

Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.



# Gulfport Gems

Volume 40

September 2019

Number 9



Member of the American & 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,

Monica, Charlene and I are leaving on September first to go to William Holland for the week. For those of you that have been, you know what a wonderful experience it is. For those of you that have not been, try it at least once. It is truly worth your time.

I hope to have lots of new things to show at the meeting. So far, I have not been disappointed.

Look forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks.

*Sue West, President*



### **Board Meeting**

Gulfport Library - Old Hwy. 49

**Next Meeting will be in October**

## *Notes from the editor...*

### Nominating Committee

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee to get candidates for our board next year.

Please step up to this challenge.

**Present Slot:** October **Election:** November

**Sworn In:** December **Take Office:** January

## **49th Annual New Orleans Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show**

**October 11th, 12th, & 13th**

**Alario Center**

**2000 Segnette Blvd.**

**Westwego, La. 70094**

**10 am - 6 pm Fri & Sat**

**10 am - 4 pm Sunday**

**Rocks, gems, minerals, and jewelry**

**Displays Demonstrations Raffle**

**Door prizes**

**Shop for the holidays!**

See page 15 "Shows & Events" for more details



## Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society August 17, 2019

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Lynn Tate at 1:23 p.m.

**Members in attendance:** 21 + 1 visitor

### **MEETING:**

Lynn Tate thanked everyone for her gift certificate (which was the clubs' appreciation for the great job she did on our annual show in May) given by the club for being our Show Chair. She also presented Jesse with a present as she turned 93 years old last month. (see Pics on Page 8)

**Minutes:** None available / editor couldn't open file to include in newsletter.  
Treasurer Lynn Tate read the minutes from July 17, 2019. Motion made by Laura Tate to accept the minutes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy. All were in favor. The motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** Report given by Treasurer, Lynn Tate  
Motion made by Lisa Fitch to accept treasurers' report and seconded by Barbara Saavedra. All approved. The motion passed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Facebook Page:** Report given by Laura Tate  
[www.facebook.com/gulfportgems](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems)  
Laura requested that information on workshops be submitted to Facebook Chair, Webmaster, & Editor so she can get it posted on Facebook. The sooner the better.

**Newsletter:** Report given by Lisa Fitch  
She asked the members to please submit articles, recipes, future workshops, anything.

**Website:** Report given by Kathy Becnel  
[www.gulfportgems.org](http://www.gulfportgems.org)  
Kathy reported that we didn't have hardly anyone visit the webpage. From July 24th to August 13<sup>th</sup> we had 41 visits. Of which 9 were local, 2 from the Kiln, 1 from Diamondhead, BSL, Biloxi. Obviously, members aren't visiting the webpage. Please send all information on workshops to the Workshop chairman and it will be distributed to Facebook Chairman,

Webpage and Editor. Kathy also recommended to Lynn that we drop our email addresses on the website since they aren't being used. It cost 100.00 per year and we aren't using them. We have paid for two years.

**Field Trip:** No report given

**Workshop:** Report given by Kathy Becnel  
September will be Tila Temptations bracelet by Barbara S., Tres will teach soldering for \$10.00 and supply everything needed. Do not bring any of your own stuff. October we will have three workshops. Tres will do soldering, Lisa will do Christmas earrings / bracelet, and Cindy B. will do the dreamcatcher again. November, I will be doing the chainmaille Christmas tree and Leslie J. will be doing a Star Pendant. December is party time. January, Lisa will be doing the Garden necklace.

**Equipment:** Report by Cindy Braden  
Everything is ok. We had a little hole in a hose, but it works for now.

**Sunshine:** Clemencia is not here. Please keep Laura, Nicole, Monica and Diane in your prayers.

**Communications:** Karen Johnston announced the AKS show this month

**Show:** Report given by Show Chair, Lynn Tate  
Only two spots available

**Old Business:** It was tabled last month but we talked about buying a Keurig. We will have a reusable cup and supply the regular coffee (like we do now) but you may bring your own favorite flavored coffee cup refill. Kathy B. made a motion to buy a Keurig and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Julie B. All in favor. Motion carried. Lynn will buy the coffee pot for the club and bring it next month.

