

Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



Volume 40

February 2019

Number 2



Gulfport Gems

Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society

P.O. Box 10136
Gulfport, Ms. 39505



www.facebook.com/gulfportgems
Website: www.gulfportgems.org

A message from the President...

Dear Members,

We will let all members know in advance when we schedule a Board Meeting. They are held at the Orange Grove Library starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to our board meetings. We welcome your input and fresh ideas.

You will need to let me know if you plan to attend so that we can make sure that there will be room. Sometimes, we have to use the smaller conference room.

I am looking forward to a great new year. The more you step up and let us know what you would like to see in the club the more likely we incorporate these changes.

See you at the next meeting.

Thanks,

Sue West, President



Notes from the editor . . .

Please check the attachments to the Newsletter email. I will have our By-laws and Standard Operating Procedures along with a list of 2018 members eligible for the 2019 scholarships this year. See page 3 for Rules.

Equipment

We now have a new Equipment Chairman, Cindy Braden. Members wanting to use the machines will need to contact Cindy. If you have any club inventory, please let her know.

Program - 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Our new program started this year with our Vice President, Buddy Shotts doing Gem ID. Each month we will have something different. Right now we have something scheduled until June. Please see our Program Chairman, Buddy Shotts to schedule a program. This does not replace "Show & Tell". By all means, please bring your items to share with us.

Workshops

Kathy Becnel is our new workshop chairman. Please contact her to schedule a workshop. We have a new incentive program that started in January 2019 for instructors who teach in 2019 we will have a scholarship drawing in 2020 for instructor's only. You could be a winner!

Website, Newsletter and Facebook

Kathy, myself, and Laura are in need of material. Please consider submitting articles, pictures, projects, or recipes. We are appreciative of any of material. If you have any older newsletters prior to email copies you would like to bring and share with us that would be great!

Lisa Fitch, Editor





Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society January 19, 2019

Call to Order: Meeting called to order by President Sue West at 1:24 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 32

MEETING

Minutes: The minutes of November 2018 meeting: Julie Boudreaux moved to accept, and Cynthia Braden seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Treasury Report: Report given by Lynn Tate. A few expenses in December 2018 which included new storage unit and miscellaneous items. Deposits were made from the show contracts received. Julie Boudreaux moved to accept. Aurora King seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facebook: Kat B. advised members to start looking for vendor information to be posted on Facebook. You can help by liking, commenting and sharing.

Field Trip: Lisa Fitch provided information to President Sue West for DMC (Dixie Mineral Council) field trip. John, who was absent, reported at the earlier board meeting, is talking about an April field trip. He is researching expenses and boarding.

Library: No report provided.

Newsletter: Report given by Lisa Fitch. Lisa identified 2 corrections. Page 10: Picture of Monica White was misidentified as Leslie Jancovich. Scholarship Eligibility: Page 2, item 2: Candidates must attend and participate in at least 3 meetings and/or workshops or a combination of both. (Workshop and meeting cannot be on the same day.) The 3 needs to read as 6.

Sunshine: Report given by Clemencia Howe. Clemencia was asked to be hospitality chairperson. She accepted. She has asked for more communication. Also, there was discussion of a need for a description of the position to be defined.

Workshop: Report given by Kathy Becnel. She identified several future workshops. She stated that there are dates for the 2019 year that are still available.

Show: Report given by Lynn Tate. Deposits have been paid on 10 spaces, 2 requests have been placed for spaces (waiting for deposits), 3 spaces still available: \$390.00, \$500.00 and \$590.00. Lynn Tate has asked for 6 typists to compile a mailing list of attendees from previous shows. Volunteers were

Leslie Jancovich, Patricia Lewis, Rosalind Norval-Daniels, and Ellen Kirstein.

Website: Report given by Kat Becnel. She reported that the club website has been updated.

Communications: Lynn Tate received a card from Sharon Greer, which was read to the members in attendance. A "Get Well" card for Sharon Greer was purchased and made available for everyone to sign.

Old Business: A new program, yet to be named, was created at the board meeting of January 15, 2019. Buddy Shotts was asked to head up that project, for which he accepted. The program would be from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. The first class was on "Gem Identification".

