



Snoopy Gems

Volume 43 Number 4 April 2017

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral
Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

Our annual picnic is planned for April 8th 2017. I hope everyone can attend as this is a lovely site with a view of the beach.

I am looking forward to a complete May workshop, with lunch and meeting on the 13th of May at our Ocean Springs Library. Dave tells me that a gorgeous wire bracelet is the project for May. Let me know if there is a piece of equipment you want to use at a workshop so I can see to it that the equipment is brought to the workshop and set up for you. Please remember that if you are using the club equipment, you may use it for your project, but share if others are waiting for that same piece of equipment and always clean up afterwards. If later you decide to purchase your own equipment, ask Jim, John, or Bill on the Tools and Equipment committee for tips and advice.

See you next time.

Liz Platt

MGCGMS President

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

MGCGMS Spring Picnic

Saturday April 8, 2017 at the Seashore Methodist Assembly Pavilion 1410 Leggett Drive, Biloxi, MS 39530 ****Under The Pavilion**** Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks provided. Bring your favorite dish. The picnic is from 11:00am - 4:00pm. Setup will be at 11:00am. We will start serving at Noon. Visitors are always Welcome!

WELCOME

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Annual Picnic

You are cordially invited to COME JOIN OUR PICNIC

Saturday April 8, 2017 11 AM to 4 PM

Lunch served at Noon



Seashore Methodist Assembly

1410 Leggett Drive Biloxi, Ms. *****Under The Pavilion*****



Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks provided

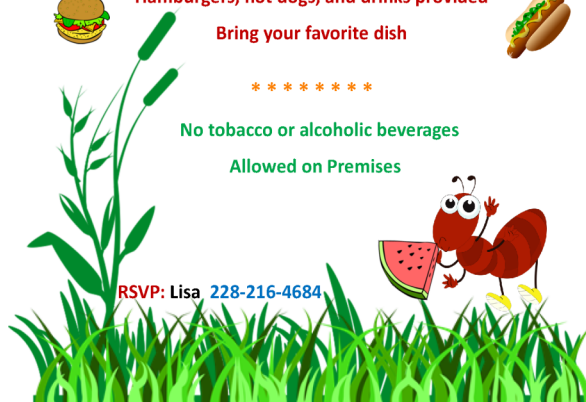
Bring your favorite dish



No tobacco or alcoholic beverages

Allowed on Premises

RSVP: Lisa 228-216-4684



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

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PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS

Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society

March 11, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: 2:46 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 23

Meeting: President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. She welcomed all members.

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our February 2017 minutes printed in the March 2017 Snoopy Gem Newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Lisa Fitch and 2nd by Barbara Saavedra. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: Given by Barbi Beatty.

A motion to accept by Barbara Saavedra and 2nd by Rosalind Norva-Daniels. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by Dave Cook. We had 10 members take the Hug Ring and Patrick did something different. Our next project will be a Southern Wire Bracelet.

Faceting Committee: Report given by Buddy Shotts. We have had some people sick, we were out of town and there was Mardi Gras. We will be meeting this Wednesday, March 15, 2017. There are two people on the waiting list and hopefully soon we will have open machines for them to use.

Equipment Committee: Report given by Jim Kirchner. We have one new piece of equipment, a miners' pick. Everything is going well. President Liz Platt reminded everyone there is a \$3.00 fee to use our equipment and a sign-in sheet must be signed. You must first sign a waiver before using any equipment. Buddy Shotts said, "For a club this size we have a lot of equipment for the members to use compared to other clubs."

Library Committee: Report given by President Liz Platt. We are looking for someone to take over the library for the society. I need someone who will take charge and build on it. We have a box of Rock & Gem magazines with great information and wonderful articles, just disregard the dates.

Sunshine Committee: Report by Reba Shotts. Reba announced that she sent out a couple of cards and we want to all express our sympathy to Tom Simmons on the loss of his mother.

Programs: Report by President Liz Platt. I need someone to volunteer to find a person or persons to come in here and give a speech. Preferably from a university. Actually, this usually falls under the Vice-President.

