



Snoopy Gems

Volume 41 Number 2 February 2015

Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society Inc.



MCGGMS Established in 1974

mgcgms@bellsouth.net

Presidents Message

Well the new year is here and moving along at what seems to me to be a very rapid rate. I hope that all of you had a great Christmas, a Happy New Year, and that you catch plenty of beads during the Mardi Gras parades to use for jewelry and other projects.

We are having a little bit of a rocky start with the dates and location of some of our meetings being changed. The date of January's meeting had to be changed, but Barbi notified all the members and the meeting turned out really well with a lot of credit going to David for his program in wire work. February's meeting will be on schedule, but held at a different location because of a conflict with the Library for the date of our meeting. David was able to obtain permission for us to have the workshop and meeting at St. Paul's Methodist Church on Porter Avenue in Ocean Springs.

I have attended several functions at this church and the facility where we will meet is very nice.

I would like for us to have some really interesting and informative programs this year. I am working on some programs by professional individuals, but we have a lot of talented members and I am sure that you are capable of conducting a program that would be both educational and enjoyable. This is

your Gem & Mineral Society; remember a lot of work went into having the workshops, raising money for obtaining the equipment,

and having a show each year. You are the ones that actually own this outfit, so take an active part or it will fade away. Hopefully your aspirations are the same as mine in having a very friendly, educational, and productive year.

John

<http://www.mcgms.org>

Workshop

The February workshop and business meeting will be held 2-14-2015 in the Wesson building fellowship hall at St Paul United Methodist Church in Ocean Springs. The church is located at 800 Porter Ave. The Wesson building is the two story structure behind the church sanctuary. This is the same place we met there last February. Please park in the lot on the east side of the building and there will be signs to direct you to the fellowship hall.



The February workshop project is a beaded wire wrapped bracelet led by Vicki Reynolds. Material needed: 21 or 22 sq. gauge wire, 21 or 22 half round wire, tube or reticular beads and no more than 3mm in accent beads. For the wire, measure your wrist add an 1 inch then times that by 7 for you bracelet. Add 12" for clasp and end wraps and at least 2ft of 1/2 round wire. Bracelets that are 6 1/2 to 7" in size use 8 tube beads, 18 accents beads. Tools you will need are flat, round, and chain nose pliers, and a pin vise for twisting wire.

January Meeting Minutes 2015

The meeting commenced at 1:15 P.M. John Wright presided over the meeting.

There were 20 members present including 4 new members; they are Sue Shelton,

Steve and Damans Soltis, and Gloria Lancaster.

The Secretary's report for Dec. was not recorded due to the Christmas party.

Treasury Report by Barbie Beatty A copy of the bank statement was presented to the membership

Barbie explained that the SFMS has raised its dues from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per cap. The amount of members recorded in January determines our payments that covers Show insurance as well as trips sponsored by the club.

Dues for club members is due by January; however, long standing members can pay their dues when returning and still be counted in the club membership.

A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and accepted.

John Wright proposed an audit accounting committee should be formed ; Linda Fitch and Liz Platt volunteered to do the audit.

Correspondence: An e-mail was sent to John Guglik from Brenda Queen requesting a return of her stalactite from the MS Welcome Center display cabinet; John Wright will check to see if he has the specimen. D'Iberville Middle School sent a request to have a speaker for Feb. Showcasing lapidary materials. John Wright volunteered to do a demonstration. John Guglik and John Wright stated they had displays at the Ocean Springs Library and also at the St. Martin's Library in the past year.

All members are encouraged to volunteer for local educational programs.

New Business

Scholarships will be given in February to club members; the winners will be chosen by lottery with the number awarded determined by the club membership

yearly. Barbara Saavadra made a motion to include an extra \$100 to each scholarship to help with travel fees. The motion was seconded and voted upon. It passed and will be included. The scholarships will be for William Holland School of Lapidary located in Georgia and Wild Acres Retreat located in N.C. The number of scholarships in 2014 were 3 of which only 2 were used.

Barbie Beatty made a motion to have 2 Scholarships for the current year. The motion was seconded but Barbara Saavadra added an amendment to make 3 scholarships ; the amendment was defeated and a vote for the original motion was taken and it was accepted by the membership. The drawing for scholarships will be made at the next meeting.

Equipment

The inventory should be kept current and Jim Kirschner volunteered to do it.

Workshop

Dave Cook ran a wire wrap workshop featuring the making of necklaces of copper wire. The necklaces were beautiful.

Dave Cook suggested that letters of appreciation should be given to members who contributed in previous years. John Wright said gifts usually are not given , but he would take care of past contributors. John Guglik stated that past presidents were to receive a gift after their year of service given by the V. President; this was verified and the last 3 president Bill Smith, Buddy Shotts and John Guglik will receive a gift from the club picked out by V.P. Bill LaRue.

