



Snoopy Gems

Volume 42 Number 7 July 2016

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral
Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

Members,

Hope your Fourth of July Weekend was full of patriotic fun and good food. Many people were on the highways for many reasons and I am always thankful when I know my family is safely home. The hot weather also makes me thankful that I have hobbies that I can pursue indoors as well as outdoors.

Remember that we discussed the idea of an identifying piece of clothing for club members to wear at our November show. We talked about Polo shirts, t-shirts, aprons, and vests. Just thinking that if we bought light blue aprons, we could sew on our patches. They could be worn for the show or workshops, front desk or kitchen. Size would not be a problem nor style. Cost is under \$10 and we already have enough patches. Just need to sew the patches on the aprons.

President

Liz Platt

July Work Shop

Barbara Saavedra will be teaching a crystal bracelet for the July project. See the list of materials needed below.

These are the quantities for a 7" bracelet:

45 3mm bicones

48 4mm bicones (one color)

33 4mm bicones (2nd color)

11 6mm pearls

seed beads (#11)

2 yards fireline, 2 needles, 2 jump rings, clasp,
2 clam shell bead tips, crimps & a pair of pliers

Results from June workshop:



Meeting Minutes June:

Meeting Called to Order: 1:03 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 14

Meeting:

President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. We now have business cards, please take some and hand them out. They are blank on the backside so you can put your information or time we meet. We are also putting together a membership packet that is in the works. Rosalind we hope to get you one soon.

Lisa Said, "I gave Rosalind a copy of our Constitution/By-Laws so that she will have a copy".

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our April/May 2016 minutes printed in the June Newsletter. Lisa Fitch said there was a correction on page 3 that the FSMS should be the SFMS for the Southeast Federation of Mineralogist Society. A motion was made to accept the minutes and correction by Vicki Reynolds and 2nd by Dave Cook. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: Given by Barbi Beatty. A motion was made to accept by Jane Cook and 2nd by Reba Shotts. Motion Carried. We purchased polishing pads (laps) and was charged a service charge on main account.

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by Dave Cook. Dave taught a Wire Twisted Bracelet of which 7 members took the class. They are being tumbled as we speak and will be ready soon. Everybody did a good job. Next month Vicki will do a dragonfly or Barbara Saavedra will teach Filigree. She is at William Holland this week taking a class on Filigree. I will let you know which one will be taught.

Faceting Workshops: Report given by Buddy Shotts. Buddy said everything is going well. Lisa finished a blue stone. Barbi had a picture on her phone that was passed around for members to see. We haven't had any A/C lately but they are working on repairing it.

Show Committee: Report given by Liz Platt. Bill LaRue is on vacation right now but called and said he had "good news". I don't know what is it but he will tell us when he gets back.

Equipment Committee: Report given by Jim Kirchner. I will do a floor plan so whoever gets here first they can setup. Jim said, "I need a current membership list of who has signed the liability/waiver forms". Lisa said, "I will compile a list for Jim for the usage of our tools and equipment". John Guglik had testing available for members requesting it.

Library Committee: Report given by Barbi Beatty. Liz said, "You know she brings our library to every meeting". If you have anything checked out, please return it because someone else might want to view it.

Sunshine Committee: Report by Reba Shotts. Liz said, "Reba has been appointed our Sunshine Committee Chairman. If you know anyone who is sick or needs a card, let Reba know." John Wright is doing ok but might need surgery. He is now at home and out of the

hospital. I am sending John a card to "get well soon". Phil Kyser is the Alabama State Director and part of the Mobile Gem & Mineral Society, some of you might know him. He is home now too and doing better. I will send Benta Paul a card to come back to the club. I want to remind everyone that Pat & Carl Brown won't be coming to our show because her husband is sick.

Communication:

SFMS meeting- Buddy & Reba went to the SFMS meeting as Reba represented our club. Buddy said, "It was the quickest ever"! First of all, the amount of checks sent out for rebates haven't been cashed. There is only a ninety-day period on those checks and everyone needs to cash them before they expire. Secondly, the SFMS has more money than the ceiling that is fixed. We may all be getting more rebates but the SFMS will wait until the end of the year. The November Annual meeting for the SFMS will be in Atlanta, Ga. The Stamp Program is officially gone and Buddy is in charge of finding a replacement for scholarships for the clubs. Over the years, chances have been sold for a prize. There are several ways to raise money for scholarships. This club has won several.