Show Committee: Report given by Bill LaRue. I recently attended the Jackson Gem & Mineral show in Jackson, MS. and it was packed. While there I picked up two more vendors for our show. I have someone who has cabochons if anyone is interested. I have invited geologists from the colleges to our show. Mark Daynes has volunteered to help work on the cases. We need help to get the cases transported to the show and back to storage. Also, we still need someone to volunteer to work the sleuth. A brief explanation of a sleuth was explained by Bill LaRue. President Liz Platt said, "we need to hire someone". Kids' Corner will be done again by Barbara Saavedra. Last year she did a great job and the club money.

Publicity Committee: Report by President Liz Platt. Vicki Reynolds isn't here today but we all need to help with publicity. Natalie Webb had to leave but she will put them in an excel worksheet.

Communication:

Website Competition: Report by Barbi Beatty

Please check out the website www.mgcgms.org, I have made some changes to it lately. I have entered our club in the SFMS & AFMS website competition for this year.

Scholarships: Report by President Liz Platt

Last month we drew names for the scholarship which were won by Ed & Aurora King. There are guidelines for our scholarships so please be sure to sign-in at each meeting/workshop. It is the only record to prove you attended. Copies of the guidelines are available for anyone requesting a copy. John Guglik said, "it includes your lodging, food, and workshop. You pay for the supplies needed for your workshop."

Unfinished Business:

Auditing Committee: Report by Jane Cook

Patrick, Lisa, Lynn, and myself met to audit 2016. We did a balance sheet comparison. We will meet again next month to finish the 2016 audit.

Picnic Committee: Report by Lisa Fitch

April 8th, 2017 is our annual picnic. I want to remind everyone it is "Spring Break" and to take I-10 to get to the Seashore Methodist Assembly as Highway 90 will be bumper to bumper. Don't forget to bring a dish too! We need volunteers to help setup and cleanup. John Guglik and Jim Kirchner will be our Chefs again this year. I will pass around a list for members to sign-up for volunteering. The instructions will be in the Snoopy Gems. President Liz Platt said, "we have invited the Mobile Rock & Gem Society from Mobile, Al. and the Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society from Gulfport."

New Business:

SFMS Meeting in Franklin, NC on May 13, 2017 will be attended by Buddy & Reba Shotts. Reba will represent the club and was voted by acclamation. President Liz Platt will send the SFMS secretary notification that Reba Shotts will be representing the society at the meeting.

Barbi wanted to remind everyone she has SFMS raffle tickets to sell for \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00 for the SFMS Raffle. The raffle has replaced the Stamp Program. A scholarship can be won by our society (but not by an individual) and the many prizes that are donated by members with a minimum value of \$25.00 can be won by anyone purchasing a ticket. Donations for prizes are still be accepted by Dave Wayment.

Reba announced that she still has tickets available for purchase at \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00 for the American Federation which must be mailed in by May. Dave Cook and Reba Shotts won prizes in last years AFMS raffle.

Show and Tell: Report by Bill LaRue

I have Dolomite I got back in the 60's from Missouri and I have a piece for everyone. Buddy Shotts gave a speech on Aquamarine. Various members were wearing Aquamarine.

Door Prizes: Won by members: Diana Allen, Mark Daynes, Benta Harrel and Melinda Gilbert.

Adjournment: 3:42 p.m. Motion made by Lisa Fitch and 2nd by John Guglik. Motion carried.

Disclaimer by Secretary: MGCGMS is bound by our By-laws dated March 11, 2012 Article V, Number 6-2 Acceptance of Minutes. Minutes are subject to corrections (additions or retractions) and are not accepted until majority vote of the members at the next meeting. Your participation in any way as a member(s) is sincerely appreciated.

Happy Birthday!



Jane Cook Jim Kirchner Tom Simmons



Diamonds are one of the most familiar gemstones. They are the birthstone for the month of April. Diamonds are known for their prismatic beauty and hardness. They are highly valued for these and other qualities. Diamonds are purchased because of their durability, beauty and ability to hold their monetary value. The monetary value of a diamond is determined by a universal grading scale.

