



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 41 Number 10 October 2015

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGGCMS Established in 1974

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

## *Presidents Message*

This is the last meeting before our November show and I hope we have good attendance at this month's meeting as we have a lot business and planning that needs to be taken care of. The November meeting is the night before the show, but that will only allow us time to make last minute changes that are needed and will not enable us to have the same great show like we had in the past. So try your very best to make this month's meeting. If for no other reason the food we have at the workshop & meeting is worth attending.

The members that are taking the faceting class taught by Buddy & Reba Shotts have finished the first section and should be starting on more advanced techniques. I believe Buddy said that if any other members are interested in learning to facet, he could also work with them. If you are a club member and want learn faceting, be sure to talk to Buddy.

David Cook is asking for suggestions in wire wrapping. He said that he had about run out of ideas for the workshops, but knew that we had some new members that might like for him to repeat some of the techniques that he had covered in past workshops. We also have members that can teach beading, metal work, capping and several other areas of interest. You have to let us know your interest and what techniques you would like to learn in the club's monthly workshops.

John M. Wright, President

## **Workshop Project for October**

MGGCMS workshops for September and October will focus on making Christmas ornaments which will be displayed at our Gem and Mineral Show and will be given as door prizes at our Christmas party. These ornaments may be either beaded balls like were done last year, wire ornaments, or pendants in the Christmas theme. It will be your own responsibility to find a pattern (many available on internet) and to purchase your own supplies. I am sure you will want to use good quality materials so you can make a good impression with your skills.

If you are unable to come up with something e-mail Vicki Reynolds ([Artistview@bellsouth.net](mailto:Artistview@bellsouth.net)) or Dave Cook ([dwcook@cableone.net](mailto:dwcook@cableone.net)) and they will try to help.



## September Meeting Minutes 2015

Meeting started at 1 PM with John Wright President presiding. Seventeen members were present.

Minutes for last month's meeting were accepted as published in Snoopy Gems.

Treasurer's report was given by Barbi Beatty. A motion to accept the report was made. The motion passed.

The Show report was given by Bill LaRue. He stated that 23 dealers sent in their contracts and paid their deposit. We sent out 29 contracts. There have been 3 cancellations to include two eight table booths and one two table booth.

At this time there is still room for more dealers. Vickie Reynolds volunteered to recover our display case liners. Anyone who has not volunteered to help out for the show should contact Barbi to let her know what area you would like to work in. Display cases are available for members to show off their works at the Fall Show. Please contact Bill LaRue for details. There are contests for Show Case displays. Our club is not participating at this time.

Raffle tickets as well as flyers for the show will be available at the October meeting. If you have a magnetic car advertisement for the show you should start sporting it. Barbi will have the ones turned in last year if you need one.

Old business: Jim Kirchner volunteered to get new LED lights and install them in the display case at the MS-AL Welcome Center on Interstate 10.

There was a great workshop today and pictures of some of projects will be posted in the November Snoopy.

Faceting workshops will begin again on Wednesday 9/30/15 at 6:00 PM at the Gauthier Sports Pavilion. A chain maille workshop will be conducted by Liz Platt on Thursdays; location to be announced. Dave Cook would like any other workshop topics to be submitted to him.

Liability forms for working on any of our projects must be submitted to Dave Cook or any officer. Each person that uses a machine needs to be certified to use that machine before starting a project.

The club's picnic date will be moved to April; date to be announced.

Show and tell had many specimens to view. Bill LaRue gave out samples of crysacola.

A 50-50 was held and Bill LaRue won.

Door prizes were won by Bill White, Jim Kirchner, and Cathy Marousky. A silent auction was conducted.

Meeting adjourned at 2 PM

John Guglik Secretary

### Hospitality report:

Bill White's mother passed away. She was also the grandmother of Barbi Beatty and mother in law to Lettie White. Our deepest sympathy and condolences are extended to them and their family.

## October 2015 Birthdays

Barbi Beatty

Karl Beatty

Robert Kluck

Damaris Soltis

Lynn Tate



October



### History of opal

Opals were greatly valued by ancient monarchs for their protective powers. They were worn as jewelry and in crowns to ward off evil and to protect the wearer's eyesight. The opal was also ingested in a ground-up powder to protect against nightmares.

### Science of opal

Opal, which is a "mineraloid" (lacking crystalline structure) has a chemistry of primarily SiO<sub>2</sub> (quartz) and includes 5%–10% water. The presence of water in the mineral structure allows geologists to determine the temperature of the rock at the time the opal formed. The structure of opal consists of chains of silicon and oxygen formed within tiny spheres. These spheres are usually inconsistent in size and concentration. In precious opals (the variety used most often in jewelry), however, there are many organized pockets of spheres. The spheres diffract light at various wavelengths, creating beautiful, prismatic colors.

