

# Snoopy Gems

Volume 44 Number 8 August 2018  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: [mgcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgcgms@bellsouth.net)

## President's Message

Members,

August - the month for going to school; planning; finishing undone projects; getting rid of clutter; eating better; and getting a little more exercise. Those are my plans for August. John and I will attend workshops in North Carolina which is always rejuvenating for mind and body. I plan to bring back projects, techniques and ideas to share with the club.

Last month Barbi taught us how to knot pearls using silk thread. This month Bill LaRue will teach us to wrap a cabochon using wire and making decorative prongs to hold the stone in place. We are grateful for all those in our club who willingly share their skills and talents. If there is a lapidary or wire skill you want to learn, mention it to Dave Cook or me. We will try to work it into the workshop schedule and find an instructor.

See you at the workshop!

Liz Platt  
MGCGMS President  
228-818-5412

## August Workshop:

Bill LaRue will be teaching wire wrapping a pendant with prongs. (Note you can wrap any shape stone)

Supply list:

Small pendant: 30" x 22" cabochon or smaller  
30" 24 Ga half hard Sq wire and 18" 24 Ga half  
hard 1/2 round wire

Large Pendant: approximately 40" x 30" cabo-  
chon

3' 22 Ga half hard Sq wire and 2' 22Ga half  
hard 1/2 round wire

Tools:

Flat nose, round nose, and needle nose pliers,  
wire cutters, thin masking tape, sharpie, ruler,  
and pin vise if you want to curl leftover wires  
on the bail.

As always, we will have the club machines  
available for gemstone cutting, cabling, and  
testing.

David W. Cook  
228-341-9944  
[dwcook@cableone.net](mailto:dwcook@cableone.net)



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



# Meeting Minutes:

## MS. GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

July 14, 2018

**Called to Order:** 1:04 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** 24

**Meeting:** President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. She welcomed all the new members back.

**Minutes to Accept:** A motion was made to accept the June minutes by Lisa Fitch & 2nd by Barbara Saavedra. Motion carried.

**Treasury Report:** Given by Barbi Beatty. Vendor checks will be deposited In July. The club has subscribed to Rock N Gem for 24 issues at the cost of \$50.00 total. A motion was made to accept by Lisa Fitch & 2nd by Bill LaRue. Motion carried.

**General Announcements:** President Liz Platt stated that the SFMS Annual meeting will be in Sept. in Jacksonville. Our Board members met on Friday, 8/12/18.

**Workshops:** Barbi Beatty taught how to knot pearls. August meeting Bill LaRue will teach prong settings. Wire supplies will be available for members to purchase.

**Tools & Equipment:** John Guglik mentioned the cabbing machine was in use by members. A recommendation to find out the cost for a drip system for cabbing machine was discussed & Bill LaRue will check on the cost.

**Faceting:** Buddy Shotts stated that we are putting this class on hold until maybe September for now due to his health issues. He will keep members up to date.

**Library:** President Liz Platt has a DVD she recommended for members to watch from our clubs library. Several members interested.

**Sunshine:** Reba Shotts sent out lots of cards in the past few months to members.

**Projects:**

**Mini Show:** Next library mini show will be on Saturday, April 19, 2019.

**Magnolia State Gem Show:** Bill LaRue stated he has 30 vendors so far for our show.

**Old Business:** Nothing to report.

**New Business:** Lisa Fitch called to book our annual picnic site. Either last Sat. in March available or later in April. A motion was made by Cheryl Rodriguez to accept the last Sat. in March & was 2nd by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried.

**Outside classes/workshop programs:** Barbi Beatty held an Adult workshop at the Library. A show & tell on the use of the saw, cabbing machines, cabbed stones & finished faceted pieces. A few new members signed up. Natalie Webb taught 2 craft sessions to teens. Recycled necklaces from cd's & alcohol ink canvas pencil cases.

**Show & Tell:** Bill LaRue showed a 850 carat ruby stone & several faceted ruby stones. Bill spoke on the background of rubies & Buddy Shotts spoke about the faceting end of rubies.