Unfinished Business:

Welcome Center – June is hospitality month at the Alabama/Ms. Welcome Center. Liz said, "that we have a case there and it needs to be cleaned. We will go at 10:30 a.m. Thursday of next week and clean it". Dave Cooks said, "I will go and demo". Buddy Shotts will go on Thursday to demo. Linda said, "a table is available", but I would bring one. Please call Linda first and let her know you are coming to demo for the club. To insure the safety of your jewelry, materials and tools, bring someone with you.

Workshops – Liz said, "We still have two workshops going on at Wild Acres and William Holland. Please check it out. Your lodging, food, and workshop is included". It's a great deal!

New Business:

There is a geologist that might do a program for us. John Guglik said that people want a projector type presentation program and that we should invite the community.

Show – Liz wanted everyone to see the shirts and badges that the Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society wore at their show and Lisa Fitch brought hers to show everyone. The shirts are \$26.00 and come with the emblem embroidered on them. Some members recommended hats, vests, and aprons. Some of us will work on getting prices. Buddy Shotts mentioned that the vest are blue. Reba Shotts said, "I will bring my vest that the club used many years ago to next months' meeting. We need something that will make us all look professional and people can recognize the members if they need us. Liz said maybe Angie can get us some prices. We need to get something together and give it some thought. Also badges are another important thing that we need for the show. Lisa showed a laminated name tag that can be done inexpensively rather than the hard plastic badges. Again, we will look and get prices as the badges are important to have so we can be recognized.

Show / Raffle – Lisa announced that prizes are needed for the show. Please have your prizes turned in by the September meeting. Your raffle tickets will be handed out at the October meeting. Remember the items should be handmade if they are lapidary related and not store

Continued from page 2:

bought. They do not have to be a lapidary item. Liz said that she will donate a pottery piece and Reba said they bought a tower for the raffle. A banner is needed for the table that can hang in front of the table that says "Raffle".

Show / Front Door – The welcome table and ticket sales needs to be prepared for smartphone discount coupons. Lisa said that a few were presented at the show last month and that we should be ready.

Barbi said that the coupons are for us to see how the advertising is working and where they got their coupons. Barbi said that at no time that our tickets should be prorated.

We should balance between shifts. A bank should be verified by the people accepting it for their shift and the previous shift should balance the money in their box minus the bank. We also need a guestbook for those who want us to send them information about the club or the show.

Show / Door Prize Donations – Jane Cook mentioned that at the Jackson show they did "Vendor of the Hour" with balloons. Lynn said she did that last year at the Harrison County Gem & Mineral Show. It recognizes that vendor for one hour and if they want to give a discount during that time it can be announced. The winner will know that the prize came from that vendor. Barbi said that it is in the contract that a vendor must give two \$15.00 door prizes with business cards.

Vendor Dinner – It was discussed that since Thursday is such a long night that maybe we could do vendor dinner earlier by an hour. We all agreed that we will start at 5 p.m.

Silent Auction – Liz announced that we will start our Silent Auction again.

Pet Rock Program – Lisa asked about the Pet Rock Program that John Guglik started several months ago. John asked if anyone was interested in having a Pet Rock and Lisa, Barbi, and Cathy all want one. He said that he will get us each one to take home.

Door Prizes – Door prizes are needed for our monthly meetings. They do not have to be lapidary related.

Due to shortage of workers for the show we will keep doing it the same way this year but we do have some good ideas for show. Dave Cook said we should ask vendors if they want a shorter show. Lisa said last year she heard vendors say it was too long. Barbi said she heard the Gulfport vendors say it was too short.

Lisa mentioned that maybe we could do our meeting a week earlier like the first Saturday in November rather than after our vendor dinner since everyone is tired and wants to go home.

John Guglik said we need real ballots and not raising our hands. Maybe we can wait to do the election of our officers. John Guglik made a motion to do a secret ballot for the election. The motion read, "a secret ballot on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to be put in an election ballot box by each member in good standing and to be counted on

Sunday by the Election Committee". Lisa seconded the motion. Buddy Shotts asked for it to be read back. Lisa read the motion and Buddy said what days? It doesn't state the dates. An amendment was made by Dave Cook for November 10, 11, 12, and 13th, 2016 and Cathy Marousky seconded the amendment. Jane Cook said we should just say the Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the show that way we don't have a specific date. Jane Cook's suggestion was not made into an amendment. The vote was made on the motion with the approved amendment. The motion did not pass. Three 3 for and 11 against.

Show and Tell: Buddy Shotts gave an explanation of Alexandrite. The Russian Alexandrite is the most expensive in the world. Lisa Fitch, Reba Shotts, Jane and Dave Cook all had on Alexandrite and Pearls. Barbi Beatty had a case of Alexandrite that she passed around for everyone to view.