Diamond Grading:

Who grades diamonds? How do they compare them and determine their value? Because they needed a way to determine the value of diamonds, a grading system was created as well as the Gemological Institutes such as GIA, AGS & IGI to implement this new system.

What Are the Gemological Institutes?

The gemological institutes are objective gemstone graders who determine the attributes of gemstones. Their job is to judge the quality of gemstones, in this case a diamond. The quality of the gem is based on the grading system. The quality and size of the gem determines its value. Over the years more and more such gemological institutes were established. The most commonly known to date are:

GIA - Gemological Institute of America

AGS - American Gem Society

IGI - International Gemological Institute

EGL - European Gemological Laboratory

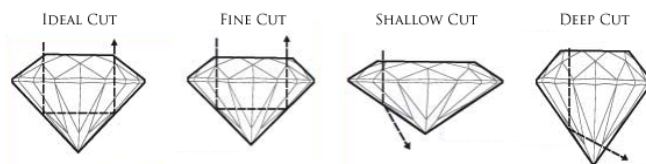
HRD - Hoge Raad voor Diamant

In 1953 the GIA established a system that later became the universal standard for grading diamonds. The grading system is based on the 4 Cs of Diamonds. This stands for Color, Cut, Clarity, and Carat Weight. The purpose of the system was to create a universal language for everyone around the world to be able to communicate when it comes to describing the quality and attributes of diamonds.

The Meaning of the 4 Cs of Diamonds

Diamond Cut:

Cut does not refer to the diamond's shape but rather to the quality of the diamond's cut for a given shape. Is the number of facets correct for the design? How are they aligned compared to the other facets? Are the sizes of the facets correct for the design? Is the stone cut shallow or deep? Is a round diamond perfectly round? The answers to these questions determine how the diamond will reflect light giving it the best brilliance and sparkle it can have. The cut of a diamond is graded on polish, symmetry, and quality of facets. The range of the grade scales is Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, and Excellent.



Diamond Color:

Excluding fancy colored diamonds, diamonds are graded for their lack of color. Colors are graded on a scale of D – Z alphabetically, D being the purest, completely colorless. As you go down the alphabet the diamond gets a slight tone of color, yellow or brown.

GIA COLOR SCALE

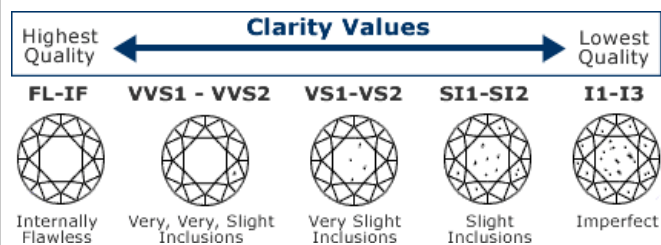
																						
D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
COLORLESS			NEAR COLORLESS			FAINT			VERY LIGHT			LIGHT										

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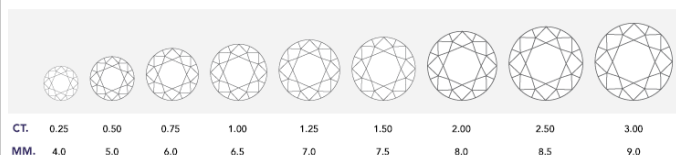
Diamond Clarity:

A diamond's clarity grade refers to the appearance of inclusions within or on the stone. The clarity chart range is from flawless to heavily included. (FL, IF, VVS1, VVS2, VS1, VS2, SI1, SI2, I1, I2, SI3 I3.)



Diamond Carat Weight:

Diamond's carat refers to its physical weight. Weight is very important when it comes to the pricing of diamonds, because diamonds are priced per carat.



Which is the Most Important C of the 4 Cs?

When it comes to evaluating a diamond, the 4 C's usually live in equality. Moving up the scale in one of the charts will allow you to move down one scale in the other and stay within the range of diamonds of a similar value. In other words, one stone may have better color with reduced clarity, but have the same value as a stone with better clarity but a darker color. You can obviously also play with a diamond weight as well. If you reduce the carat weight on one hand and increase the clarity or color grades on another you can stay in the same price range.