New Business:

Be thinking about future programs.

Sue West gave a report on the storage building move.

Merit-based scholarships was discussed. For instance, (1) working on the Gem & Mineral Show or (2) teaching workshops.

Sue West asked Cynthia Braden if she would be willing to be the Equipment Chairperson.

Cindy agreed. Guidelines was tabled for future discussion.

Purchasing small tools to be used for workshops was tabled for future meeting. Approval was revealed by a show of hands.

A volunteer is needed for handling club shirts and name tags. Ellen Kirstein volunteered.

A Swap meet was discussed. Buddy Shotts stated that he saw no conflict with the Southeast Federation. The suggestion was tabled for future discussions.

Sue West announced that there is an opening available at Studio 782.

The next board meeting will be February 5 at 1:00 p.m.

Split the Pot: There was no Split the Pot.

Door prizes: Clemencia Howe, Kat Becnel, Aurora King, Dianne Dewees, Barbara Saavedra, Reba Shotts and Karen Williams.

Adjournment: Lynn Tate made the motion to adjourn. Rosalind Norval-Daniels seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

From the Editor: On "Show Participation" article in January's Newsletter - Rosalind's Name was misspelled. So sorry.

HCGMS Scholarship Rules Standard Operating Procedures Dated 12/11/17

Scholarships

The Board of Directors will determine the number of school scholarships to be awarded. They may elect to award a minimum of two scholarships annually provided there is a minimum of \$5000 in the general fund.

Scholarship will generally be to the William Holland Lapidary School or Wild Acres. However, it may be used for another school teaching other lapidary classes per board approval. Class must be in earth sciences, lapidary, jewelry, mineralogy, petrology, paleontology, geology, or other related fields. Total monetary value of this scholarship will not exceed \$500 (\$400 for tuition and board and \$100 to cover misc. expenses).

Scholarship Eligibility

Recipients of scholarship are defined as one who contributes and participates in club activities.

- A. Recipient must have attended and participated in at least Six meetings and/or workshops or a combination or both (Attending Workshop and meeting on the same day cannot be counted as two).
- B. Recipient must be a paid member of the club for over 12 months of the previous year before being considered.
- C. Candidate must be willing and able to go to William Holland, Wild Acres, or other lapidary school.
- D. The scholarship is not transferable to another person.
- E. All Scholarships must be used the year awarded. No scholarship will carry over to the following year.
- F. Recipient of scholarship will have 30 days from the time scholarship is drawn to commit to attending and using the scholarship. If the scholarship is drawn in February, then you will have until the March meeting to commit to the scholarship. You do not have to have a class chosen or deposit made to a school at this time.
- G. No club scholarship will be awarded to the same person two years in a row.
- H. Candidate must be willing to return to the club, give a "show and tell" program and share his /her new acquired skill and knowledge with other club members
- I. Candidate club dues must be current.
- J. Scholarship recipients are highly encouraged to attend the Southeast Federation sponsored workshops. Only with the board approval can a non-Federation sponsored workshop be substituted for a Federation sponsored workshop.

Process

- A. Board of Directors will decide the number of scholarships to be rewarded
- B. Treasurer verifies that the candidate has paid his/her dues by the 3rd Saturday of January and has been a member of the club for over 12 months. He/she will provide a list of candidates to Secretary no later than 7 February.
- C. Secretary will review the participation record of the paid members to determine legibility prior to the February meeting.
- D. The list of eligible candidates will be read at the February business meeting. Any club member that feels that they meet the eligibility requirements and whose name is not on the list may ask to have their record reviewed. Treasurer and Secretary will review the records to determine the eligibly.
- E. At the February meeting names (or number) will be drawn for each of the scholarships. Two alternates times the number of scholarships will be drawn (if 2 scholarships are to be awarded – 4 alternates will be drawn).
- F. Any candidate whose name is drawn for the scholarship will have 30 days to notify the president if he or she cannot accept the scholarship.
- G. When the president is notified that someone cannot accept the scholarship, he/she will offer it to the next person on the alternate list. The new awardees will have 30 days to notify the president if he or she cannot accept the scholarship.
- H. Any of the following, will make the recipient ineligible for a club scholarship for a period of two years.
 - a. Failure to notify the president within the prescribed time frame that they cannot accept the scholarship.
 - b. Failure to use the scholarship.
 - c. Failure to give a "show and tell" program and share his /her new acquired skill and knowledge with other club members.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop Chairman:
kgbecnel@gmail.com