50/50: Won by Rosalind Norvel-Daniels.

Door Prizes: They were won by the following members: Lisa Fitch, Lynn Tate, Cathy Marousky, Rosalind Norvel-Daniels, and Dave Cook.

Adjournment: 3:00 p.m. Motion made by Jane Cook and 2nd by Vicki Reynolds. Motion carried.

Bench Tip:

DO BEZELS SHRINK

The engineer in me says there's no reason a bezel should shrink when I solder it onto a base plate, but I sometimes find that the stone won't quite fit into the bezel that was perfect just before soldering.

If that ever happens to you, here's a fix that usually works for those times when there's just a minor problem. I file or sand the stone down a little around its base. For soft cabs like turquoise, lapis, jet or howlite, you can use a sanding stick. Harder cabs like jasper or agates will require a diamond file. In a pinch, a ruby nail file from the drugstore will work.

There are two important things to remember when doing this. First, you can only make a minor adjustment to the stone's size. All filing or sanding has to be hidden by the bezel because it takes the polish off the stone. Secondly, remember to round off all sharp edges on the bottom of the stone. A sharp edge here might sit on a little extra solder that's in the bottom joint of your bezel. Just a little bump here can put enough stress the stone to risk breakage when you burnish the bezel down over the stone.

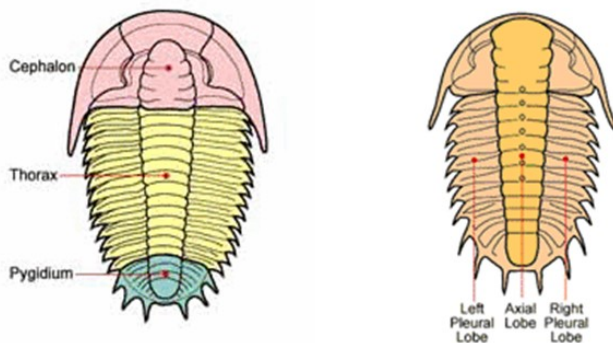
Source: Brad Smith
"Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" and
"Broom Casting for Creative Jewelry"
are available on Amazon

Trilobites:

Body Armor and A Rolling Defense

Trilobites, existing today only in fossil form, was a class of early arthropod. When life exploded into animal form marking the beginning of the Paleozoic, it was this prolific arthropod that became the signpost for the Era. It came into existence approximately 450 million years ago at the beginning of the Paleozoic Era in the Cambrian Period. It flourished in the ancient seas for close to 300 million years. So, what was this ancient arthropod and what about it inspires such fondness among students of all ages? Could it be its unusual body armor that allowed for unique defense mechanisms? Perhaps it's the almost friendly appearance, with its prominent "face." Or is it simply because of its broad diversity among the remnants of a long extinct species? A close look at this ancient creature reveals a certain familiarity, sharing characteristics with modern-day species known to us all.

I've already mentioned that it was one of the first arthropods. Arthropods still exist today, of course; they are those creepy, crawly bugs that invite themselves to our picnics (ants, spiders, mosquitoes, and the like) or the crusty seafood delicacy that occasionally graces our tables. (Take your pick, shrimp, lobster or crayfish: all arthropods!) The trilobite earned its place among the arthropods because it had a hard exoskeleton, a body that had at least a couple of sections, and jointed legs.



It's pretty easy to observe the hard exoskeleton in a trilobite fossil. It's the part that turned to stone! That process is another whole story, but the important part is that in this arthropod, the exoskeleton was so distinctive that paleontologists use the characteristics to help place these animals into different groups for classification.



More on that a little later... For now, let's look at the segmented body. There are three easily identifiable sections: the head or cephalon, the thorax, and the pygidium or posterior section. One might suspect this arthropod to be named for these three sections, but it was not. Its name, means three-lobed, referring to the three lobes that run head to tail: an axial lobe through the center and two pleural lobes on either side, left and right. This 3-lobed characteristic is common to all species of this class of arthropod, even though the appearance of the three body sections can vary greatly. The matter of jointed legs was not as easily determined. The legs were softer than the exoskeleton, even if they were somewhat crunchy, so they didn't tend to preserve well. Luckily, there have been a few specimens found that showed those legs and some antennae, too.² There are only a couple of places on earth (so far) where trilobites were fossilized showing their legs: the Burgess Shale in western Canada and the Chengjiang in China. Something about the circumstances of burial must have been similar for these two distant places to have made such detailed preservations.

