



Snoopy Gems

Volume 43 Number 6 June 2017

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral
Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

For the workshop/meeting on the 10th of June, there are several options. Many of us will be making the necklace that Vicki will teach. If you want to bring your own project and sit with us, we will find a place for you to work. If you want to learn how to take a rough rock, stone, or slab and polish it into a beautiful cabochon, bring your stone (we also have some extra slabs). Jim will teach you how to use the cabbing equipment. If you would like to participate in the morning workshop with Vicki and learn to cab after the meeting you can do that as well. We have the room from 9:00am-4:45pm. What techniques would you like to learn? What questions on tools, stones, and metals do you have? Let us know and we'll try to find a person and equipment to make it happen. It's your club.

See you next time.

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President
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home 229-818-5412,
cell 703-201-5189

Workshop:

This month Vicki Reynolds will be teaching a wire wrapped necklace with beads.

Workshop project Materials needed:

20ga half hard round wire 5' to 8' depending how long you want your necklace.

6" of 20ga half hard round wire for clasp. (or you can bring a toggle to use instead)

2 - 7dd jump rings

8 - 10 fairly large beads

Tools: Wire cutter, round nose pliers or ball pliers, small hammer and anvil. Vicki will bring a small hammer and anvil for those of you who do not have your own. She will have copper wire to sell and a few packets of beads ranging from \$3-\$5per packet.

David Cook
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May Meeting Minutes:

Minutes of MGCGMS Meeting: May 13, 2017

Call to Order and Welcome: The meeting was called to order by Liz Platt, President, at 1PM. Three new members were welcomed: Donna Anderson, Christy Harwell, and Brad Morrison. Sixteen members were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes: Barbi Beatty moved that the minutes of the March 2017 meeting be approved as published in Snoopy Gems; seconded by Barbara Saavedra. Motion carried. For the benefit of new members, John Guglik mentioned that Snoopy Gems, our club's newsletter, is available on the website.

Treasurer's Report: Barbi Beatty read the financial report for the month of April. Bill LaRue moved that it be approved; seconded by John Guglik. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Workshops: Dave Cook, Chairman, facilitated a great workshop on bracelet wire wrapping. Dave will not be available in the next 3 months. Vickie Reynolds will conduct June session on necklace wire wrapping. Barbara Saavedra will facilitate July session on beading. Bill LaRue will facilitate August session on prong wire wrapping. For those who are not interested in wire wrapping, Liz Platt mentioned that they are free to work on their individual projects. The Faceting station was temporarily unavailable. This station's facilitator, Buddy Shotts, was attending a SFMS meeting, with his wife, Reba.

Tools and Equipment: Jim Kirchner, Chairman, reported that the big cabbing machine has been repaired. He is also available to conduct a workshop on the use of available equipment.

Library: For the benefit of new members, lapidary related DVDs, magazines, and books are available to check out.

Program: Dawn Hill, proprietor of "My Bead Hangout", will come at next month's meeting to talk about beads.

Show: Date is Nov 10-12, 2017. Bill LaRue, Chairman, reported that 33 vendors have signed up and contracts are stills coming in. There are several new dealers. A floor plan will be attached to the contract. Twenty-four display boxes are available for use but some need minor repairs and all require background fabric. John Guglik recommended that we hire help with tasks that require heavy, physical exertion.

Publicity: Natalie Webb has the club advertised and written-up in two local newspapers.

Other: The HCGMS annual gem show will be on May 20-21, 2017 at the Joppa Shrine on Woolmarket, MS.

Communications/Mail/SFMS or AFMS news/reports: Bill LaRue mentioned that some people used the club mailbox for personal purpose. Barbi Beatty mentioned that it may be a mistake (junk mail or wrong address). The SFMS is selling raffle tickets to support the organization. Tickets we sell also benefit our club.

Old Business: Annual picnic in April was a success. Pictures are available on the website.

