



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 43 Number 8 August 2017

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGGCMS Established in 1974

## Presidents Message

Dear Members,

As you know, our club is all about the science, the crafts, and the educational aspects of the lapidary field. Knowledge of the chemical composition of rocks and minerals and their geological formations only heightens the fascination that most of us have with "rocks." We hope information in Snoopy Gems enlightens and entertains you. Be sure to attend the August workshop with Natalie and learn her chain maille techniques. A local artist will also provide an overview of copper etching.

Remember to bring your hand crafted donation for the Annual Show Raffle as soon as it is finished so we can take photos and place those photos on the website. It should have a minimum retail value of \$25 or more.

Unfortunately, our vice president and show chair, Bill LaRue fell and broke his hip the last week in July. He has had surgery and is recovering at a local facility. We wish him prayers for good healing and strength. Although I'm sure he'll be back as "good as new," we may all have to pitch in a little more than usual to help with the show in November.

Call me with ideas, questions, or comments. Hope your summer is fantastic!

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## August Workshop:

Byzantine Earrings Taught by Natalie Webb

The workshop will start with instruction/demonstration on how to produce your own jump rings. Two methods will be taught, manual sawing with a jewelers saw and the use of the PEPE jump ring maker. Unfortunately we cannot certify everyone on the PEPE in this one workshop, but Barbi Beatty and Jim Kirchner will be giving instructions on this equipment.

Kits in both sterling silver and copper will be available for purchase at the workshop. If you have any questions contact Natalie Webb at- natalie\_qu@hotmail.com or 228 355 4100.

### Basic Materials:

A total of 60- 5mm jump rings are required to complete this project. If you would like to make all 60 jump rings for this project, you will require approx. 60 inches of 18 GA round wire.

**Optional** 4 x 16 GA round wire fancy wire 6mm jump rings (if using, you will only need 56-5mm jump rings)

Beads for the bottom, your choice of: 2 x 15 mm donut style bead, 2 x 16 GA round wire 10 mm jump rings, or 2 x regular bead your choice

Enough wire to make a bail to hang each of your beads.  
2 x earwire fishhook

### Required Tools :

2 x chain nose or needle nose pliers

Jewelers saw (Natalie will have a few available for use)

Bees wax or any wax based saw blade lubricant

One of the following: Block of wood, brick, yoga block, kiln brick, portable bench pin or any other flat, stable object which is approx. 2in x 6in in size

Painters tape

Sharpie marker or felt tip pen

### Optional Tools:

One of the following: toothpick, awl or small gage crochet hook

Jump ring tool

Round nose pliers

Wire cutters

Flat nose pliers



# July Meeting Minutes:

July 8, 2017

**Meeting Called to Order:** 1:03 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** 21

**Meeting:** President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. She welcomed Jeanene & Artimus, Tom, Lynn and her daughter, Laura. Mark made a stand for our raffle drum used for drawing door prizes. Thank you, Mark! She also thanked Lisa for the recording the minutes and Barbi for doing the treasury.

**Minutes to Accept:** A motion was made to accept the June minutes printed in the July 2017 Snoopy Gems by Vicki Reynolds and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl Rodriguez. Motion Carried.

**Treasury Report:** Given by Barbi Beatty.

A motion to accept by Barbara Savvedra and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aurora King. Motion Carried.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Workshop Committee:** Report given by President Liz Platt.

We had 7 members take Barbara Savvedra's workshop to make bracelets. All were beautiful. Additional workshops were talked about for the upcoming months. John Guglik mentioned Introduction of Gem ID and that Dave Cook, Buddy Shotts and himself could teach this class. Dave will arrange this workshop or perhaps along with another workshop. Also, we can have a choice of three workshops for next month. Natalie, Bill LaRue or learning the Pepe. A vote was taken on next months' workshop. Learning to use the Pepe will be at a later time.

**August Program:** Sheila Smith at 1:00 pm on Etched Copper Bracelets. Natalie will arrange.

**August:** Natalie Webb - Chainmaille Byzantine Earrings. We will learn how to use a jeweler's saw. Natalie will email everyone with the material list. Kits of copper and sterling silver will be available. You will need round wire, .08 saw blade and beeswax.

