



Snoopy Gems

Volume 41 Number 1 January 2015

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MGCGMS Established in 1974

mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Happy New Year

We hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday. We are excited to start a new year! All members are invited to our first workshop and meeting of the year. We will be at the Ocean Springs Library Saturday January 17, 2015. The workshop begins at 9:30am. Potluck lunch will be at 12:00pm. The business meeting will begin at 1:00pm. The workshop will resume after the meeting. The workshop will continue until 4:30pm. Returning members who have not paid your dues for 2015 please remember to do so at the meeting.

Dave Cook will be teaching a neck wire and Lisa Fitch will be teaching a beaded bracelet. We will have cabbing and cutting available as well.

(See in next Column)

<http://www.mgcgms.org>

January 2015 Workshop

January wire workshop project will be a three-strand neck wire. Materials needed are 54" square half-hard 21 gauge wire and 36" half-round half-hard 20 gauge wire. It is important that you use half-hard wire so, if you do not have any on hand, ask San-ta to bring you some. You will need your normal tools, tape and ruler.

David Cook

January Beaded Bracelet Demo by Lisa Fitch



Material List

34 - Tila Beads 68 - 3mm round beads (Pearls look good)

(you can use 34 each in 2 different colors to alter-nate or I used o8 seed beads) o6 seed beads would probably work also.

Clasp of choice

2 - jump rings 4 or 5 mm

1 gram size 11 seed beads

12 beading needle or big eye needle 2.25

6lb. Fire line

Hypo G cement glue

Flush cutters or scissors

Some Bead Kits available-NO clasp will be included In the kits



January 2015 Birthdays

Bill Smith

Sandra Alexander

Lynda Williams Emma Roe

Angie Troutman Tommy Shelton

Lettie White Lisa Fitch

Eddie Tate Billie Kelly



Birthstone Gem for January Garnet

Garnets as a group form under high temperatures and/or pressure and are most commonly found in highly metamorphosed rocks, but in some instances they may also occur in igneous formations. Garnets are often used by geologists as a gauge for determining how much temperature and pressure host rocks have endured. They are also used as an indicator or benchmark in the search for other more precious stones and/or certain types of mineral deposits. Garnets have all the characteristics desirable in a gemstone, high indices of refraction, hardness, clarity, variety of colors, lack of cleavage, and durability. They are an ancient gemstone and garnet jewelry items are often found in archaeological excavations. Garnets as gemstones range from the very common semi-precious stones to the extremely rare and expensive variety.

The Garnet group of minerals show crystals with a habit of dodecahedrons and trapezohedrons. They are nesosilicates with the same general formula, $A_3B_2(SiO_4)_3$. Many different chemical elements are included in the several varieties of garnet, including calcium, magnesium, aluminum, iron²⁺, iron³⁺, chromium, manganese, and titanium. Garnets show no cleavage, but do show a dodecahedral parting. Fracture is conchoidal to uneven; some varieties are very tough and are valuable for abrasive purposes. Hardness is 6.5 – 7.5, specific gravity is 3.1 – 4.3, luster is vitreous to resinous, and they can be transparent to opaque. Garnets come in a wide variety of colors including red, yellow, brown, black, green, or colorless. The only color not reported for garnet is blue. The name “garnet” comes from the Latin *granatus*, a grain possibly in reference to *malum granatum* (pomegranate) a plant with red seeds similar in shape, size and color to some garnet crystals.

Six common varieties of garnet are recognized based on their chemical composition. They are pyrope, almandine or carbuncle, spessartite, grossularite (varieties of which are hessonite or cinnamon-stone and tsavorite), uvarovite and andradite. The garnets make up two solid solution series; 1. pyrope-almandine-spessartite and 2. uvarovite-grossularite-andradite.

Grossularite is a calcium-aluminum garnet with the formula $Ca_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$, though the calcium may in part be replaced by ferrous iron and the aluminum by ferric iron. The name grossularite is derived from the botanical name for the gooseberry, *grossularia*, in reference to the green garnet of this composition that is found in Siberia.