**New Business:** None

**Split the pot:** Won by Lisa Fitch

**Door prizes:** Won by Leslie J., Karen J., Jesse S., Sharon G., and Lisa F., Barbara S., & Tres L.

**Adjournment:** 2:12 pm  
Motion to adjourn by Lisa Fitch and Second by Cindy Braden. None opposed. Motion passed.



# Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society

July 20, 2019



**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Sue West at 1:35 p.m.

**Members in attendance:** 25

## **MEETING:**

**Minutes:** The minutes of June 16, 2019 meeting: Sue West noted that the minutes of the prior meeting should have read April instead of March. Julie Boudreaux moved to accept the minutes after correction. Cindy Braden seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's report:** Report given by Treasurer, Lynn Tate

Income & Expense report given for the 2019 Show. We had a net profit even with additional expenses due to the extra attention given to this being the club's 40th annual show.

Equipment account is down a little due to the recent purchase of a cabbing machine.

Motion made by Lisa Fitch to accept treasurers' report and seconded by Barbara Saavedra. All approved. The motion passed.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Facebook Page:** Report given by Lynn Tate in Laura Tate's absence

Laura submitted a sample survey that would be used to help identify the best direction to use our marketing dollars for future shows. Lynn asked if you haven't yet replied to Laura's email, please do so.

**Newsletter:** Report given by Lisa Fitch

She asked the members to please submit articles, recipes, future workshops, anything.

**Website:** Report given by Lynn Tate in Kathy Becnells' absence. Kathy will give a full report in August.

**Field Trip:** With plans to make a possible field trip in the autumn, to the Bogue Chitto River near Tyler Ms. directions were made available to club members. It has public access, so feel free to go there independent of the club.

**Workshops:** August meeting: Julie Boudreaux-earrings & Kathy Becnel-chain maille. Tres would like to teach soldering in the near future.

**Sunshine:** Clemencia will not be here in August. Nicole will pick up the supplies for the club.

**Communications:** A Precious Metal Clay (PMC) is being offered by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Club. If you are interested, see Sue West for details.

**Show:** Report given by Show Chair, Lynn Tate

The show report included all expense for Vendor fees, Admissions, Kid's Corner, Advertising and Taxes. For further breakdown, see the Show Income & Expense report. The profit level was down due to additional 40th anniversary expenses and rain. Lynn Tate was presented with a certificate of appreciation, with a gift to follow.

Lynn presented gifts to Lisa Fitch, Kathy Becnel and Barbara Saavedra in appreciation for their hard work on the show.

**Old Business:** Scholarship prices discussed. Tabled from previous month. Karen Williams made a motion to increase scholarships upto a cap of \$500.00 for workshops and \$100.00 for expenses and were second by Leslie J and Cindy Braden. Show of hands showed unanimous approval. Lynn Tate made a motion to make the changes retroactive for this year. Karen Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed. Lisa Fitch will change the SOP's and send out with the newsletter.

## **New Business:**

\*Sue West will not be here for the August club meeting. Lynn Tate agreed to lead the meeting.

\*Sue West spoke to building personnel about using micro-torches in our club meetings. They approved the request. We can move forward with a soldering class.

\*Bonnie Watkins has a cabbing machine and a faceting machine for sale. Buddy has offered to help the buyer get started.

\*Lynn Tate proposed we buy a Keurig. Discussion. Tabled.

**Split the pot:** Won by Aurora King

**Door prizes:** Won by Tammy, Dianne Dewees, Reba Shotts, Sue West, Lynn Tate, Karen Williams, June Meyer, Bonnie Watkins, Ed King and Lisa Fitch.

**Adjournment:** 2:32 pm Motion to adjourn by Nicole Green & second by Cindy B. None opposed. Motion passed.

# WORKSHOPS

**Workshop Chairman:**  
kgbecnel@gmail.com

**September 21st**

**Kathy Becnel**  
228-342-0716

## Tila Temptation Bracelet

By Barbara Saavedra



Material for 7 ½ Inch Bracelet

### Supplies:

- 34 Tila beads
- 33 - 3mm Glass pearls, Color A
- 33 - 3mm Glass Pearls, Color B
- 1 g Size 11 seed beads
- Clasp
- 2 Jump / Split Rings **Optional**

### Tools:

- Mat
- Scissors or Thread burner
- Ruler or Tape Measure
- Fireline 6 lbs.
- Beading needles #12 or Small Big Eye