### OPAL

#### October's Birthstone

By: John M. Wright, RPG

#### Physical Properties

**Family:** Opal (Mineraloid)

**Chemical Comp.:** SiO<sub>2</sub>nH<sub>2</sub>O Hydrus silicon dioxide

**Crystal System:** Noncrystalline (Amorphous)

**Crystal Habit:** No crystal structure

**Birefringence:** None

**Reflective Indices:** 1.44 - 1.46 It is singly reflective.

**Hardness:** 5.5 - 6.5

**Density:** 1.98 - 2.20 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

**Cleavage:** None

**Fracture:** Conchoidal

**Streak:** White

**Luster:** Vitreous to pearly.

Opals have been admired and used as a gemstone for centuries, but they were extremely rare and only royalty or the very wealthy could afford them. This changed in the mid to late 1800s with the discovery of several major deposits, most of which were in Australia. By the early 1900s, opal had become very fashionable in Europe and in particular when combined with enamel, another very popular material of that period. The name "opal" comes from the Sanskrit "upala", meaning precious stone, which was translated into Greek as "opallios" and Latin as "opalus".

Opal has the same chemical composition as quartz, but it is not a member of the quartz family. Quartz is hydrothermal in origin and is crystalline in structure. Opal is a precipitate and has no crystal structure. It is formed by certain mineral rich aqueous fluids being deposited in cracks and cavities at low temperature.

Of all the gemstones, opal by far has the best spectral displays of color. The play of colors is so characteristic and unique it is referred to as opalescent and is caused by the structure of opal being composed of alignments of tiny spheres (at the atomic level ranging from 40 to 4000 Å) which form a compact, three-dimensional network, and the ordering or alignment of the spheres produces a diffraction grating (sort of like the patches in a quilt) that creates a play of rainbow colors which seem to emanate from within the stone.

Opals have some poor characteristics, such as softness, dehydration (they contain 2 to 6 per cent water), physical weakness which causes them to crack, very porous and can be easily damaged by chemicals, and they are heat sensitive. Be careful that where you store your opal jewelry is not too dry or exposed to heat as it may become brittle. Opals need to be worn on the skin and it should be worn as often as possible so it will receive the needed humidity from the air and from your body. They should always be mounted in a protective setting. Don't wear your opal when you take a bath wash the dishes, or whack your kids.

(Sources for information contained in this article are the Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals by Charles W. Chesterman, a Borzoi Book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1978 and Simon & Schuster's Guide to Gems and Precious Stones, by Curzio Cipriani and Alessandro Borelli; Kennie Lyman, U.S. Editor, 1986. Also, Simon and Schuster's Guide to Rocks and Minerals, 1977, 1978.)

## **Bench Tips:**

Using the Correct Jewelry Making Tools By  
Chad Hagy Published June 06, 2007

### **Needle-Nose Pliers**

This essential jewelry making tool might be one of the most important devices that you'll need. With the small pieces and tiny connections that you need to make for assembling your creations, needle-nose pliers are the ideal way to get a grip on the small pieces and tighten the connections.

### **Compartmentalized Containers**

Jewelry making involves several little pieces. Whether you have a large number of small hooks, beads or other tiny pieces essential for your unique creations, a compartmentalized container is the best way to keep them organized and in one place. Get a container that has several differently sized compartments so you have a place for large beads, small beads and the various sizes of connecting hooks and other pieces. If you have a lot of supplies, you might even want to get different containers so you can have one for your connecting pieces, one for your beads, and so on.

### **Adhesives and Glues**

The right glue or adhesive can be a vital part of your jewelry making process. This should be something that you invest extra money in, especially if you decide to sell your creations. While the connecting pieces are normally sufficient for holding the jewelry pieces together, a glue or adhesive will give it that extra strength to ensure that it won't fall apart. Buy an adhesive that is specially made for jewelry making for the best results. In a pinch, though, you can always use super glue.

### **Cutters**

Depending on the type of jewelry making you enjoy doing, you will want to get the ideal cutters for your specific type. Some of them are designed to cut thicker wires and hooks while others are designed to get into tight spaces in order to cut smaller wires. Each type of cutters has a different purpose. V-Making Pliers, for instance, are specially designed to make 90 degree bends in wires. You can also make V-shapes with all wire gauges and sizes. Bail Making Pliers, on the other hand, are designed in such a way that they can make bails on pieces

of jewelry to fit larger collars or chains. Depending on the complexity of your creations, you will want to invest in one of these or several other types of cutters that are available to jewelry makers.

### **Hammers**

You might not think that you would use a hammer for something as intricate as jewelry making. If you start researching, though, you will find several hammers that are specially designed for these small projects. One type of hammer – the Chasing Hammer – has a large flathead that is typically used for flattening wires or other purposes. Other hammers are used for shaping purposes, such as creating the correct shape for rings or bracelets.

### **Magnifiers**

Since making jewelry is such an intricate process, it is often important to use magnifiers so you can see what you are doing. Some magnifiers are designed to fit around your eye so you have both hands free to continue working. Other magnifiers, on the other hand, are handheld and are generally used for looking closely at a small piece of jewelry when you're not working on it. You can also find the type of magnifiers with a built-in headband so that it fits around your head so you can work while examining the small pieces of jewelry.

