



Snoopy Gems

Volume 43 Number 9 September 2017
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral
Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

Dear Members,

Remember to bring your hand crafted donation for the Annual Show Raffle on Saturday so we can take photos and place those photos on the website. It should have a **minimum** retail value of \$25 or more.

At the meeting we will mostly talk about the show and plan for the work to be done. Barbi will have signup sheets and lists of tasks.

It's time to think about the officers for 2018. Please consider your availability to serve in some leadership capacity. Also, let me know if you are willing to serve on the nominations committee which involves polling current officers for availability and then asking others of their willingness to run for office. I will announce/appoint the committee at the September meeting. Those running for office will be announced in October and voted on at the November meeting. Floor nominations are accepted at both times.

Call me with ideas, questions, or comments. Hope your summer is fantastic!

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President
eguglik@cableone.net
home 229-818-5412,
cell 703-201-5189

Workshop:

David Cook will be teaching Nefertiti bracelet project. Jim Kirchner will teach members how to use the club equipment such as the rock saw and cabbing machines.

Materials:

Wire: 76 in of 21 gauge square half-hard wire. (21 ga dead soft or 22 ga HH will also work)
36 in of 20 gauge half-round half-hard wire. (21 ga HH HR will also work)
6 in of 18 gauge round half-hard wire for clasp)
12 to 16 beads (2.5 to 3.0 mm) with holes large enough for wire. (You do not have to use beads.) (copper wire will be available for purchase)

Tools:

Ruler, marking pin, tape Wire cutters, round nose pliers, flat nose pliers Small knife (3" blade)

David Cook
MGCGMS Workshop Chairman
(c) 228-341-9944
dwcook@cableone.net



Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society August 12, 2017

Meeting Called to Order: 1:24 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 25

Meeting:

President Liz Platt called the meeting to order thanking Sheila Smith for taking the time to give us a presentation. Sheila owns SAS in Long Beach on Daughty Road and everyone is invited to attend her studio. Workshops are taught all the time and you only need to bring your imagination. Kits are made in advance and all members will receive a 20% discount. The most popular class is the etching of bracelets but she teaches other workshops like Enameling (with a torch) which Vicki was interested.

Minutes to Accept: President Liz Platt asked if there was a motion to accept our July 2017 minutes printed in the August 2017 newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Vicki Reynolds and 2nd by Benta Paul. Motion Carried.

Treasury Report: Report by Barbi Beatty
A motion was made to accept the treasurer report by Lisa Fitch and 2nd by Benta Paul.

Committee Reports:

Workshop Committee: Report given by Natalie Webb
Natalie had 10 members take the Earring workshop with 6 people completing their projects. Jim Kirchner taught the Pepe. Natalie taught the jewelers saw. Let Jim know if you want rings cut.

Faceting Committee: Report by Buddy Shotts
Ed King started three weeks ago. Two machines should be coming available soon.

Equipment Committee: Report given by Jim Kirchner
Certification is mandatory and it takes more than 2 workshops to be certified. Only certified members can take equipment home. Lisa asked if shot was gotten for the tumbler. Jim said, "it's not setup yet. I will evaluate what and how we will use it". John Guglik said, "we have testing equipment for metal and stones. Non-are conclusive. You will have to agree to have your stone streaked". Buddy wouldn't recommend to streak any stone. Jewelers charge 30.00 for testing stones. Dave Cook had a show in Pearl, MS and can't be here.

September Workshop: Nefertiti Bracelet in silver (\$14.00) or copper (\$3.00). Kits will be available. The List is being passed around. You may bring your own supplies.

October Workshop: We will work on show stuff. President Liz Platt mentioned that Dave Cook recommended for the club to buy cabs for the members to decorate to their liking. They can be used as door prizes at the Christmas party and hung on the tree for the show. She will check prices with Fire Mountain.

Sunshine Committee: Report by President Reba Shotts
John Wright had surgery, Bill LaRue is in Sunplex and I sent out a few cards. Elmira said, "Bill fell 9 feet getting a sheet of plywood from the rafters. He broke his hip, got a black eye and damaged his rotators cup. Everything for the show is under control". We all signed a "Get Well" card for Bill.