Even though the 4 C's should be equal in determining value, some would say the cut of a diamond can have a greater impact on its value. You can have a large high clarity pure colorless diamond, but what good is it if it looks dull because of a poor cut? No matter the weight, clarity, or color of the diamond, the cut of it can increase or decrease its value. The cut is what allows the light to travel through the diamond and give it its shine, reflection of light, and brilliance.

Diamonds have been used as decorative items since ancient times. The hardness of a diamond gives it durability and its high dispersion of light gives it true brilliance.



Bench Tip:

Making wire for filigree is quite simple. Take a double strand of 24-26 gauge silver wire, twist it tightly, and then flatten it a bit. While the basics are straightforward, here's a few tips that will quickly make you an expert with filigree.



Filigree looks best when the wire has a very tight twist. The way I do this is to start with dead soft wire and twist it until it breaks. It always seems to break on one end or the other. I like to use a screw gun, although a Foredom also works well. Be sure to keep a little tension on the wires as you twist. Then to get a real tight twist, I anneal the wire and twist it a second time until it breaks.

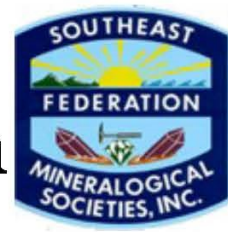
The final step in prepping the filigree wire is to flatten it slightly with a planishing hammer or rolling mill. The amount of flattening is a personal preference. I like to reduce the diameter about 25%. The wire will be quite stiff at this point, so it's best to anneal it again before starting to make the filigree shapes.

Learn more new skills with:



Source: <https://www.amazon.com/Bradford-M.-Smith/e/Boo9LYAEoC>

Upcoming Event!



38th Annual Harrison County Gem & Jewelry Show

May 20 & 21, 2017

Saturday & Sunday

9am-5pm

FREE PARKING

DOOR PRIZES
Hourly

Location:

Joppa Shrine Temple
13280 Shriners Blvd.
Biloxi, Ms.
North of I-10 / Woolmarket Exit # 41

Admissions:

Adults - \$5.00
Kids age 10 & under - Free

Come visit our show

Come
LOOK

Demonstrations

Displays

Kids' Corner

Exhibits



Stump the Expert!



38th Annual
Harrison County Gem, Mineral, Fossil, and Jewelry Show

\$1 off one admission with this Coupon

May 20 & 21, 2017



Facebook: facebook.com/gulfportgems/

Website: gulfportgems.org

Email: gulfportgems.show@gmail.com

Snoopy Gems

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

OFFICERS 2017

President	Liz Platt (228) 818-5412
Vice President	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Secretary	Lisa Fitch (228) 467-468
Parliamentarian	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
Editor/Webmaster	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Member at Large	Bill White (228) 875-8716
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
ALAA John Wright	Director (228) 875-9192
SFMS John Wright	Past President (228) 875-9192
SFMS Barbi Beatty	Assistant Treasurer (228) 238-9900
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

2017 Workshop/Meeting Dates

January 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

February 11 OS Library 1:00-4:45

March 11 OS Library 1:00-4:45

April 8 MGCGMS Spring Picnic 11:00-4:00

Seashore Methodist Assembly Pavilion

May 13 OS Library 9:30-4:45

June 10 OS Library 9:30-4:45

July 8 OS Library 9:30-4:45

August 12 OS Library 9:30-4:45

September 9 OS Library 9:30-4:45

October 14 OS Library 9:30-4:45

November 9 After Vendor Dinner 7ish

December 9 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 ****

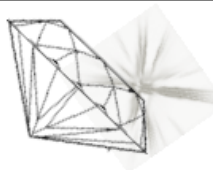

April 2017

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	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 MGCgms to include my contact information be included in Society listings for members to contact each other only.			
Signature: _____			
Signature: _____			

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.
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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

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