



Snoopy Gems

Volume 44 Number 7 July 2018
Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &
Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

Email: mgcgms@bellsouth.net

President's Message

Members,

July is the month for rubies - considered the king of gems and represent love, health and wisdom. Wear them if you have them – if you don't have one, consider a purchase from one of our dealers at the November show. Thinking about our November Gem, Mineral and Jewelry show, many dealers have already signed up. Barbi and Bill work all year on this, but we are all needed to ensure a successful show. We will soon have signup sheets. There are lots of ways you can help. For example, working in the kitchen, placing signs, promoting the show, working at the welcome table, working on the raffle, demonstrating at the show, or working on the dealer dinner – all needed for success. If you are new and don't know much about the show, ask a member or ask at one of the meetings so we can all share information. It takes all of us working more than one task on the show days. It's all fun and well worth the effort.

Liz Platt
MGCGMS President
228-818-5412

July Workshop:

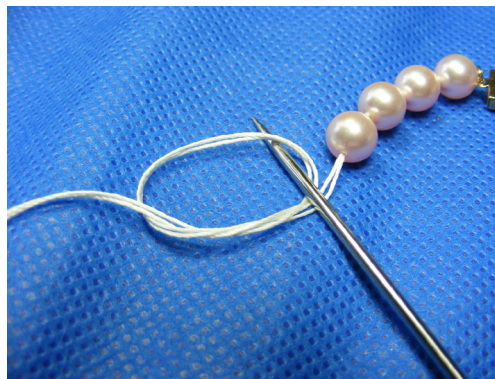
Barbi Beatty will be teaching Hand Knotting Pearls.

Supply list:

Beading mat, large needle or pick, silk thread appropriately sized for your pearl's hole, finding thread protector or French wire, a clasp, scissors, jewelry glue, and pearls. Kits including tools will be available.

As always, we will have the club machines available for gemstone cutting, cabbing, and testing.

David W. Cook
228-341-9944
dwcook@cableone.net



<http://www.mgcgms.org>

PO Box 857 Ocean Spring, MS 39566

Meeting Minutes:

MS. GULF COAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

June 9, 2018

Called to Order: 1:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: 24

Meeting: President Liz Platt called the meeting to order. Six new members were welcomed & introduced to the Members of the Board.

Minutes to Accept: A motion was made to accept the May minutes by Lisa Fitch & 2nd by Barbi Beatty, Motion carried.

Treasury Report: Given by Barbi Beatty. A monetary gift of \$300.00 was given to the Library from our mini show. A motion was made to accept by Bill LaRue & Lisa Fitch. Motion carried.

General Announcements: President Liz Platt & Barbi Beatty met with Library to discuss results of the mini show & new members who signed up. Next year's mini show date to be

April 13, 2019.

Workshops: Laura & Lynn Tate taught how to wire wrap bracelets with heavy patterned wires. David Cook taught a class on wire wrapping making pendants using cabochons.

Tools & Equipment: John Guglik spoke briefly about our machines & how they are used. Many members are interested in cabbing & faceting.

Library: President Liz Platt still looking through our library box with a list to come. She brought in several magazines for members to take if interested.

Sunshine: Some cards were sent out to members who were sick. Reba was out for meeting.

Projects: Mini Show: Ocean Springs Library along with our Club in joint program will have next year's mini show on Saturday, April 13, 2019.

Outside classes/workshop programs: Nothing to report by Natalie Webb.

Magnolia State Gem Show: Given by Bill LaRue. He sent out 28 contracts and is awaiting their return. Three more dealers are needed.

Old Business: Nothing to report.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Show & Tell: Pearls are the featured gemstone of the month.

Door Prizes: Won by David Cook, John Guglik, Barbi Beatty, Bill White & David Spires.

Adjournment: 1:59 p.m. Motion made by Bill White & 2nd by Lisa Fitch. All members in favor. Motion carried.

Report by: Cheryl Rodriguez MGCGMS Secretary

Disclaimer: MGCGMS is bound by our Bylaws 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 July

Birthday

Ed King

Ruby
NOBILITY
MANIFESTATION
INTEGRITY PASSION
SUCCESS



By: John M. Wright, RPG

Physical Properties

Family: Corundum

Chemical Comp.: Aluminum Oxide



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. Red color intensifies in strong artificial light, ultraviolet Light or direct sunlight.