Source:
www.fossils-facts-and-finds.com

Happy Birthday!

Ed King

Kathy Riddle

Elise Smith

Birthstone of July:



Rubies, the birthstone of July, are considered the king of gems and represent love, health and wisdom. It was believed wearing a fine red Ruby bestowed good fortune on its owner. A Ruby is one of the most valuable gemstones and its value increases based on its color and quality.

Geological information:

A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum (aluminium oxide). The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Its name comes from ruber, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. Ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with sapphire, emerald and diamond. Source GeologyIN.com

Ruby:

Formula
(repeating unit) aluminium oxide with chromium,
 $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3:\text{Cr}$ Crystal

system Trigonal

Color Near colorless through pink through all shades of red to a deep crimson

Crystal habit	Terminated tabular hexagonal prisms.
Crystal symmetry	(Hexagonal scalenohedral, H-M symbol: (3 2/m), Space group R3c[1])
Cleavage	No true cleavage
Fracture	Conchoidal, splintery
Tenacity	Brittle
Mohs scale hardness	9.0
Luster	Subadamantine, vitreous, pearly (on partings)
Streak	white
Diaphaneity	transparent, translucent
Specific gravity	3.97 – 4.05
Optical properties	Uniaxial -
Refractive index	$n_\omega = 1.768 - 1.772$ $n_\epsilon = 1.760 - 1.763$
Birefringence	0.008
Pleochroism	Strong: purplish-red – orangy-red
Dispersion	0.018
Ultraviolet fluorescence	red under longwave



Ruby: Myth, Source, & Tips



Myth: Ruby has been the world's most valued gemstone for thousands of years. Ruby was said to be the most precious of the twelve stones God created when he created all things, and this "lord of gems" was placed on Aaron's neck by God's command.

In the Bible, Job says that "wisdom is more precious than rubies"

In the ancient language of Sanskrit, ruby is called « ratnaraj », or « king of precious stones » and also « ratnanayaka », « leader of precious stones ».

Among the multitude of legends and strange beliefs of ancient times, it was thought that the wearer of a ruby was blessed with health, wealth, wisdom and outstanding success in « heart affairs ». Furthermore, the wearer acquired the ability to live in peace with his enemies. In some places ruby was even thought to confer invulnerability.

Rubies are today even more valuable and rare than the top quality colorless diamonds.

A 16 carat ruby was sold at auction for USD 227,300 per carat at Sotheby's in 1988.

A 27.37 carat Burmese ruby ring was sold at Sotheby's in Geneva in May 1995 for USD 146,145 per carat. A 32 carat ruby was sold for USD 144,000 per carat at Sotheby's in 1989.



In contrast, the eight D-color internally flawless diamonds of over 50 carats sold in the past 10 years only fetched a mere USD 125,000 per carat. Even for the largest of them, a pear-shape of 102 carats.

All colors of corundum except red are known as sapphires, which has created controversy about where ruby ends and sapphire begins, particularly in pink shades of corundum. In 1991, the International Colored Gemstone Association has passed a resolution that the light shades of the red hue should be included in the category ruby since it was too difficult to legislate where red ended and pink began. In practice, pink shades are now known either as pink ruby or pink sapphire.

Ruby is the birthstone for July but on some ancient lists it can be the birthstone for December. Ruby is also the gemstone for the astrological sign Capricorn.



Source: The most famous source of fine rubies is Burma, now called Myanmar. The ruby mines of Myanmar are older than history: stone age and bronze age mining tools have been found in the mining area of Mogok. Rubies from the legendary mines in Mogok often have a pure red color, which is often described as "pigeon's-blood" although that term is more fanciful than an actual practical standard in the trade today. Burma also produces intense pinkish-red rubies, which are also vivid and extremely beautiful. Many of the rubies from Burma have a strong red fluorescence when exposed to ultraviolet rays like those of sunlight, which adds on extra color.

A relatively new and important mining area in Burma is Mong Hsu area. This rich ruby deposit produces commercial quantities of commercial quality ruby, but also significant quantities of fine quality, particularly in sizes up to a carat. Burma ruby is now more readily available than Thai (or Siam) ruby. Most Mong Hsu ruby is cut and marketed in Thailand.

Fine rubies are also found in Thailand. They tend to have a darker red tone: a real red, tending toward burgundy and brown rather than toward pink, as Burma rubies do. But Thai rubies can also have a rich vivid red that rivals the Burmese in intensity.

