Est. 1979

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.

Gulfport Gems

Volume 47 October 2026 Number 10

Member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Society

P.O. Box 10136
Gulfport, Ms. 39505



www.facebook.com/gulfportgems
Website: www.gulfportgems.org

A message from the President. . .

Dear Members,

The aroma of pumpkin spice in the air can only mean one thing… according to Starbucks, Fall is here! With September in our rear-view mirror, we can focus on spending time with friends and family during the fast-approaching holidays.

It also means nominations for the board positions. If anyone has that burning desire to rule over a group of Gem and Mineral enthusiasts with an iron fist, we'll be taking nominations this month, voting in November and taking over in December in preparation of the 2027 year. All campaign speeches need to be kept under 5 minutes. The position for workshops is open as well.

Niccola's wire weave bracelet instruction was great and fun to make. Sue will be demonstrating her Spiders and Helen will be showing us how to create a flat infinity bracelet. Take a look at our website https://www.gulfportgems.org/workshops) for the specifics.

As always, our cabbing machines will be available for polishing along with our other tools for use.

Until then, keep creating!

Sincerely,

President Peter M.



Notes from the editor . . .

Meeting: October 17, 2026 at 9am
Herbert Wilson Recreational Center
Bring a dish

Door Prizes: Please bring a door prize to donate. See Cindy Braden

Gems of the Month:
October - Peridot

Show & Tell: Anything you have to share with the club, Please bring.

Workshops:
Helen - Flat Infinity Bracelet
Sue S. - Spider

Program: N/A

2026 Workshop Instructors needed

Please Contact Workshop Chairman, Shirley at 228-594–9673
Msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Show Co-Chairman:
Helen D. Helen.daniel1@gmail.com
Beverly B. bbaker30518@gmail.com
Email: gulfportgems.show@gmail.com

NOTE:
- July minutes not available at this time

Please continue to check our website and Facebook pages for updates.

Workshops are posted on both.

www.gulfportgems.org

www.facebook.com/gulfportgems

HCGMS - Meeting September 19, 2026

Called to Order Time: 1:02 p.m. by President Peter M.

Members in attendance: (22) Kyleigh F.; Niccola H.; Sue W.; Sheryl R.; Mary T.; Kay L.; Helen D.; Gladys D.; Lisa F.; Alexis F.; Violet F., Peter M.; Nicole G.; Rosalind N.; Shirley R.; Jina M.; Lynn T.; Don L.; Sharon G.; Julie B.; Allan E. *Guest:* Amanda B.

Meeting:
The August meeting minutes having been distributed, Helen made a motion to accept the August minutes. Gladys seconded the motion. There being no objections, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Nicole G. reported recent expenses included payment of the scholarship for Karen Williams to attend William Holland. The general fund balance is $XX; the equipment fund after buying some new blades for the trim saw is $XX; the show account is $XX; and the CD balance is $XX. Lisa made a motion that the treasurer's report be accepted. Julie seconded the motion. There being no objections, motion carried.

Show & Tell: None.

Program: Cancelled Nicole - Circular cutting machine (Wasn't working)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Workshops: Pete let everyone know that Shirley will not be organizing the workshops next year and a new Chairman would be needed.

Newsletter: Lisa said that there will be a formatting change in the newsletter because she can no longer use the system she was using. She looked into Canva, but there is a fee. There was discussion about various programs. Someone suggested contacting Cindy R. With the Southeast Federation. Pete recommended Club Express.

Facebook: Nicole said she had been posting on the club's Facebook and encouraged others to post any comments, pictures, or other things they may have to post about the club, etc.

Webmaster: No report.

Equipment: Pete reported that some new blades were bought for the trim saw. Also, the club is still looking for a faceting machine if anyone runs across one.

Sunshine: No report.
Show: No report.
Librarian: No report.



COMMUNICATION:

Old Business: None.