Pyrope, from the Latin *pyropos* meaning similar to fire. Sometimes called Cape ruby, it is ruby-red in color and chemically a magnesium aluminum silicate with the formula $Mg_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$, though the magnesium can be replaced in part by calcium and ferrous iron. The color of pyrope varies from deep red to almost black. The name pyrope is derived from the Greek word meaning “fire-like.” A variety of pyrope from Macon County, North Carolina is of a violet-red shade and has been called rhodolite, from the Greek meaning “a rose.” In chemical composition it may be considered as essentially an isomorphous mixture of pyrope and almandite, in the proportion of two molecules pyrope to one molecule almandite.

Almandite, sometimes called almandine, is the modern gem known as carbuncle (though originally almost any red gemstone was known by this name). The term “carbuncle” is derived from the Latin meaning “little spark.” The name Almandite is a corruption of Alabanda, a region in Asia Minor where these stones were cut in ancient times. Chemically, almandite is an iron-aluminum garnet with formula $Fe_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$; the deep red transparent stones are often called precious garnet and are used as gemstones (being the most common of the gem garnets). Almandite occurs in metamorphic rocks like mica schists.

Spessartite is manganese aluminum garnet, $Mn_3Al_2(SiO_4)_3$. Its name is derived from Spessart in Bavaria. It occurs most often in granite pegmatite and allied rock types and in certain low grade metamorphic phyllites. Spessartite of a beautiful orange-yellow is found in Madagascar. Violet-red spessartites are found in rhyolites in Colorado and Maine.

Uvarovite is a calcium chromium silicate with the formula $Ca_3Cr_2(SiO_4)_3$. It is a rather rare garnet, bright green in color, usually found as small crystals associated with chromite in peridotite and serpentinite or sometimes in crystalline marbles and schists. It is found in the Urals of Russia and Outokumpu, Finland. *Knorringite* is a rare variety in which magnesium replaces calcium. It is often found in kimberlites and used as an indicator mineral in the search for diamonds.

Andradite is a calcium-iron garnet, $Ca_3Fe_2(SiO_4)_3$, is of variable composition and may be red, yellow, brown, green or black. The recognized subvarieties are topazolite (yellow or green), demantoid (green) and melantite (black). Andradite is found both in deep-seated igneous rocks like syenite as well as serpentines, schists, and crystalline limestone. Demantoid has been called the “emerald of the Urals” from its occurrence there, and is one of the most prized of garnet varieties.

Hunting for Garnets

By

John Wright

Since garnet is the January birthstone, I thought that it would make a most appropriate subject for this month's bulletin. It also happens that garnets are a favorite of mine and I have hunted for them in South America, Africa, and many areas of the United States to include Alaska. I found a lot of nice min-eral specimens, some as large as a softball, but not very many that were of gemstone quality. The most beautiful ones of gemstone quality that I found came from an area near Tal-ladega, Alabama, and were a deep velvety oxblood or bur-gundy color with a sort of purple cast or undertone. These are extremely rare and most of these would only produce small finished stones of about a carat or maybe a little more. The largest was faceted into a gorgeous almost flawless stone of approximately four carats that I had mounted and gave to one of my daughters who was born in January.

I was told that black garnets from Idaho have a star similar to sapphires, but none of the ones I found did. The red (almandine) garnets that I found in Africa and Brazil did not have the velvet luster or purple undertone like the ones from Alabama. Hunting for garnets in Brazil or Chile is sort of like going to a fee mine here in the U.S. You have to pay a fee to mine and then pay for what you decide to keep. It's actually cheaper to buy what you want from a local vendor.

