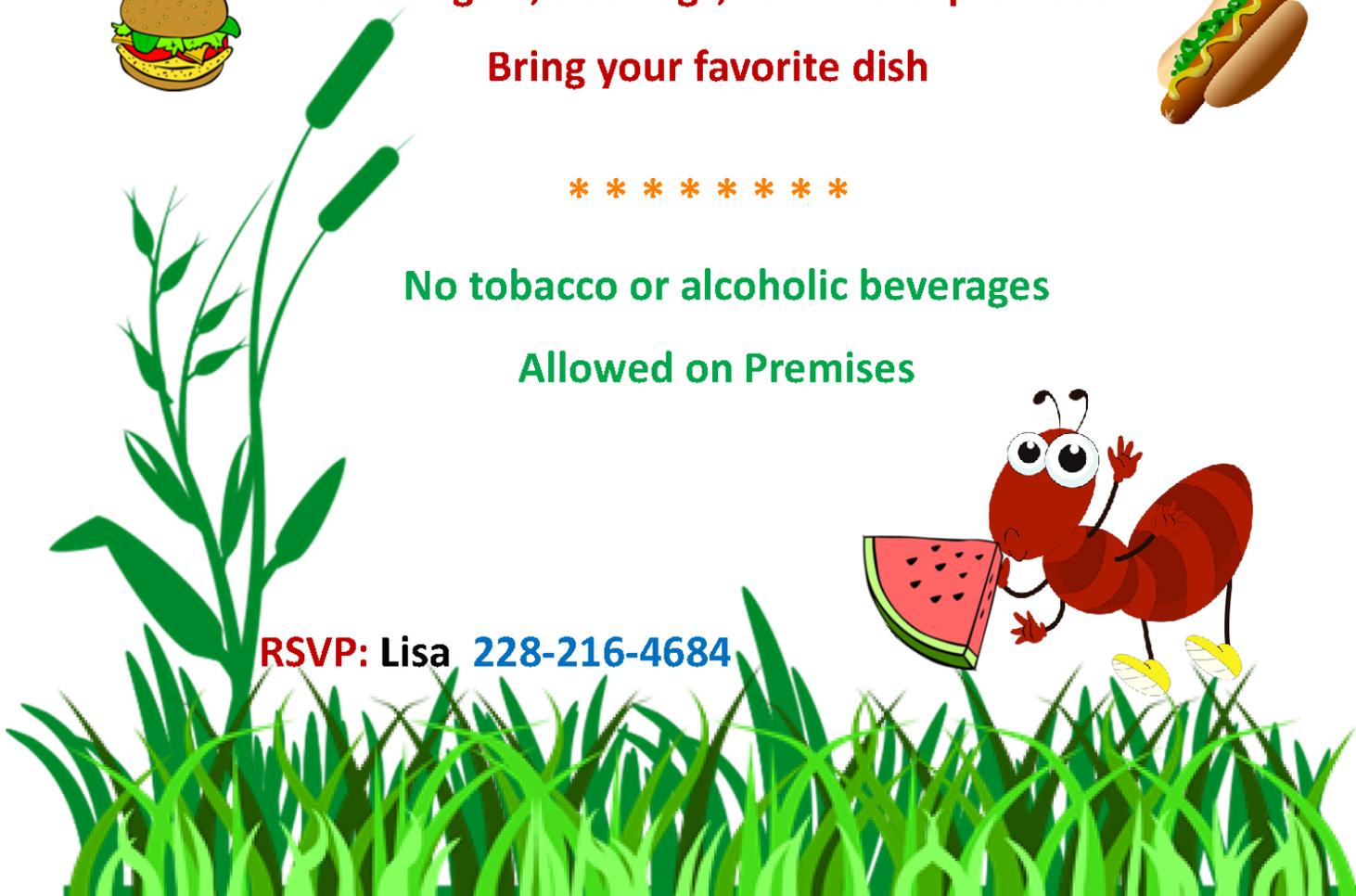


Bring your favorite dish

No tobacco or alcoholic beverages

Allowed on Premises

RSVP: Lisa 228-216-4684



Snoopy Gems

Official Publication of

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Member of

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 2017

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Member at Large	Buddy Shotts (601)947-7245

COMMITTEES

Membership	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
Show Chairman	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Historian	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
Librarian	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
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ALAA John Wright	Director (228) 875-9192
SFMS John Wright	Past President (228) 875-9192
SFMS Barbi Beatty	Assistant Treasurer (228) 238-9900
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

2017 Workshop/Meeting Dates

January 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

February 11 OS Library 1:00-4:45

March 11 OS Library 1:00-4:45

April 8 MGCGMS Spring Picnic 11:00-4:00

Seashore Methodist Assembly Pavilion

May 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45

June 10 OS Library 9:30-4:45

July 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45

August 12 OS Library 9:30-4:45

September 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45

October 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

November 9 After Vendor Dinner 7ish

December 9 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 **

March 2017

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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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