**September:** Bill LaRue - Cabochon Prong Setting.

**October:** Work on show stuff & make Christmas ornaments

**November:** Show

**Faceting Committee:** Report given by Buddy. Shotts Buddy said, "no faceting class his month due to Ms. Lettie is still recovering. But we will be back faceting soon on Wednesday nights".

**Equipment Committee:** Report given by Jim. Kirchner. The Genie is locking up and we need to replace the pump. The cost for a new pump should be under \$100.00. Next workshop, I will make sure the Freedom is working.

**Show Committee:** Report given by Bill. LaRue. We have ten contracts now. Advertising needs to go out. Rock & Gem needs to be called and we should also advertise in Jackson Mississippi. WLOX has us setup for the 4 o'clock show. We have members in Jackson who can take care of the advertising for us. Barbi will have "Sign-up Sheets" for the show at our next meeting.

**Library Committee:** Report given by Liz Platt. We need a brochure with an inventory list of the entire library. Jeanene volunteered to take it home and transfer some to CD's and DVD's except books because of copyright. Barbi has a list of the Library minus what hasn't been returned. Some items checked out by people are no longer members. Lisa recommended that we make copies of CD's & DVD's and only loan out the copies so that the originals stay in the Library.

**Publicity:** Report by Natalie Webb. We didn't have anything for the papers. Janelle with WLOX was here so we will get some publicity.

**Sunshine Committee:** Report by Reba. Shotts. Everybody is well. John Wright will be having eye surgery but otherwise is doing well.

## **Communication:**

**AKS Show:** Report by Lisa Fitch

It will be Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Pontchartrain Center next weekend. There is \$1.00 off coupon online. The New Orleans Gem & Mineral Society sets up a booth to acquire new members.

**Raffle:** Report by President Liz Platt

We need items donated for the raffle for our show. I (Liz) will donate a piece of pottery, Mark will donate a sculpture or something, Buddy usually donates a gemstone, Vicki R. paints on rocks and Barbi picked up a large quartz crystal at the Gulfport show for the Raffle. Buddy has a large Geo (from Tucson, Ark.) with the side broken out that weighs about 25 pounds. Lisa reminded everyone it needs to have a minimum value of \$25.00 and that all items need to be in by the September meeting. Please include a business card with the value of your piece. Raffle tickets will be handed out at the October meeting. Bill LaRue will get her the raffle display case for the raffle items by next meeting. Vicki Reynolds will get the fabric for the display cases.

**Membership List:** Lisa requested an updated membership list of our members. Vicki Reynolds thought it was a good idea too. President Liz Platt asked if everyone wanted a copy? Everyone voted for an updated membership list to be distributed to all members. Natalie Webb doesn't want it published on the internet. It isn't published on the internet or our website.

## **Announcements / Events:**

**Old Business:** Report by President Liz Platt

**Welcome Center:** No one made it over to clean out the case. It does need to be cleaned out and reorganized. John Guglik has pictures of the case. John Guglik inquired about the other Welcome Center. Lisa F. and John G. talked about a joint case. Lisa will get information and present it to the Harrison County Gem and Mineral Society.

**Ocean Springs Library:** Report by President Liz Platt. The Library want us to do a fair with them. April would be a good time because the weather would be nice.

**New Business:** Report by Jim Kirchner

Mark donated a Rock Tumbler to the club. Steel shot is needed. Jeanene has a magnifier (200x300) if we need to use it. She will bring it to the meetings when needed. President Liz Platt asked if we would like to subscribe to the Rock & Gem Magazine. We will try it for one year. Each issue will be part of our Library inventory for any member to check out.

**Show and Tell:** Report by Bill LaRue

Bill LaRue gave everyone a Druzy Quartz. Bill LaRue had Rubies on display for viewing. President Liz Platt has a necklace from Thailand.

**Door Prizes:** Handled by Cathy Marousky

Prizes won by 1) Jeanene, 2) Barbara Savvedra, 3) Cathy Marousky, 4) Natalie Webb, 5) Barbi Beatty 6) Rosalind Norval-Daniels, 7) Reba Shotts, and 8) Buddy Shotts.