**Note:** Your pearls can be the same color if you do not want to alternate them.

## Angle Weave Snap Ring

By Laura Tate



### Supplies:

*Wire is Argentum Except Snap-set is Sterling Silver.*

- 25" of 22-gauge square dead-soft wire
- 25" of 20-gauge half-round half-hard wire
- 1 setting ss 6mm round 6-prong snap-set (Rio Grande 614468)
- 1 - 6mm round faceted stone for snap-set (wirejewelry.com E5-16E (emerald green))
- 6 - 2,3- or 4-mm Argentum beads

### Tools:

- Wire Cutters
- Tape
- Tape measure
- Ring mandrel
- Flat-nose pliers
- Fine chain-nose pliers
- Pin Vise
- Rawhide or nylon mallet

You **do not** have to of had the 1st Angle Weave Ring class to do this snap set ring.

## Soldering Class

By Tres Lennep

Class is limited to 6 students / Cost \$10.00

To Be  
taught in  
October too



He will supply all materials and tools.

### Materials:

- 10 jump rings
- Brass, Misc. Copper, & Silver Solder
- Use of tools, torch, flux, solder Board
- 3rd Hand Pick

### Upcoming 2019 Workshops

<b>October</b>	<b>Christmas Earrings/Bracelet</b>	<b>Lisa F.</b>
	<b>Soldering Class</b>	<b>Tres L.</b>
	<b>Dream Catcher</b>	<b>Cindy B.</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Star Pendant</b>	<b>Leslie J.</b>
	<b>Chainmaille Christmas Tree</b>	<b>Kathy B.</b>
<b>December</b>	<b>No Workshop / Christmas Party</b>	

**SEE OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGES**

# Happy Birthday



Diane Dewees  
Karen Johnston  
Tres Lennep  
Terry Scott  
Jim walker

# Happy Anniversary

Buddy & Reba Shotts

## Thought of the Day . . .



## 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 - 706-266-0221

## Easy Marshmallow Pie

By Cakes Cottage



Prep time 35 mins Total time: 35 mins Serves: 8-10

### Ingredients

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs, about 16-18 full sheets, crushed and divided
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 6 Tablespoons butter, melted
- 10 oz. package mini marshmallows
- 3/4 cups of milk
- 2 cups whipping cream

### Instructions

- Combine 1 1/2 cups of graham cracker crumbs, sugar and butter.
- Press into the bottom and sides of a buttered 9-inch pie pan. Place in refrigerator to chill.
- Beat whipping cream with an electric mixer until soft peaks form.
- Melt marshmallows in the pan over low heat with milk.
- Let cool, then mix in whipped cream.
- Spoon into pie crust and top with remaining graham cracker crumbs.
- Let cool in refrigerator for at least 4 hours or until set.
- Garnish, with fresh strawberries if desired.

## Program

12:00 pm to 12:30 pm

By Program Chairman, VP Buddy Shotts

\* \* \* \* \*

Contact Program Chairman  
Vice President Buddy Shotts



# MEETINGS WEEKEND



## Meetings / Workshops

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

### 3rd Saturday of each month

9 am - 12 pm Workshop  
12 pm - 12:30pm Program  
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](http://www.gulfportgems.org) or  
<https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems>

**Workshops are offered free!**

## **Next Meeting & Workshop**

*September 21st*

Visitors are always welcome

**Please bring a guest. . .**

**3 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

## 2019 MEETING DATES

Sept 21

Oct 18

Nov 16

**Dec 21 Christmas Party**

## Nearby Gem Societies



Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

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

Meeting: 2nd Saturday of the month



Mobile Rock and Gem Society

[www.mobilerockandgem.com](http://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](http://www.isgb.org)

Visit site if you like Lampworking



**Dixie Mineral Council**

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

# August 2019 Workshops and Program



Cindy Braden, Equipment Chairman works with some of our newer members to cab. Ed King, resident cabber takes his place at the wheel.



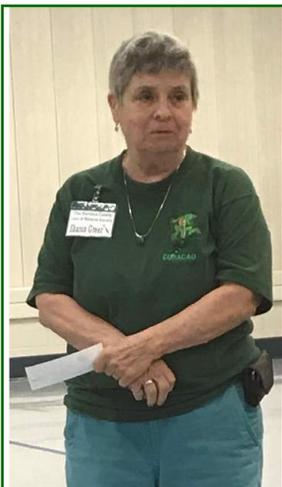
Julie Boudreaux teaches how to make earrings and your own ear wires.