**Door Prizes:** Won by Bill LaRue, David Spires, Harvey Markham & Liz Platt.

**Adjournment:** 2:10 p.m. Motion made by Lisa Fitch & 2nd by Elmyra LaRue. All members in favor. Motion carried.

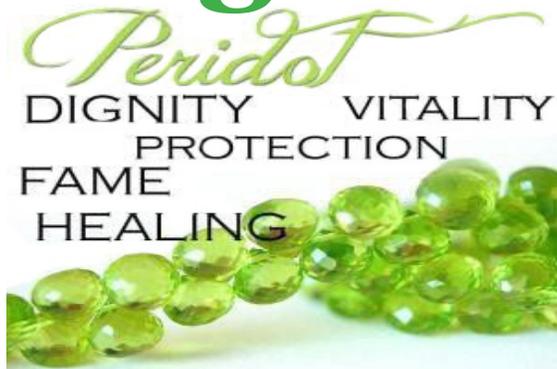
**Report by:** Cheryl Rodriguez MCGGMS Secretary.

**Disclaimer:** MCGGMS is bound by our Bylaws 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 August

# Birthday



**Mark Daynes Gloria Lancaster  
Natalie Webb**

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 “peritot” which means unclear. Peridot is suppose 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 know as “peridot” and those that trend more toward yellow are known as “chrysolite”.

### Physical properties

**Family:** Olivine

**Chemical Composition:**  $(MgFe)_2SiO_4$  Silicate of magnesium and iron

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

**Birefringence:** Strong, (0.035 – 0.038) **Refractive**

**Indices:** na 1.645, ny 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 great deal in density according to composition of the specimen. Gem quality stones seem to fall with in a narrower zone.)

**Hardness:** 6.5 – 7

**Cleavage:** Indistinct prismatic cleavage; often conchoidal fractures.

**Pleochroism:** Weak

**Luster:** Vitreous to oily

**3 Streak:** colorles

Continued from page 3:

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 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; “**Sinhalite**” 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.

## Bench Tips:

### MODIFYING PLIERS

Pliers-1



Sometimes a few changes to your tools can make work go faster and improve the quality at the same time. Stock tools need to be polished and can be customized using standard jewelry skills. Here’s an example:

While making a lot of chainmaille, I noticed I was ending up with a few scratched jump rings that required extra cleanup time before the chain could be polished. So I started looking into what I was doing wrong.

Making jump rings and weaving them into chainmaille designs involves a lot of opening and closing of the rings. I typically use two square jaw pliers to do this, one for each hand. The jaws of my pliers were pretty much scratch free because on a new tool I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks on working surfaces and give those areas a quick polish.

Pliers-2



That helped but was not the whole problem. While making chain, rings would sometimes slip out of the pliers or slide within the jaws as I was trying to twist them open or closed. I noticed the jaws close at an angle, and gave me the idea of forming a groove at the end of the jaw that would grasp the ring gently without scratching it. Not only have these pliers worked well for chainmaille, but I’ve found several other problem jobs that this modification solves very nicely.

### Pliers-3



To make up what I needed, I bought two inexpensive sets of square jaw pliers. My preference is for jaws that are about 3.5 - 4mm wide. This provides a good fit for the jump rings I use. You need to have enough metal at the tip of the jaws to be able to cut a groove that's deep enough. If your plier tips are too thin, you'll have to cut them back. Locate and mark the position on the jaw where the thickness is about 1.6 - 2mm.

### Pliers-4



Cut the tips off with a cutoff wheel or grind them off with a bench grinder. If using a cutoff wheel, be sure to brace and hold both the workpiece and the rotating handpiece securely. If either moves, you will break the abrasive disk. And remember when cutting any metal with a motorized tool, be sure to use good eye protection. A little piece of debris in your eye makes for a bad day.

### Pliers-5



Cut the tips off with a cutoff wheel or grind them off with a bench grinder. If using a cutoff wheel, be sure to brace and hold both the workpiece and the rotating handpiece securely. If either moves, you will break the

abrasive disk. And remember when cutting any metal with a motorized tool, be sure to use good eye protection. A little piece of debris in your eye makes for a bad day.

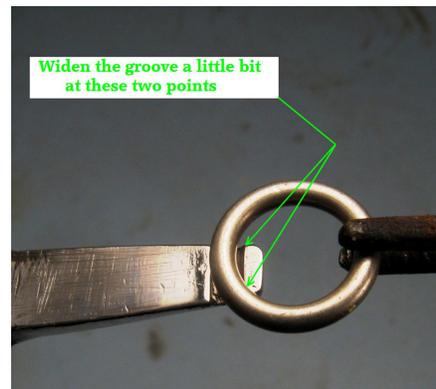
### Pliers-6



Now to make the grooves round so they grasp the wire without distorting it, I close the jaws and run a drill through the opening formed by the two rough grooves. I start with a small drill and followed up with a drill just slightly smaller than the wire size I want to grip. In my case that was 14 gauge wire, so I chose a #53 drill.