Continued from page 4:



©Gembrokers

In 1992, a new ruby mine was discovered in Vietnam and produces rubies which are very similar to rubies from Burma. Some of these Vietnamese rubies have been praised by experts as being virtually indistinguishable from top quality Burmese stones. In fact, the geology of the new mine may be a continuation of the same formation that produced the Burma deposits.

Recently, a new and large deposit has been found in south Madagascar in the Tulear district. This mine produces in significant quantities a light to medium-dark pink material. Red material has been found in the Fionarangoa area.

Another source in Andilamena, North East of Antananarivo is producing orange to brown-red material, some very similar to Thai rubies. Many stones from this mine are found on [Chanthaburi](#) market

Sri Lanka stones are often pinkish or violetish in hue and many are pastel in tone. Some, however, resemble the vivid pinkish red hues from Burma.

Rubies from Kenya and Tanzania surprised the world when they were discovered in the sixties because their color rivals the world's best. Unfortunately, most of the ruby production from these countries has many inclusions, tiny flaws which diminish transparency.

Rubies from the African mines are rarely transparent enough to facet. However, color is displayed to full advantage when cut in cabochon style or in beads. Only a few clean stones of top quality have been seen.

Occasionally a few fine top-quality rubies appear on the market from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Pamir Mountains.



©Gembrokers

Choosing tips: The most important factor in the value of a ruby is color.

The best qualities of ruby can be as red as you can imagine: a saturated pure spectral hue without any overtones of brown or blue. The intensity of color of a fine ruby is like that of glowing coal.

After color, the other factors which influence the value of a ruby are size, clarity and cut. Larger rubies, because they are rare, will cost more per carat than smaller stones of the same quality. Sizes above five carats are particularly rare.

Rubies that are perfectly transparent, with no flaws, are more valuable than those with inclusions which are visible to the eye.

The cut can make a big difference in how attractive and lively a ruby appears to the eye.

The shape should also be symmetrical and there should not be any nicks or any scratches in the polish.



©Gembrokers

Ruby sometimes displays a three-ray, six-point star. These star rubies are cut in a smooth domed cabochon cut to display the effect. The star is best visible when illuminated with a single light source: it moves across the stone as the light moves. This effect, called asterism, is caused by light reflecting off tiny rutile needles, called "silk," which are oriented along the crystal faces.

The value of star rubies and sapphires are influenced by two things: the intensity and attractiveness of the body color and the strength and sharpness of the star.

Snoopy Gems

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

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Member at Large (1 year)	Bill White (228) 875-8716
Member at Large (2 year)	Buddy Shotts (601) 947-7245

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Membership	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Show Chairman	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
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Historien	Lettie White (228) 875-8716
Librarian	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Sunshine	Open

ALAA	John Wright	Director (228) 875-9192
SFMS	John Wright	Past President (228) 875-9192
SFMS	Buddy Shotts	Long-range Planning & Past President (601) 947-7245

Annual dues are:

\$16 Individual

\$20 (2) Members in same house hold

\$6 Junior

2016 Workshop/Meeting Dates

January 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45

February 13 OS Library 1:00-4:45

March 12 St. Martin Public library 1:00-4:45

April 2 Club Picnic 11:00-5:00

Seashore Methodist Pavilion Biloxi, MS

May 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

June 11 OS Library 9:30-4:45

July 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45

August 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45

September 10 OS Library 9:30-4:45

October 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45

November 10 After Vendor Dinner 7ish

December Christmas Party TBA 11:00am-4:00pm

***Be sure to check Dates 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 ****

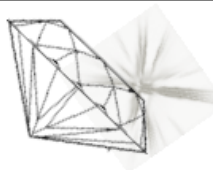

July 2016

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

We always welcome new members! Tell a friend!

Date: **Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society**

http://www.mgcgms.org		Application for Membership	
Individual: \$16.00		Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	
		Junior Under 18: \$6.00	
Name: _____		Home Phone: _____	
Address: _____		Cell 1. _____	
City: _____		Cell 2. _____	
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
Members in the Same Household			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Please Check All Applicable Interests			
<input type="checkbox"/> Beading <input type="checkbox"/> Chain Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Field Trips <input type="checkbox"/> Fossils <input type="checkbox"/> Others: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabbing <input type="checkbox"/> PMC <input type="checkbox"/> Faceting <input type="checkbox"/> Wire Wrapping		<input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry Making <input type="checkbox"/> Lapidary <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Smithing
How did you hear of us? _____			
Please check the following: <input type="checkbox"/> I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions. <input type="checkbox"/> I authorize MGCMS 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

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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