



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 41 Number 11 November 2015

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

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

## Presidents Message

It's Show Time and we are going to need all members to help, particularly during set-up as we have a lot of tables to skirt this year, so we plan to meet at the Civic Center Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. Barbi is going to need kitchen help for the dealer's dinner and during the entire show. Let me remind you that we are going to have about 75 people to feed at the dinner so bear that in mind when you are preparing your covered dishes. You should let Barb know what you plan to bring or find out from her what dishes are needed. We are also going to need volunteers to man the entrance tables for all three days of the show. It's a lot of work, but if we are going to have a successful show, we need your help.

Remember, we will not have our November meeting at the Ocean Springs Library. It will be in the break room at the Civic Center on the Fairgrounds where the show is held immediately following the dealer's dinner. We will be voting on our slate of officers for next year, so if you want (or don't want) to be nominated for an office you should be at the meeting. I was unable to attend the last meeting so I am sure there is a lot of other business that also need to be taken care of at the meeting.

I'm sorry that we did not have any field trips this year, but the ones I had planned had to be cancelled, because the owner's 2015 insurance prohibited entrance to the work site for anyone other than employees. This was a late development that occurred just a few days before I had intended to announce it. I tried to set-up a trip to the pit in Wiggins that the club members had visited a couple times, but I could not contact the owner. I'll keep working on this and see if we can get another field trip lined in the near future or early next year.

I am tentatively scheduled to visit two grade schools classrooms December the 6th and 7th. Both visits will be at schools in Gulfport. I find this to be a very gratifying experience. It is also a good way to get new members for our society; in fact some of our present members were recruited that way. Anyone interested in visiting with school kids and sharing your knowledge or lapidary art and skills are certainly welcome to join me.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the show,

John M. Wright

## Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

*Presents the 26<sup>th</sup> annual*

## Magnolia State Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Jackson County Fairgrounds,  
Pascagoula, MS

Friday and Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Sunday 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Raffle tickets (\$1 each) or (6 for \$5)



A special thanks to all members who donated Raffle items!

Mobile Rock, Gem, & Jewelry Show will be November 27-29 at the ABBA Shrine Center 7701 Hitt Rd Mobile, AL 36695.

Friday, November 27 1:00 Pm to 6:00 PM,

Saturday, November 28 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM,

Sunday November 29 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

For more information Visit:

[www.mobilerickandgem.com](http://www.mobilerickandgem.com)

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

## October Meeting Minutes 2015

Bill LaRue Vice President presiding

Meeting started at 1:00pm.

September meeting minutes were printed in The Snoopy Gems. A motion to accept the report as printed was made and passed.

Treasurer's Report was given by Barbi Beatty. She also reported the vendor fees had been coming in and funds from gemstone sales had also been placed in the bank. A motion to accept the report was made and accepted.

Show Report was given by Show Chair Bill LaRue. He stated that there are still 2 tables left for vendors for the Show even with the Rock and Gem Magazine taking 2 tables.

There will be 20 sets of liners for the show cases. They will be stored in the storage unit the club rents in Pascagoula. Thank you Vicki Reynolds for recovering the showcase liners.

### Old Business

Jim Kirschner installed LED lights in the showcase at the MS-AL Welcome Center.

### New Business

John Guglik set up a rock and gem display at the St. Martin Library. It will remain there until December.

Buddy and Reba Shotts will be our representatives at the SFMS meeting in Melbourne FL.

Pat Brown will offer a Wire Wrap workshop the week of the show at the O.S. Library.

Those interested should contact Barbi to pay for the workshops; 12:30-4:30 on Tues and Wed. 11/10 & 11/11 2015. The fee is \$25. Kits will be available: \$25 for Sterling Silver and \$30 for 14k gold filled.

The Dealer's Dinner will be 11/12/ 15. All members should bring a covered dish for all to share. Please let Barbie know what you will be bringing or email what your dish will be to [mgcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgcgms@bellsouth.net).

If you have not signed up to help out at the Show please get in touch with Lisa Fitch (228-216-4684) or Barbi Beatty (228-238-9900). We need more volunteers.

Liz Platt continued her silver necklace workshops. Buddy and Reba continued the faceting workshops at the Sports Center. Classes have ended for now and will resume in January.

The Show Raffle tickets are available from Barbie. Car magnets and flyers are also available from Barbi.

Show and Tell featured opals the October birthstone.

The Nomination Committee will make a list of interested members for the Officers positions for 2016.

