



# Snoopy Gems

Volume 44 Number 6 June 2018  
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &  
Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: [mgcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgcgms@bellsouth.net)

## President's Message

Members,

I would like to welcome all our new members!

In May we had a productive workshop. There were three concurrent workshops. David Cook taught bracelet wire wrapping. Aurora King shared what she learned at William Holland about making jewelry findings, and Jim Kirschner taught cabbing.

We are looking forward to another great workshop this month. There will be an advanced wire wrapping class taught by Laura and Lynn Tate. Dave Cook will teach a beginner's class in wire wrapping and Jim Kirchner and Mark Daynes will teach cabbing. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Liz Platt  
MGCGMS President  
228-818-5412

## May Workshop:

Lynn and Laura will be teaching a heavy bracelet workshop for experienced wire wrappers.

Material:

\* 9" of pattern wire (9" Bracelet size). (Add 2" for each additional size larger than 9")

\* The three patterned wires that will work are: (Can be ordered from Rio Grande) I 102-107, J 102-135, K 102-136

\* 25" of 12 ga. 1/2 round Dead Soft (Add 2" if bracelet is larger than 9")

Tools:

Vice - Glue leather on jaws of vice. (Two or more of you can share a vice), Bench block and hammer, Heavy cutters

Kits will be available in brass and silver.

Jim, Ed, and Mark will be working with those who want to refine their skill at making cabochons. Those using equipment are reminded that there is a \$ 3.00 fee per session.

Dave will instruct a beginner wire wrap class in making pendants using cabochons. Students need to bring their tools and a calibrated cabochon (preferably 30 x 40 mm or 18 x 25 mm). Copper wire will be available for \$ 1.00 and some cabochons will be available for sale.

After the business meeting, David will demonstrate of how to patina copper using liver-of-sulfur (LOS). This will be outside because of the sulfur smell.

David W. Cook  
228-341-9944  
[dwcook@cableone.net](mailto:dwcook@cableone.net)



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566

# Meeting Minutes:

## MS GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

**May 12, 2018**

**Called to order:** 12:55 p.m.

**Members in Attendance:** 23

**Meeting:** President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. The President recognized 7 of the 9 new members present: Carla Johnson, Jackie and Mike Redmond, Pam Panell, Judy Hall, Bill Lince, and David Spires.

**Minutes to Accept:** A motion was made to accept the March minutes by Vicki Reynolds & 2nd by Bill LaRue. Motion carried.

**Treasury Report:** Barbie Beatty was absent and the. Treasurer's report was deferred.

**General Announcements:** HCGMS's annual Gem Show will be on 19-20 May, 2018 at the Joppa Shrine on Woolmarket.

**Committee Reports:**

**Workshops:** There were three concurrent workshops: Tools and Equipment: For the benefit of new members, Liz, John Guglik.

**Tools & Equipment:** Jim provided good information about the availability and use of the club's various equipment.

**Library:** Jeneane returned our library. Liz Platt will review & make a full list of items. Suggestions to put our library on website & have magazine subscriptions available to members. Natalie Webb will report back with information.

**Sunshine:** Reba Shott was absent and her report was deferred.

**Mini Show:** Applications available. Money due to receive a space. Buddy Shotts & Mark Daynes doing demos. Patrick Barrett at membership table. Show date 4/14/18 from

10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**Outside classes/workshops:** Natalie Webb was absent and her report was deferred.

**Magnolia State Gem Show:** Bill LaRue reported that he is waiting for Barbie to get the contracts out; more publicity is needed because vendors claim that they are not getting enough people; an advertising committee was suggested; club Facebook need upgrading; take advantage of free monthly advertising in the local newspaper; some display cases need repair and Mike Redmond volunteered to help

**Publicity:** Natalie Webb was absent and her report was deferred.

**Old Business:** The Club/OS Library joint project on April 14, 2018 was a success despite the inclement weather. Majority of the new members signed-up during the show.

**New Business:** John Guglik has club patches for sale for \$1 each. MS, SFMS, AFM news/Member Shows/Events/ Announcement: Vickie Reynolds has show cabinets and a mannequin for sale.

**Show & Tell:** Emerald is the gemstone of the month. Bill and John gave interesting information about emeralds. Vickie showed a pair of emerald earrings and Bill LaRue shared his emerald collection.

**Door Prizes:** won by Ed King



# Happy June

# Birthday

Patrick Barrett John Guglik Benta Paul  
Barbara Saavedra Monica White



## UNDERSTANDING THE VARIETY 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.



3 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.



### Grading Pearls

Pearl grading is one of the most difficult aspects of pearl selection to understand. There is no officially recognized, standard system for grading pearls, except in the case of Tahitian pearls, where grading and export is controlled by the French Polynesian government. For that reason, it is important to understand the grading used by the company from which you purchase. A detailed explanation of luster, surface, shape and color is necessary to make an educated purchase decision. We invite you to examine our grading system in detail.



