



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 41 Number 3 March 2015

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral  
Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

mgcgms@bellsouth.net

## *Presidents Message*

Holding our February meeting at St. Paul's turned out pretty good. I arrived a little early and while waiting for David to get there and unlock the facility, I occupied the time picking up necklace "throws" which were left over from the previous night's Mardi Gras parade in front of the church along Porter Ave. I put them out for any member might want them. David worked his magic again with another program in wire wrapping.

For the meeting we didn't have the list of members that wanted their names in the drawing for a scholarship to one of the SFMS sponsored workshops. The drawing will be at the March meeting. There were a couple of other things missed because of the change to an unfamiliar facility, i.e. Silentauction and door prizes. I didn't get anything thrown at me and our visitors decided to become members, so guess I didn't do all that bad.

It was good to see Buddy and Reba Shotts back safe from their long trip out to Tucson. They didn't get much of a break as they were demonstrating faceting this past weekend at the Jackson show (Feb. 28th & Mar. 1st). I think its outstanding that they are so willing to spend their time and share their expertise as demonstrators at so many of the Gem and Mineral shows.

The Jackson show seems to be getting larger every year. They had four or five booths in the entrance hallway this year. I was sort of disappointed in the show as so many of the dealers carried basically the same things and like many of the G/M shows, merchandise seems be oriented more for appeal to the general public and less for the rockhounds. My trip this year turned out to be visiting with friends of many years and really not much shopping for needed or wanted items.

John Wright

## Workshop

Project for March

Wrapping a CABOCHON:



This is a beginner's project but may serve as a refresher project for more advanced wire wrappers. Materials listed here are for wrapping a 30 x 40 mm cabochon. If you use a smaller stone, it will require less wire. You can use gold filled, sterling, or copper wire. I will have some cabochons and copper wire for sale.

Materials: one cabochon

Square wire, 5 feet of 22ga or 21ga soft

Half-round wire, 2 feet of 21ga or 20ga half-hard wire

Tools: Flush cutters, Flat nose pliers, Round-nose pliers, Pin vice, Ruler, fine tip marking pen, polishing cloth & tape. (If you do not have all these tools it is OK. I have extra tools to share.)

If you have not wrapped a cabochon before, I suggest that you use your computer to search out videos on "How to Wrap a Cabochon" and view several of them. Any questions, call Dave Cook (228-341-9944)

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

## February Meeting Minutes 2015

The meeting was called to order at 1:18 P.M. by President John Wright. There were 20 members present and 3 guests. New members were Cathy and Bob Murowski.

The minutes published in Snoopy Gems was accepted with an amendment stating new dues to SFMS had been raised from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per capita.

The Treasury report was read by Liz Platt due to Barbi Beatty absence. The report was accepted as read. The Audit Committee was not finished with its report and will work on the report prior to the March meeting.

Unfinished business Scholarship selection was tabled to the March meeting since a list of active interested members was not available.

John Wright gave a report on ALA which stated removal of materials from National Parks was an offense and fines were levied against violators. Leave the rocks alone was the warning no collecting.

The workshop was bracelet making by Vicki Reynolds assisted by Dave Cook; all were happy with their beautiful results. Suggestions for future workshops should be made to Dave Cook.

Show Report Bill LaRue stated dealers would begin sending in their packets in March.

Show and Tell Buddy Shotts talked and showed pictures of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show

Door Prizes will be given out at the next meeting. A 50-50 drawing was held and Cathy Murowski was the winner.

The next meeting will be held at the library with a workshop starting at about one fifteen p.m. The meeting will follow afterwards. Regular start time of 9:30 A.M. will resume with the April meeting.

Thanks to David Cook for securing the church's meeting hall for our workshop and meeting. The meeting ended at 2:10 P.M.

Secretary John Guglik

## Bench Tip: How To Sharpen A Drill Bit

Small, fine drill bits used for jewelry making will become dull with normal use. Worn cutting edges make tasks more difficult and time-consuming and can cause costly accidents, including damage to jewelry and gemstones or even injury. Maintaining the cutting surfaces on your tools will ensure clean, consistent work at the bench.