Feb. 16, 2019

Kathy Becnel
228-342-0716

Darling ring

By Sue West

* * Kits Available \$7.00 * *



Supplies:

8 inches 12 ga. 1/2 round sterling dead soft

14 inches 18 ga 1/2 round gold filled half hard

7 inches 18 ga square dead soft

If you have a ring mandrel, bring it.

Please let me know if you want one so that I will know how many to make.

You can call 228-860-0448 or text.

Sue

Japanese Cross Bracelet

By Laura Tate

* * Kits Available * *



Supplies:

88 – 18ga 9/64“ jump rings Argentium Silver

24– 16ga 9/64“ jump rings Argentium Silver

31 – 16ga 5mm jump rings Gold Filled

1 Clasp

Cabbing Workshops

If you are interested in cabbing we have instructors available to teach you. Time may be limited if other members are waiting to use the machines.

- ♦ \$3.00 per Day for equipment usage
- ♦ Must be a member (waiver on file)
- ♦ Guest not allowed to use equipment
- ♦ Contact Equipment Chairman,

Cindy Braden



Program

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

Video of Hope Diamond

By John Clinard

* * * * *

March - Crystal ID

Contact Program Chairman, Buddy Shotts

Upcoming 2019 Workshops

March - Stretchy Bracelet

Kathy Becnel

**** Volunteer needed for 2nd workshop * ***

**April - Beaded Tennis Bracelet
Crystal Bracelet**

**Karen Johnson
Gladys Dedeaux**



Happy Birthday

Gladys Dedeaux
Charles Satchfield



Thought of the Day . . .



Keep love in your heart.

A life without it is like a
sunless garden when the
flowers are dead.

The consciousness of loving
and being loved brings a
warmth and richness to life
that nothing else can bring.

Oscar Wilde

TACO SOUP

Submitted by Lynn Tate

Makes (12) 1 cup Servings



INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. Turkey or Lean Ground Meat
- 1 Large Onion chopped
- 1 Pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix
- 1 Pkg. Taco Seasoning Mix
- 1 can Pinto Beans
- 1 can Chili Hot Beans
- 1 can Whole Kernel Corn
- 1 can Stewed Tomatoes (Mexican Flavor)
- 1 can Stewed Tomatoes (any flavor)

INSTRUCTIONS

Brown meat and onions, drain. Mix Hidden Valley Ranch dressing mix and Taco seasoning mix into meat. Then, without draining, add all the other ingredients. Simmer one hour. If you can find the reduced sodium Taco Seasoning and Hidden Valley Ranch. It is very helpful because of the high sodium count in both seasonings and the chili hot beans. This is delicious served with baked Tostitos Chips. Many variations of this recipe are available on the internet. You can't go wrong with any version you choose.

Lisa's Note: I personally like to serve mine with shredded cheddar cheese and dollop of sour cream on top. Served with a nice tossed green side salad.

FIELD TRIPS



Dixie Mineral Council Field Trips

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc



The Friendly Federation - Founded in 1976 to serve
DMC Program of the SFMS Field Trip Committee
Copyright © All rights reserved.

An Official Field Trip of the Athens Rock and Gem Club (Athens, GA) (HOST)

Saturday, February 16, 2019
9:00AM EST
Stoney Bluff
Girard, GA

TRIP: This is the Third Bi-annual trip to collect agate about 30 miles south of Augusta, GA. We will assemble in Girard, GA at 9 am in the vacant lot just south of the Post Office (do not park in the Post Office parking lot). The collecting site is only a few miles away.

COLLECTING: "Savannah River Agate"

BRING: Colorful, agatized material can be found on the surface at the site, but many people usually bring light digging tools and small pry bars to free larger boulders from the sandy soil. Leather gloves and safety glasses are recommended. Bring plenty of water and dress for the weather. **NOTE:** All holes must be re-filled before

FACILITIES: There are no facilities at this site and the closest facilities are several miles away.

