

Snoopy Gems

Volume 44 Number 9 September 2018 Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974



President's Message

Members,

Five members from our local club attended the August SFMS workshops at Wildacres Retreat near Little Switzerland, NC (just off the Blue Ridge Parkway). Vicki and I received the club scholarships to attend while Reba, Buddy and John G. also took advantage of the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge. It is a beautiful and peaceful place and the weather was a little cooler than here. A worthy group of fellow lapidary enthusiasts (teachers and students) enjoyed the week of learning, good food, and friendship. We will all share our learnings over the next few months.

If there is a lapidary or wire skill you want to learn, mention it to Dave Cook or me. We will try to work it into the workshop schedule and find an instructor.

See you at the workshop on Saturday!

Liz Platt **MGCGMS** President Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

August Workshop:

There will two class this month. Wire wrapping will be taught by Dave Cook and Vicki will be teaching a beaded bracelet.

David will be offering a bracelet project using pattern wire. Kits in copper will be available for \$5.00. Advanced students may want to do their bracelets in silver and gold-filled wire, but they must provide their own wire: 6" pattern wire (David has silver PW available for \$6.00 to \$8.00 for 6"), 48" 20 ga DS SQ 36" 18 ga HH HR 8" 16 ga R DS (for clasp)

Vicki will have packets with the curves silver bars and 2 small jump rings and thread for 25 cents and some needles to use if they need them. You will need to furnish your own beads and clasp. The red bracelet has larger crystals and the blue has smaller crystals. 26 Swarovski crystals 8mm bicones for larger or 6mm bicones for smaller in color of your choice 18 Swarobski crystals 6mm bicones for smaller or 6mm bicones for smaller in color of your choice 15 Swarovski 4mm bicones 14 11x2 flat end bars 1 fireline crystal 0.15 diameter 2 beading needles #10 approximateley 2 1/4 inches long 1 clasp

As always, we will have the club machines available for gemstone cutting, cabbing, and testing.

David W. Cook 228-341-9944 dwcook@cableone.net





http://www.mgcgms.org

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566



Meeting Minutes:

MS Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

August 11, 2018

Called to Order: President Liz Platt called the meeting to order at 1PM

Members in Attendance: Liz Platt welcomed the 22 members present along with two guests, Jim and Connie Walker.

<u>Approval of Minutes</u>: Vicki Reynolds moved that the minutes of the July 14, 2018 meeting be approved as published in the Snoopy Gems bulletin; Patrick Barrett seconded; motion carried.

<u>Treasury Report</u>: Barbi Beatty gave the report. Bill LaRue moved that report be accepted and Barbara Saavedra seconded. Motion carried.

General Announcements: none

Reports:

- a) Workshop: Bill LaRue taught wire wrapping of pendant with prongs. Dave Cook was unable to attend and Buddy Shotts was still recovering from surgery. Vicki Reynolds is available to do a bracelet workshop; Dave Cook will coordinate.
- b) Tools and Equipment: Jim Kirchner reported that one of the cabbing machines had a broken belt which has been replaced. The rest of the equipment are in good working condition. John Guglik mentioned that testing equipment for gems is in fine working order and there is enough acid for gold testing. A weighing scale for gold is also available for those interested.
- b) Library: Liz Platt; no report
- c) Sunshine: Reba Shotts; no report
- d) Membership, newsletter, badges, shirts, etc: Barbi Beatty; no report
- e) Education and Community Projects: Mini shows, lectures, demos, displays: no report
- f) Outside Classes/Workshop Programs: Natalie Webb; no report
- g) Magnolia State Gem Show: Bill LaRue reported that we are waiting for 14 vendors to send their contracts back. Our target is for 28-29 vendors to participate.
 - Schedule for 9-10 Nov, 2018: 10AM-6PM
 - Schedule for 11 Nov, 2018: 10AM-5PM
 - Barbi Beatty has sign-in sheet for manpower support: welcome/ticket table, set-up/break-down, raffles and donations for door prices (personal creation worth \$25), demonstration, daytime security, sluice, kitchen, etc.
 - The sluice is a big money maker but it has to be manned by club members.
 - Mark Daynes and Jim Kirschner propose that we have cabbing table available next to the sluice for those interested to have their sluice find polished. This will be done for a fee. Discussion was tabled for next meeting.