### Selecting a Pearl

One of the most important considerations in selecting a piece of pearl jewelry is determining the type of pearl that is best suited to your budget and preference. There are two basic varieties of cultured pearls; freshwater and saltwater. Freshwater pearls are grown primarily in man-made lakes and reservoirs in China. Saltwater pearls, which include akoya, Tahitian and South Sea, are grown in bays, inlets and atolls in many places around the world. Saltwater pearls are considered more valuable than freshwater pearls, although rare and very high-quality freshwater pearls can be exceedingly valuable.

### Pearl Care

Pearls are the world's only organic gemstone, and therefore, tend to be quite delicate. Proper care of your pearl jewelry is essential to ensure your investment will last a lifetime. Personal care products, such as perfume or hairspray, can severely damage the luster and beauty of a pearl.



# Bench Tips:

## MODIFYING PLIERS

### Pliers-1



Sometimes a few changes to your tools can make work go faster and improve the quality at the same time. Stock tools need to be polished and can be customized using standard jewelry skills. Here's an example:

While making a lot of chainmaile, I noticed I was ending up with a few scratched jump rings that required extra cleanup time before the chain could be polished. So, I started looking into what I was doing wrong. Making jump rings and weaving them into chainmaile designs involves a lot of opening and closing of the rings. I typically use two square jaw pliers to do this, one for each hand. The jaws of my pliers were pretty much scratch free because on a new tool I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks on working surfaces and give those areas a quick polish.



### Pliers-2

That helped but was not the whole problem. While making chain, rings would sometimes slip out of the pliers or slide within the jaws as I was trying to twist them open or closed. I noticed the jaws close at an angle and gave me the idea of forming a groove at the end of the jaw that would grasp the ring gently without scratching it. Not only have these pliers worked well for chainmaile, but I've found several other problem jobs that this modification solves very nicely.



### Pliers-3

To make up what I needed, I bought two inexpensive sets of square jaw pliers. My preference is for jaws that are about 3.5 - 4mm wide. This provides a good fit for the jump rings I use, you need to have enough metal at the tip of the jaws to be able to cut a groove that's deep enough, if your plier tips are too thin, you'll have to cut them back. Locate and mark the position on the jaw where the thickness is about 1.6 - 2mm.



### Pliers-4

Cut the tips off with a cutoff wheel or grind them off

with a bench grinder. If using a cutoff wheel, be sure to brace and hold both the workpiece and the rotating handpiece securely. If either moves, you will break the abrasive disk. And remember when cutting any metal with a motorized tool, be sure to use good eye protection. A little piece of debris in your eye makes for a bad day.



### Pliers-5

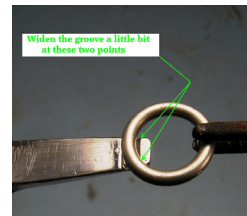
Cut the tips off with a cutoff wheel or grind them off with a bench grinder. If using a cutoff wheel, be sure to brace and hold both the workpiece and the rotating handpiece securely. If either moves, you will break the abrasive disk. And remember when cutting any metal with a motorized tool, be sure to use good eye protection. A little piece of debris in your eye makes for a bad day.



### Pliers-6

Now to make the grooves round so they grasp the wire without distorting it, I close the jaws and run a drill through the opening formed by the two rough grooves. I start with a small drill and followed up with a drill just slightly smaller than the wire size I want to grip. In my case that was 14-gauge wire, so I chose a #53 drill.

Finally, the shape of the grooves needs to be refined. I used a coarse, knife edge, silicone polishing wheel on the flexshaft to polish off all marks left by the drill and to round off the outer edges of the groove.




### Pliers-7

Test for proper fit by laying a jump ring into each groove. In particular, inspect the way the edges of the groove contact the inside of the ring. You may need to widen the groove at this point to avoid the pliers leaving a nick. Do a final polish so the jaws will not scratch as they grip a ring. I used a medium grit, knife edge, silicone polishing wheel but a sewn buff with tripoli or Zam would also work well.

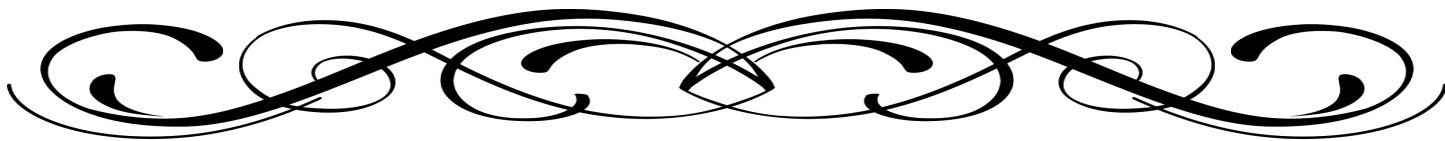
# We always welcome new members!



