



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 41 Number 5 May 2015

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974



## President's Message

My arm and wrist are in much better condition and the doctor has told me that I will know when I push to far. She did recommend that I continue to wear the elastic type glove for wrist support. Yea !! I got my new faceting machine out of the box. It really was not very heavy. I'll be on my way when the new laps arrive. I have been working on arranging some programs for our meetings. I'm having problems with our meetings being on a Saturday. Most businesses are closed on Saturdays and owners/managers are very reluctant to open for a visit. Insurance has a lot to do with the reluctance of some CEOs having us visit on weekends or for that matter, most any other days. Other than the businesses of interest such as a local Optic plant, I have also found a couple of very talented individuals that have a unique art form that I believe our members would find very interesting. Here again they attend shows, work at flea markets, or have a shop that is open on weekends. It seems that our only option is to arrange some special "programs meetings" in addition to our regular ones. Our society has done this in the past with great success. Think about us occasionally having a special "get-together" for a program or interesting visit. PS: If any of you know a professional or talented individual, or a business of interest that we could visit please let me know. In the past our club/society held a Spring picnic and White Elephant auction. These events were a lot of fun and usually held at the Gulf Island National Seashore Park or at a member's home. If the picnic was held at the Park, we arranged for a special "Park" program at the Visitor's Center in addition to our picnic and White Elephant sale. If you prefer to have it at a members home, I have a big yard and you would certainly be welcome. I am sure we have other members that would invite us to their home. It took a lot of effort to get our workshops going. Unfortunately, it now seems like the workshop and business occupies all the time and the very important social part of the organization has almost died out. The social part is where we get to know one another and form friendships that last for many years. It's the soul of the club/society and the bond that hold the group together. It would probably amaze most of our members to learn of some of the things we did as a club in the past. Lets have some fun and get back to the kind of organization we could and should be. Think about it.

John Wright

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

## Workshop Project for May Tree of Life Pendant

Vicki Reynolds will be teaching a wire wrapped Pendant. Tools: wire cutters, round nose pliers, and chain nose pliers.



**Large:** You will need 1ft of 18 gauge round wire, 5ft of 24 gauge round wire, and approximately 30-3mm beads, chips or 75 to 100 seed beads.



**Small:** You will need 1ft of 20 gauge round wire, 3ft of 26 gauge round wire, and approximately 20-3mm beads, chips or 25 to 50 seed beads.



**With Agate:** If you would like to incorporate an agate slice into your piece it should be approximately 2" tall by 1" wide. You will need an additional 2ft of 21 or 22 gauge half hard square wire. (Vicki suggests if you can, to pre-wrap your agate before the class to keep your project timeline the same as the other pendant options.)

## April Meeting Minutes 2015

The meeting started at 1 P.M. at the Ocean Springs Library with John Wright presiding. There were 12 members present and two new junior members Sophie and Joseph Ross.

Buddy Shotts stated a former member had contacted him, Marlene Gardner. She told him that she has clock repair equipment and watch crystals to sell. Please call Buddy if you are interested.

The tools committee requested bracelet and rings mandrels. They are needed for monthly workshop projects. John Wright thinks he has an extra bracelet mandrel, if so he will let us know by next meeting.

Old business: Scholarship recipients Jane Cook said she will be accepting hers. Bill Smith said he is not. Next in line is Elmyra LaRue. She indicated she would take it.

Next in line is Barbara Saavadra followed by David Cook and Jim Kirschner.

The workshop was conducted by Vickie Reynolds and they made beautiful wire wrapped rings.



Beautiful workshop result from April

Next month's workshop will be making Tree of Life Pendants

Show and Tell topic was diamonds. Bill LaRue had some specimens from his collections to pass around.

A junior member program for our club was discussed and a sponsor would have to volunteer to head the program.

A 50-50 drawing was held. Iliana Kirschner won. Door prizes were also given out to John Wright, Iliana Kirschner, John Guglik and Lisa Fitch.

