



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 45 Number 7 July 2019  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



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

MGCGMS Established in 1974

## Presidents Message

Hello Members,

There is some chance we could have a spell of bad weather interfere with this month's meeting. At the time I write this, it is unclear how bad it will effect us. I will trust all of you to take the precautions you think best to protect yourselves. Be careful.

We need to look at electing a new Vice President next month. Be thinking about who you want to nominate to fill this important role for the club.

If the weather allows, I look forward to this month's workshop. It should be a special treat.

Remember, I'm here to answer any questions you have and if I can't answer them, I'll hunt down the answers for you.

Good luck and I'll see you soon,

Patrick Barrett  
MGCGMS President

## July Workshop:

Natalie Webb will be teaching copper etching. You will need:

- Copper in the shape of your finish project, the size and shape is totally up to you, but typical shapes are:
  - o Bracelet 6"x1" (no thicker than 20g as you will not be able to shape it into a bracelet without heat)
  - o Earrings 1"x1" (don't forget ear wire)
- Permanent marker like Sharpie or rubber stamps with Stazon ink to put the design on your project
- 00 steel wool
- Disposable gloves
- The etching liquid is acid, so don't wear your Sunday best clothing (an apron is a good idea too)

She will have a very limited number of kits available for sale at \$5 per kit.



**Machines:** As always, we will have the club machines available for metal & gemstone testing, gemstone cutting, and cabbing.

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## Meeting Minutes: GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY June 8, 2019



**Called to order:** 1:03 pm

**Members in attendance:** 19

**Meeting:** President Patrick Barrett called the meeting to order. Patrick stated that a correction is to be made on the May meeting minutes; Mark Daynes quit his responsibilities (Tool Committee & Board Member as Member at Large) but had not quit the Gem Club. A motion was made to accept the corrections by Vicki Reynolds & seconded by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried. President Patrick Barrett nominated Harvey Marcum fill the open position for Member at Large until term is up. An election will be held for this position at our next meeting. Before the vote, nominations will be accepted from the floor for any member who would also like to run for this open position.

**Minutes to Accept:** A motion was made to accept the May minutes as corrected by Vicki Reynolds & 2nd by Lisa Fitch. Motion carried.

**Treasury Report:** Reported by Barbi Beatty. Scholarship was paid for Tom Simmons & safety deposit box was rented for a year. A motion made to accept by Lisa Fitch & 2nd by Liz Platt. Motion carried.

**General Announcements:** None to report.

**Workshops:** Vicki Reynolds taught a class on a wire wrapped pendant. July class to be taught by Natalie Webb on Etching on copper.

**Library & Gilligan's Box:** Both of these rolling carts were available at meeting for all members.

**Sunshine:** Reba Shotts sent a card to Jane Cook who has surgery & a card to Billie Kelly.

**Tools & Equipment:** Had discussion on pricing & purchasing of blades for repairs on machines. Club has \$349.00 still available in current approved budget to use. Tool committee will keep us informed.

**Membership, Newsletter, Badges:** Name tag badges are available at \$6.50 each.

**Education & Projects; Speakers for Meetings:** Natalie Webb working on GIA Lady from New Orleans possible for Sept.

**November Show:** Bill LaRue spoke to all the members about being asked to step down as the Show Chairman. He stated he was asked by President Patrick Barrett to step

Meeting Minutes continued from page 2:

down. Bill LaRue asked for a show of support and a vote from members present for him to stay on as show chair. It was stated by multiple members that several vendors complained about Bill LaRue and many vendors dropped out of the show. Members discussed dealer complaints made against Bill LaRue as well as other problems with the show. When asked the vendors stated they will not come back as long as Bill LaRue is show chairman. The discussion became heated and hurtful statements were made. After a long-heated discussion, Bill LaRue insisted that we vote immediately on whether or not he continues as show chair. Barbi Beatty stated we did not have a quorum and could not take a vote. A motion was made by Lisa Fitch to table discussion until the next meeting and seconded by Vicki Reynolds. Bill did not accept that and stated that not only was he quitting as show chair he was quitting the club. He gave Barbi Beatty the club keys and He and his wife Elmyra left the facility. After they left Lisa Fitch stated we needed his resignation in writing. Patrick Barrett (President) stated a registered letter will be sent out asking Bill LaRue to put his resignation in writing. Barbi Beatty reported 6 vendors out of 30 have sent in their deposits so far for the November Show.