New Business: It was noted that the Mississippi Gem & Mineral Society will have their show next weekend at the Ocean Springs Civic Center.
-Pete reported that we need three people for the nominations committee. They will be responsible for calling people and checking in with current Board members to see if they would like to run again for a Board position. We will also need one more person for a director's position. Lisa and Shirley stated they would help. We will have a vote in November and members will be sworn in at the December meeting. Nicole will send a current e-mail and phone list out.
--Pete also reported that he thinks we need to update some of the items in the By-laws and if you have any recommendations, let him know.
- We need a meeting place for our December meeting since we will probably not be able to meet at the Herbert Wilson Rec. Center. We may just all decide to have our Christmas party at a restaurant/different location.

Split the Pot: Violet won the split the pot and went home with $XX.

Door Prizes: There were some great door prizes and everyone went home with something.

Adjournment: Helen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julie seconded the motion. There being no objections, motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Nominating Committee

Your nominating committee has been working hard to have your slate of 2027 officers to serve next year.

Nominations from the floor are always accepted.

If you are interested in running for an office please contact one of us.

Nominating Committee:

Shirley R. & Lisa F.

It is always a privilege to serve.
So far the 2027 slate is:

Peter M. - President
Lisa F. - Vice president
Sheryl R. - Secretary
Nicole G. - Treasurer
Director - Sharon G.

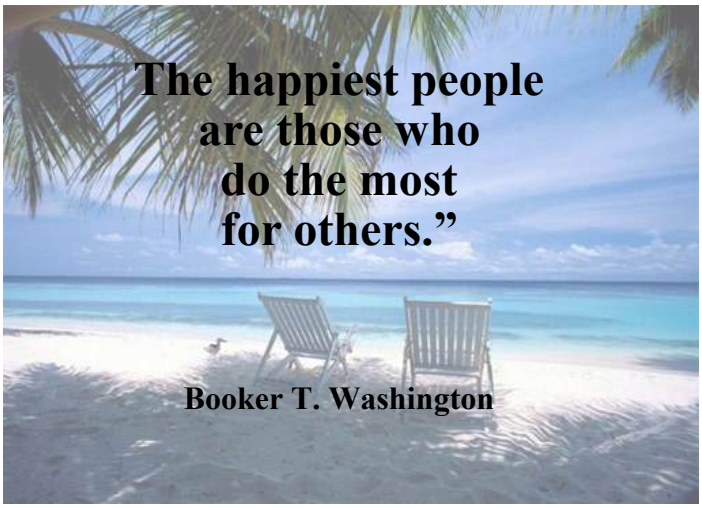
Anyone interested in secretary, please let us know, Sheryl will do it but would like to offer it to someone else. So please, consider volunteering.

We will vote in November and the Board will be sworn in at our December Christmas Party.

Please consider volunteering to serving on our board.



THOUGHT OF THE DAY . . .





Sharon G.
Bernadette M.
Lynn T.
Jennifer T.



Peter & Bernadette M.



Ghostly Munch

2013 myrecipes.com



Prep Time: 10 Mins
Yields: 12 cups

Ingredients:

1/3 cup unsalted butter, melted
8 cups popped unsalted popcorn
1/2 teaspoon onion or garlic salt
1/4 cup grated Parmesan
3 cups pretzel sticks or miniature pretzels
1 6.6-oz. pkg. Cheddar Goldfish crackers
Salt, optional

Instructions:

Drizzle butter over popcorn. Sprinkle with onion salt and Parmesan; toss. Add pretzels and crackers; toss. Season with salt, if desired. Serve, or store in an air-tight container.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop Chairman:
msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Oct. 17, 2026



Shirley Robinson
228-594-9673

Flat Infinity Bracelet

By Helen



MATERIAL:

14, 16, or 18 Gage Copper Wire
26 gage Wrapping Copper Wire
3 to 4mm Beads
Copper Toggle

TOOLS:

Bail Making Pliers
Side Cutting Pliers
Nylon Jaw Pliers
Flat Nose Pliers
Needle Nose Pliers
Bent Nose Pliers
End Cutting Pliers
Round Nose Pliers
Hammer
Steel Plate

Spider Bracelet - By Sue S.