Show Committee: Report by President Liz Platt
Barbi mentioned that advertising is needed now. Post cards are here to take to give out and yard signs. The signup sheets are here for volunteers. Vendor dinner is at 5pm on Thursday.

Kitchen: Reba & Barbi and Raffle: Lisa Fitch. I did the membership list everyone wanted and I have a few copies here. If you didn't get the email I sent, please get with me so I can get a good email on you.

Rooms with breakfast are available with a discount to members. Be sure to mention the society's name. Barbi and Mark will look at show cases. Vicki will get material. Mark will cut everything for the display cases. Vicki used Luan and stapled the material to it. Velcro needs to be added to keep the sides from falling. Mark has some industrial strength Velcro.

Raffle: President Liz Platt & Lisa Fitch
Vicki will donate a Painted Stone with a value of \$65.00. President Liz Platt will donate an Oyster Painting so someone should donate Pearls. Lisa said that all donations should be in by the September meeting. Please include a business card with the value of your piece.

Publicity: Report by Natalie Webb
She will be out of town for September. Barbi said, "The Show Publicity Committee will handle the publicity for the show". Sun Herald ad is for the September workshop.

SFMS: Report by Barbi Beatty
Barbi has raffle tickets for sale. (\$5 each or 5 for \$20)
John Guglik donated items for the raffle.

Old Business: Evonne with the Library is pleased that the tables are protected. She wants a commitment from us for a show. Tables are \$15.00 each and we can see out stuff. A commitment was made for April 14, 2018. Barbi made a motion for a mini show on 4/14/18 at the Library. Jim Kirchner 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried. Ten members committed for tables. The first Saturday in April 2018 will be the picnic. Buddy Shotts made a motion for the picnic on the 1st Saturday of April 2018. Mark 2nd the motion. Motion Carried.

New Business:
President Liz Platt made a motion to have the society buy \$40.00 of the SFMS raffle tickets and any prizes won will be used as door prizes to the members. Reba 2nd the motion. Motion Carried.

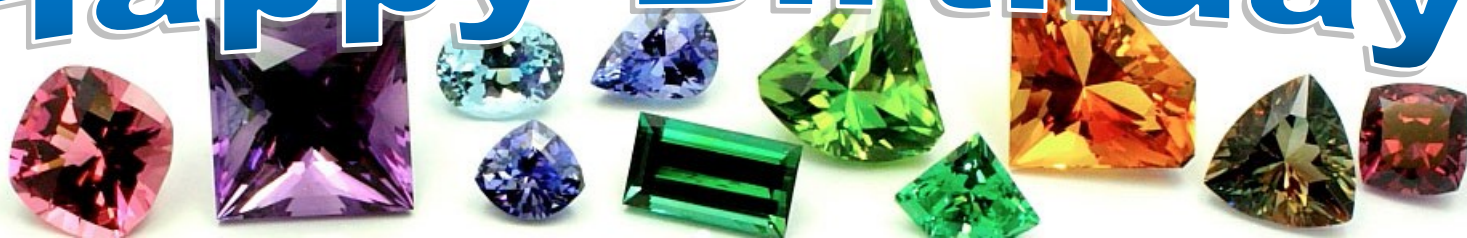
Show and Tell: Report by John Guglik
Liz Platt shared her peridot ring. John Guglik recommended that everyone buy a gemstone reference book. He explained peridot to the society members.

Door Prizes: No door prizes

Adjournment: 2:33 p.m. Motion made by President Liz Platt and 2nd by all members. Motion carried.

Disclaimer: 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!



Bradley Cannon

Liz Platt

Elmyra LaRue

Tres Lennep

Cathy Marousky

Cheryl Rodriguez

Rich Hart

Sapphire

September's
Birthstone

By:

John M. Wright, RPG



Physical Properties

Family: Corundum

Chemical Comp. : Aluminum Oxide Al_2O_3

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.

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.