Kathy Becnel taught the "Snake Bracelet" thy teaches how to make earrings and your own ear wires.



Sharon Greer did our "Program" on Peridots  
Below: Peridot in the rough and a beautiful faceted Peridot necklace.

Below Right: Kathy takes a break from her class to chat with Rory King.  
Below Left: Cindy Braden, Laura Tate & Lynn Tate



**SHOW & TELL:**

Kathy Becnel brought her beautiful work she did at William Holland in Lampworking. What craftsmanship! The pictures really don't do the beads justice. Then she combined her Lampwork beads with her Kumihimo beading necklaces for a suburb elegant look. She also made the little "Nut Men" in the top right corner. So Cute!



Below: Jesse Sisk is honored by Treasurer Lynn Tate  
With a Yeti tumbler



# 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 Rome Georgia Mineral Society (Rome, GA)

Sunday, September 22, 2019  
9:00 AM EST  
Summerville, GA

**TRIP:** This location is a small, family owned quarry that has been a popular location for local clubs for many years. There will also be an optional side trip to a location close by where a variety of cutting material will be for sale.

**COLLECTING:** This location is known for its colorful lace banded chert/agate. Most of the material is loose and ranges in size from pebbles to boulders. Some of the material is good for lapidary use and some of it is more suitable for specimens.

**BRING:** Rock hammer, small sledge, chisel, scratching tools, buckets, and a spray bottle with water to wet the rocks so you can see the color better. You may also need sunscreen and gloves, plus a dolly is recommended for hauling large rocks and heavy buckets.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:** This is an active quarry. STAY AWAY from all heavy equipment, high walls, ponds, and quarry machinery.

**TERRAIN AND ACCESSIBILITY:** There are flat areas and areas with loose rock. People with mobility issues may have some difficulty navigating over and around boulders. There may also be soft, muddy areas if it rains before or during the trip. Collecting area is within 100 yards from where we park.

**CHILDREN:** Children are allowed but they must have adult supervision at all times.

**PETS:** No pets allowed.

**FACILITIES:** There are NO facilities at either location. Food and restrooms are several miles away.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** There are many hotels in Rome, GA, which is approximately half an hour away from the collecting site.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Rome Georgia Mineral Society members will be available to answer questions about the location. There will also be a table with examples of collecting material, water, and snacks.

**DIRECTIONS AND WHERE TO MEET:**  
Mount Berry Mall, Rome, GA  
Mall Parking Lot near Zaxby's

**CONTACT:** Dori Madden 706-767-5759 or  
Bob Madden 706-853-1748

**IMPORTANT:** DMC field trips are open only to members of clubs that are members of the SFMS DMC field trip sharing program.



Banded lace chert/agate

## FACTS

- \* Mineral: Corundum
- \* Chemistry:  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$
- \* Color: Every color but red
- \* Refractive index: 1.762 to 1.770
- \* Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.010
- \* Specific gravity: 4.00
- \* Mohs Hardness: 9

# Sapphires



Blue sapphire belongs to the mineral species corundum. It can be a pure blue but ranges from greenish blue to violetish blue. The name “sapphire” can also apply to any corundum that’s not red and doesn’t qualify as ruby, another corundum variety.

Besides blue sapphire and ruby, the corundum family also includes so-called “fancy sapphires.” They come in violet, green, yellow, orange, pink, purple, and intermediate hues. Some stones exhibit the phenomenon known as color change, most often going from blue in daylight or fluorescent lighting to purple under incandescent light. Sapphires can even be gray, black, or brown.

Fancy sapphires are generally less available than blue ones, and some colors are scarce, especially in very small or very large sizes. Still, fancy sapphires create a rainbow of options for people who like the romance associated with this gem, but who also want something out of the ordinary.

Corundum is composed only of aluminum and oxygen, and it requires a growth environment that’s free of silicon. Silicon is a very common element, making natural corundum relatively uncommon. In its purest state, corundum is actually colorless. Colorless sapphires were once popular diamond imitations, and they’ve staged a comeback as accent stones in recent years. Nonetheless, they are rare.

Color-causing trace elements of iron and titanium, cause the corundum to be a blue sapphire. The more iron a corundum has the darker the blue. But only a few hundredths of a percent of iron and titanium can cause the color. Chromium can cause the red color of ruby or the pink of pink sapphire.