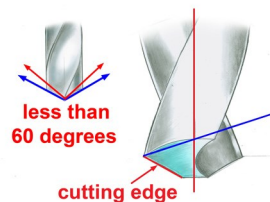
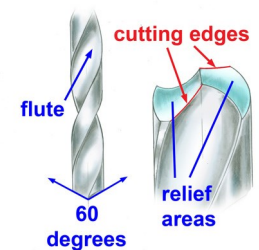
This installment will teach you how to sharpen the cutting edges of a fine drill bit. There are different styles of bit tips, but this example features a chisel tip. Let's begin with a look at its anatomy.

A drill bit has two cutting surfaces, one on each side of its center axis, that are cut at an angle of approximately 60 degrees.

The parts of a drill bit. Notice that each of these angled surfaces is also cut at a slightly narrower angle, creating another plane. This plane creates the cutting edge as well as a relief area behind that edge. This relief area prevents contact with the metal being cut as a hole is drilled, which reduces drag and friction.

The helical groove in the drill bit is called the flute. It acts as a channel to guide the cut material out of the hole created by the two cutting edges.

**Parts of a Drill Bit**



**Angle of relief area plane**

We will file each of the relief areas to sharpen the drill bit, maintaining the same angle as these planes, which is important for the drill bit to perform properly after sharpening. The cutting edges will be honed by reducing a small amount of metal from each surface.

The cutting area and the angle of the relief area plane. Begin by inserting and tightening a silicon carbide separating disk in a No. 30 hand piece of a flex shaft. Secure the worn drill bit in a screw mandrel and brace against the bench pin as you position the bit to be filed on the relief area.

Carefully lower the separating disk to lightly touch the targeted surface. Without changing the angle, rotate the bit in the holding device and repeat on the opposite relief area plane. Once this is complete, you will have a newly sharpened bit. This may take a bit of practice, but it's a valuable technique that can save time on the job.

Always maintain the angle of the relief area plane when sharpening.





## March 2015 Birthdays

Janet Hassell

Aurora King

Bradley Troutman

Steve Soltis



*March*



### Legend of Aquamarine

Aquamarine's name comes from the words "aqua" and "mare," meaning water and sea, from of its intense blue-green color. Because of its resemblance to the ocean, sailors used to wear talismans made of aquamarine depicting the god Neptune, who ruled the seas. With the help of their god, they believed the aquamarine would offer them protection from the elements.

### Science of Aquamarine

Aquamarine is a variety of the mineral beryl. Beryl generally forms inside granites as magma (molten rock) cools deep inside the Earth. Beryl comes in many different colors, ranging from clear to the deep green of the stones we know as emeralds. Aquamarine, though, is usually blue-green in color due to the presence of iron within the mineral's structure. Less desirable yellow or clear aquamarines can be heat-treated to produce the vibrant blue-green hue.

## *Bloodstone*



The mineral heliotrope, also known as bloodstone, is a form of chalcedony (which is a cryptocrystalline mixture of quartz and its monoclinic polymorph moganite). Heliotrope is sometimes used in carved signet rings and is the traditional birthstone for March.

The "classic" bloodstone is green chalcedony with red inclusions of iron oxide or red jasper. Sometimes the inclusions are yellow, in which case the mineral is given the name plasma.

The red inclusions are supposed to resemble spots of blood; hence the name "bloodstone". The name "heliotrope" (from Greek ἥλιος helios, Sun, τρέπειν trepein, to turn) derives from various ancient notions about the manner in which the mineral reflects light.