Show and Tell

Bill LaRue and John Wright showed off garnets and Bill gave away a garnet to all.

Door prizes were awarded, a 50-50 was conducted as well as silent auction.

A motion to end the meeting was made and seconded and voted favorably.

Minutes presented by

Secretary John Guglik



February 2015 Birthdays

Janet Hassell
 Bill LaRue
 Chuck Mauer
 Vicki Reynolds
 Bryce Smith



February



Legend of amethyst

According to Greek myth, Dionysius, god of intoxication, was angered by an insult from a mere mortal and swore revenge on the next mortal that crossed his path, creating fierce tigers to carry out his wish. Along came the unsuspecting Amethyst, a beautiful maiden on her way to pay tribute to the goddess Diana. Diana turned Amethyst into a statue of pure crystalline quartz to protect her from the tigers. Dionysus wept tears of wine in remorse at the sight of the beautiful statue. The god's tears stained the quartz purple, creating the gem we know today.

Science of amethyst

Amethyst is a member of the quartz family, occurring as crystals within rocks. Quartz often grows within cavities of cooling lava, forming geodes. Although the gem color must always be purple to be amethyst, it has a wide range of purple shades. Amethyst can occur as long prismatic crystals that have a six-sided pyramid at either end, or it can form as crystalline crusts called druzes that only show the pointed ends. Amethyst is popular for its color and crystal shapes that produce handsome, purple, sparkling clusters.

A Letter To Share

This is a letter from one of our longstanding members Billie Kelly

Enjoy!

HAPPY HOLIDAY FROM FT. VALLEY

It doesn't seem possible that I have been in the beautiful little town of Ft. Valley, Ga. for over nine years.

Pretty much gave up Gem and Minerals when Don passed away. However turned to a hobby that I love hand knitting.

Took one summer and made 44 scarfs for an Indian School .

Have hand knitted 6 full size bed blankets, which take at least 8-10 months

Thank the good Lord for good health. At 88 years and hope to have a few more.

To each of you
 KEEP ROCKIN ALONG

Billie Kelly

Billie



May happy hours, pleasant memories, and thoughts of family and friends, make this your merriest *Christmas* ever!



SUNSTONES

By John M. Wright, RPG



Picture from: <http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunstone>

Physical Properties

Family: Feldspar - Labradorite

Class: Plagioclase - Aventurine Feldspar

Chemical Comp. : $(Ca, Na)(Al, Si)_2Si_2O_8$

Crystal System: Triclinic

Birefringence: .007 to .010

Color: Clear, pale yellow, tan, soft pink to deep red, deep blue-green (very rare), may often occur multi-colored, or with color zoning

Reflective Indices: $n_x 1.568$, $n_y 1.559$
(+ or - .005)

Density: 2.62 – 2.65 g/cm³

Hardness: 6.5 – 7.2

Cleavage: Perfect in two directions

Fracture: Uneven to splintery

Pleochroism: Usually None

Luster: Vitreous

Streak: White

Sunstones are a very beautiful, unusual and extremely interesting, but a relatively unknown group of gemstones even though they have been around for hundreds of years. Proof of their

antiquity as a gemstone is that they were highly prized by the Vikings and are often found in their burial mounds. The name comes by way of the term “heliolite” from Greek (with helios, meaning sun, and lithos, meaning stone). Somewhere along the way the Greek word “heliolite” got dropped and just its meaning of “sunstone” remained. Early in the 1900s sunstones were discovered in Oregon, but like their earlier counterparts found in other parts of the world were limited in quantity, of poor quality, normally opaque, and used mainly for cabochons.

Sunstone is a variety of oligoclase feldspar and oligoclase and is a variety of plagioclase feldspar which is an isomorphous mixture of albite (sodium aluminum silicate – $NaAlSi_3O_8$) and anorthite (calcium aluminum silicate – $CaAl_2Si_2O_8$). If you think that’s complicated, hang on, because we are just getting started. Feldspar is formed in lava flows and the name comes from the German “feldt spat” meaning “field stone”. Sunstones like other feldspar gemstone material (labradorite, moonstone, etc.) displays a “schiller effect” or what is known to gemologists as “aventurescences”. This effect results in a color change or at least a variance in the intensity of the colors when the stone is moved to differing orientations (move around) or changing light sources (go outside in sunlight). This phenomenon is actually caused by the internal crystal structure, inclusions of microscopically thin platelets of goethite, hematite, or copper which creates interference with the rays of light penetrating the stone.