Directions from I-20 in Augusta, GA:

From I-20 in Augusta get onto I-520 (Bobby Jones Expressway) and head toward the south end of the expressway.

When you reach Exit 9 (Mike Padgett Hwy), exit and head south (most likely Hwy 56 at that point) approx. 15 mi. to McBean, GA.

Just beyond McBean turn left onto Hwy 23 and follow it SE about 14 mi. to Girard, GA.

CONTACT: Trip chairman: Jim Maudsley 706-353-1792 or james-m24@charter.net



MEETINGS WEEKLY



Meetings / Workshops

Herbert Wilson Recreational Center
3625 Hancock Avenue
Gulfport, Ms. 39501

3rd Saturday of each month

9 am - 12 pm Workshop
12 pm - 1 pm Lunch
1 pm - 2 pm Meeting

Directions: Coming from Pass Road or Highway 90 turn on Courthouse Road. Turn next to Hancock Bank on 33rd Street until you reach Hancock Street. Look to your left and you will see the Herbert Wilson Recreational Center. We are on the left side of building thru the gates.

Come for fun . . . Stay to play!

Visit our Website and Facebook page:

www.gulfportgems.org or
<https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems>

Workshops are offered free!

Next Meeting & Workshop

February 16, 2019

Visitors are always welcome

Please bring a guest. . .

2 Workshops this Month

Membership Dues

Single \$20.00 - 18 years old
Family \$30.00 - 2 adults and all minors under 18 yrs. old at the same address
Junior \$10.00 - Sponsored by an adult

Application on website & newsletter

Dues deadline - 3rd Saturday of January

See Lynn Tate, Treasurer



Name Tags - \$7.00

Shirts - available and cost is based on sizes

Please see Ellen Kirsten 413-668-6934

2019 MEETING DATES

Jan 19	May 18 & 19 SHOW	
Feb. 16	June 15	Sept 21
March 16	July 20	Oct 18
April 20	Aug 17	Nov 16
Dec 21 Christmas Party		

Nearby Gem Societies



Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

www.mgcgms.com

Meeting: 2nd Saturday of the month



Mobile Rock and Gem Society

www.mobilerockandgem.com

Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of the month



Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana

Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month

Contact: Levette @ 504-214-3205

Other Interests:

International Society of Glass Blowers

Website: www.isgb.org

Visit site if you like Lampworking



Dixie Mineral Council

<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>

Bench Tips from Brad . . .

PICKLE PRECAUTIONS

A hot pickle pot gives off fumes that bother me in my home workshop. I get around that by using my pickle cold. I mix it a little stronger than for a hot pot so that it works almost as quickly. I keep it in a large-mouth plastic bottle and cap it off whenever I'm done using it.

PROTECTING FINISHED SURFACES

I figure that any accidental scratch I make on a piece means about 15 minutes of extra sanding and polishing. So after finishing major surfaces I typically cover them with some masking tape to avoid any scratches when doing final work like cleanups and setting of stones.

The blue masking tape used by painters works particularly well because it doesn't leave a sticky residue.



Discover New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books

Check out Brad's books on Amazon:

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

www.bradsmithjewelry.com

Articles are copyrighted by Brad Smith



AFMS Endowment Fund

by Cheryl Neary, Endowment Chair

Why contribute to the Endowment Fund? Simply, your donation of either an item donated to the fund or the purchase of tick-ets helps tremendously with this important fundraiser for the Federation. The interest from the monies generated is used for AFMS special projects, such as, junior badges, judges training, digitizing of slide programs, to name a few.

Tickets for the drawing are \$5.00 per tick-et or 5 for \$20.00. You may purchase your tickets from your Federation's representative as follows:

Southeast Federation
Leslie & Dave Wayment
PO Box 780791; Sebastian, FL 32978
aastainedglass@bellsouth.net

At this time, we have several donations from various Federations. Don't miss the opportunity to have your Federation, Club or Member mentioned as a donor for this great fund!