New Business: MS Welcome Center (AL border) Request: Linda (228-475-3384), the contact person, needs volunteers to demonstrate wire-wrapping or beading, during the Hospitality month of June. Each session is for 1-2 hours long. Ocean Spring Library Joint Project/Show: Liz Platt reported that the OS Library would like to have a fundraiser with our club. They will provide a table and a chair for \$10. There was an expressed interest to pursue this.

Show and Tell: John Guglik discussed Emerald, the stone of the month of May. Samples of raw and polished specimens belonging to John Guglik, Bill LaRue, and Vickie Reynolds were on display.

Door Prizes: Six door prizes were raffled and won by Barbi Beatty, Aurora King, David Cook, Melinda Gerhart, Brad Morrison, and Donna Anderson.

Adjournment: Vickie Reynolds moved that the meeting be adjourned at 2:20PM; seconded by Barbara Saavedra; motion carried.

Submitted by: Aurora B. King

Happy Birthday!



Patrick Barrett John Guglik Kathy Stevens Harrel Paul Barbara Saavedra

Pearl &
Alexandrite



One of the Rarest Gemstones on Earth, Alexandrite

Alexandrite is among the rarest of gemstones found in the earth. Its hardness, beauty, and rarity make it a particularly becoming choice for engagement rings. Its history is short, but gloriously rich. There are only a few known sources for gem-quality specimens, which makes its presence in contemporary jewelry fairly uncommon.

Alexandrite was initially discovered in the 1830s, in the emerald mines of the Ural Mountains of Russia. The bright green stone was at first mistaken for emerald, until the sun went down. In the light of candles, its greenish hue vanished and a bright purplish-red took its place.

This was no emerald. Not only did it exhibit this extraordinary dichroism, but this new stone also proved to be far harder than emerald, registering an 8.5 on the Mohs Scale of Hardness.

A Brand New Gemstone

Its discovery is most commonly attributed to the Finnish mineralogist Nils Gustaf Nordenskjöld (1792-1866). Others attribute its discovery to the man who ended up naming the stone, Count Lev Alekseevich Perovskii (1792-1856). Count Perovskii was an important nobleman and politician in Russia. He was also an avid mineralogist.

In truth, it is unlikely that either of these men drew the first sample out of the ground. However, they were among the first to put it under the microscope and are therefore credited with its 'discovery' as a brand new gemstone.

In one version of events, the Count, perhaps perplexed by some of its non-emerald characteristics, is said to have sent a sample to Herra Nordenskjöld for further study. The Finnish mineralogist at first mistook it for emerald, but its hardness caused him to investigate further. Looking long into the evening, the stone's surprising change from green to red confirmed his suspicions: He was holding an exciting new gemstone in the chrysoberyl family. Having experienced this exciting revelation, he decided to give it a name.

Herra Nordenskjöld went with *diaphanite*, based on its color-changing characteristic. This scientific name may have accompanied some documentation of the stone, but in the end it wouldn't stick. In a move motivated by politics, the Count stepped in and made a grand gesture. On April 17, 1834, he declared publicly that the

Continued on page 4:

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new stone would be named after Russia's future Tsar, Alexander Nikolaevich, who on that very day entered his majority (16th birthday).

The name stuck, and to this day alexandrites are linked inextricably with Tsarist Russia's infamous history.



Capture the Essence! of Exclusivity with this AGTA-Certified Alexandrite Engagement Ring. Photo ©2014 EraGem Jewelry.

Exclusive Access

For the next 150 years, Russia enjoyed exclusive access to this new gemstone. Its rarity prevented it from saturating the market. However, those in noble and royal positions in Europe and America were privileged to purchase alexandrite jewels made by some of the world's most prestigious jewelers, most prominently Russia's court jeweler Carl Faberge and Tiffany & Co., whose access came through famed gem expert George Frederick Kunz.

Russia's alexandrite remains the most desirable on the market, though most of it is housed in museums or prestigious collections. These Russian stones are characterized by strong saturation in shades of green to bluish-green in daylight and red to purplish-red in artificial or candle light. The color change in these stones is dramatic, and stones of this origin are valued around \$100,000 per carat, more if the piece has historical value.