**Adjournment:** 1:41 p.m. Motion made by Aurora King and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Kirchner. Motion carried.

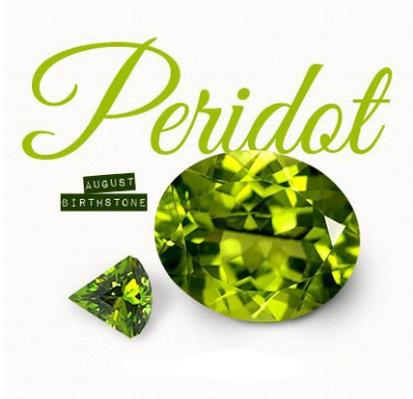
# Happy Birthday!



Bradley Cannon   Mark Daynes   Gloria Lancaster   Bob Marousky   Natalie Webb

## Peridot

August's Birthstone  
by  
John M. Wright,  
RPG



Peridot (pronounced pair-a-doe) is an ancient gemstone that has been around for more than 4,000 years. According to legend peridot was a favorite gemstone of Cleopatra. It is mentioned in the Bible under the Hebrew name of piddah and called topazius (topaz) by the Romans. It is believed that the name "peridot" came from the Arabic word "faridat" which means gem and was contaminated by the French word "peridot" which means unclear. Peridot is supposed to bring the wearer success, peace, and good luck. It is also the stone of rejuvenation and restoration of mental and physical well-being.

Peridot belongs to the forsterite-fayalite mineral series, a part of the olivine group. Because it is "idiochromatic" (means the color comes from the basic chemical composition of the mineral itself and not from minor impurities), peridot will only be found in shades of green.

Olivine ranges in color from a light yellow with tinges of green to a darker green with tinges of brown.. The darker green color is often referred to as lime or 7-Up (based on the color of the glass bottle containing the popular soft drink).

The darker shades ranging from olive green to lime or 7-Up which occur in gem stone quality are known as "peridot" and those that trend more toward yellow are known as "chrysolite".

## Physical properties

Family: Olivine

Chemical Composition:  $(\text{MgFe})_2\text{SiO}_4$   
Silicate of magnesium and iron

Crystal System: Orthorhombic  
 $2/m2/m2/m$

Birefringence: Strong, (0.035 – 0.038)

Refractive Indices:  $n_a$  1.645,  $n_y$  1.69

Density: Gem stone: 3.32 – 3.35 g/cm<sup>3</sup>  
Mineral: 3.25 – 4.35 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

(Note: Olivine varies a deal in density according to composition of the specimen. Gem quality stones seem to fall within a narrower zone.)

Hardness: 6.5 – 7

Cleavage: Indistinct prismatic cleavage;  
often conchoidal fractures.

Pleochroism: Weak

Luster: Vitreous to oily

Streak: colorless

The shades of olive green are highly characteristic and particular to peridot. In most cases coloring is probably its most apparent and distinguishing feature. Light rays passing through peridot are kind of split and bent, resulting in a rich glowing velvety appearance and a slightly greasy luster which further adds to its distinction.

Unfortunately, peridot is often confused with other green gemstones. Many "Emeralds" that were part of historical treasures were found to be peridots. Even today, many jewelers still refer to peridots as "evening emeralds". Emeralds are a darker green and quite different from the yellow green peridot. "Green beryls" commonly accepted as emeralds are often very

Continued from page 3:

similar in color, but do not have the glowing velvety appearance or greasy luster of peridot and their physical properties differ. Other green gem stone that may be confused with peridot are “Apatite” which is much softer; “Garnets” and “Moldavites” do not have double refraction; “Sinhelite” and “Tourmalines” both are strongly pleochoric; “Zircon” is significantly heavier; and “Chrysoberyls” which has very different reflective indices and is usually more lustrous.

The purer the green a peridot is the higher the value. The rich bright medium shades are the most prized. Darker shades tend to have more iron resulting in brown tinges and a reduction in the stone’s rich velvety glow. Any tinges of brown or visible flaws greatly diminishes the gem stone’s value. The best colored peridot has an iron content of less than 15% and includes nickel and chromium as trace elements.