Old Business: none

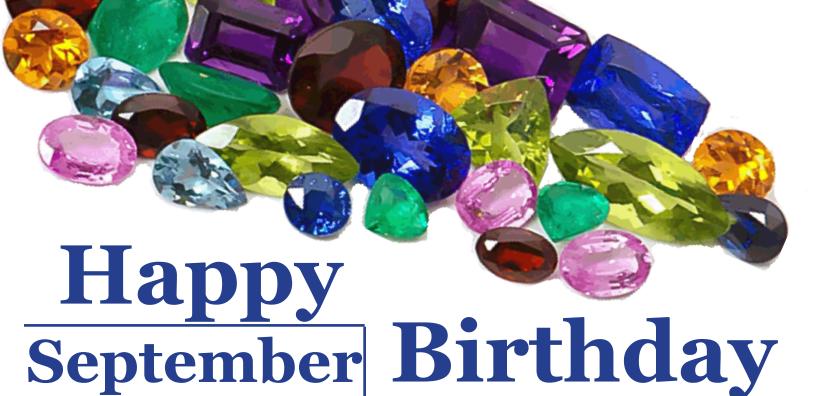
<u>New Business</u>: Vicki Reynolds has obtained permission to help a terminally ill friend sell her jewelry making supplies. All proceeds will go directly to her friend. Barbi Beatty is soliciting "how to" type articles for Snoopy Gem bulletin. An example is how to enhance color of gem stones.

<u>Gemstone Education Program</u>: Bill LaRue and John Guglik shared their knowledge of Peridot, the gemstone for August. Bill gave samples of rough peridot stone to each club member present.

<u>Adjournment</u>: Vicki Reynolds moved that meeting be adjourned at 2:24PM; Aurora King seconded, Motion carried.

<u>Door Prices</u>: Winners were Steven Spiers, Elmyra LaRue, Pamela Parnell, Harvey Marcom, Mark Daynes, and John Guglik.

Recorder: Aurora King





By: John M. Wright, RPG



4-ct. plus Kashmir sapphire

(Photo: John McLean; Gem: Pala International)

Physical Properties

Family: Corundum

Chemical Comp.: Aluminum OxideAl₂O₃ **Crystal System:** Trigonal (bar 3 2/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.

Liz Platt Elmyra LaRue Tres Lenner

Jerry Meador Lois Meador Catherine Redmond

Cheryl Rodriguez Rich Hart

Birefringence: (0.4)

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

Density: 4.00 (+/- 0.05) g/cm³

Hardness: 9

Cleavage: Absent, sometimes there is parting which

occurs in three directions.

Fracture: Conchoidal

Pleochroic: Variable from different viewing directions and color intensifies in strong artificial light, ultraviolet

light or direct sunlight.

Sapphires are a variety of the mineral corundum which is a nine on the MOH's scale (MOH is Mineral Order of Hardness) and as such are extremely hard and durable (exceeded only by diamond). Because of their hardness, sapphires take a really fine surface polish which gives them a very high luster making them well suited for jewelry and many other applications that benefit or enhance our lives. The name comes from the Persian word "safir" for "Beloved of Saturn" then translated 3 into Greek as "Sapherois" and Latin as "Sappirus"

meaning "blue stone". Based on historical records it is believed that originally sapphire referred to what we now know as Lapis Lazuli.

Sapphires are known as the stone of serenity and they have traditionally been associated with the sacred and divine. Royalty often favored them for crown jewels as a symbol of divine favor and the mark of a prudent and wise ruler. It was one of the 12 jewels in Aaron's Breast Plate. Some ancient societies believe that sapphires were a powerful talisman that gave the particular wearer protection against diseases and could bring peace, happiness, and increase intelligence. They were also used to test a female's loyalty and supposedly the stone would change its color if the wearer was unfaithful. Men wore them to prevent terror and poverty.

The colors of sapphires can range over a wide spectrum but the most popular in the crystalline form is blue. Red ones are in a category all their own and are known as rubies (for more on rubies see the July edition of Snoopy Gems). They often have other colors that are subservient which can add or subtract from an overall tonal quality and consequently may enhance or detract from the stone's appeal. Sapphires are pleochroic (display more than one color due to the different absorption of light in different directions), so as you view the stone the color tone that you see should change if you turn the stone or change the direction of the light source. In a faceted sapphire, these colors can often be seen as "flashes" when the stone is rotated or moved around in the light source. Sapphires are also fluorescent and the color should be more intense under strong **light** particularly when exposed to the ultraviolet rays of direct sunlight

Tonal color may also be influenced by inclusions of tiny rutile needles which are similar to fiber optics. In small quantities these inclusions often enhance sapphires and gemologists referred to this occurrence as "silk" as they cause these stone to have a silky sheen. In sufficient quantity these inclusions result in zoning along crystal growth lines which traps or interferes with light rays passing through the stone and produces a very distinctive pattern of white light lines resembling a star with six legs or rays. The stars show up best in opaque stone that have been cut and polished as cabochons and are known as star sapphires.