**Outside Classes/Workshop programs:** None to report.

**Old Business (wire purchase):** A committee consisting of David Cook, Barbi Beatty, & Natalie Webb is looking into purchasing wire for the club. Dave Cook has a provided a list of wire he suggested be bought. Natalie is checking with her suppliers to make sure we are getting the best price.

**New Business:** Barbi Beatty proposed a bylaw change for Member at Large positions. ***The motion will be: Members at Large will be elected for two-year terms elected on alternate years. Replacing the words “Members at Large will be elected each year”.*** Lisa Fitch read from the bylaws what is required to change the Bylaws. She stated (These by-laws may be altered or amended at any meeting of the club with a designated quorum or more in attendance by a two-thirds vote of the members present. A month’s notice of such alterations or amendments must be given and published in the societies’ bulletin prior to the meeting when the voting is to take place.) President Patrick stated the proposal is to be published in the Snoopy Gems Newsletter in the month of July to be voted on in September. President Patrick Barrett will announce when the net Board meeting will be.

**Gemstone Education:** John Guglik & Buddy Shotts spoke about moonstones, pearls & alexandrite gemstones.

**Door prizes:** Door prizes were given. Winners: Ed King, Harvey Marcum & Pam Parnell.

**Adjournment:** 2:25pm. Motion made by Vicki Reynolds & 2nd by Judy Hall. Motion carried.

Report by: Cheryl Rodriguez MGCGMS Secretary.





# Happy

## July

## Birthday

Edward King Jeannie Lowery



**By: John M. Wright, RPG**

### Physical Properties

Family: Corundum

Chemical Comp.: Aluminum Oxide  $Al_2O_3$

Crystal system: Trigonal (bar  $32/m$ )

Crystal Habit: Typically a six-sided elongated tapered crystal with close transverse striations that resemble a bipyramid (barrel shape that's been stretched a little); sometimes hexagonal prisms; can also be tabular.

Birefringence: (0.4)

Reflective Indices: ne 1.760, nw 1.769 (+0.009, -0.005)

Density: 4.00 (+/- 0.05) g/cm<sup>3</sup>

Hardness: 9

Cleavage: Absent, sometimes there is parting which occurs in three directions.

Fracture: Conchoidal

Pleochroic: Variable from different viewing

directions. Red color intensifies in strong artificial light, ultraviolet Light or direct sunlight.

Rubies are now and have throughout history been one of the most popular, highly prized, and valued gemstones. The name comes from the Latin word "rubrum" for red. It is considered an emblem of authority by some and because it is the red color of blood deemed a symbol of passion by many. Ruby was said to be the most precious of the twelve stones God created and one was placed on a chain around Aaron's neck by God's command. Rubies are extremely hard and durable (exceeded only by diamond) making them well suited for jewelry and many other applications that benefit or enhance our lives.

The colors of rubies can range from fiery vermilion to a deep ox-blood red. They often have other colors that are subservient to the red which can add to an overall tonal quality that may significantly enhance or detract from the stone's appeal. Violet is the most common

comes an undertone that will darken the stone. If the violet or another color is predominant and red is subservient, then the stone is not ruby, but a sapphire. In a faceted ruby, these colors can be seen as “flashes” when the ruby is rotated or moved around in the light source.