Discoveries in the 1990s from East Africa and Madagascar brought fancy sapphires widespread recognition. Increasing the availability of yellows, oranges, pinks and purples the new sources supplemented production from traditional ones like Sri Lanka and Madagascar.

The colors attracted jewelry designers who wanted to move away from traditional hues of red, blue, and green. Now, contemporary designers arrange fancy sapphires in stunning rainbow suites.

Corundum can show a phenomenon called asterism, or the star effect. This phenomenon usually appears as a six-ray star pattern across a cabochon-cut stone’s curved surface.

The star effect can be seen in ruby or any color of sapphire, and it arises from white light reflecting from numerous tiny, oriented needle-like inclusions.

Besides fancy sapphire and star corundum, there’s another interesting variety: color-change sapphire. These fascinating stones change color under different lighting. Their presence adds a special dimension to the already amazing corundum family of gems.

Both blue and fancy sapphires come from a variety of exotic sources including Madagascar, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Australia.

“Parti sapphires” are those sapphires which show two or more colors in a single stone. The only color which sapphire cannot be is red - as red colored corundum is called ruby, another corundum variety.

Commonly, natural sapphires are cut and polished into gemstones and worn in jewelry. They also may be created synthetically in laboratories for industrial or decorative purposes in large crystal boules.

**Ancient History:** The Sapphire symbolizes nobility, truth, sincerity, and faithfulness. Being associated with royalty and romance for centuries it has decorated the robes of royalty and clergy members. The association was reinforced in 1981, when Britain’s Prince Charles gave a blue sapphire engagement ring to Lady Diana Spencer until her death in 1997. Her sapphire ring helped link modern events with history and fairy tales. Kings and queens in ancient times from Greece and Rome were convinced that by wearing blue sapphires protected them from envy and harm. The clergy in the Middle Ages wore blue sapphires to symbolize Heaven, while it was thought by ordinary folks that the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Sapphires in other times and places were instilled to have the power to guard chastity, influence spirits, make peace between enemies, and reveal the secrets of oracles.

In folklore, sapphire has always been associated with the color blue. The Greek word *Sappheiros*, which probably referred to lapis lazuli is where Sapphire gets its name.



The **Logan Sapphire** is a flawless specimen from Sri Lanka, a cushion-cut stone is the **second largest (blue) sapphire** known (its size about that of an egg) weighing **422.99 carats** (84.6 g).. The Logan Sapphire is named after Mrs. Polly Logan, who donated the gemstone to the Smithsonian Institution in 1960.

Set in a brooch surrounded by 20 round brilliant cut diamonds weighing 16 carats (3.2 g). It is currently on display at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., alongside the Bismarck Sapphire Necklace and the Hall Sapphire and Diamond Necklace.

**“Star of India”**

At 563 carats blue sapphire is the world's largest gem-quality blue star sapphire until “Star of Adam”. Some 2 billion years old, it is also one of the most well-known objects in the world.



**“Black Star of Queensland”**



A 733-carat (146.6 g) black sapphire, and was the world's largest gem quality star sapphire. The stone was reportedly found by 12-year-old Roy Spencer in the mid-1930s in the Queensland gem fields near Anakie, Queensland. The Star of India at 563.4 carats (112.68 g) is thought to be the largest gem quality blue star sapphire, and is on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Source: [gia.edu](http://gia.edu), Forbes, internet, Wikipedia



## Yogo Sapphires



“Yogo sapphires” preferred wording for a variety of corundum found only in Yogo Gulch, part of the Little Belt Mountains in Judith Basin County, Montana, United States, on land once inhabited by the Piegan Blackfoot people. Yogos are typically cornflower blue, a result of trace amounts of iron and titanium. They have high uniform clarity and maintain their brilliance under artificial light. Because Yogo sapphires occur within a vertically dipping resistive igneous dike, mining efforts have been sporadic and rarely profitable. It is estimated that at least 28 million carats (5.6 t or 5.5 long tons or 6.2 short tons) of Yogos are still in the ground. Jewelry containing Yogos was given to First Ladies Florence Harding and Bess Truman; in addition, many gems were sold in Europe, though promoters' claims that Yogos are in the crown jewels of England or the engagement ring of Princess Diana are dubious. The Smithsonian has some on display.