Rubies are now and have throughout history been one of the most popular, highly prized, and valued gemstones. The name comes from the Latin word "rubrum" for red. It is considered an emblem of authority by some and because it is the red color of blood deemed a symbol of passion by many. Ruby was said to be the most precious of the twelve stones God created and one was placed on a chain around Aaron's neck by God's command. Rubies are extremely hard and durable (exceeded only by diamond) making them well suited for jewelry and many other applications that benefit or enhance our lives.

The colors of rubies can range from fiery vermilion to

Ruby Continued from page 3:



a deep ox-blood red. They often have other colors that are subservient to the red which can add to an overall tonal quality that may significantly enhance or detract from the stone's appeal. Violet is the most common subservient color and if prevalent enough becomes an undertone that will darken the stone. If the violet or another color is predominant and red is subservient, then the stone is not ruby, but a sapphire. In a faceted ruby, these colors can be seen as "flashes" when the ruby is rotated or moved around in the light source.

If you were to say that a ruby is just a red sapphire you would probably be more correct than not, but for the sake of this article we are going to treat rubies as much as possible in the time honored fashion as an independent gemstone in its own right. Actually, it like the other sapphires is a variety of the mineral Corundum, so there will be distinct similarities. Even the lighter shades of red are not considered to really be rubies and are usually classified as pink sapphires. If it's opaque (cloudy), it is also a sapphire no matter how red it is.

How do you determine where the change in color zone and/or clarity versus opaqueness is? (Note: The clarity I am referring to here is the crystalline properties and is not to be confused with the content of inclusions or specks of contaminants which most rubies have.) In most cases, the color or clarity is pretty obvious, but for those stones bordering on the "zones of transition" it's really a judgment call which often results in disagreement even among certified professionals. Rule of thumb: If questionable and you are the buyer, it's a ruby of course, but if you are selling, it's unquestionably an el-cheap-o pink sapphire.

Okay, so now we have some general idea of how to determine a ruby from a sapphire. Basically it is red and crystalline, but there are a lot of other stones that fall into this category, so how do we know which ones are rubies? Probably the safest way is to have it checked by an expert gemologist, but this could be expensive. If you wish to gamble and make your own decision, I recommend that you start by using corundum as your basic reference in determining the distinct physical properties that will be necessary to differentiate the ruby and/or sapphires from other similar materials.

Corundum crystals in most cases are normally pretty easy to spot because of their unique shape (looks like a barrel that has been stretched a little bit) and that would be the key factor" that I would use in the field for initial identification. If the crystal doesn't have a shape that is easily recognizable, pick it up anyway (as if I had to tell you), as there are other ways to check it out.

Corundum is second only to diamond in hardness, so a scratch test would be another good field check. I definitely don't recommend the scratch test method if you are shopping or checking out a red gemstone that was inherited from someone's grandmother.

You can also do a streak test. It should be "white" for corundum. I usually carry a small piece of tile with me on field trips for streak test and the one I now have is beginning to look like it's been used for playing tic-tac-tow.

Specific gravity would be another test that could be used under proper circumstances if the stone in question is not mounted as part of an item of jewelry. I would recommend using a gemstone heavy liquid test kit if one is available or if you know how to prepare our own. Many of your better gemological books cover in detail the chemicals you need and the directions for properly preparing your own heavy liquid kits and their use. Using scales and a container of water will get you in the ballpark, but unless done under strict laboratory conditions, the results will not be accurate enough to be of real value.

If you are fortunate enough to own a gemological refractometer, binocular microscope, optical spectroscope, or other specialized instruments, you will be able to do additional very in depth testing. The rest of us will have to depend on some of the other well known visual characteristics that will assist the careful observer in making a reasonable distinction as to whether or not the stone in question is indeed a rub, or to put it another way, we can learn to make a somewhat enlightened guess.

Because of their hardness, rubies take a really fine surface polish which gives it a **very high luster**. The luster may be further enhanced by color flashes, sheen, and a few other physical factors.

Rubies are pleochroic (display more than one color due to the different absorption of light in different directions), so as you view the stone in one direction it may be a bright red, but in another direction appear dull and you may also see a hint of color changes (in this case more like a spark or flash of color over a large area). The appearance of changes in color tones may also occur (i.e., ox-blood to burgundy or vermilion to carmine, etc).