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 P.M. Next meeting will be May 9 at the library.

Submitted by John Guglik Secretary



Amethyst Cut by Barbi Beatty  
with the help of Buddy Shotts

### Items for Sale:

John Wright is selling his Lee faceting machine. If you are interested please let John know.

Marlene Gardner has clock repair equipment and parts to sell. If your are interested contact Buddy Shotts.

Tompson Westermeyer from the Gulfport Club is selling an Ultra tech faceting machine. If you are interested contact Buddy Shotts.



## May 2015 Birthdays

Brenda Queen

Buddy Shotts

James Black

Brian Fitch



*May*



EMERALD

### History of Emerald

Thousands of years ago, the ancient Egyptians mined the Earth, suffering through extreme conditions to find the prized green emerald. Cleopatra was so taken with these stones that she claimed the mines for herself. In fact, she was known for wearing lots of huge emerald jewelry, and gave emeralds carved with her portrait to her important visitors.

### Science of Emerald

Emerald is another variety of beryl, the mineral that includes aquamarine (blue), heliodor (yellow to gold), and morganite (pink to peach). The reason for emerald's vivid green color is that chromium and iron infiltrated its mineral structure during formation. It is surprisingly common for emeralds to contain flaws and veins of chemicals called inclusions. These little imperfections are an accepted feature of the stone's

### EMERALDS

May's Birthstone

By John Wright, RPG



El Perfecto – Martin Zinn collection

Photo by Jeff Scovil (1990)

Emerald is the birthstone for May and in many cultures the symbol of Springtime, youth, and eternal love. Astrologists believe that emeralds have clairvoyance and prophetic powers. The name “**emerald**” is derived from French “**esmeraude**” via Latin to the Greek root “**smaragdos**” meaning green stone. Rooted in antiquity they were used as gemstones by the Pharaohs of Egypt, the High Priests of ancient Central and South American societies, and worldwide by kings and potentates throughout history.

The few Biblical references that many ascribe to emeralds are questionable and while possible, it is more than likely that the gems were feldspars (Amazonite ?) or some other common variety of green stone. It should also be noted that Biblical and many other ancient references did not always consider emeralds to be green or in the beryl family, but just beautiful stones.

While **emeralds** are a green variety of **beryl** not all green **beryl** is **emerald**. The chemical composition of emeralds which includes **chromium** normally gives them a soft lustrous green color (emerald green). Often **green beryl** (no chromium) is commonly accepted as emeralds. Yellow-green or olive **heliodors** from Brazil, which contain traces of **iron** instead of chromium, are also sold as emeralds. Now, just to muddy the water up a little bit and add to the challenge, you cannot use color alone to identify emeralds. Light to medium shades of emerald and darker shades of green beryl and heliodors can make identification extremely difficult. All are species of the beryl family and many of their physical properties are the same.

### Physical properties

**Family:** Beryl

**Chemical Composition:** Silicate of

Beryllium & Aluminum

– w – Chromium.

BE\_3(ALCR)\_2Si\_6O\_18

**Crystal System:** Hexagonal prism with tabular habit, flat well terminated surfaces, etching, and growth marks

**Birefringence:** 06

(continued on page 4)

Continued from page 3:

**Refractive Indices:** Variable from

ne 1.560 , nw 1.570 to

ne 1.595, nw 1.602

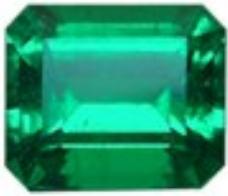
**Density:** 2.67 – 2.72 g/cm<sup>3</sup> normally,  
can be as much as 2.90 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Hardness:** 7.5 – 8 (often brittle)

**Cleavage:** Imperfect or ill-defined,  
parallel to basal plane

**Pleochroic:** Intensity varies according  
to body color from weak to distinct

All emeralds have inclusions, but in the better quality stones they are very faint and not visible to the naked eye. The most common shape for gem stones is the step or trap cut which is also known as the "emerald cut".