Date \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society

<a href="http://www.mgcgms.org">http://www.mgcgms.org</a>		<b>Application for Membership</b>	
Individual: \$16.00		Individual +1 relative Same Address: \$20.00	
		Junior Under 18: \$6.00	
Name: _____		Cell: _____	
Name: _____		Cell: _____	
Address: _____		Home Phone: _____	
City: _____			
State: _____		Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____		Email 2: _____	
<b>Members Birthdays</b>			
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____		Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____		Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
<b>Please Check All Applicable Interests</b>			
<input type="radio"/> Beading	<input type="radio"/> Cabbing	<input type="radio"/> Jewelry Making	
<input type="radio"/> Chain Mail	<input type="radio"/> PMC	<input type="radio"/> Lapidary	
<input type="radio"/> Field Trips	<input type="radio"/> Faceting	<input type="radio"/> Minerals	
<input type="radio"/> Fossils	<input type="radio"/> Wire Wrapping	<input type="radio"/> Silver Smithing	
<input type="radio"/> Others: _____			
<b>How did you hear of us?</b> _____			
<b>Please check the following:</b>			
<input type="radio"/> I understand that my picture or likeness may be used in Society promotions.			
<input type="radio"/> 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.  
P.O. Box 857 Ocean Springs MS 39566  
[mgcgms@bellsouth.net](mailto:mgcgms@bellsouth.net)



## Upcoming Gem Shows

**June 3 - 4, 2017**

**McCalla, AL**

**Tannehill Gem, Mineral, Fossil, & Jewelry Show**

The Alabama Mineral & Lapidary Society presents their 44th annual show.

Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tannehill Ironworks Historical State Park

12632 Confederate Parkway

McCalla, AL 35111

The show is free with paid admission to the park.

Take I - 20/59 to Exit #100 or I - 459 to Exit #1 and follow the signs. Contact: Cathy Kellogg [tannehillgemshow@gmail.com](mailto:tannehillgemshow@gmail.com)

**June 3rd, 2017**

**Greensboro (NC) Gem & Mineral Club hosts its**

**5th Annual Piedmont Open Air Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show**

Saturday hours - 10 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Piedmont Farmers Market

Sandy Ridge Road off I-40, Colfax, North Carolina

Free admission      Door prizes hourly

Geodes for Kids

Over 20 Vendors, taking applications now

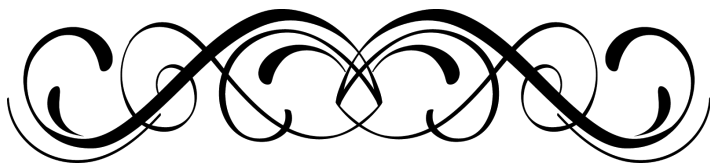
Hand crafted Jewelry, Lapidary, Minerals, fine specimens,

Gemstones, gold jewelry, beads, geode cutting

Lots of fun for the young, the old, the curious, and the collector

Vendor application available on our website, [www.ggmc-rockhounds.com](http://www.ggmc-rockhounds.com)

Email Gary Parker [redrutile@bellsouth.net](mailto:redrutile@bellsouth.net)



## 2018 SFMS Workshops

**Note: Due to uncontrollable circumstances, the Electro Etching and Chasing class have been cancelled for the June workshop at William Holland.**

One of the unique facets of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies is our Workshop Program, which offers members the opportunity to gather for week-long, hands-on seminars taught by experienced instructors. Whether you are a newcomer to the lapidary arts and want to learn the basics, or you're experienced and want to learn something new or hone your skills, the Workshop Program has something for you.

We look forward to seeing you!



Metal Class at Wildacres



Casting Class at William Holland

## SFMS WORKSHOPS 2018

### Workshop I – William Holland – June 10-16

Instructor	Class
Gail Delucca	Beading
Dave Bergquist	Cabs 1
Tom & Kay Benham	Chasing & Repousse
Sandi Bergquist	Jr Wire/Chainmaille
Micah Kirby	Electro-Etching
Debra Mauser	Immersion Enamel/CC
Linda Searcy	Gem Faceting
Bill Boggs	Intarsia
Chuck Bruce	Intro to Inlay
Patti Appleby	Silver I
Vicki Prillaman	Silver 2 – Rings, Rings, Rings
Jan & Keith Stephens	Silver-Wear: Spoon Jewelry
Gene Sheridan	Wire 2 Bracelets

### Workshop I – Wildacres – August 20-26

Instructor	Class
Casting	Bill Harr
Chain Maille	Roy Deere
Intro to Gem ID	Teresa Polly
Metalwork Projects	Jeff Sheer
Metal Clay	Judi Talley
Silver I	Morning Sherrod
Wire	Rowan Rose-Morgan

### Workshop II – Wildacres – September 17-23

Instructor	Class
Chain Maille	Roy Deere
Cold Connections	Morning Sherrod
Electro Etching	Micah Kirby
Enameling	Ruth Prince
Intro to Inlay	Chuck Bruce
Seed Bead Weaving	Ann Page

**Snoopy Gems**  
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**AFFILIATIONS**  
The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Soci-  
eties, Inc.  
The American Federation of Mineralogical Societ-  
ies, Inc.  
S.C.R.I.B.E. (Special Congress Representing In-  
volved 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
Editor	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
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  
Library 11:00am-4:00pm

**Dates subject to change.**

**Be sure to check 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

## Jun 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.



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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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