While in eastern Angola, Africa, I hunted for the rare tange-rine colored garnets (Spessartine). I didn't find any, but a local did offer to sell me some rough. I thought his price of sixty dollars U.S. was too high and didn't buy. You guessed it, I made a really, really bad choice. The next time we were in the area, a couple of other aircrew members and I decided to do a little rock-hounding on our own. A very big mistake with almost fatal consequences as we inadvertently wandered into an unmarked mine field. A policeman on his way home saw us and warned us not to move. None of us spoke Portu-guese, but all three of us instantly got the message loud and clear. He returned about thirty minutes later (his time – ours seemed like years), with military personnel that rescued us. I actually was not in the mine field, but I didn't know that, and it didn't help much when I found out after the fact. During a layover for maintenance at a small airstrip in north-ern Tanza-nia, I found out from locals that there were areas just a few miles from the airport where gemstones could be found. No land mines, just some small groups of armed rebels and the African variety of wild animals. Piece of cake for a rock hound that's been bitten by a snake, wandered around in mine fields, busted by Air Police for collecting rocks in a re-stricted area, accosted by a volunteer in a National Park, and threatened with arrest by an Arizona Highway Patrolman for collecting fossils in a road cut on I-40. A local that worked at the airport owned a truck and we talked him into taking us to the area where we were told that we might find gemstones. We were near a large wildlife park and our trip turned out to be more of a sightseeing safari than a rock hunting expe-dition. We did find some reasonably nice corundum specimens and a few small deep green grossular tsavolite garnet crystals.

(Continued Next Column)

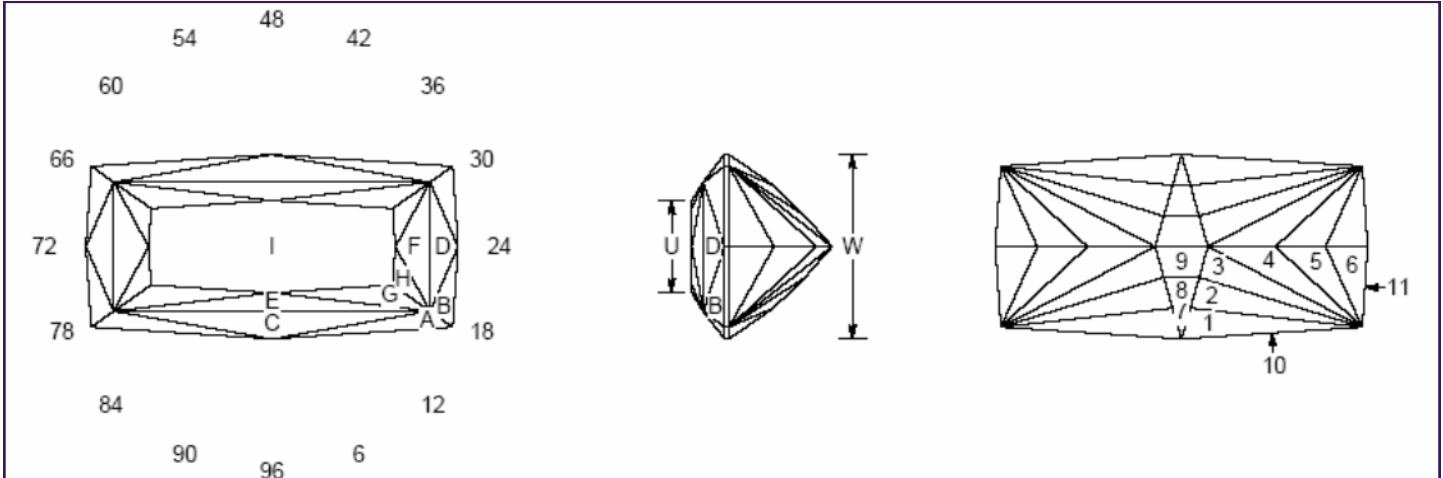
(Continued from Column One)

We found the garnet crystals on our return trip in a gully near the air-port. It was obvious that they had been transported there by water dur-ing runoff and we did not have the opportunity to determine where they had originated. I traded my corundum for the garnets and ended up with all that were found. Most of the crystals were small, of a poor quality, and only two were good enough to be faceted into stones of a little less than a carat each. I know that they are supposed to be rare but they didn't have much appeal for me, or my wife, and I finally end-ed up giving them to a friend that wanted them for a birthstone ring.