New items donated since the last AFMS Newsletter are as follows:

- #2 Kambaba Jasper Sphere, Madagascar donated by Lavin Gems & Jewelry - Estimated value \$85.00 (MMF)
- #3 Snowflake Obsidian Sphere do-nated by R.M.Kapta, Decatur, IL - Esti-mated value \$85.00 (MWF)
- #4 Golden Sheen Obsidian Sphere do-nated by R.M. Kapta, Decatur, IL - Esti-mated value \$85.00 (MWF)
- #10 Vanadinite, Morocco Donated by Southern Gems, Minerals & Fossils – Est. value \$350.00 (EFMLS)
- #13 Painting on Brazilian Agate – Donated by Richard Jaeger

All pictures of the items and any new do-nations will be listed on the website - www.amfed.org

If interested in donating a mineral specimen or piece of jewelry or equipment, the criteria is a minimum value of \$75.00 and not heavier than five (5) pounds (with exceptions to equipment – if it can be brought to and distributed at the convention!)

Please contact me at ciervo.neary@gmail.com if you have a donation.

Remember, the Endowment Fund helps supports the future of our organizations and our hobbies, including minerals, fossils and geology to name a few!

A.F.M.S. Newsletter Volume 72, Number 2

AFMS 2019 Annual Convention

Held in Cedar Rapids, IA

March 23th & 24th, 2019

**Meeting information available
on website
www.amfed.org**

A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscriptions are \$4.50 per year

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

AFMS Central Office

Steve Weinberger

PO Box 302

Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

central_office@amfed.org PH: 410-833-7926

Can be read online: www.amfed.org



William Holland School of Lapidary Arts 706-379-2126

Website @ www.lapidaryschool.org

Classes are April - Nov 2019
Federation Week June 9, 2019

WILDACRES RETREAT 828-756-4573

Website @ www.wildscres.org

When scheduling keep in mind, workshops are subjected to change without notice.

Please check the website for changes.

William Holland

June 9th, 2019 – June 14th, 2019

For more information go to www.sfmsworkshops.org we will be updating the website soon to include registration and payment but for now you can mail your registration form and \$50 Deposit to:

SFMS Workshops
c/o Warren Ratcliff, WH Registrar
420 S. Oak Ave
Bartow, FL 33830

(Make check payable to SFMS Workshops)

Warren (Teddy) Ratcliff, WH Registrar
Warren.Registrar@yahoo.com
(941) 545-4728

Kristine Robertson, WH Director
Kristine@kmarella.com,
(863) 640 - 2887

- ♦ Beading
- ♦ Cabochons I
- ♦ Casting
- ♦ Chain – Loop n Loop
- ♦ Electro-Etching/Wood Inlay
- ♦ Metal Manipulation/ Cold Connection
- ♦ Opals II – Carving
- ♦ Silver 2 – Fused
- ♦ Silver I
- ♦ Silver-Wear I & II
- ♦ Wire II – Bracelets Only

Wildacres 2019

Federation Weeks

August 19-25 2019 sfmsworkshops.com

- ♦ Cold Connections Morning Sherrod
- ♦ Beginning Casting Bill Harr
- ♦ Wire Wrap Rowan Rose Morgan
- ♦ Special Projects Jeff Sheer
- ♦ Cabochons Buddy Shotts
- ♦ Beg. Chain/Fusing Roy Deere
- ♦ Layered Colored Pencil Mary Karg
Jewelry on metal

September 16-22 2019 sfmsworkshops.com

- ♦ Silver 1 Pattie Appleby
- ♦ Gem ID Teresa Polly
- ♦ Adv. Casting Bill Harr
- ♦ Stone Inlay Chuck Bruce
- ♦ Beg. Chain/Fusing Roy Deere
- ♦ Metal Clay Judi Talley
- ♦ Cold Connections Morning Sherrod
- ♦ Electro-etch wood inlay Micah Kirby

We look forward to seeing you at Wildacres this coming year for our lapidary workshops.

S.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscription to Lodestar is FREE electronically

Email: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com Or
Editor: john@rasmussengems.com

Can be read online:
<http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html>
www.amfed.org

Amethyst

FACTS

Wedding Anniversaries—6th & 17th

- Mineral: Quartz
- Chemistry: SiO_2
- Color: Purple
- Refractive Index: 1.544 to 1.553
- Birefringence: 0.009
- Specific Gravity: 2.66
- Mohs Hardness: 7



The name comes from the Ancient Greek, derived from the word “methustos,” which means “intoxicated.” Ancient wearers believed the gemstone could protect them from drunkenness. The major sources are Brazil and Uruguay.