Rubies are fluorescence and turn a **brighter red under strong light** and particularly when exposed to the ultraviolet rays of direct sunlight. Even the purplish ones (strong violet undertones) are "redder" under bright light.

Some rubies have a very distinctive silky sheen caused by the interference with light in areas containing minute rutile needles (sort of like fiber optics).



Using the visual characteristics that I have in **bold**, let's compare rubies to a few other red crystalline gemstones:

Spinel can be similar in color and luster, but it is not pleochroic and never has a silky sheen.

Red garnets can also be similar in color and luster, but are not pleochroic.

Red tourmaline is usually a completely different shade of red from rubies, but has pleochroism and luster similar to ruby; however, tourmalines do not brighten in strong light and the physical properties are very different.

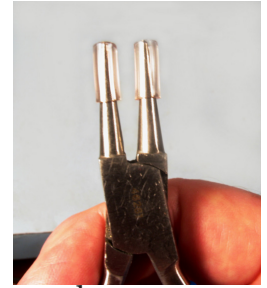
You should now have a very general but reasonable idea of how to proceed in using the visual characteristics and physical properties of a ruby to separate them from sapphires and the many other red crystalline gemstones.

In the year 1837 rubies became the first synthetic gemstones to be man made. You may be surprised to learn that they were not intended for jewelry, but to be used in clocks and watches. These earl stones contained a lot of impurities, but around 1900 a Frenchman named Verneuil perfected the "drip" or flame fusion method and produced beautiful transparent ruby boules suitable for use as gemstone material. This method is still in use today and although much improved, these rubies can usually be identified with an eye loop by their internal growth rings or platelets, which resemble saucers or shallow bowls that have been stacked up-side-down.

A modern day laser's performance ability is in a very important way directly linked to the purity of its ruby rod (sometimes referred to as a lens or cylinder). Intensive research for methods to meet the requirements for purity has in recent years led to some new and very guarded or secret manufacturing process that produce "almost perfect" distortion free, optically correct, rubies without inclusions or any undesirable contaminant. This material is available in the market place and you stand a really good chance of finding some of the boules (synthetic rough) at one of the local gem and mineral shows. Very little if any synthetic ruby is produced for the gemstone market. The synthetic material that is available has more than likely been rejected for technical or industrial use. So if the ruby is "near perfect" and especially if more than a couple of carats, it's probably synthetic, unless of course it's one you found on a field trip and in that case, I get a percentage for the technical assistance. Happy Hunting!!!

(This article is a reprint of the July 2005 Snoopy Gems. Sources of 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.)

Bench Tips:



NO - MAR PLIERS

Pliers can often leave nicks and scratches on your work. If this is giving you a problem, first take a close look at the plier jaws. New tools can be a little rough. I typically relieve any sharp edges, sand away any tool marks, and give working areas a quick polish.

If that doesn't solve the problem, you probably need to cover the jaws. Plastic electrical tape provides a quick fix but can leave messy adhesive on the jaws, and dips don't seem to last very long.

A quick and easy solution is to slip a length of 1/8 dia vinyl tubing over each jaw. It works well and leaves no sticky residue. The tubing can be found in a store that sells aquarium supplies. Note that this will increase the size of the plier jaws a bit, but I haven't found that to be a problem.

LOCAL METALS SOURCE

Local companies that use sheet metal typically have barrels of scrap copper, brass and aluminum sheet that they save for recycling. The shop owner/manager will usually let you go through it to select the shapes and thicknesses you want. Prices vary but will generally be close to the wholesale per-pound scrap value. For me at this time, that's \$3 per pound for copper.

I've found it's much cheaper to buy metal this way than ordering from a catalog. There are no shipping charges, and you'll be supporting a local small business in your community.

Remember to bring your work gloves if you try this. Also useful is a thickness gauge. When I asked if they had any 14 gauge, they didn't know. Turns out they measure the thickness of copper by its weight per square foot.


[Pick Up a Few New Jewelry Skills With Brad's "How To Do It" Books](#)

<http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>

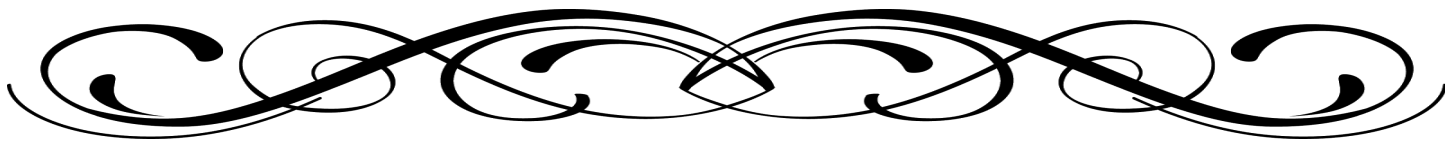
We always welcome new members!