My understanding is that the world’s leading producers of peridot are mines owned and operated by Native Americans on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. The gem stones found at these mines are not the largest or the best, but are of reasonably good quality and affordable. Peridot is also found in Hawaii, Brazil, Australia, and Mexico. The best quality peridot historically has come from Myanmar (Burma) and Egypt, but in recent years discoveries in Pakistan have produced excellent gem stones of top quality and some of them have been very large crystals weighing up to three hundred carats.

**Peridot** is found in lava, meteorites, and deep in the earth’s mantle. Olivine, of which peridot is a type, is a common mineral in mafic and ultramafic rocks, and it is often found in lavas and in peridotite xenoliths of the mantle, which lavas carry to the surface; but gem quality peridot occurs in only a fraction of these settings.

Olivine in general is a very abundant mineral, but gem quality peridot is rather rare. This is due to the mineral’s chemical instability on the Earth’s surface. Olivine is usually found as small grains, and tends to exist in a heavily weathered state, unsuitable for decorative use. Large crystals of forsterite, the variety most often used to cut peridot gems, are rare; as a result olivine is considered to be precious.

Peridot olivine is mined in Arkansas, Arizona on the San Carlos Reservation, Hawaii, Nevada, and New Mexico at Kilbourne Hole, in the US; and in Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar (Burma), Norway, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania.



## PERIDOT SOURCES



## Bench Tip:

### FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight. A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other. To use the tool suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.



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### DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

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See all Brad's jewelry books at  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

## Getting Ready for our Show

It is time to start preparing for our show in November. Lisa Fitch will be collecting donations for the Raffle. Please consider making a donation. A few members have said they will be donating. All donations should have a retail value of \$25 or more. Please bring your items in as soon as possible, no later than the September meeting. Every member will be asked to sell a set of tickets for the Raffle. Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The tickets will be handed out at the October meeting and collected at the beginning of the November Show.

We will have signup sheets at the next three meetings. Please signup for as many areas you are willing to help in. Some members work the whole show, so all help will be appreciated! Liz Platt will be scheduling workers for the Welcome table. Lisa Fitch will be handling the Raffle. Barbara Saavedra will be running the Kids Corner. Bill LaRue has asked a few members to work the Mining Sluice. (Due to Bill's injury, we may need a volunteer to schedule people working the Sluice) Reba Shotts and Barbi Beatty will be running the Kitchen/Concession and Vendors Dinner. There will also be sign up sheets for Demonstrations, Setting up and tearing down and daytime security at the Show. Don't forget to sign up to bring a covered dish for the Vendors Dinner. The Dinner will be Thursday at 5:00pm this year.

We will have show signs at each of the upcoming meetings. Please take and put out as many as you can to help advertise the Show! Don't forget where you put them, because you will have to pick them up and bring them back after the show. We will have postcards to hand out as well. We are looking forward to having a successful show!

Thanks in advance for all your help!

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### SFMS Raffle

Barbi Beatty will be selling Raffle tickets  
The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20

The Ticket sales and Donations give our club chances to win SFMS Scholarships to Wild Acers and William Holland Schools.

The raffle ticket gives you a chance to win a prize.

Please consider buying tickets or donating an item!

## Snoopy Gems

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

### OFFICERS 2017

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<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
<b>Secretary</b>	Lisa Fitch (228) 467-4684
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
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<b>Member at Large</b>	Bill White (228) 875-8716
<b>Member at Large</b>	Buddy Shotts (601)947-7245

### COMMITTEES

<b>Membership</b>	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
<b>Show Chairman</b>	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
<b>Historian</b>	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
<b>Librarian</b>	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
<b>Sunshine</b>	Reba Shotts (601) 947-7245
<b>ALAA</b> John Wright	Director (228) 875-9192
<b>SFMS</b> John Wright	Past President (228) 875-9192
<b>SFMS</b> Barbi Beatty	Assistant Treasurer (228) 238-9900
<b>SFMS</b> 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 TBA 930-4:45

\*April 8 Club Picnic TBA

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 \*\*

# August 2017

**Su M Tu W Th Fri Sa**

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# Snoopy Gems

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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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