A 50-50 was held and the meeting ended at 2 PM.

Minutes presented by: John Guglik Secretary

### **Sunshine report:**

John Wright was sick and unable to stay for the October meeting. Dr. Bob Kluck had surgery for cancer. He said the doctors believe they were able to remove it all. He is doing much better. We wish all a speedy recovery.

## November 2015 Birthdays



Dan Boudreaux    Dave Cook  
Jim Black    Ileana Kirchner  
Trisha Mauer    Reba Shotts  
Laura Tate    Bill White  
John Wright



### History of citrine

The first civilization thought to wear citrine (a yellow variety of quartz) were the Romans, who shaped it into cabochon—polished but unfaceted cuts of stone worn in jewelry. During the Romantic Period in turn-of-the-century Europe, citrine became more popular for the way it visually enhances gold jewelry. Citrine, like all forms of quartz, was believed to have magical powers and was worn as protection against evil and snake venom poisoning.

### Science of citrine

Some citrine actually began as purple amethyst, but heat from nearby molten rock changed it to a warm yellow color. Citrine is one of the less-common varieties of quartz, and it ranges from a pale yellow to a dark amber that's named Madeira for its resemblance to the red wine of Portugal.

### About Citrine:

Citrine is one of the most popular gemstones available today. It belongs to the very large family of quartz (SiO<sub>2</sub>) gemstones. More specifically, it is the yellow to golden-orange variety of gemstone-quality macrocrystalline quartz (silicon dioxide). The name 'citrine' was derived from 'citron', a French word meaning 'lemon', although its color tends to be more golden rather than lemon-yellow.

Natural citrine is actually quite rare and because it is more valuable than most other varieties of quartz, much of the citrine today is actually heat-treated to obtain its attractive golden color. Almost all heated citrine will exhibit reddish tints. Citrine is very closely related to violet-purple amethyst, another variety of macrocrystalline quartz. The only difference between citrine and amethyst is the oxidation level of iron ions (Fe<sup>3+</sup>) present in colorless quartz crystal. When quartz is heated, iron impurities are reduced, resulting in less violet-purple color and more golden to orange colors. Ametrine is the natural bicolor combination of both golden citrine and violet amethyst in a single specimen.

Citrine can be easily identified through its distinct quartz properties. It is one of the few gemstones that naturally occurs in golden to yellow colors. Other similar colored stones are typically much harder (sapphire and topaz) or much softer (sphalerite and sphene). Golden beryl, orthoclase and tourmaline can also often cause confusion. Natural citrine quartz derives its attractive golden color from the presence of iron impurities. It has a specific chemical formula of SiO<sub>2</sub> (silicon dioxide), a density of 2.60 to 2.70 and a refractive index of 1.544 to 1.553, all of which can help distinguish citrine from similar materials.

Although citrine deposits can be found all around the world, Brazil is the world's leading supplier. Other notable sources include Argentina, Bolivia, France, Madagascar, Myanmar (Burma), Namibia, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Uruguay and Zambia. Citrine Color

Natural untreated citrine is typically pale yellow to golden in color and is often accompanied by smoky brownish tones. Deeper colors can occur ranging from golden orange to rich gold-brown. Darker colors are typically considered more desirable than lighter lemon colors. Heated citrine (amethyst or smoky quartz) will typically exhibit a reddish tint. Citrine is known to occur with excellent transparency. Eye-clean specimens are quite common leaving little reason to buy citrine stones with visible inclusions. Citrine has an attractive vitreous luster when cut and polished. Citrine is almost always faceted. Round brilliants and ovals are most common as these cuts tends to maximize color and dispersion. Step cuts (emerald cuts) and other fancy cuts, such as scissor-cuts or Portuguese-cuts are also quite popular. Citrine gemstones can be found in just about every shape imaginable, including pears, squares, trillions, rounds, ovals, cushions and heart shapes. Calibrated sizes are very common and remain affordable even with larger stones. Natural unheated citrine is becoming increasingly rare. Many of the citrine stones available today are heat-treated amethyst or smoky quartz. Treated citrine is often heated right at the mining source. The color change is considered to be both permanent and stable.