If you were to say that a ruby is just a red sapphire you would probably be more correct than not, but for the sake of this article we are going to treat rubies as much as possible in the time honored fashion as an independent gemstone in its own right. Actually, it like the other sapphires is a variety of the mineral Corundum, so there will be distinct similarities. Even the lighter shades of red are not considered to really be rubies and are usually classified as pink sapphires. If it’s opaque (cloudy), it is also a sapphire no matter how red it is.



How do you determine where the change in color zone and/or clarity versus opaqueness is? (Note: The clarity I am referring to here is the crystalline properties and is not to be confused with the content of inclusions or specks of contaminants which most rubies have.) In most cases, the color or clarity is pretty obvious, but for those stones bordering on the “zones of transition” it’s really a judgment call which often results in disagreement even among certified professionals. Rule of thumb: If questionable and you are the buyer, it’s a ruby of course, but if you are selling, it’s unquestionably an el-cheap-o pink sapphire.

Okay, so now we have some general idea of how to determine a ruby from a sapphire. Basically it is red and crystalline, but there are a lot of other stones that fall into this category, so how do we know which ones are rubies? Probably the safest way is to have it checked by an expert gemologist, but this could be expensive. If you wish to gamble and make your own decision, I recommend that you start by using corundum as your basic reference in determining the distinct physical properties that will be necessary to differentiate the ruby and/or sapphires from other similar materials.

Corundum crystals in most cases are normally pretty easy to spot because of their unique shape

(looks like a barrel that has been stretched a little bit) and that would be the key factor” that I would use in the field for initial identification. If the crystal doesn’t have a shape that is easily recognizable, pick it up anyway (as if I had to tell you), as there are other ways to check it out.

Corundum is second only to diamond in hardness, so a scratch test would be another good field check. I definitely don’t recommend the scratch test method if you are shopping or checking out a red gemstone that was inherited from someone’s grandmother.

You can also do a streak test. It should be “white” for corundum. I usually carry a small piece of tile with me on field trips for streak test and the one I now have is beginning to look like it’s been used for playing tic-tac-tow.

Specific gravity would be another test that could be used under proper circumstances if the stone in question is not mounted as part of an item of jewelry. I would recommend using a gemstone heavy liquid test kit if one is available or if you know how to prepare our own. Many of your better gemological books cover in detail the chemicals you need and the directions for properly preparing your own heavy liquid kits and their use. Using scales and a container of water will get you in the ballpark, but unless done under strict laboratory conditions, the results will not be accurate enough to be of real value.



If you are fortunate enough to own a gemological refractometer, binocular microscope, optical spectroscope, or other specialized instruments, you will be able to do additional very in depth testing. The rest of us will have to depend on some of the other well known visual characteristics that will assist the careful observer in making a reasonable distinction as to whether or not the stone in question is indeed a rub, or to put it another way, we can learn to make a somewhat enlightened guess.

Because of their hardness, rubies take a really



fine surface polish which gives it a very high luster. The luster may be further enhanced by color flashes, sheen, and a few other physical factors.

Rubies are pleochroic (display more than one color due to the different absorption of light in different directions), so as you view the stone in one direction it may be a bright red, but in another direction appear dull and you may also see a hint of color changes (in this case more like a spark or flash of color over a large area). The appearance of changes in color tones may also occur (i.e., ox-blood to burgundy or vermilion to carmine, etc).



Rubies are fluorescence and turn a brighter red under strong light and particularly when exposed to the ultraviolet rays of direct sunlight. Even the purplish ones (strong violet undertones) are “redder” under bright light.

Some rubies have a very distinctive silky sheen caused by the interference with light in areas containing minute rutile needles (sort of lie fiber optics).

Using the visual characteristics that I have in bold, let’s compare rubies to a few other red crystalline gemstones:

Spinel can be similar in color and luster, but it is not pleochroic and never has a silky sheen.

Red garnets can also be similar in color and luster, but are not pleochroic.

Red tourmaline is usually a completely different shade of red from rubies, but has pleochroism and luster similar to ruby; however, tourmalines do not brighten in strong light and the physical properties are very different.