I hunted garnets in Alaska only twice and the ones I found were beauti-ful rhombic shaped specimens about the size of a ping-pong ball, but I didn't find any of gem quality. I made a number of trips with layovers in Alaska, but in the winter eve-rything is covered with snow and in the summer they have more bugs per square foot than a tropical jungle. Mosquitoes up there have to be the biggest, and after the long winters, the hungriest and meanest ones in the world and even a small swarm numbers in the billions. I didn't see any bears either time I hunted for garnets, but Dave the local individual we were with, said that a lot of rock-hounds left their garbage behind and this attracted the bears to the area. One of the guys asked him how do you scare them away when they come around. He said "you don't scare a Grizzly or a Kodiak", and that the best protection from the bears was to stay alert, stay close to your vehicle, and quickly depart the area when they show up. Sounded like good advice to me. So where is my favorite garnet hunting grounds— Alabama, of course. Garnet deposits can be found scattered over a huge area in the central part of the state. The locations are only a four or five-hour drive from my house, the scenery is beautiful, accommoda-tions nice, food great, prices reasonable, and the people are some of the friendliest you will ever meet. You can also hunt for corundum speci-mens (I have even heard that beautiful ru-bies have been found), pan for gold, collect agate, and find a host of other material that can keep you busy cabbing for years.



SPECIAL FOR FACETERS

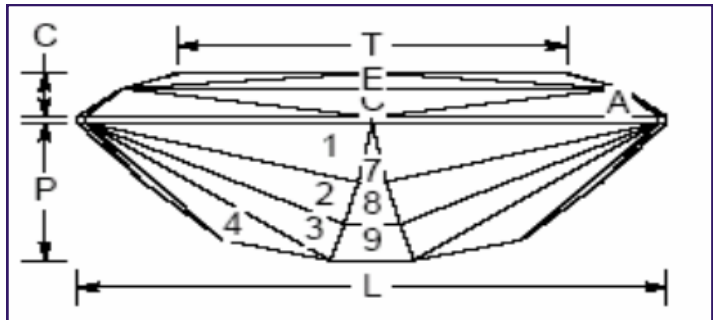


PAVILION

1	55.58°	01-47-49-95
2	46.93°	02-46-50-94
3	43.16°	03-45-51-93
4	41.00°	04-44-52-92
5	41.00°	21-27-69-75
6	47.08°	23-25-71-73
7	55.01°	96-48
8	45.60°	96-48
9	41.00°	96-48
10	90.00°	01-47-49-95
11	90.00°	23-25-71-73

CROWN

A	50.23°	01-47-49-95
B	41.72°	23-25-71-73
C	37.00°	96-48
D	37.00°	24-72
E	32.00°	96-48
F	18.49°	24-72
G	21.91°	01-47-49-95
H	16.62°	23-25-71-73
I	0.00°	Table



Weimar (- 1) by Fred Van Sant

Star Cuts Vol 1 (1980) p.40 FVS - 050

PC-41051

Weimar -2 (July 1999) see Meet Points Sept 1999

Angles for R.I. = 1.760

55 + 8 girdles = 63 facets

2-fold, mirror-image symmetry

96 index

L/W = 2.000 T/W = 1.326 U/W = 0.500

P/W = 0.553 C/W = 0.176

Vol./W³ = 0.707

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Annual dues are:

\$16 Individual

\$20 (2) Members in same house hold

\$6 Junior

2015 Workshop/Meeting Dates

"To be determined" We are working on the dates.

TIMES: 9:30-4:30PM

(**except November and December**)

****Be sure to check them 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 at the Ocean Springs Library****

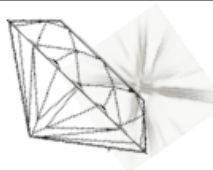

January 2015

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

We always welcome new members! Tell a friend!

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"/>	Cabbing		<input type="checkbox"/>	Jewelry Making
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chain Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	PMC		<input type="checkbox"/>	Lapidary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Field Trips	<input type="checkbox"/>	Faceting		<input type="checkbox"/>	Minerals
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fossils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wire Wrapping		<input type="checkbox"/>	Silver Smithing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Others: _____					
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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