MATERIAL:

20 Ga. Wire
Head Pin
1 Large Bead or stone with hole thru middle
Assorted beads, pearls, stones of varied sizes & colors
Elastic for Bracelet

Volunteers are needed for 2026

Workshops * Show & Tell * Programs

Please consider volunteering!

A program can be anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes.
Demonstrate how to do something.

Contact Shirley to schedule

Cabbing Workshops - ***Equipment Chairman*** *Cindy Braden - 228-243-2665*

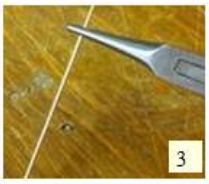
If you are interested in cabbing we have instructors available to teach you.
Time may be limited if other members are waiting to use the machines.
$3.00 per Day for equipment usage
Must be a member (waiver on file)
Guest not allowed to use equipment

Project of the Month

Make Perfect Ear Wire Sets








Materials:
Wire 20 ga.

Tools:
Sharpie
Round Nose Pliers
Flat Nose Pliers
Flush Cutters
Ruler / measuring Tape

(1) Cut 4" of 20 ga. Wire. **(You can use as little as 3" and as much as 6" depending on how small or large you want your ear wires)**

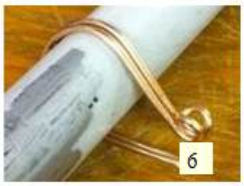
(2) File both ends with an emery board or sandpaper.

(3) Using a round nose pliers, grasp the wire at the center point (halfway) and bend. Using your hand bend in half.

(4) After you squeeze the wire together by hand as best you can, shore up the ends with round nose pliers.





This next step isn't necessary but it helps. Use a sharpie and mark your round nose pliers if making multiple sets.

(5) Grasp the wire at the bend end with round nose pliers. Make a loop.

(6) Bend the wire around a sharpie marker (or whatever size pen, pencil, dowel, or mandrel you like to use for making ear wires. If you have a pair of wubbers (aka stepped loopers) then that's great.









(7) Grasp both wire ends (at the open end) and cut them to match evenly using flush cutters. File with a nail file or a cup burr.

(8) Using round nose pliers, bend the ends of the ear wires just a bit.

(9) Bend out the end loop a little bit and cut off the tip of the loop with flush cutter.

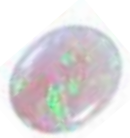
(10)Using round nose pliers, bend the loop closed again on each ear wire.

If making multiple sets, it is best to keep them attached until you need them. That way each set is a Matching Set.



Opals

FACTS



- Mineral: Hydrated Silica
- Chemistry: $SiO_2 \bullet nH_2O$
- Color: All colors
- Refractive index: 1.37-1.47
- Birefringence: None
- Specific gravity: 2.15 (+0.08, -0.90)
- Mohs Hardness: 5 to 6.5

How Opal Forms: Opal is the creation of seasonal rains that saturate dry ground in regions such as Australia's semi-desert "outback." The water soaking deep into the ancient underground rock, carrying dissolved silica (a compound of silicon and oxygen) downward.
Through out the dry periods, a lot of the water evaporated, leaving behind solid deposits of silica. Found in the in the cracks and between the layers of underground sedimentary rock the silica deposits formed opals. Opals contain 20% of its water trapped in its silica structure.
Opals being in two broad classes called precious and common. Common Opals do not display the "play-of-color" as the precious Opals.
Experts divide gem opals into five main types:

White or light opal: Translucent to semi translucent, with play of color against a white or light gray background color, called body color.

Black opal: Translucent to opaque, with play-of-color against a black or other dark background.

Fire opal: Transparent to translucent, with brown, yellow, orange, or red body color. This material—which often doesn't show play-of-color—is also known as "Mexican opal."