Sapphire mining began in 1895 after a local rancher named Jake Hoover sent a cigar box of gems he had collected to an assay office, which in turn sent them to Tiffany's in New York, where an appraiser pronounced them "the finest precious gemstones ever found in the United States".<sup>[2]</sup> Hoover then purchased the original mother lode from a shepherd, later selling it to other investors. This became the highly profitable "English Mine", which flourished from 1899 until the 1920s. A second operation, the "American Mine", was owned by a series of investors in the western section of the Yogo dike, but was less profitable and bought out by the syndicate that owned the English Mine. In 1984, a third set of claims, known as the Vortex mine, opened.

More gem-quality sapphires are produced in Montana than anywhere else in North America. Sapphires were first discovered in Montana in 1865, in alluvium along the Missouri River. Finds in other locations in the western half of the state occurred in 1889, 1892, and 1894. The Rock Creek location, near Phillipsburg, is the most productive site in Montana, and its gems inspired the name of the nearby Sapphire Mountains. In 1969, the sapphire was co-designated along with the agate as Montana's state gemstones.

In the early 1980s, Intergem Limited, which controlled most of the Yogo sapphire mining at the time, rocked the gem world by marketing Yogos as the world's only guaranteed "untreated" sapphire, exposing a practice of the time wherein 95 percent of all the world's sapphires were heat-treated to enhance their natural color. Although Intergem went out of business, the gems it mined appeared on the market through the 1990s because the company had paid its salesmen in sapphires during its financial demise. Citibank had obtained a large stock of Yogos as a result of Intergem's collapse, and after keeping them in a vault for nearly a decade, sold its collection in 1994 to a Montana jeweler. Mining activity today is largely confined to hobby miners in the area; the major mines are currently inactive.

Discovery Differs:

Yogo sapphires were not initially recognized or valued. Gold was discovered at Yogo Creek in 1866, and though "blue pebbles" were noticed alongside gold in the stream [alluvium](#) by 1878, it was not until 1894 that the "blue pebbles" were recognized as sapphires.

One story credits a local school teacher for recognizing the blue pebbles as sapphires.<sup>[1]</sup> A variation is that the teacher lived in Maine, but was a friend of a local miner, who had mailed her a small box with some gold and a few "blue pebbles" in it. Another story credits a miner named S.S. Hobson for surmising that the blue stones might be sapphires, and his guess was confirmed by a jeweler in Helena. Ultimately, in 1895, Jake Hoover sent a cigar box containing those he had collected while mining gold to an assay office, which in turn sent them via regular, uninsured mail to Tiffany's in New York City for appraisal by Dr. [George Frederick Kunz](#), the leading American gemologist of the time. Impressed by their quality and color, Kunz pronounced them "the finest precious gemstones ever found in the United States".<sup>[2]</sup> Tiffany's sent Hoover a check for \$3,750 (approximately \$106,700 as of 2016), along with a letter that described the blue pebbles as "sapphires of unusual quality".

## Bench Tips from Brad . . .

### BROKEN DRILLS

Have you ever broken a drill bit off in a hole? Sometimes you can grab it with pliers, but other times the steel piece is below the surface in the hole. If this happens, a quick fix is to dissolve the steel in a solution of alum or fresh pickle. The solution will not affect your silver or gold piece.

Alum is typically available from a food store. It's used to preserve some foods. Use about a tablespoon per cup of warm water. Submerge your piece so that the partially drilled hole is facing up to let the bubbles float free and not block the hole.



### FOREDOM STAND

A quick and easy way to suspend a flexshaft over your jewelry bench is to use some steel pipe components from the hardware store. You can buy it today, attaches with a couple screws, and only costs about \$10

I use 1/2 inch galvanized pipe and fittings. To build a stand that attaches to the top of your bench, all you'll need is a flange and a thirty inch length of the pipe. If you prefer a stand that attaches to the side of your bench, you'll need a little longer pipe, three foot, a flange, and a 90 degree "street elle".

Finally, make a hook that goes into the top of the pipe to hang the motor from. You can use heavy coat hanger wire or 1/8 steel rod from the hardware store.