Source Wikipedia



## AQUAMARINE



### March's Birthstone

Aquamarine is the birthstone for March and derives its name from "sea water" (i.e. the Latin terms "aqua" meaning water and "mare" which refers to the sea). According to legend, aquamarine comes from the treasure chest of mermaids and is a powerful charm for keeping you safe when at sea. On land it is supposed to have a soothing influence on the wearer and is an ideal anniversary gift, because according to tradition giving an aquamarine ensures a long, happy, and prosperous marriage. It is one of the most popular gemstones as the light to medium blue color is complimentary to most any skin tone or complexion and is highly suitable for wear with casual or formal attire. Aquamarine is characterized by many excellent features and is the inspiration for new gemstone cuts more often than any other stones.

Birthstone: March

Family: Beryl,  $\text{Be Al}_2 \text{Si}_6 \text{O}_{18}$

Crystal System: Hexagonal

Birefringence: 0.004 – 0.008

Color: Various shades of blue to blue-green

Density: Normally 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm<sup>3</sup>,  
can be as much as 2.90 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

Hardness: 7.5 – 8, but can be fairly brittle

Refractive Indices: Variable 1.560 – 1.570 to 1.596 – 1.602

Cleavage: Ill-defined cleavage parallel to basal plane

Pleochroic: Weak

Aquamarine is classified as a precious gemstone and while not as expensive as some of the others in this category due to its relative abundance and widespread occurrences, its beauty and breathtaking brilliance make it one of the most popular.

When compared to the much more expensive emerald, another member of the beryl family, the aquamarine's color is usually more evenly distributed or uniform, frequently found free or almost free of inclusions, and in much larger crystals. With the exception of diamonds the crystalline character of aquamarines is seldom found in other natural occurring precious or semi-precious gemstones. I attribute this to the crispness of the light blue shades combined with the velvety sheen of the beryl family.

Iron is the substance responsible for the color of aquamarine, and the shade of blue range from almost colorless (just a hint of blue) to a bright medium blue with some stones typically having a slightly greenish hue. The stones with the more intense color have the higher value with other factors such as no or very limited inclusions, clarity, and size/weight.

Aquamarine are found usually in small deposits widely dispersed all over the world including deposits here in the United States (western North Carolina). Major deposits found in Brazil provide most of the uncut rough sold in the world market, but other important sources include Nigeria, Madagascar, Mozambique, the mountains along the Pakistan and Afghanistan border, and three areas in Russia.

Aquamarines are referred to among professionals by names normally associated with the areas where they were found and are identified by their distinguishing color shades. An example is the rare intensely deep blue "Santa Maria" aquamarines found at the Santa Maria de Itabira mine in Brazil. Similar ones found in Africa are named "Santa Maria Africana" which makes sense. It seemed like a pretty good system of identification to me, but then someone had to go and name a particular color "Martha Rocha" in honor of a beauty queen.

## CHRYSANTHEMUM “SUISEKI” STONES

By: John M. Wright, RPG



Since Chrysanthemum is the flower for those born in November, I thought that it might be appropriate to write an article this month on Chrysanthemum “Suiseki” Stones. We already know that chrysanthemums are flowers, but what does “Suseki” mean.

I understand that in Japanese "sui" means water and "seki" means stone and that these stones were originally found in Chinese riverbeds. Most of the stones were chosen for their color, shape, or other unusual features, but it was soon discovered that they could very often be further enhanced by, cutting, polishing, and removing surface material to display unique hidden portions. Some stones were cut or carved into completely new forms. Being rock hounds we can certainly understand how that happened. At any rate this enhancement technique became a new classic oriental art form, first known to be practiced by the Chinese during the Song Dynasty (960 - 1279), and the stones were generally referred to as Chinese Scholars Stones. As trade and contact between China and Japan flourished during the middle ages, the Japanese imported and adapted this art form to their own culture and somewhere along the way the Japanese word “Suiseki” meaning “water stones” became the name used for all particularly attractive or unique types of stones which were used as decorations or for viewing. “Viewing Stones” became the new meaning applied to “Suiseki” as its popularity spread throughout Japan and other parts of Asia. In recent years appreciation for Suiseki Stones has spread far beyond Asia and collectors are active in many countries.