You should now have a very general but reasonable idea of how to proceed in using the visual characteristics and physical properties of a ruby to separate them from sapphires and the many other red crystalline gemstones.

In the year 1837 rubies became the first synthetic gemstones to be man made. You may

be surprised to learn that they were not intended for jewelry, but to be used in clocks and watches. These earl stones contained a lot of impurities, but around 1900 a Frenchman named Verneuil perfected the “drip” or flame fusion method and produced beautiful transparent ruby boules suitable for use as gemstone material. This method is still in use today and although much improved, these rubies can usually be identified with an eye loop by their internal growth rings or platelets, which resemble saucers or shallow bowls that have been stacked up-side-down.

A modern day laser’s performance ability is in a very important way directly linked to the purity of its ruby rod (sometimes referred to as a lens or cylinder). Intensive research for methods to meet the requirements for purity has in recent years led to some new and very guarded or secret manufacturing process that produce “almost perfect” distortion free, optically correct, rubies without inclusions or any undesirable contaminant. This material is available in the market place and you stand a really good chance of finding some of the boules (synthetic rough) at one of the local gem and mineral shows. Very little if any synthetic ruby is produced for the gemstone market. The synthetic material that is available has more than likely been rejected for technical or industrial use. So if the ruby is “near perfect” and especially if more than a couple of carats, it’s probably synthetic, unless of course it’s one you found on a field trip and in that care, I get a percentage for the technical assistance. Happy Hunting!!!.

Sources of 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.)  
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# Wildacres SFMS Aug 19-25

## Beginning Casting with Bill Harr

This class will teach beginner silver casting for beginner and intermediate silversmithing. The emphasis will be on production centrifugal casting, meaning techniques for high reliability. The class will teach centrifugal and vacuum casting, wax modeling, sprueing, investing, burnout, casting, finishing and polishing, rubber mold making and wax injection. Prerequisites: No previous casting classes. This is an introductory course. Previous students should not apply.

Lab Fees: \$100

Material Fees: est. \$100

## Cold Connection with Morning Sherrod

This class will start with basic skills such as the proper use of a jeweler's saw, hammering, patterns, doming with dapping blocks using a die cutter, and how to anneal metal. We will be using copper, brass, bronze, and silver to add color and character to your jewelry. Connections will be accomplished using rivets, jump rings, and wire. We will also learn about patinas and etching.

Prerequisites: None

Lab Fees: \$80

Material Fees: est. \$0 +

## Special Projects with Jeff Sheer

My class has been called by many names throughout the years but has always had the same intent: To make something you are proud of and have fun doing it. This class is "Advanced" in that I would prefer that students have a basic understanding of the craft. After taking one of the excellent beginning classes the Federation offers most people want to learn more but might not be sure what direction to go in. Most have a few unfinished projects in their tool box that need a technique or two in order to finish them. Finishing these pieces or starting something from scratch is where this class comes in.

Prerequisites: Depends on projects selected

Lab Fees: \$55

Material Fees: est. \$0+

## Cabochons with Buddy Shotts

Students will learn the basics of making cabochons, this includes sawing, dopping stones, grinding, sand-

ing and polishing finished cabochons. They will also learn to safely use and care for the equipment they use.

Prerequisites: none

Lab Fees: \$10

Material Fees: est. \$0 - \$50

## Wire Wrapping with Rowan Rose-Morgan

Students will enjoy a fun-filled week while learning the techniques and skills necessary to make their own wire wrapped jewelry. All that will be necessary to become a good wire artist after the class is over will be practice, practice, practice. Students will be making bracelets, pendants, rings, earrings, and other project as time allows using mostly square half-hard wire. Tools kits will be available for use in class for those who do not have tools.