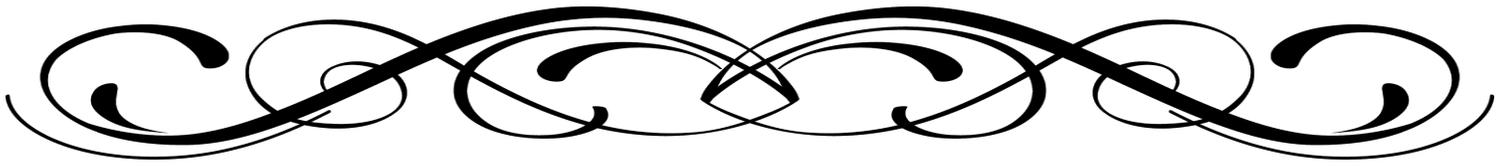
Finally, the shape of the grooves needs to be refined. I used a coarse, knife edge, silicone polishing wheel on the flexshaft to polish off all marks left by the drill and to round off the outer edges of the groove.

### Pliers-7



Test for proper fit by laying a jump ring into each groove. In particular, inspect the way the edges of the groove contact the inside of the ring. You may need to widen the groove at this point to avoid the pliers leaving a nick. Do a final polish so the jaws will not scratches as they grip a ring. I used a medium grit, knife edge, silicone polishing wheel but a sewn buff with tripoli or Zam would also work well.

Courtesy of: [www.BradSmithJewelry.com](http://www.BradSmithJewelry.com)



## Heating Tanzanian Zircon to Enhance or Change Color

Article by: Wouter Verhesen  
Netherlands

I have had good success with heating Tanzanian zircon with yellow, orange, and brownish color. I turned them into stable golden yellow and pure white. I can easily remove the brown tint and keep them orange.



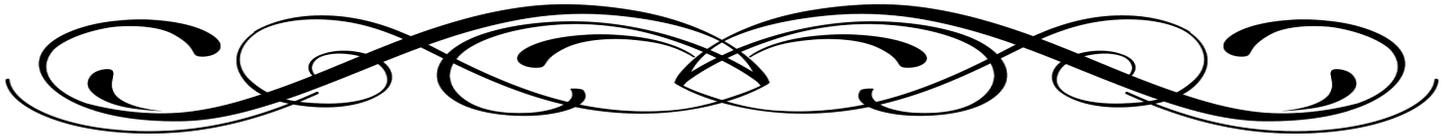
What I do is place them beside a natural gas flame. I used the stove. The stones can be visually seen and easily followed in terms of color change. I would say removing brown but retaining orange takes about 5-10min. Turning them yellow will take around 7-15min (easy to see). Turning them white takes perhaps 30 minutes or longer. This is somewhat harder to judge, but they seem to become purer white as they cool. I simply put them on some metal and use a bit of water. It takes 5 seconds. About a dozen have not cracked cooling this way, so I suspect it's not super critical.

Interestingly some more rose-pink colored zircons did not respond to this in the same way. They stayed at their original hue or looked purer, perhaps a bit lighter. Since the cut stones in the picture are eBay sourced, I have since bought some genuine rough to make sure they are Tanzanian in origin. I got the same good results. I suspect the zircons are around 300 degrees Celsius max. I have not measured it nor do I have any idea of the useful range. I only know this works quite comfortably for me.



The pictures I snapped give some indication, the hand-held shot is untouched. Those are the same stones left to right. Front two have no before pic.





# SOUTHEAST FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC.

## 30th ANNUAL MEETING

Hosted by the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society September 21<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Cracker Barrel Session, Annual Meeting, Banquet, Awards Ceremony, Lecture and Editors Breakfast, will be hosted at: **Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society**

**3733 Crown Point Rd  
Jacksonville, FL 32257**

- ☑ Cracker Barrel session, Friday September 21, 2018, 7:00pm
- Annual Meeting, Saturday September 22, 2018, 8:30am Registration, 9:00am – 11:00am Meeting
- ☑ Banquet Dinner, Awards Ceremony and Lecture, Saturday September 22, 2018, Banquet Dinner, 6:00pm, Awards Ceremony 7:30pm and Lecture 8:00pm
- ☑ Editors Breakfast, Sunday September 23, 2018, 8:00am

The Banquet, Gem and Mineral Show and Editors Breakfast will be free to SFMS meeting attendees and JGMS members, compliments of JGMS. Attendees will need to pre-register to be added to the rosters for the Banquet, JGMS Gem and Mineral Show and Editors Breakfast. Without pre-registration, the fee for the Banquet dinner will be \$20.00 a ticket, admission tickets to the Gem and Mineral Show are \$5.00 each day and the Editors Breakfast will be \$9.00. It is imperative that you preregister for the Banquet, Gem Show and Editors Breakfast for free attendance!