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: _____		Cell: _____
Name: _____		Cell: _____
Address: _____		Home Phone. _____
City: _____		
State: _____	Email 1: _____	
Zip: _____	Email 2: _____	
Members Birthdays		
Adult: _____	Birthday M/D: _____	
Adult: _____	Birthday M/D: _____	
Junior: _____	Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Junior: _____	Birthday M/D/Y: _____	
Please Check All Applicable Interests		
<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: _____		
How did you hear of us? _____		
Please check the following: <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



Upcoming Gem Shows

August 31 - September 3, 2018

Hendersonville, NC

Labor Day weekend

Henderson County Gem & Mineral Society

37th Annual Gem & Mineral Spectacular

Colorful World of Jaspers

Friday-Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM

Monday 10 AM to 5 PM

Whitmire Activiy Center

301 Lily Pond Rd

Hendersonville, NC

*Demonstrations*Exhibits*Hourly Prizes*Refreshments Available*

*Raffle*Grand Prizes*

For more info check our website: HCGMS.com

Admission: \$5.00 Adults

Children under 12 accompanied by an adult are free

\$1.00 off admisson with coupon on our website!

Sept. 21 - 23, 2018

Jacksonville, Florida

30th Annual Show

Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society

Morocco Shrine Auditorium

3800 St. Johns Bluff Road, Jacksonville, FL 32224

Friday 1:00pm-6:00pm

Saturday 10:00am-6:00pm

Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

Admission: \$4 or \$6 for three day pass

Children under 12 FREE with guardian:

Seniors and Military with ID get \$1 OFF

80+ dealers from around the world, hourly door prizes, 5 Grand prize drawings, Moon rock display on loan from NASA made possible by Dr. Mike Reynolds. Club Hospitality table, 20+ Club competition display cases, Sky Lab exhibit. 4 special faceting Lectures from noted Faceters. All major faceting equipment dealers and National tool and equipment dealers will be represented.

Special Large lapidary demos each hour. Continuous Educational exhibits on Silver-smithing, Cold Connections, Faceting, Cabbing, Beading, Gem trees and more. Large junior's booth, Gem ID and Gem mining sluice. Scouting educational sessions to earn merit Badges in rocks and metal work.

web site : www.jaxgemandmineral.org/

3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd

Jacksonville, Florida 32224

Show contact: Jason Hamilton, Show Chair, 904-294-4744, JGMS-SHOW[]hotmail.com

<http://www.jaxgemandmineral.org/show.html>



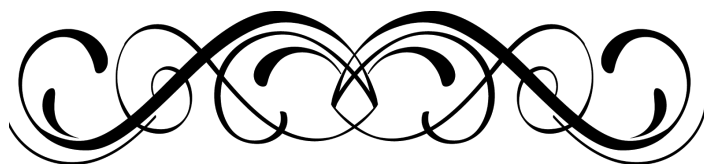
Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

A little information about our parent organization.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. was organized in 1976 to bring about a closer association of Clubs and Societies devoted to the study of Earth Sciences and the practice of Lapidary Arts and Crafts in the Southeastern part of the United States. The Southeast Federation includes approximately 80+ clubs and societies mostly in the region east of the Mississippi River and South of a line following the northern borders of Tennessee and North Carolina. **There are a few clubs outside of this area due to historical affiliation. The Southeast Federation is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. offers an optional Liability Insurance Program to

its member clubs covering field trips, shows, club meetings, etc. and educational opportunities that constitute the real backbone of our federation. The SFMS sponsors Gem, Jewelry and Mineral workshops each year. These are held at Wildacres, near Little Switzerland in North Carolina, and at the William Holland Retreat near the small town of Young Harris in northeast Georgia. A broad range of courses related to the lapidary arts are taught by qualified instructors from throughout the Federation. All instructors are volunteers who are not paid for the highly skilled and professional experience that they bring to the workshops.



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
is the Official Publication of
The Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral
Society, Inc.

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

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

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

July 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	31				

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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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