**Work Smarter & Be More Productive With Brad's "How To" Books**  
**[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)**

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

Articles are copyrighted by Brad Smith



## S.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscription to Lodestar is FREE electronically

Email: [sfms.lodestar@gmail.com](mailto:sfms.lodestar@gmail.com) Or

Editor: [john@rasmussengems.com](mailto:john@rasmussengems.com)

Can be read online:

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

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

## WILDACRES RETREAT

828-756-4573

Website @[www.wildscres.org](http://www.wildscres.org)

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

Please check the website for changes.

## Wildacres 2019 Federation Weeks

September 16-22 2019 [sfmsworkshops.com](http://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.

## 2019 SFMS Annual Meeting

The SFMS Annual Meeting will be held at the Huntsville Mineral & Gem Society Show. Please see the Secretary Report section and the attachment for more information on the Huntsville show.

Please see the Gem and Mineral Show section of this newsletter for information regarding the club show

held in conjunction with this annual meeting!

**SEE LODESTAR OR VISIT WEBSITE**



## 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](mailto:central_office@amfed.org) PH: 410-833-7926

## William Holland School of Lapidary Arts 706-379-2126

Website @[www.lapidaryschool.org](http://www.lapidaryschool.org)

Classes are April - Nov 2019

## A.L.A.A.



Have you joined the [American Lands Access Association](http://www.amlands.org) (ALAA)? Help is needed. Please volunteer!

The organization was founded to promote and ensure the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Individual dues are \$25 per year; clubs \$50 per year.

A quarterly newsletter is sent to all members.

For more information,

Visit <http://amlands.org>

Shirley Leeson, President

## AFMS 2019 Annual Convention

Meeting TBA 2020

# Shows and Events

## Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society



Sept. 27, 28 & 29, 2019

Jacksonville, Florida

Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society

Morocco Shrine Auditorium 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road

**Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday 10 am - 5 pm**

Admission: \$5 a day or \$8 for all three days

Children under 12 free with guardian / \$1 off for Senior & Military with ID



## 49th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana, Inc.

**October 11, 12 & 13, 2019**

Alario Center 2000 Segne ~~e~~ Boulevard Westwego, LA 70094

**Friday & Saturday 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday, 10 am - 4 pm**

Admission: Adults: \$6.00 for a 3-Day Pass

Students w/ID, Military w/ID and Members: \$3.00

Scouts in Uniform and Children Under 12 Free

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS VISIT - [amfed.org](http://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](mailto:info@aksshow.com) with inquiries Phone: 504-265-8830 Visit website [www.aksshow.com](http://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

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

## Committee Members

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

## Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

<b><u>Ms. State Director, Parliamentarian &amp; Boundaries</u></b>	
Buddy Shotts	(601) 947-7245
<b><u>Past President</u></b>	
John Wright	(228) 875-9192
<b><u>Constitution / By-Laws</u></b>	
Lisa Fitch	(228) 467-4684

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:LauraTate@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](mailto: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](mailto:l.tate4@gmail.com)



<b>HARRISON COUNTY GEM &amp; MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.</b> <b>MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION</b>			
<b>APPLICANT INFORMATION</b>			<b>SINGLE \$20.00</b>
Name:		Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Anniversary: (Mo/Day)	Cell Phone:	
Current address:		Home Phone:	
City:	State / Zip Code:	Work Phone:	
<b>CO-APPLICANT / SPOUSE INFORMATION</b>			<b>FAMILY \$30.00</b>
<b>TWO ADULTS &amp; ALL MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE/AT SAME ADDRESS</b>			
Co-Applicant / Spouse:		Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Cell Phone:	Work Phone:	
<b>JUNIOR INFORMATION</b>			<b>JUNIOR \$10.00</b>
<b>UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ☆ SPONSORED BY AN ADULT</b>			
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name:	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:	
<b>☆ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION ☆</b>			
Name:			
Relationship:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
<b>INTEREST INFORMATION</b>			
<b>Hobby Interest:</b>		<b>(Each applicant initial interests)</b>	
<b>Jewelry Interest:</b>			
<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			
<b>APPLICATION FEES</b>			
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	<b>DUES: \$</b>
<b>Dues:</b> <i>Circle One</i>	<b>NEW RENEWAL</b>	<b>No Proration</b> <b>Deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of January</b>	<b>TOTAL: \$</b>
<b>SIGNATURES</b>			
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.



**Lisa Fitch, Editor**  
**10033 Kingston Road**  
**Bay Saint Louis, Ms. 39520**

**Address Service Requested**



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