Prerequisites: None

Lab Fees: \$30

Material Fees: est. \$100 - \$200

## Layered Colored Pencil Jewelry on Metal with Mary Karg

Using colored pencils, students will learn the process to apply and retain color on copper and brass. Emphasis will also be on forming and shaping metal to create multi-layered dimensional jewelry that is beautiful, interesting and unusual.

Prerequisites: None

Lab Fees: \$325

Material Fees: est. \$0

## Chain Maille and fused Chain with Roy Deere

Beginning, Intermediate, and Fused Chain-Maillé classes will be offered at the same time in August. Your projects will match your experience. Beginning and Intermediate class information is located below. Fused Chain-Maillé descriptions are located in the August Fused Chain-Maillé class. The fused class is open to all levels.

Prerequisites: Intermediate Solder Level

Lab Fees: Beginning - \$50

Intermediate - \$40

Fused - \$100

Material Fees: Beginning - est. \$50 - \$150

Intermediate - est. \$75 - \$250


Fused - est. \$100 - \$300

Material Fees: est. \$100 - \$300

# We always welcome new members!



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: _____		Cell: _____
Name: _____		Cell: _____
Address: _____		Home Phone. _____
City: _____		
State: _____	Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____	Email 2: _____	
<b>Members Birthdays</b>		
Adult: _____	Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____	Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____	Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____	Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
<b>Please Check All Applicable Interests</b>		
<input type="radio"/> Beading	<input type="radio"/> Cabbing	<input type="radio"/> Jewelry Making
<input type="radio"/> Chain Mail	<input type="radio"/> PMC	<input type="radio"/> Lapidary
<input type="radio"/> Field Trips	<input type="radio"/> Faceting	<input type="radio"/> Minerals
<input type="radio"/> Fossils	<input type="radio"/> Wire Wrapping	<input type="radio"/> Silver Smithing
<input type="radio"/> Others: _____		
<b>How did you hear of us?</b> _____		
<b>Please check the following:</b> <input type="radio"/> I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions. <input type="radio"/> I authorize MGCgms to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.		
Signature: _____		
Signature: _____		

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**Snoopy Gems**  
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#### AFFILIATIONS

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Soci-  
eties, Inc.  
The American Federation of Mineralogical Societ-  
ies, Inc.  
S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing In-  
volved Bulletin Editors)

#### OFFICERS 2018

President	Patrick Barrett (228) 596-8270
Vice President	Open
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Secretary	Cheryl Rodriguez (773) 504-4939
Parliamentarian	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
Editor	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Web master	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Member at Large	Open
Member at Large	Natalie Webb (228) 355-4100

#### COMMITTEES

Membership	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Show Chairman	Open
Historian	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
Librarian	Liz Platt
Sunshine	Reba Shotts (601) 947-7245

#### AFFILIATIONS

ALAA	John Wright: Director
SFMS	John Wright: Past President
SFMS	Barbi Beatty: Treasurer & Insurance Liaison
SFMS	Buddy Shotts: Long-range Planning, Past President, State Director

Annual dues are:  
\$16 Individual  
\$20 (2) Members in same house hold  
\$6 Junior

## 2019 Workshop/Meeting Dates

January 12 OS Library 9:30-3:45  
February 9 Pink Rooster 9:30-3:45  
March 9 OS Library 9:30-3:45  
March 30 Club Picnic Seashore  
Methodist Pavilion 11:00-4:00  
April 13 OS Library Mini Show 9:30-4:00  
May 11 OS Library 9:30-3:45  
June 8 OS Library 9:30-3:45  
**July 13 OS Library 9:30-3:45**  
August 10 OS Library 9:30-3:45  
September 14 OS Library 9:30-3:45  
October 12 OS Library 9:30-3:45  
November 7 After Vendor Dinner 5ish  
December 14 Christmas Party OS  
Library 11:00am-3:30pm

**Dates subject to change.**

**Be sure to check 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

## July 2019

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
	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			

# Snoopy Gems

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<http://www.mgcgms.org>



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

Snoopy Gems MCGMS  
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