Boulder opal: Translucent to opaque, with play-of-color against a light to dark background. Fragments of the surrounding rock, called matrix, become part of the finished gem.

Crystal or water opal: Transparent to semi transparent, with a clear background. This type shows exceptional play-of-color.



White Black Fire Crystal Boulder



Tourmalines

FACTS



- Mineral: Tourmaline
- Chemistry:
- Elbaite $Na(Li_{1.5},Al_{1.5})Al_6Si_6O_{18}(BO_3)_3(OH)_4$
- Dravite $NaMg_3Al_6Si_6O_{18}(BO_3)_3(OH)_4$
- Liddicoatite $Ca(Li_2Al)Al_6Si_6O_{18}(BO_3)_3(OH)_3F$
- Chromedravite $NaMg_3Cr_6Si_6O_{18}(BO_3)_3(OH)_4$
- Color: All colors
- Refractive index: 1.624 to 1.644
- Birefringence: 0.018 to 0.040
- Specific gravity: 3.06 (+0.20, -0.06)
- Mohs Hardness: 7 to 7.5

The chemical composition of Tourmaline directly influences its physical properties and is responsible for its color. Tourmalines consisting of a group of closely related mineral species that share the same crystal structure but have a totally different chemical and physical properties. Sharing the elements silicon, aluminum, and boron, but contain a complex mixture of other elements such as sodium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, manganese, iron, chromium, vanadium, fluorine, and sometimes copper. Gemologists defining it's species use tourmaline's properties and chemical composition. The major species for Tourmaline are elbaite, liddicoatite, dravite, uvite, and schorl.
'Tourmalines come in one of widest variety of color ranges of any gem species, occurring in various shades of virtually every hue. Many have inspired their own trade names:

- Rubellite is a name for pink, red, purplish red, orangy red, or brownish red tourmaline, although some in the trade argue that the term shouldn't apply to pink tourmaline.
- Indicolite is dark violetish blue, blue, or greenish blue tourmaline.
- Paraíba is an intense violetish blue, greenish blue, or blue tourmaline from the state of Paraíba, Brazil.
- Chrome tourmaline is intense green. In spite of its name, it's colored mostly by vanadium, the same element that colors many Brazilian and African emeralds.
- Parti-colored tourmaline displays more than one color. One of the most common combinations is green and pink, but many others are possible.
- Watermelon tourmaline is pink in the center and green around the outside. Crystals of this material are typically cut in slices to display this special arrangement.



SPOT SANDING BRUSH

Sometimes you have a little discoloration or debris to clean from the bottom of a pocket, from an area of coarse textured surface, or from a small space between two soldered objects. Finding something to get into those close areas is always an effort in creativity.

One tool I have for these special occasions is a glass fiber spot sanding brush. It's great for cleaning a small area and doesn't leave deep scratches, only a faint satin finish.

There are probably several manufacturers of these pens, but one is the PrepPen Adjustable Sanding Pen selling for US$ 10.95 from Amazon. You can see it at http://www.amazon.com/Prep-Pen-PrepPen-Adjustable-Sanding/dp/B000J18RT6/



Making jewelry involves a multitude of skills, intricate hand work, and a lot of problem solving. In this series Books in this series help to::

>Broaden your metalworking skills
>Improve productivity at the bench
>Save money on tools and supplies

You'll find hundreds of low cost and really practical tips and techniques that the author uses in his work and teaches in his classes and workshops.

Check It Out



Available now on Amazon

Smart Solutions for Your Jewelry Making Problems

http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith

www. bradsmithjewelry.com

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Shows and Events

Oct 2 - 4, 2026 54th Annual New Orleans Gem and Mineral Show Alario Center 2000 Segnette Blvd., Westwego, La. 70094 Gems and Minerals / Jewelry and beads / Fossils / Crystals and more. Admission: $7.00 Visit their Facebook page.