There are many categories of Suiseki stones available for collectors, decorators, tourist, and even rockhounds that want to try their hand at this ancient art. Suiseki stones with unique surface patterns resulting from variations in color, unusual texture and contrasting mineral inclusions are among the more popular because of their rarity and the skill often required for their enhancement. These are known as “Pattern Stones” by serious collectors and by far the best known in this group are the most amazing, uniquely elegant, and often extremely beautiful, “chrysanthemum stones”.

Continued on next column

The chrysanthemum stones occur naturally and have been found in China, Japan, Canada, and around the Great Lakes in the United States. The largest concentrations which also have the larger and better formed flowers are found in Hunan and Hubei Provinces of China. These deposits are believed to have formed in Permian age marine sediments around 250 million years ago.



The host material is basically a dark, layered, primarily limestone with dolomite and gypsum, but can vary in content, consistency, and color. The host rock often contains embedded layers of contrasting lighter colored mineral inclusions, with patterns formed by a finite latticework of radiating, celestite, feldspar, andalusite, or calcite crystals, that may resemble a variety of things depending on individual imagination. Quite possibly other minerals may be involved as the genesis of these inclusions is still under dispute. Since the growth of the mineral inclusions is radiating outwards from a single point on a more or less lateral plain, the pattern often resembles the flowering chrysanthemum. Quite often these inclusions are close or overlap forming clusters of flowers. A good Chrysanthemum “Suiseki” Stone is scarce and one that is nicely balanced in form, has a complete fully developed flower image, and excellent color contrast is extremely rare.

The deposits in the Hunan Provinces will not be available after 2009 when water released from the new Hunan Dam flood the Yangtzi River Valley. Also, these very attractive ornamental stones are gaining in worldwide recognition, popularity, and desirability which is increasing competition for them and further limiting their availability in a market already in short supply.

(Refs:[https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/viewing\\_stones.html](https://www.bonsai-nbf.org/site/viewing_stones.html)

[www.spirit-stones.com/types.asp](http://www.spirit-stones.com/types.asp); [bonsai-mart.com/suiseki\\_bonsai\\_viewing\\_stones.html](http://bonsai-mart.com/suiseki_bonsai_viewing_stones.html)

[www.suiseki.com/glossary/chinese.html](http://www.suiseki.com/glossary/chinese.html)

[wiseki.freeshell.org/InformationWISPage1.htm](http://wiseki.freeshell.org/InformationWISPage1.htm)

[www.vgms.ort/bt/vgms9903.htm#8](http://www.vgms.ort/bt/vgms9903.htm#8)

[www.bonsainorthwest.com.au/archive/2000photos/](http://www.bonsainorthwest.com.au/archive/2000photos/)

[AFMDec2000/dec2000.htm](http://AFMDec2000/dec2000.htm)

Simon and Schuster's Guide to Rocks & Minerals/1977)

## 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)

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<b>Vice President</b>	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
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<b>Member at Large</b> (2 year)	Bill White (228) 875-8716

### COMMITTEES

<b>Membership</b>	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
<b>Show Chairman</b>	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
<b>Silent Auction</b>	Open

**ALAA** John Wright Director

**SFMS** Buddy Shotts Long-range Planning & Past President

**Annual dues are:**

**\$16 Individual**

**\$20 (2) Members in same house hold**

**\$6 Junior**

## 2015 Workshop/Meeting Dates

\*March 14, 2015 OS Library 1:30-4:30 (1/2 Day)\*

April 11, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

May 9, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

June 6, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

July 18, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

August 8, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

September 12, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

October 10, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

November At Show

December TBA

\*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 2015

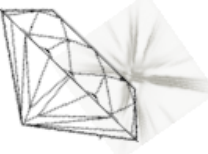

**Su M Tu W Th Fri Sat**

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 applied: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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:			
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<input type="checkbox"/>	I authorize MGCMS to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.		
Signature: _____			
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**Official Publication of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.**



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**Ocean Springs, MS 39566**

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