Amethyst is composed of quartz, which is the second most abundant material found in the Earth’s crust. It gets its color from irradiation, iron impurities and the presence of trace elements. Its hardness is the same as other quartz, which makes it a durable and lasting option for jewelry. It’s the gem that’s most commonly associated with the color purple, even though there are other purple gems such as sapphire and tanzanite.

Amethyst’s purple color can range from a light lilac to a deep, intense royal purple, and from brownish to vivid. Its purple color can be cool and bluish, or a reddish purple that’s sometimes referred to as “raspberry.” Amethyst also commonly shows color zoning, which in the case of amethyst usually consists of angular zones of darker to lighter color.

History & Lore:

Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. Amethyst jewelry has been found and dated as early as 2000 BC. It is one of the emblems of the twelve apostles.

Fine amethysts have been set in religious jewelry and royal crown jewels for ages. It was once considered equal in value to ruby, emerald, and sapphire. It’s no wonder that fine amethyst adorns the fingers of bishops as well as the coronation regalia of British royalty.



Because of its wine-like color, early Greek legends associated amethyst with Bacchus, the god of wine. Other legends reflected beliefs that amethyst kept its wearer clear-headed and quick-witted in battle and in business affairs. Being associated with wine, it was believed that wearing amethyst prevented drunkenness. It was common the Greeks drank from cups designed with Amethyst.

Leonard da Vinci said that amethyst helps to quicken intelligence and get rid of evil thoughts. Other qualities like peace, stability, courage and strength are said to be derived from this gemstone.

Amethyst played a big role in early Egyptian civilization. It was very common for pharaohs tombs to be adorned by the gemstone. Historians believe that wealth was experienced by Egypt at one point with the proof they have found in the tombs of that time period. When the country became very wealthy, the royalty of the country gave gifts of both Amethyst and gold to many of the families from the middle and working classes.

The British Crown Jewels consist of Amethyst. It is also said to have been the favorite gemstone of Russian empress, Catherine the Great. Egyptian pharaoh Cleopatra had an Amethyst ring which was believed to capture the hearts Julius Caesar and Marc Anthony, who were both Romans. After this happened, many Roman women began wearing Amethyst jewelry because they thought that it would help keep their husbands faithful.

Greece being known to be the first civilization to have recognized Amethyst, the gemstone actually does date back to biblical times. According to the Bible, there were twelve gemstones that on the breastplate that was worn by High Priest Aaron with Amethyst being one of them. Amethyst is also associated with both the Apostle Matthias and the Adnachiel, a Guardian Angel. Clergy members in the Catholic religion wore Amethyst and also used it for the adornment of the crosses. In the Buddhist religion Amethyst is believed to have been of significant meaning to Buddha. This is why malas, (Buddhist prayer beads) often contain Amethyst. In both the Buddhist and Catholic religions, the gemstone was believed to be representative of celibacy.

Sources: gia.edu, amethystring.com, americangemsociety.com, Wikipedia, Palagems.com, toptenz.com, minerals.net, the practicalgemologist.com/gemstones, gemselect.com, birthstones.today



Amethyst

Empress of Uruguay"

Crystal Caves Museum in Atherton



Largest



Date: 221 AD

Portrait of Roman Emperor Caracalla; inscription in Greek letters O IETPOC and cross added at the Byzantine period in order to transform the portrait in that of St. Peter. Amethyst intaglio, ca. 212 CE. From the treasury of the Sainte-Chapelle in Paris.

The geode - a hollow rock filled with amethyst crystals which weighs about 2.5 tons - was found in Uruguay and then shipped to Australia to become the star attraction at the Crystal Caves near Atherton, about 1,800km north of Brisbane. It stands 327 cm tall. It is one of nature's greatest masterpieces. (Pictured is the owner, Rene Boissevain)

The owners -- who were long-standing customers of the mine where it was found - paid US \$75,000 for it in 2007 and spent another \$25,000 moving it to Australia. It was vandalized August 1, 2011 by a tourist (thief) caught on CCTV camera. It is a little shorter now with a tennis ball chunk missing.