Chemical Formula: SiO<sub>2</sub>; Silicon dioxide  
Crystal Structure: Hexagonal (trigonal) hexagonal prisms with pyramids  
Color: Light-yellow to dark-yellow, gold-brown, orange  
Hardness: 7 on the Mohs scale  
Refractive Index: 1.544 to 1.553  
Density: 2.65  
Cleavage: None  
Transparency: Transparent  
Double Refraction or Birefringence: 0.009  
Luster: Vitreous  
Fluorescence: None

## **Bench Tips:**

### MASTERING FIRESCALE

This area of Jewelers Bench Tips and the following instructions are based on Martinus' research regarding silver discoloration in the polishing phase. Please see "FIRESCALE... KNOW MORE!"

#### Option 1: Flux protection

To achieve the best polish we should aim to avoid surface oxidation all together, protecting all sterling surfaces with fluxes. This way polishing becomes a beautifully easy final step. Note: Green fluoride-based fluxes are not recommended due to higher work temperatures; oxidation will enter before the fluxes take effect. If we don't succeed completely and encounter oxidation, pickling will cause fine silver layers to appear, which can mechanically be removed. Importantly, sterling silver beneath any fine silver layer is usually unaffected. You can trust that polishing will be just fine!

#### Option 2: Embracing Matte Fine Silver Surfaces

Let's take what we have learned and make the best of it! Let's use oxidation and acid treatments as a design feature to create color enhancements. That can easily be done, it takes a minimum of two, or better three oxidations and picklings to achieve a beautifully frosted, pristine white "bloom" on your sterling silver surface. For best results, Martinus recommends gently brushing your surfaces in-between picklings with a fine, wet, soapy, brass wire brush. Also, take time to lightly brush your piece even after the final pickling.

#### Contrasts of Matte and Polished

If our jewelry designs involve contrasting matte and polished surfaces; the polishing phase will require special consideration. As expected, once we begin our general polish, some discoloration may occur. This should not concern us anymore – we simply focus on the reflectivity of all surfaces. After cleaning, the next step is to create a light oxidation under a gentle flame, (Image 1), then pickle until all surfaces become white again. A light buffing with rouge finishes the piece to a perfectly reflective, pristine white surface. It also has the advantage of

less future tarnishing, (Image 2). (For designs in gold, you can use the same techniques; light oxidation while maintaining a reflective surface as well as careful buffing.) For both metals, heating to a full glow results in dull surfaces causing the necessity for a total general polishing all over again.

#### Gold – Color Enhancements

Gold responds in the same way although it doesn't cause any discoloration issues. Fortunately, due to the higher copper content in 'Peach Gold' or 'Rose Gold', we can achieve more intense, vibrant hues in a pristine matte yellow "bloom" which works best when heated to a full glow. Gold alloys of 14 karat are generally easy to work with, 18 karat alloys will display stronger hues but 10 karat alloys simply don't have enough gold content, (in some of these alloy compositions, zinc can also cause troubles as a reddish discoloration).

#### Acids and Methods in Use

In general, earlier methods, (prior to alternative acid products), applied Sulphuric Acid to sterling silver with excellent results. Today 'Sparex' works comparably and won't burn holes in your clothes! Hydrochloric Acid was used historically to create an exceptionally beautiful surface on gold; use extreme CAUTION as it is hazardous. 'Wilacid' from Germany works comparably and it is low risk – like 'Sparex'. (Note: 'Wilacid' cannot be used for silver). To conduct your own research on acids and treatments, refer to the goldsmith Oppi Untracht who covers the topic at great length in "Jewelry – Concepts and Technology" pages: 416 – 420 and/or the 'Theory and Practice of Goldsmithing' by Brepohl pages: 353 – 354, see: "Bringing up the Fine Silver".

After decades at the workbench embracing fine silver and fine gold surfaces as design elements, Martinus advises students that clean acids are important for a dependable color enhancement. Used acids from silver projects will make gold turn a pale green. Contaminated acids with nickel from white gold will make silver turn a dull shade of grey.

Source: Martinus Studio Salt Spring Island, BC Canada [martinus-gold.com](http://martinus-gold.com)

## LAPIS LAZULI

BY:

John M. Wright, RPG



Lapis Lazuli specimen owned by author

Lapis Lazuli has been a highly valued gem stone known for its vivid blue color for thousands of years. Together with agate it is one of the most ancient gems selected by man to adorn himself. While the earliest known mines were located in the remote Kokcha Valley of Badakhshan, Afghanistan and date back more than 6,000 years, mining could have been going on much longer in other parts of the world as it has also been found in Inca graves of Peru and burial tombs of other ancient civilizations. "Lapis" comes from Latin meaning stone and "lazuli" comes from the Persian/Arabic word "Lazhuward" (meaning blue stone of "lazhuward" which later also became the word "azure" an early French adaptation meaning blue). Together the name means stone of azure or "blue stone".

