



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 45    Number 12    December 2019  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



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

MGCGMS Established in 1974

## Presidents Message



Hello Members,

I hope you had a good Thanksgiving and can look forward to a wonderful Christmas. I look forward to our annual party and spending time with you all. It should be a lot of fun.

We'll place our new officers in their positions and bless the brave souls who have chosen to stay in their respective offices.

Whether or not you can make it to the Christmas party, I pray you have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Patrick Barrett  
MGCGMS President

<http://www.mgcgms.org>



## December Christmas Party:

Our Christmas party is on Saturday December 14, 2019 at the Ocean Springs Library. Setup will start at 11:00, with potluck lunch at noon, followed by a friendly game of Dirty Santa. The club will provide a Turkey with dressing and gravy, soda, and coffee. If you would like to make and donate a gem club related item to hang on the tree it will be greatly appreciated! These items can be and ornament or a piece of jewelry. The donated items will be given as door prizes. If you want to play in the Dirty Santa gift exchange game, please bring a wrapped club related gift valued at approximately \$20. Can't wait to see everyone.

**Happy Holidays,**



PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



# Meeting Minutes:

## GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

November 7, 2019



**Called to order:** 7:00pm

**Members in Attendance:** 29

**Meeting:** President Patrick Barrett made a proposal at the last Board meeting. His proposal was 2nd and approved by the Board to bring before the membership. It was posted in the Snoopy Gems Newsletter as: "In the event that a vacancy occurs of an elected officer of the Board, the Board can appoint an interim officer until the remainder of the term ends". At the November meeting Dave Cook proposed that we make that bylaw change and 2nd by Buddy Shotts. Motion carried.

Barbi Beatty made a proposal: "That 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". This proposed bylaw change was posted in July Snoopy Gems Newsletter for the required amount of time. 2nd by Bill White. Discussion & motion carried.

### **Election of officers:**

President Patrick Barrett read the proposed slate of officers given by the nomination committee.

### **Slate of Nominations:**

**President:** Patrick Barrett

**Vice President:** Natalie Webb

**Treasurer:** Barbi Beatty

**Secretary:** Cheryl Rodriguez

**Member at Large:** Claire Martin



President Patrick Barrett asked for nominations from the floor for each board position. There were none. Barbi Beatty proposed we accept the slate by acclamation. 2nd by Buddy Shotts. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Reba Shotts proposed we make Billie Kelly a Lifetime Member. 2nd by Barbi Beatty. Motion carried. A card to be sent to the Member.

**Adjournment:** 7:40pm. Motion made by Barbi Beatty & 2nd by Vicki Reynolds. Motion carried.

**Report by:** Cheryl Rodriguez MGCGMS Secretary





# Happy

# December

# Birthday



Blue Zircon • Tanzanite • Turquoise



Since the Middle Ages, **Blue Zircon** has been believed to aid in spiritual growth and to promote wisdom. Those who wear blue zircon, it is said, will find beauty and peace.



As a relatively new gemstone, **Tanzanite** does not have any mythical or mysterious powers associated with it. But what it lacks in history, it compensates with beauty in its deep blue and purple tones.



**Turquoise** attracts money, success and love. Its powers include protection, healing, courage, friendship, and luck. It relaxes the mind, and eases mental tension.



Dec: Tamara Thomas

Nov: David Cook, Alicia Hendricks, Charles McKissack, Charlie Reichel, Reba Shotts, Laura Tate, Bill White, John Wright



**Zircon** is a natural gemstone (zirconium silicate). Colorless when pure, zirconium silicate takes on various shades due to impurities. Zircon also has impressive fire, with a dispersion rating nearly as high as diamond. The brilliance and fire of this gemstone makes it very popular. The wide variety of colors of zircon, its rarity, and its relatively low cost make it a popular collector's stone. Collectors enjoy the search for all possible colors and variations. Zircon is also a favorite of gemologists and geologists for its unique properties.