4-ct. plus Kashmir sapphire (Photo: John McLean; Gem: Pala International)

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 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.

Continued on page 4:

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.)

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Annual Meeting

Information October 20-22, 2017 Sponsored
by the Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society

Events:

Friday, October 20th

10 am – 6 pm, Knoxville Gem Show, Kerbela
Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave in Knoxville TN,
37920. Reservation required for admission
vouchers.

3 pm – Tour of Jewelry TV, 9600 Parkside Dr,
Knoxville, TN 37922, Reservations required.

7 pm – Cracker Barrel, JTV, 9600 Parkside Dr,
Knoxville, TN 37922

Saturday, October 21st

10 am – 6 pm, Knoxville Gem Show, Kerbela
Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave, Knoxville, TN, 37920
- Reservation required for admission vouchers

8:30 am – Registration, Delegate verification
for Annual Meeting - JTV, 9600 Parkside Dr,
Knoxville

9 am Annual Meeting - JTV, 9600 Parkside Dr,
Knoxville

7:30 pm Annual Banquet - JTV, 9600 Parkside
Dr, Knoxville – Reservations required - \$20 for
meal. Checks made out to KGMS (Knoxville
Gem and Mineral Society). Menu: Grilled
boneless chicken breasts, coleslaw, roasted po-
tatoes, green beans, yeast rolls w/butter, as-
sorted cookies, sweet and unsweet tea, lemon-
ade, water.

Sunday, October 22nd

11 am – 5 pm, Knoxville Gem Show, Kerbela
Temple, 315 Mimosa Ave in Knoxville TN. Res-
ervation required for admission vouchers

9:30 am, Editors Breakfast - Kerbela Temple,
315 Mimosa Ave in Knoxville – Reservations
required - \$7.00 for meal. Checks made out to
KGMS (Knoxville Gem and Mineral Society).
Menu: Coffee, eggs, sausage, bacon, sausage
biscuits and gravy.

Lodging:

Cedar Bluff Best Western – 420 N Peters Rd,
Knoxville, TN, 37922 – 865-539-0058. Ask for
SFMS Block. \$83/night until 9/19/2017. After
9/19/2017 price will be \$114.99-134.99 per
night.

Cedar Bluff Holiday Inn – 9134 Executive
Parkway Dr, Knoxville, TN 37923 – 865-693-
1011. Ask for JTV Corporate Rate. \$99/night.

Bench Tips:

JUST A DROP



Hobby shops and model airplane stores carry small plastic dispenser bottles that are handy for putting a drop of flux, oil, or glue just where you want it. They have a length of small metal tubing coming out the top that lets you squeeze out very small drops.

I use one with a short length of tubing for oil when I'm sawing or when drilling harder metals like steel. Another bottle I found in a plastics store has a longer length of metal tubing on it. Plastics people use them for dispensing fast drying glues to join pieces of acrylic. The long metal tube lets you reach into tight places. Either of these is handy for flux at the soldering station.

TEMPLATES



Whenever I have to make more than 2-3 exact copies of anything, I think of making a template. A template lets me easily draw the shape of an item. Art stores sell templates for common shapes like circles, ovals, hearts, etc. Other sources would include cooltools.us/ and kingsleynorth.com/

For nonstandard shapes, it's easy to make your own template. Simply cut the shape out of sheet plastic or thin sheet metal. My preference is brass. I carefully lay out the shape using a steel ruler, a set of dividers, a scribe, and a fine center punch.

One example is the brass template in the pic below that lets me quickly trace the design of ginkgo leaf earrings onto silver sheet. Another is the nickel template which makes it easy to drill a pattern of holes for pin inlay into wooden handles.

Snoopy Gems

Official Publication of

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Member of

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 2017

President	Liz Platt (228) 818-5412
Vice President	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Treasurer	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Secretary	Lisa Fitch (228) 467-4684
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 TBA 930-4:45

*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 **

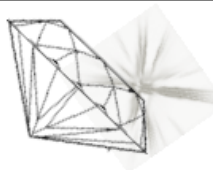

September 2017

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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

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

Snoopy Gems MCGMS
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