Ancient Necklace



Ancient necklace dates to 2000BC. The center stone inscription is in a South Arabian script from the 8th century BC.

Shows and Events

43rd Annual Treasure Coast Rock and Gem Society Show

Feb. 16th Saturday 10-5 pm / Feb. 17th Sunday 10-4pm

Vero Beach Community Center 2266 14th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960
Hourly Raffle Prizes, Demonstrations, Beads-Supplies-Jewelry, Minerals-Rocks, Gems-Pearls-Opals, Guest Treasure Diver, Presentation, Book signing

60th Mississippi Gem, Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show

Mississippi Gem and Mineral Society **FEBRUARY 23rd & 24th**

Saturday, February 23rd (10 am to 6 pm) Sunday, February 24, 2019 (9 - 5pm)

Mississippi Trade Mart on the State Fairgrounds / Jackson, Mississippi

Admission: Adults \$6 Students \$3 / Scouts & Leaders in Uniform \$2 / Children 5 & under—Free

MGMS website: www.missgems.org Information email: rock2lanes@gmail.com

Over 25 dealers of gems, fossils, minerals, jewelry, lapidary tools, beads,

Kids Activities / Hourly door prizes, and a "GRAND PRIZE" drawing.

49th Annual Suncoast Gem, Jewelry & Mineral Show and Sale

March 1-2-3, 2019 Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society St. Petersburg, FL

Fri: 10 AM to 6PM

Sat: 10AM-6PM; Sun: 10am-5PM

The Minnreg Hall

6340 126th Ave. N., Largo, FL 33773

GRAND DRAWING AT END OF SHOW!

FREE PARKING

Show contact: Bill Schmidt, Show Chair, 727 822-8279 **Email contact:** SGAMSGemshow@gmail.com

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS VISIT - amfed.org

[AKS GEM SHOW](#) Presents [New Orleans Bead & Jewelry Show](#)

Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner, La. 70065

Admission Fee \$5.00 Hours: Fri & Sat 10am-6pm / Sun 10am-4pm

Email info@aksshow.com with inquiries Phone: 504-265-8830 Visit website www.aksshow.com

GET A COUPON FOR \$1.00 OFF Admission

2019 Dates: **January 25th - 27th Winter Show / April 5th - 7th Spring Show**
July 12th - 14th Summer Show / September 6th - 8th Fall Show / November 1st - 3rd Xmas Show

**Save \$1.00 off
admission to any AKS
Gem Show**

This coupon is good for entrance to any AKS Gem Show! ***Be sure to check your inbox for additional savings from our exhibitors.***

[Check our list of shows now...](#)

Offer Expires: no expiration.



Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Information



Officers 2019

<u>President</u> - Sue West	(228) 831-2294
<u>Vice President</u> - Buddy Shotts	(601) 947-7245
<u>Secretary</u> - Nicole Green	(228) 344-8066
<u>Treasurer</u> - Lynn Tate	(228) 342-2963
<u>Directors</u>	
Laura Tate (1 yr.)	(228) 342-2971
Kathy Becnel (2 yr.)	(228) 342-0716
John Clinard (3 yr.)	(601) 766-3786

Committee Members

<u>Facebook Chairman</u>	
Laura Tate	(228) 342-2971
<u>Field Trip Chairman</u>	
John Clinard	(601) 766-3786
<u>Librarian Chairman</u>	
Arvid Coole	(601) 723-1412
<u>Newsletter Editor</u>	
Lisa Fitch	(228) 467-4684
<u>Sunshine & Hospitality Chairman</u>	
Clemencia Howe	(228) 822-2184
<u>Show Chairmen</u>	
Lynn Tate	(228) 342-2963
<u>Webmaster & Workshop Chairman</u>	
Kathy Becnel	(228) 342-0716
<u>Assistant Webmaster</u>	
Leslie Jancovich	(859) 321-5692
<u>Equipment Chairman</u>	
Cindy Braden	(228) 467-5198

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<u>Ms. State Director, Parliamentarian & Boundaries</u>	
Buddy Shotts	(601) 947-7245
<u>Past President & ALAA Ms. State Representative</u>	
John Wright	(228) 875-9192

Field Trips

John Clinard

We are now members of the Dixie Mineral Council. You can attend any DMC Field Trips. It will be posted in each newsletter. Because of insurance requirements the general public are NOT invited to any field trips.