Origin of Zircon: Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Norway, Germany, Russia, Madagascar, Brazil, Canada and the United States

The prices and value of fine zircon vary depending on the size and quality of the gemstone. Blue is the most popular zircon color, followed by honey, red and white. Green zircon, resulting from the effects of

natural radioactivity, is rare. In blue zircon, look for a saturated blue. Clean gems in large sizes are especially valuable.

Virtually all blue zircon is heat treated at low temperature. Blue Zircon is produced by heat treatment of brown zircon. Not all brown zircon will turn blue when heated. Only some zircon has the right physical structure for this to occur. Most blue zircon comes from sources in Cambodia or Burma.

Attributes of Blue Zircon:

Color: Blue to vivid blue, pastel blue sky blue and bright blue.

Refractive Index: 1.92 - 2.01

Chemical Composition:  $\text{ZrSiO}_4$

Hardness: 7.5

Density: 4.6-4.7

Crystal Structure: Tetragonal





**Tanzanite** is found in just one place on earth.



Tiffany & Co named this blue-violet variety of zoisite in honor of Tanzania, where it was first unearthed in 1967. Because the crystals show different colors depending on the viewing direction, cutters can fashion gems with a range of color from violet-ish blue to bluish violet depending on how much weight they want to retain from the rough.

Mineral: Zoisite

Chemistry:  $\text{Ca}_2\text{Al}_3(\text{SiO}_4)_3(\text{OH})$

Color: Violet blue to bluish violet to violet purple

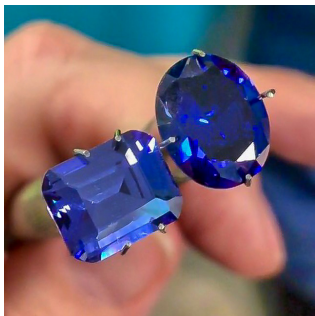
Refractive Index: 1.691 to 1.700

Birefringence: 0.008 to 0.013

Specific Gravity: 3.35

Mohs Hardness: 6 to 7

Although nearly all of the world's most popular gemstones have been known and used for hundreds of years, tanzanite was not discovered in commercial quantities until the 1960s. In the short time since then, it has become the second most popular blue gem after sapphire. It is one of a very small number of gems of any color that have been discovered and brought to strong consumer popularity within the past century. This rapid rise to popularity was accomplished mainly by Tiffany's promotion and tanzanite's beautiful blue color.



The mineral zoisite naturally occurs in a wide range of colors that include colorless, gray, yellow, brown, pink, green, blue, and violet. The name "tanzanite" is used for a color variety of zoisite that ranges from blue to bluish purple to bluish violet. The discovery of transparent crystals of blue zoisite in the 1960s stimulated interest in the gem. Soon after that discovery,

laboratory experiments determined that heating could improve the color of some naturally blue stones. They also determined that heating could convert some naturally brown or green zoisite into beautiful blue zoisite. With those discoveries, there was enough blue zoisite to support a marketing effort that would introduce the gem to millions of people. The blue color of tanzanite is caused by small amounts of vanadium within the zoisite mineral structure. When vanadium-bearing zoisite is heated to a temperature of 600 degrees Celsius for about 30 minutes, the oxidation state of the vanadium is changed and that change causes or improves the blue color.



Tanzanite is a pleochroic gem. Pleochroism is a physical property in which the material appears to be different colors when viewed from different crystallographic directions. Some specimens of tanzanite can be a distinct blue when viewed from one direction, and vary from violet to red when viewed from other directions. The top color for tanzanite is a vivid blue. Cutters must examine each piece of rough and determine if they can cut it in an orientation that will yield a finished stone with maximum face-up blue color. If that is possible, they then determine if changing the orientation of the cut will yield a larger stone of second-quality color that will sell for a higher price.