Lapis Lazuli is not extremely rare, but it is only found in abundance at two known locations in the world. The best quality material comes from mountain valley of Kokcha, Afghanistan where it occurs in large deposits. Lapis has also been extracted for years in the Andes near Ovalle, Cordillera, Chile, where the deep blue stones compete in quality with those from Afghanistan. In much smaller amounts, it is also found in the Baffin Islands of Canada, Mt. Vesuvius in Italy, near Mogok in northern Pakistan, in the Pamirs Mountains & near Lake Baikal in Siberia, Russia and in the Sawatch Range of Colorado and San Bernardino County, California, U.S.A.

### Physical Properties

Category: Poly-mineral rock

### Chemistry: Complex Sodium Calcium

Aluminum Silicate Sulfate – mostly :

Lazurite:  $(\text{NaCa})_5(\text{AlSiO}_4)_5(\text{SO}_4, \text{S}, \text{Cl})_2$

Hauynite:  $(\text{Na}, \text{Ca})_{4-8}(\text{AlSiO}_4)_6(\text{SO}_4)_{1-2}$

Sodalite:  $\text{Na}_8(\text{AlSiO}_4)_6\text{Cl}_2$

Noselite:  $\text{Na}_8(\text{AlSiO}_4)_6\text{SO}_4$

Calcite:  $\text{CaCO}_3$

Pyrite:  $\text{FeS}_2$

Other possible constituents: augite, diopside, enstatite, mica, hauynite, hornblende, nosean, and possibly trace amounts of the sulfur rich lollingite

Class: Predominantly Feldspathoid Silicate

Color: Shades varies from dark blue to sky Blue, Lazur-blue, violet, greenish-blue

Luster: Dull (enhanced considerably when polished and treated with a sealant)

Transparency: No

Crystal System: Cubic (rare), dense aggregates

Crystal Habits: Compact, massive

Cleavage: None

Fracture: Uneven - Conchoidal

Hardness: (Mohs Scale) 5 – 5.5

Specific Gravity: 2.7 – 2.9

Streak: Light blue

Reflective Indices: 1.5

Fluorescence: Strong: white, also orange, copper-colored

Lapis Lazuli is a polymineral rock composed mainly of the blue silicate mineral lazurite along with gold colored pyrite (also known as fool's gold) and white veins or dispersed areas of calcite. It generally occurs in crystalline limestone as the result of contact metamorphism and its brilliant blue color comes from its content of lazurite. (the beautiful blue of lazurite occurs due a charge transfer between sulfur atoms contained in the "rock"). The darker and more evenly the blue color is distributed throughout lapis lazuli, the higher the quality, and the greater the value.. The best quality material contains less calcite and pyrite, but if these two minerals are well distributed, the stone's overall beauty may be enhanced adding to its value.

Although not a particularly hard stone Lapis takes a beautiful polish. It has always been fashioned as beads and cabochons, carved into exquisite articles of ornament, or used in inlays and mosaics. Because it is rather porous, it should never come in contact with chemicals and solvents. The best way to clean the stone is with mild, warm, soapy water. Lapis, having only the hardness of 5 to 5.5 should be protected from rubbing and scratching against harder stones and surfaces, such as other jewelry within a jewelry box.

## Snoopy Gems

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

### OFFICERS 2015

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<b>Vice President</b>	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
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<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
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<b>Member at Large</b> (1 year)	Lisa Fitch (228) 467-4684
<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
<b>Historien</b>	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
<b>Librarian</b>	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
<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 12, 2015 After Vendor Dinner 7ish**

December Christmas Party 11:00am-4:00pm

St Paul's Church Porter Ave Ocean Springs

\*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 \*\*

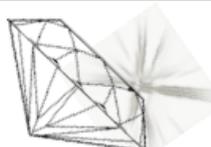
## November 2015

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					

# 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"/>	Chain Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	PMC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faceting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fossils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wire Wrapping
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others: _____		<input type="checkbox"/>
			Jewelry Making
			Lapidary
			Minerals
			Silver Smithing
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<input type="checkbox"/>	I authorize MGCGMS to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.		
Signature: _____			
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<http://www.mgCGMS.org>



**Snoopy Gems MGCGMS**

**P.O. Box 857**

**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