Step or Emerald Cut

Antique emeralds are found with hexagonal step cuts, pear shapes, and made into cabochons with a hole in them for use as a pendant. Early jewelry worn by royalty and priests in Pre-Columbian Central and South America used matched uncut emerald crystals mounted on a horizontal axis to the necklace or bracelet strand with a larger emerald or medallion at the center. These stones were normally tied on with gold wire, but on some occasions they were drilled.

One of the largest emeralds in the world is the "Mongol Emerald" and originally belonged to an Indian Maharaja. It dates back to the year 1695, weighs 217.80 carats and is about 10 cm high. This stone was auctioned by Christie's of London and purchased by an anonymous buyer for 2.2 million U.S. dollars about 20 years ago.

Emeralds are one of the oldest gemstones and deposits are found widely dispersed around the world. We know that they were mined by Egyptians along the Red Sea during the reign of the Pharaohs and by the Incas and Aztecs a thousand years before Columbus discovered America, so the question arises, why are they so expensive. The majority of emeralds found are not of gem quality, the ones that are of gem quality are usually small and most importantly there is a huge market. All things being equal (quality, size, weight, etc.), emeralds are equal too or even more expensive than diamonds.

Most of us know that the majority of gem quality emeralds come from South America and that the Emerald Capitol of the world is Bogota, Columbia. Small deposits have been found in many other areas of the world but they are usually small and of poor quality. There are exceptions and some of the larger more famous emeralds were found in Africa and northern India, but deposits in these areas were limited and for the most part larger gemstones were mined out many years ago.

The magical lure of the emerald is still as strong as ever and there are still many people willing to risk everything to find them. I think most of us have heard the story about the individual in western North Carolina who after many years of frustration and near bankruptcy finally located a deposit that contained gem quality material, some quite large and of considerable value. Deposits have also recently been found in Alaska, but my understanding is that while they contain gem quality emeralds most are small. Rumors also persist that deposits are known to exist in the Pacific Northwest. I know that there are a lot of people hunting for them, but I have not heard of any actually being found.

**Bench Tips:** Enlarging holes in pearls.

You will need a small glass dish, the pearls, a straight pin, a drill with a bit the size you want the hole to be, water and a spray bottle, hot glue and a glue gun.

Spray a thin layer of water in the bottom of a glass dish as a release agent.



Add layer of hot glue in the bottom of a glass dish to hold the pearls. While the glue is still hot insert the pearls using a straight pin to keep the hole in the pearl straight up.



Fill the dish with water and drill through the water and into the pearl to enlarge the hole. Move the drill out of the hole regularly so the water clears any removed material from the bit. The water keeps the drill bit cool and contains the pearl dust rather than releasing it into the air.



After drilling, pour off the water. Pull out the hot glue with the pearls.



Bend the hot glue to remove the pearls.



Source: Pinterest Barbara S Fernald Jewelry

## **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 2015**

<b>President</b>	John Wright (228) 875-9192
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
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<b>Secretary</b>	John Guglik (228) 818-5412
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<b>Member at Large (1 year)</b>	Lisa Fitch (228) 467-4684
<b>Member at Large (2 year)</b>	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
<b>Historien</b>	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
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<b>Sunshine</b>	Open
<b>ALAA</b>	John Wright Director (228) 875-9192
<b>SFMS</b>	John Wright Past President (228) 875-9192
<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**

### **2015 Workshop/Meeting Dates**

February 14, 2015 St Paul's Church 9:00-4:00

\*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 \*\***

## **May 2015**

**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: _____	_____	_____	_____
<b>How did you hear of us?</b> _____			
<b>Please check the following:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I authorize MGCGMS to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.		
Signature: _____			
Signature: _____			

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# Snoopy Gems

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<http://www.mgcgms.org>



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**Ocean Springs, MS 39566**

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society is a Non-profit Organization Dedicated to Education, Science, and the Lapidary Arts and Crafts