Although the Russian mines were depleted by the late 1890s, no new sources of alexandrite were discovered until 1987. Though this new Brazilian discovery could not compete with the history of Tsarist Russia, the grade of stones coming out of South America's mines were in fact superior in color saturation. In a side by side comparison, historicity notwithstanding, the value of Brazilian alexandrite would exceed that of Russian samples.

These beautiful Brazilian stones were characterized by a deep red purple in artificial light and rich verdant greens by day. Production from the Brazilian mines was high in the 1980s, but stores have dwindled significantly. More recent deposits are now sourced in Africa, the United States, Burma, and Sri Lanka.

However, for gem-quality specimens, it is to Sri Lanka that dealers primarily turn. Sri Lankan specimens run a bit larger than those found in Russia and Brazil, whose stones rarely exceed one carat. Sri Lankan color saturation is different, as well, with the greens tending toward the yellow end of the spectrum and the reds appearing brownish. While they can't be compared to those originating in Russia or Brazil, these richly colored alexandrites from Sri Lanka make absolutely gorgeous jewels.

It cannot be overemphasized that faceted alexandrites of greater than two carats are extremely rare. The Russian and Brazilian mines have been depleted, and gemstone-quality alexandrites of a decent size are hard to find even in the Sri Lankan mines.

If you're looking for a way to express your love in a unique way, we invite you to experience the wonder of the rare and beautiful alexandrite.

Posted on August 11, 2014-October 14, 2014
Author Era Gem Categories Birthstones, Jewelry History

<https://eragem.com/news/the-origins-of-one-of-the-rarest-gemstones-on-earth-alexandrite/>

Types of Pearls

Akoya Pearls



The Classic Pearl

For nearly 100 years, akoya pearls grown off the coast of Japan have been the classic pearl of choice. When one pictures a round strand of white pearls, they are usually thinking of akoya.

Although rare baroque shapes and natural colors like silver-blue and gold do exist, akoya pearls are best known for their perfectly round shape and sharp, reflective luster.

While exceptions do exist, most akoya pearls produced today range in sizes from 4 to 10 mm.

If you are looking for a classic strand of round, white pearls, you are probably looking for a strand of akoya pearls.

Freshwater Pearls



The Fashion-Forward Pearl

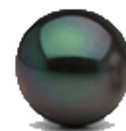
The most affordable pearls sold today, freshwater pearls are known for baroque shapes, white and pastel body colors and softer luster than akoya (except in the case of rare metallics).

With natural pastel colors and shapes that range from perfectly round to free-form baroque, freshwater pearls offer a widest range of options.

Common sizes range from 5 mm to 12 mm, but recent advances have led to the development of round and baroque pearls as large as 20 mm.

If you are looking for an affordable piece or something more fashion-forward with unique combinations of colors and shapes, shop freshwater pearls.

Tahitian Pearls



The Dark, Exotic Pearl

Tahitian pearls grown in French Polynesia are the only naturally dark pearls. Although often referred to as black, Tahitian pearls come in a rainbow of exotic colors.

Round Tahitian pearls are quite rare but other fun shapes like drops, baroques and ovals are highly-sought and still considered very valuable.

When measured perpendicular to the drill hole, most Tahitians range in size from 8 mm to 15 mm regardless of shape.

If you are looking for a naturally dark pearls that go well with almost any style, Tahitian pearls may be your best choice.

South Sea Pearls



The Rolls Royce of Pearls

Grown primarily in Australia the Philippines and Indonesia and ranging in color from white to gold, South Sea pearls are the largest saltwater pearls grown today.

Because of their tremendous size, perfectly round South Sea pearls are quite rare. Other more common shapes are drops, baroques and ovals. All are considered very valuable.

While South Sea pearls range in size from 8 mm to 18 mm, the most common sizes range from 10 mm to 14 mm.

If you looking for the statement piece of jewelry with large pearls, South Sea may be the way to go.

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

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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 TBA 9:30-4:45

*April 8 Club Picnic TBA

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 **

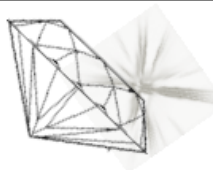

June 2017

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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	

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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<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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