The better star sapphires are influenced by two very basic traits. **First:** uniformity, intensity, and

attractiveness of the stone's translucent or transparent body color. **Second:** is the strength and sharpness of the star. All six legs should be straight and equally prominent and show a bright six-legged star in the dome of the cabochon.



Star Light – Star Bright International Colored Gemstone Asso. Photo by: ICA Gem Bureau, Idar-Oberstein, Germany

Translucent or opaque star sapphires are much more common than the transparent or crystalline ones. Crystalline stones with a star are rare and quite expensive and better quality ones are extremely expensive. They are becoming even more rare as most rough today is cut into faceted stones after heating instead of being cut into cabochons to display the star. (I should mention here that while heat treating usually detracts from the value of most gemstones, it seems to be acceptable with sapphires and does not reduce their value for some reason). Both crystalline and opaque star sapphires rarely have the combination of intense color and a sharp prominent star with equal rays. Here again the better ones are very rare and consequently quite expensive. To further enhance star sapphires the bottoms are usually left unpolished so that the light is trapped and cannot pass through. Some stones with lesser quality have a false bottom attached. Usually these stones are lighter in color and attaching a darker bottom will give the illusion of a richer color and increase the prominence of the stone's rays. Just recently diffusion star sapphires have appeared in the market. These are man made from the same materials as natural sapphires, but do not have good color or a star. By the addition of chemicals and heat treating the color is enhanced and a star is artificially added to the surface of the stone.

Sapphires have been commercially mined at several locations in the USA. and were found as early as 1865 in the gravels of the Missouri river in Montana. Most commercial mines are still located along the Missouri river. Sapphires have also been commercially mined in the Cowee valley of North Carolina, but today the operations are mostly fee mines operated for rock-hounds and tourists. They have been found in many other locations, but not in sufficient quantity, quality, or size to warrant commercial mining.

The nearest place to us for hunting sapphires or corundum is in Clay and Randolph counties of Alabama. I found a number of red opaque corundum specimens (similar to the ones found in North Carolina) near Alexander City in Alabama and some very small pink crystalline sapphire crystals about thirty miles southwest of Alexander City.

Corundum crystals in most cases are normally pretty easy to spot because of their unique shape (lengthwise it looks like a barrel that has been stretched a little bit and in a cross-section it has six distinct sides). So, their shape would be the "key factor" that I would use in the field for initial identification.

Horizontal view showing barrel shape



Cross-section view showing the six sides



Corundum is second only to diamond in hardness, so a scratch test would be a good field check. You can also do a streak test and it should be "white" for corundum. Specific gravity is another test that can be used, but would be difficult in the field.

Star sapphires seem to have a special appeal to men and is frequently the stone of choice for their jewelry. I can well remember making trips to Bangkok, Thailand in the late fifties and always having a list of names, usually men, that wanted me to purchase star sapphires for

them. I never minded shopping for the sapphires as it was very interesting. The merchant that I bought from had the finished stones sorted by color and size which he kept in ordinary water buckets. He would pour the different ones out in piles on a table and I would choose the ones that I wanted. The going price for a beautiful blue star sapphire (about 3/8 of an inch in diameter) was \$2.00 and that was the whole stone not the price per carat. Ones about the size of half a marble were \$2.50. Black star sapphires were the most expensive (25 cents more than blue) and red ones were the cheapest. I got a free stone for every five stones I bought and one or two more depending on the total I spent. Sort of makes you want to cry doesn't it. I also got to watch them cab and facet stones, but as fascinating as it was, it's another story that I hope to include in a later bulletin.

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

Bench Tip:

SETTING A RIVET

Riveting is usually done with a cross peen hammer, but I've found it's a lot easier for me to hit the rivet wire when using a small ball peen - and the smaller the better. Shown here is one I typically use. It's about 3/8 inch diameter on the back of a chasing hammer, but I've been thinking that a 3/16 inch ball might be even better. Look for a yard sale hammer you can modify to work.





Top 8 Places to Go Gem Hunting On Your Next Family Vacation

Similar to the therapeutic relaxation of tossing a fishing line or hand-pressing fresh dough, a methodic hunt of natural resources—that is, finding gems—is worth a vacation, too. Consider taking a vacation to one of these geologically rich destinations and you might just find enough gemstones or precious metals to pay for the trip, because you can keep everything you find. You're guaranteed to have a good time looking—even if you come up empty.