11/21-22/2026—WEST PALM BEACH, FL: The Gem and Mineral Society of the Palm Beaches.; South Florida Fairgrounds, Expo Center East, 9067 Southern Blvd., West Palm Beach, Florida.; Sat. 9-6 & Sun 10 -5; Admission: $11 Adults, 2 day pass $16, Kids under 12 free. Links: www.gmspb.org

12/4-6/2026—MONTGOMERY, AL: Montgomery Gem and Mineral Society.; Garrett Coliseum, 1555 Federal Dr., Montgomery, AL; Fri-Sat. 9-6 & Sun 11-4; Admission: $5 Adults, Kids under 18 Free with student ID & paid adult. Free Parking. Links: www.mgms.club



FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF SHOWS VISIT - amfed.org

AKS GEM SHOW Presents New Orleans Bead & Jewelry Show

Pontchartrain Center, 4545 Williams Blvd., Kenner, La. 70065

Admission Fee $5.00 Hours: Fri & Sat 10am-6pm / Sun 10am-4pm Phone: 504-265-8830
Email info@aksshow.com with inquiries

Visit website www.aksshow.com and GET A COUPON FOR $1.OO OFF Admission

2026 Jan. 10, 11, & 12 March 14, 15 , & 16 Summer Show June 12, 13, & 14

Autumn/Christmas Show November 13, 14, & 15

Save $1.00 off admission to any AKS Gem Show

This coupon is good for entrance to any AKS Gem Show! *Be sure to check your inbox for additional savings from our exhibitors.*

Check our list of shows now...

Offer Expires: no expiration.

Southeast Federation News

S.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscription to Lodestar is FREE electronically

Email: sfms.lodestar@gmail.com Or

Editor: Cindy Reed

Can be read online:

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html

www.amfed.org

SFMS 2026 Annual Convention

February 28th—March 2, 2026

Live Oak, FL

William Holland School of Lapidary Arts

706-379-2126

Register Now at:

www.lapidaryschoolregistration.org

Federation Week N/A

Classes are subject to change

WILDACRES RETREAT

828-756-4573

Website @www.wildscres.org

registrarwildacres@gmail.com Claudia Erwin

When scheduling keep in mind, workshops are subjected to change without notice.

Please check the website for changes.

Federation Weeks August 10th -16th

2nd Week September 7th - 13thv

American Federation News

A.F.M.S. Newsletter

Subscriptions are $5.00 per year

Checks should be made payable to "AFMS"

AFMS Central Office
Cheryl Nearly
42 Jefferson Avenue
Patchogue, NY 11772-1008

Centraloffice.amfed@gmail.com PH: 516-449-5341

AFMS 2026 Annual Convention

September 19th in Norcross, Ga.

A.L.A.A.

Have you joined the **American Lands Access Association** (ALAA)? Help is needed. Please volunteer!

The organization was founded to promote and ensure the right of the amateur hobby collecting, recreational prospecting and mining, and the use of public and private lands for educational and recreational purposes and to carry the voice of all amateur collectors and hobbyists to our elected officials, government regulators and public land managers.

Individual dues are $25 per year; clubs $50 per year.

A quarterly newsletter is sent to all members.
For more information,
Visit http://amlands.org