## Upcoming Gem Shows

**August 31 - September 3, 2018**

**Hendersonville, NC**

**Labor Day weekend**

Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society 37th Annual Gem & Mineral Spectacular Colorful World of Jaspers

Friday-Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM Monday 10 AM to 5 PM

Whitmire Activiy Center 301 Lily Pond Rd Hendersonville, NC

\*Demonstrations\*Exhibits\*Hourly Prizes\*Refreshments Available\* \*Raffle\*Grand Prizes\*

For more info check our website: [www.HCGMS.com](http://www.HCGMS.com) Admission: \$5.00 Adults Children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free \$1.00 off admission with coupon on our website!

**Sept. 21 - 23, 2018**

**Jacksonville, Florida**

**30th Annual Show**

**Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society**

**Morocco Shrine Auditorium** 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224

Friday 1:00pm-6:00pm Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

Admission: \$4 or \$6 for three day pass Children under 12 FREE with guardian:Seniors and Military with ID get \$1 OFF

80+ dealers from around the world, hourly door prizes, 5 Grand prize drawings, Moon rock display on loan from NASA made possible by Dr. Mike Reynolds. Club Hospitality table, 20+ Club competition display cases, Sky Lab exhibit. 4 special faceting Lectures from noted Faceters. All major faceting equipment dealers and National tool and equipment dealers will be represented.

web site : [www.jaxgemandmineral.org](http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org) / <http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org/show.html>

Show contact:Jason Hamilton, Show Chair, 904-294-4744, JGMS-SHOW@hotmail.com

# We always welcome new members!



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

<a href="http://www.mgcgms.org">http://www.mgcgms.org</a>		<b>Application for Membership</b>	
Individual: \$16.00		Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	
		Junior Under 18: \$6.00	
Name: _____		Cell: _____	
Name: _____		Cell: _____	
Address: _____		Home Phone: _____	
City: _____			
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
<b>Members Birthdays</b>			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
<b>Please Check All Applicable Interests</b>			
<input type="radio"/> Beading	<input type="radio"/> Cabbing	<input type="radio"/> Jewelry Making	
<input type="radio"/> Chain Mail	<input type="radio"/> PMC	<input type="radio"/> Lapidary	
<input type="radio"/> Field Trips	<input type="radio"/> Faceting	<input type="radio"/> Minerals	
<input type="radio"/> Fossils	<input type="radio"/> Wire Wrapping	<input type="radio"/> Silver Smithing	
<input type="radio"/> Others: _____			
<b>How did you hear of us?</b> _____			
<b>Please check the following:</b>			
<input type="radio"/>	I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.		
<input type="radio"/>	I authorize MGCGMS 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.  
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[mgcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgcgms@bellsouth.net)

**Snoopy Gems**  
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**AFFILIATIONS**

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 2018**

President Liz Platt (228) 818-5412  
 Vice President Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781  
 Treasurer Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900  
 Secretary Cheryl Rodriguez (773)504-4939  
 Parliamentarian Dave Cook (228) 875-2570  
 Editor Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900  
 Web master Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900  
 Member at Large Mark Daynes (228) 383-7940  
 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  
 Sunshine Reba Shotts (601) 947-7245

**AFFILIATIONS**

ALAA John Wright: Director  
 SFMS John Wright: Past President  
 SFMS Barbi Beatty: Assistant Treasurer & Insurance Liaison  
 SFMS Buddy Shotts: Long-range Planning, Past President, State Director

Annual dues are:  
 \$16 Individual  
 \$20 (2) Members in same house hold  
 \$6 Junior

**2018 Workshop/Meeting Dates**

January 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45  
 February 10 St Martin Library 9:30-4:45  
 March 10 St Martin Library 9:30-4:45  
 April 7 Club Picnic TBA  
 April 14 OS Library Mini Show 9:30-4:45  
 May 12 OS Library 9:30-4:45  
 June 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45  
 July 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45  
**August 11 OS Library 9:30-4:45**  
 September 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45  
 October 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45  
 November 8 After Vendor Dinner 5ish  
 December 8 Christmas Party OS Library 11:00am-4:00pm

**Dates subject to change.**

**Be sure to check 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

**Aug 2018**

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	

# Snoopy Gems

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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