Hiddenite Gem Mines, North Carolina

Famously popular, Hiddenite Gem Mines is known for the discovery of some of the largest gems in the world. Comprised of several mines, Hiddenite Gem Mine's group includes Emerald Hollow Mine—which is open for public mining—Adams Mine and NAEM (North American Emerald Mine). At this Great Smoky Mountain-area mine in Franklin, North Carolina, about 60 miles southwest of Blowing Rock, you might find rubies, sapphires, garnets, and rutile. Your admission fee gets you two buckets, a screen box, and a seat cushion, which you use at the flume line. For a dollar extra, you can get a shade umbrella. Admission: \$15 for ages 12 and up, \$10 for kids 6 to 11; free for ages 5 and under.

Address: 484 Emerald Hollow Mine Dr, Hiddenite, NC 28636

Crater of Diamonds State Park, Arkansas

The Crater of Diamonds volcanic pipe is part of a 95-million-year-old eroded volcano. The deeply sourced lamproite magma, from the upper mantle, brought the diamonds to the surface. The diamonds had crystallized in the cratonic root of the continent long before and were sampled by the magma as it rose to the surface. For a fee of a few dollars you can enter the mine, search all day and keep any diamonds that you find. In addition to diamonds, you might find one of the many colorful gemstones that occur naturally there. These include: amethyst, agate, jasper, garnet, peridot, hematite and many others. Crater of Diamonds State Park is a 911-acre (369 ha) Arkansas state park in Pike County, Arkansas, in the United States. In addition to diamonds, visitors may find semi-precious gems such as amethyst, agate, and jasper or approximately 40 other minerals such as garnet, phlogopite, quartz, baryte, and calcite.

Address: 209 State Park Rd, Murfreesboro, AR 71958

Morefield Mine, Amelia, Virginia

The Morefield Gem Mine is a unique experience for children and adults alike. The mine is a great introduction to minerals and mineral collecting at a real mine. The mine is a great introduction for anyone, any age, who wants to find rocks, minerals, and gems and learn to identify them. No less that 10 minerals species can be found on any day and with experience, time, and depending on what is being mined underground, more of the almost 80 mineral species occurring in the Morefield pegmatite can be found.

Address: 13400 Butlers Rd, Amelia Court House, VA 23002

Crystal Grove Diamond Mine, St. Johnsville, New York

New York is home to Broadway shows, plenty of shopping, Times Square, and the Statue of Liberty, but did you know New York is a great place to mine for gemstones? Crystal Grove Diamond Mine is the place to go to find Herkimer diamonds, beautiful quartz crystals that are fun to mine. These crystals were first discovered in New York,

and the perfect clarity of some of these stones makes them very popular with gem hunters.

Address: 161 Co Rd 114, St Johnsville, NY 13452

Royal Peacock Mine, Virgin Valley, Nevada

Since 1981, the Royal Peacock Opal Mine has been open to the public as a pay-to-dig mine. It has yielded countless world-class precious opal specimens during that time. Digging isn't cheap, though. They charge \$180 per person per day to dig in the fire-opal-rich bank area and \$75 to dig in the mine dumps and tailings (piles of rock extracted from the mine).

Address: 10 Virgin Valley Rd, Denio, NV 89404

Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande District, California

The Himalaya Tourmaline Mine is located near Santa Ysabel, CA at Lake Henshaw in the beautiful Mesa Grande. Visitors can dig at Lake Henshaw Resort where they will dig and screen through ore from the world famous Himalaya Mine. Many minerals can be found including pink and green tourmaline, black tourmaline, quartz crystals, spessertine garnet, lepidolite, clevelandite, and a variety of others.

Adult Dig \$75, youth 13 years old to 15 years old half price (\$37.50), children 12 years old and under are free with paying adult.

Address: 26142 CA-76, Santa Ysabel, CA 92070

Gold 'N Gem Grubbin' mine, Gold Nugget Ln Cleveland, Georgia

It started as a commercial gold mine and opened to the public in 1984. At Gold n Gem Grubbin you can pan for gold and screen for gemstones in a convenient sluices sitting comfortably under shade trees with a view of our 7 acre lake. The mine's trained staff will teach you the art of gold panning just like the old timers did it!

What you may Find Gold, Gemstones (Rubies, Emeralds, Sapphires, Amethyst, Garnets). There is no admission fee, we have free parking and handicap facilities.

Address: 75 Gold Nugget Ln, Cleveland, GA 30528

Ron Coleman Mining, Jessieville, Arkansas

Ron Coleman Mining has been the premiere destination for handson mining and precious gem gifts for nearly 30 years. Families and visitors come from all over the country to see our mine in Jessieville, Arkansas, and to dig their own gems. This mine was and is the most productive quartz mine in Arkansas. It has been producing quartz crystals in large quantities since 1943.