In a faceted stone light is “redirected” by the facets to enhance the stone, but in stones with the schiller effect or aventurescences, the light is “reflected” by the crystal structure or inclusions, for instance, in labradorite the inclusions are large and result in a patchwork of colors, but in moonstones the inclusions are fine and the reflected light seems to make the stone glow.

While sunstones are labradorite feldspars they are also very closely related to moonstones. The sunstone seems to have the glow of moonstones, but more intense almost like it has its own internal light source. It also has flashes or glints of color similar to the patchwork of

Continued on Page 5.

labradorite but on a much smaller scale. This combination may sometimes result in stones that have the appearance of shimmering. Sunstones can be bi-colored and tri-colored, have color zoning, internal di-chroic or tri-chroic crystal structures, inclusions of microscopic platelets, and/or often any combination of these distinctive individual features.

In the later 1980s and early 1990s there were several new deposits of a top-grade sunstone discovered in Oregon. The beauty, quality, and quantity of this material which was found in crystal specimens large enough to facet or carve, set a new world wide standard for sunstones and it was quickly recognized by gemologists as a unique "gemstone". This newly discovered material also appropriately became known as "Oregon Sunstone" and was designated as the state's official gemstone by an act of the Legislature.

Oregon sunstones are unique in that they contain millions of microscopic "copper" platelets that reflect light with varying intensities that results in a copper sheen to golden-red play of color. The most common color found is listerine, but the stones also occur in tan, yellow, pink, peach, salmon, red, red-green, blue-green, and as clear crystals. The red, green, and blue appearing colors are believed to be caused by a rare intervalence charge transfer involving the copper platelets, but this is highly speculative and has not been proven. These unique sunstones are also found in bi-colors and tri-colors and in some instances with zones of colors. A very small percentage of stones are di-chroic or tri-chroic. The Oregon sunstones with their strong shiller effect, multiple colors, depth of color, degree of clarity, and brightness are unlike and for the most part far superior to the same type stones found in other parts of the world.

I think the most surprising thing about these stones is that so few people including rockhounds seem to know about them. Our club members are aware of them only because Buddy and Reba Shotts have made several trips to Oregon to hunt for them and told about their outings at our meetings. I found out about them several years ago while visiting my sister who lives in Wenatchee, Washington. I attend a lot of show in the southeast and have only found a

couple of dealers that had finished sunstones and none that carried rough. I know you can order it on the internet, but when it comes to faceting or cabbing rough, I guess I'm kind of old fashion as I like to "look and touch" before I buy.



This beautiful pendant belongs to Buddy and Reba Shotts. The sunstone originally weighing 115 carats was found by them in 2004 at the Dust Devil mine in Plush, Oregon, on their first trip to hunt sunstones. Talk about beginners luck, wow !! While on the trip they met Morgan Norris, a renowned gemstone carver from Blackwell, OK. More luck !! He chose the rose design to exemplify the red in the bi-colored stone and did a fantastic job. When it was finished the stone still weighed a big 75 carats. Buddy and Reba obtained another great artist, Daylan Hargrove, from Big Springs, TX, to design and make the carved sunstone's mounting. It has rose leaves and stems cast in 18 Karat gold. For you new members, Buddy and Reba are both long time members of our society and she does occasionally wear the pendant at our meetings.

Billie and I had planned to make a trip out to the mines in Oregon a couple of years ago, but our plans were changed by hurricane Katrina. I still have the "fever" and hopefully I can convince her that another big one is still out there just waiting for us to pick it up.

References

<http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunstone>
www.higdesertgemsandminerals.com/html/spectrum_sunstone_mines.ht
oregonsunstone.com
triplearockshop.com/sunstone.html
www.thefreedictionary.com/sunstone
www.britannica.com/eb/article-9001320/sunstone
www.24carat.co.uk/sunstone.html

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

OFFICERS 2015

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Parliamentarian	Dave Cook (228) 875-2570
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Member at Large (2 year)	Bill White (228) 875-8716

COMMITTEES

Membership	Barbi Beatty (228) 238-9900
Show Chairman	Bill LaRue (228) 229-8781
Silent Auction	Open
AFMS John Wright	Boundaries Chair
ALAA John Wright	Director
SFMS John Wright President	Conservation, Legislation & Past
SFMS Buddy Shotts	Long-range Planning & Past Presi- dent

Annual dues are:

\$16 Individual

\$20 (2) Members in same house hold

\$6 Junior

2015 Workshop/Meeting Dates

February 14, 2015 St Paul's Church 9:00-4:00

March 14, 2015 OS Library 1:30-4:30 (1/2 Day)

April 11, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

May 9, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

June 6, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

July 18, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

August 8, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

September 12, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

October 10, 2015 OS Library 9:30-4:30

November At Show

December TBA

*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 **

February 2015

Su Mo Tu W Th Fri Sat

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

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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