601-766-3786

jclinard173@att.net



Website

Kathy Becnel

Take the time and visit our website for the latest information and workshops. Submit articles and pictures to our webmaster.



<http://www.gulfportgems.org/>
kgbecnel@gmail.com



Facebook

Laura Tate

Please visit our Facebook page to view all the latest news and information on our club and workshops. To post club information contact:

Laura Tate at wanderingmsrn@gmail.com



Library

Arvid Coole



The club has some interesting material available for viewing. Please contact Arvid to check out material from our Library. Be sure to return the material in a timely matter in order to share with other members.

Arvid Coole (601) 723-1412

Newsletter Editor

Lisa Fitch

Submit newsletter articles to:

Lapidaryarts@hotmail.com



Copyright 2019 Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Newsletter known as Gulfport Gems. All rights reserved. Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, all materials in this bulletin may be freely copied. Please give credit to Gulfport Gems. Unless otherwise credited, articles are by the editor.

Articles and minutes are due by the last day of each month



Membership Form

Contact Our Treasurer: Lynn Tate (228) 342-2963 **Email:** l.tate4@gmail.com



HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION			
APPLICANT INFORMATION			SINGLE \$20.00
Name:		Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Anniversary: (Mo/Day)	Cell Phone:	
Current address:		Home Phone:	
City:	State / Zip Code:	Work Phone:	
CO-APPLICANT / SPOUSE INFORMATION			FAMILY \$30.00
TWO ADULTS & ALL MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE/AT SAME ADDRESS			
Co-Applicant / Spouse:		Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Cell Phone:	Work Phone:	
JUNIOR INFORMATION			JUNIOR \$10.00
UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ★ SPONSORED BY AN ADULT			
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name:	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
★ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION ★			
Name:			
Relationship:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
INTEREST INFORMATION			
Hobby Interest:		Jewelry Interest:	
(Each applicant initial interests)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fossils <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals <input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary (<input type="checkbox"/> Cabbing, <input type="checkbox"/> Faceting, Etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips (Creeks, Gravel pits, Mines, Etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interests _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Beading <input type="checkbox"/> Kumihimo <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl Knotting <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping <input type="checkbox"/> Chainmaille <input type="checkbox"/> Silversmithing	
APPLICATION FEES			
Applications can be mail to: Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society P. O. Box 10136, Gulfport, Ms. 39505			
Single \$20.00	Family \$30.00	Junior(s) \$10.00 Each	DUES: \$
Dues: <i>Circle One</i> NEW RENEWAL No Proration Deadline: 3rd Saturday of January			TOTAL: \$
SIGNATURES			
How did you hear about our society? _____			
I authorize HCGMS to use my picture or likeness for society promotions?			YES or NO
I authorize HCGMS to include my information in society listings for members only?			YES or NO
Signature of applicant:		Date:	
Signature of co-applicant/spouse (only if for a family membership):		Date:	
*Newsletter will be sent via email @ no charge		Modified 11/20/17 LF	

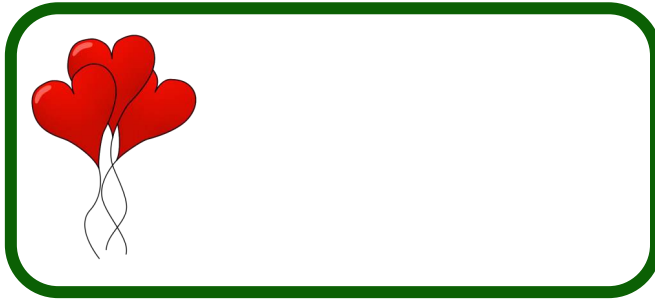
Our goal is to promote, educate and stimulate interest in the earth sciences and lapidary arts context.



Gulfport Gems, Editor
P O Box 10136
Gulfport, MS 39505

Address Service Requested

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.