Address: 211 Crystal Ridge Ln, Jessieville, AR 71949

http://www.geologyin.com/2016/09/top-spots-for-gemhunting-in-us.html#xtMMC3rAzps1slSF.99 Follow us: @ GeologyTime on Twitter





30th ANNUAL MEETING

Hosted by the Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society September 21th and 22th, 2018

Cracker Barrel Session, Annual Meeting, Banquet, Awards Ceremony, Lecture and Editors Breakfast, will be hosted at: **Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society**

3733 Crown Point Rd Jacksonville, FL 32257

- 2 Cracker Barrel session, Friday September 21, 2018, 7:00pm
- Annual Meeting, Saturday September 22, 2018, 8:30am Registration, 9:00am 11:00am Meeting
- Banquet Dinner, Awards Ceremony and Lecture, Saturday September 22, 2018, Banquet Dinner,
 6:00pm, Awards Ceremony 7:30pm and Lecture 8:00pm
- Editors Breakfast, Sunday September 23, 2018, 8:00am

The Banquet, Gem and Mineral Show and Editors Breakfast will be free to SFMS meeting attendees and JGMS members, compliments of JGMS. Attendees will need to pre-register to be added to the rosters for the Banquet, JGMS Gem and Mineral Show and Editors Breakfast. Without pre-registration, the fee for the Banquet dinner will be \$20.00 a ticket, admission tickets to the Gem and Mineral Show are \$5.00 each day and the Editors Breakfast will be \$9.00. It is imperative that you preregister for the Banquet, Gem Show and Editors Breakfast for free attendance!

Upcoming Gem Shows

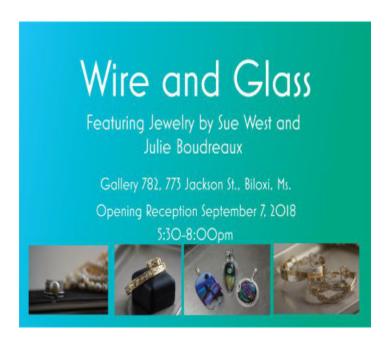
Sept. 21 - 23, 2018
Jacksonville, Florida
30th Annual Show
Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society
Morocco Shrine Auditorium 3800 St. Johns Bluff
Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224
Friday 1:00pm-6:00pm Saturday 10:00am-

6:00pm Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm Admission: \$4 or \$6 for three day pass Children

Admission: \$4 or \$6 for three day pass Children under 12 FREE with guardian: Seniors and Military with ID get \$1 OFF

80+ dealers from around the world, hourly door prizes, 5 Grand prize drawings, Moon rock display on loan from NASA made possible by Dr. Mike Reynolds. Club Hospitality table, 20+ Club competition display cases, Sky Lab exhibit. 4 special faceting Lectures from noted Faceters. All major faceting equipment dealers and National tool and equipment dealers will be represented.

web site: www.jaxgemandmineral.org / http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org/show.html Show contact:Jason Hamilton, Show Chair, 904-294-4744, JGMS-SHOW@hotmail.com Sue West and Julie Boudreaux who are members of the Harrision Co. club will be Showing off their work at Gallery 782!



We always welcome new members!



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

Snoopy Gems

is the Official Publication of The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

AFFILIATIONS

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors)

OFFICERS 2018

President Liz Platt (228) 818-5412 Vice President Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781 Treasurer Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900 Secretary Cheryl Rodriguez (773)504-4939 Parliamentarian Dave Cook (228) 875-2570 Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900 Editor Web master Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900 Member at Large Mark Daynes (228) 383-7940 Member at Large Buddy Shotts (601)947-7245

COMMITTEES

Membership Barbi Beatty (228)238-9900 Show Chairman Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781 Historian Lettie White (228) 875-8716 Librarian Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900 Sunshine Reba Shotts (601) 947-7245

AFFILIATIONS

ALAA John Wright: Director SFMS John Wright: Past President SFMS Barbi Beatty: Assistant 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

2018 Workshop/Meeting Dates

January 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45
February 10 St Martin Library 9:30-4:45
March 10 St Martin Library 9:30-4:45
April 7 Club Picnic TBA
April 14 OS Library Mini Show 9:30-4:45
May 12 OS Library 9:30-4:45
June 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45
July 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45
August 11 OS Library 9:30-4:45
September 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45
October 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45
November 8 After Vendor Dinner 5ish
December 8 Christmas Party OS

Dates subject to change. Be sure to check each month!

Library 11:00am-4:00pm

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

Sep 2018

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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

Snoopy Gems MGCGMS P.O. Box857 Ocean Springs, MS 39566