Tanzanite is best suited for earrings, pendants, and other jewelry items that will not encounter abrasion and impact. It is less suited for use in a ring. Many jewelers recommend that "tanzanite rings are for dress rather than daily wear." Tanzanite has a hardness of about 6.5 on the Mohs Hardness Scale. This hardness is low enough that the gem is vulnerable to being scratched during normal wear if it is used in a ring. This problem can be reduced if the setting is designed to protect the stone from impact and abrasion. Tanzanite has one direction of perfect cleavage that could result in the gem being chipped or broken if it receives a sharp impact. Tanzanite is also sensitive to sudden temperature change and is more subject to breakage at that time. If cleaning is needed, warm water and a mild soap are recommended. Steam and ultrasonic cleaning is not recommended.

**Turquoise** is found in only a few places on earth: dry and barren regions where acidic, copper-rich groundwater seeps downward and reacts with minerals that contain phosphorus and aluminum. The result of this sedimentary process is a porous, semi translucent to opaque compound of hydrated copper and aluminum phosphate.

Its color can range from dull greens to grass greens to a bright, medium-toned, sky blue. People value turquoise highly for its combination of ancient heritage and unforgettable color.

The traditional source for the top color, sometimes described as robin's-egg blue or sky blue, is the Nishapur district of Iran, the country formerly known as Persia. So, quite often, you'll hear people in the trade call turquoise of this beautiful color "Persian blue," whether or not it was actually mined in Iran.

Although much turquoise jewelry is sleek and modern, many US consumers are familiar with the traditional jewelry of Native American peoples such as the Pueblo, Hopi, Zuni, and Navajo. People interested in Native American arts and crafts frequently collect this stylized silver jewelry.



Turquoise is relatively soft, so it's ideal for carving. Artists in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the Americas choose turquoise as a medium for carved jewelry and art objects. It's often fashioned into talismans with Native American significance, such as bird and animal carvings.

Turquoise owes its texture to its structure and composition. It's an aggregate of microscopic crystals that form a solid mass. If the crystals are packed closely together, the material is less porous, so it has a finer texture. Fine-textured turquoise has an attractive, waxy luster when it's polished. Turquoise with a less-dense crystal structure has higher porosity and coarser texture, resulting in a dull luster when it's polished. In turquoise, low porosity and fine texture are more valuable than high porosity and coarse texture. Coarse, porous stones are usually treated to make them smoother, shinier, and more marketable.

Turquoise deposits usually form in iron-rich limonite or sandstone. Limonite creates dark brown markings in turquoise, while sandstone creates tan markings. These markings are remnants of the host rock within the turquoise, and can resemble splotches or veins. A type of turquoise known in the trade as spiderweb turquoise contains matrix in thin, delicate, web-like patterns across the face of the gemstone. The patterns provide a dark contrast to the gem's bright blue. Turquoise stones with no matrix at all command the highest prices. Gems with attractive spiderweb matrix rank second in value.

Mineral: Turquoise

Chemistry:  $\text{CuAl}_6(\text{PO}_4)_4 (\text{OH})_8.5\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Color: Blue to green

Refractive Index: 1.610 to 1.650

Birefringence: Not detectable

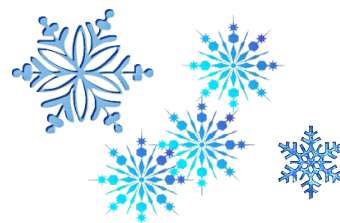
Specific Gravity: 2.76 (+0.14, -0.36)

Mohs Hardness: 5 to 6



## BENCH TIP

Before polishing dip your ring in water and baking soda. The baking soda will cover the stones and fill in the holes behind them and the polishing rouge will stick to it. When cleaning, the baking soda will dissolve and the ring is clean instantly.



For more Bench Tips go to: <http://benchmagazine.com/benchtips>

# 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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## 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**



### 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	Harvey Marcum (228) 875-0450
Member at Large	Natalie Webb (228) 355-4100

### COMMITTEES

Membership	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Vendor Chair	Vicki Reynolds (228) 872-9286
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

**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**



## Dec 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

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



<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



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