### **Grinding Stones**

Although these aren't used very often, grinding stones are essential for sharpening the point on some of your pieces of jewelry. Depending on how much you want to spend on the tool and how often you plan on using it, you can get as simple or as complicated of a model as you want. Some are nothing more than blocks with a coarse surface that you can use for sharpening. Others are smaller for more precise grinding. Your individual projects will dictate which tool you will need to best suit your needs.

### **Files and Carvers**

If you generally file your jewelry products to give it a smoother finish, make sure you have a quality set of filers and carvers. Many times, these are sold in sets of different sizes with reasonable prices.

Continued on page 5.

Continued from Page 4.

### Polishing Tools

Once you have finished your individual products, you will want to shine them up and polish them. Giving them a shiny finish is often the last touch needed to make your jewelry creations look professional and attractive. The proper polishing tools, such as a professional polishing cloth and common jewelry cleaning products, are ideal for making your products shine.

### Books

Whether you are an expert or a beginner in the field of jewelry making, try to find books about the hobby in order to get ideas. Some books will have several pictures so you get ideas about how certain color schemes will look when put together. Other books will have instructions on different techniques that you might not have heard about. You can open up a wide variety of options whenever you find books related to the jewelry making hobby.

### Tool Kits

If you are a beginner to the hobby, you can find tool kits at your local hobby store or online that will help you get started. Most tool kits will have several different tools that will help you make basic jewelry pieces so you can get accustomed to the hobby. The best thing about these types of tool kits is that they are often sold at a discount rate. This is ideal because you do not need to invest a great deal of money into your new hobby before you decide if you enjoy doing it or not.

### Websites and Hobby Groups

The Internet has made almost every area of life easier or, at the least, more accessible. The same is true when talking about jewelry making. If you look online, you can find many websites that have tips and techniques for making unique jewelry creations. You can also look for local groups that get together and make jewelry products together. Look for online forums, discussion groups and other types of aids that will help you learn to do the hobby with more personalized creations and a wider selection of techniques. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, jewelry making is a great way to pass the time. You have the freedom to be as creative as you want or you can create simple pieces of jewelry designed to match several outfits. With beads, stones, gems, and jewels, the limits to your creations are boundless. Make sure you get the right tools before you begin, though. Using the correct tools will help create quality pieces much quicker and with much less effort. It will also give your pieces a professional aspect that you may not have had before.

## 2015 SFMS ANNUAL MEETING

November 6, 7 & 8, 2015

SPONSORED BY CANAVERAL MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY

The Canaveral Mineral and Gem Society is proud to sponsor the SFMS Annual Meeting at the Crowne Plaza, 2605 N. A1A Indialantic, Florida.

1. All of the meetings and the banquet are planned for attendance of 30 in the St. Lucia room. (The room will accommodate up to 60)
2. The room rate is \$105/night. The rate is also available 2 days before and 2 days after the meeting (11/6/15 & 11/7/15). When making reservations call 321-777-4100 and identify that you will be attending the Southeast Federation of Mineral & Gem Societies Annual Meeting.
3. We reserved 10 rooms for Friday and Saturday nights. Reservations MUST BE placed by 26 October 2015 to preserve the rate. Additional rooms will be on an as-available basis, but at the same rate, if made by 26 October.
4. The Friday evening Cracker Barrel is planned for 7:00 to 9:00 in the Crowne Plaza's St. Lucia room.
5. The Business Meeting is planned for Saturday Morning, 9:00 to 12:00 in the Crowne Plaza's St. Lucia room.
6. The Banquet is planned for Saturday evening, 6:30 to 9:00 in the St. Lucia room. The hotel requires we provide the specific number of banquet attendees, and their meal selections identified, 5 days before the banquet i.e. 1 November. The selections and attendee costs are:
  - a. Veggie or Chicken \$23
  - b. Mahi-Mahi \$26
  - c. Prime Rib \$30
7. Sunday Breakfast Editor's Awards meeting is planned for 8:00 to 11:00 in the St. Lucia room. Attendees may acquire breakfast in the adjacent restaurant and bring to the meeting room that will be set up with breakfast tables.
8. Location: The directions are not difficult. The Beaches are accessed from Melbourne by two causeways/bridges. The Crowne Plaza is on the beach between them. If you are traveling North or South on either I-95 or US-1, turn East on either US192 or 518 and continue until you reach A1A (some Google maps identifies A1A as 2). Proceed to 2605 N Hwy A1A.

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/brd-meeting-details.html>

## 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
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
<b>Secretary</b>	John Guglik (228) 818-5412
<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
<b>Editor/Webmaster</b>	Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900
<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
<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 At Show

December 12, 2015 St Pauls Porter ave OS

\*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 \*\*

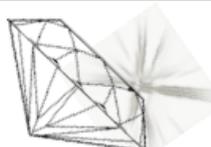
# October 2015

**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"/>	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"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following:			
<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: _____			

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.  
P.O. Box 857 Ocean Springs MS 39566  
mgcgms@bellsouth.net

# Snoopy Gems

Official Publication of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



<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