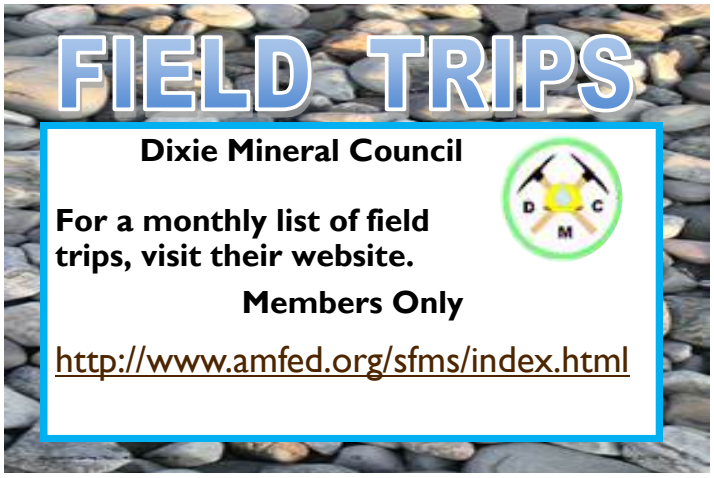
Jennifer Haley, President

Nearby Gem Societies

Ms. Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society
www.mgcgms.com
Meeting: 2nd Saturday of the month

Mobile Rock and Gem Society
www.mobilerockandgem.com
Meeting: 2nd Tuesday of the month

Gem & Mineral Society of Louisiana
Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month
Contact: Levette @ 504-214-3205



Dixie Mineral Council

For a monthly list of field trips, visit their website.

Members Only

http://www.amfed.org/sfms/index.html

Other Interests: **International Society of Glass Blowers** Website: www.isgb.org

Visit site if you like Lampworking

Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society Information

Officers 2026

President - *Peter Mastroianna* h1ghspeed@mac.com
Vice President - *Lisa Fitch* lapidaryarts@hotmail.com
Secretary - *Sheryl Rogers* sdr@frslaw.com
Treasurer - *Nicole Green* nfouasnon@gmail.com

Directors

Jina Martin (3 yr.) jinamartin@hotmail.com
Sue West (2 yr.) msuewest@bellsouth.net
Beverly Baker (1 yr.) bbaker30518@gmail.com

Committee Members

Show Chairman
Helen Daniels Helen.daniel1@gmail.com
Beverly Baker bbaker30518@gmail.com

Workshop Chairman
Shirley Robinson msrobinson2u@icloud.com

Equipment Chairmen
Cindy Braden *228-243-2665*

Field Trip Chairman
Sharon Greer 3catsgreer@bellsouth.net

Librarian Chairman
Sue West msuewest@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Editor
Lisa Fitch lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

Facebook Chairman
Nicole Green nfouasnon@gmail.com

Sunshine
Sheryl Rogers sdr@frslaw.com

Webmaster Chairman
Leslie Jancovich ljancovich@gmail.com

Assistant Webmaster
Nicole Green nfouasnon@gmail.com

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Mississippi State Director
Peter Mastroianna *609-367–3489*

Meetings / Workshops

Herbert Wilson Recreational Center
3625 Hancock Avenue
Gulfport, Ms. 39501

3rd Saturday of each month

9 am - 12 pm	Workshop
12 pm - 1 pm	Lunch
1 pm - 2 pm	Meeting

Directions: Coming from Pass Road or Hwy. 90 turn on Courthouse Road.
Turn next to Hancock Bank on 33rd Street until you reach Hancock Street. Look to your left and you will see the Herbert Wilson Recreational Center. We are on the left side of building thru the gates.

Come for fun . . . Stay to play!

Visit our Website and Facebook page:

www.gulfportgems.org or
https://www.facebook.com/gulfportgems

2026 MEETING DATES

Jan 17th	May SHOW 16th & 17th	
Feb 21st	June 20th	Sept 19th
Mar 21st	July 18th	Oct 17th
Apr 18th	Aug 15th	Nov 21st

Dec 19th Christmas Party

Newsletter Editor



Lisa Fitch
Submit newsletter articles to:
lapidaryarts@hotmail.com

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Articles and minutes are due by the last day of each month

Membership Form

Contact Our Treasurer: Nicole Green (228) 344-8066 Email: nfouasnon@gmail.com

HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION — **SINGLE $20.00**
18 YEARS OF AGE

Name:	Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Anniversary: (Mo/Day)	Cell Phone:
Current address:		Home Phone:
City:	State / Zip Code:	Work Phone:

CO-APPLICANT / SPOUSE INFORMATION — **FAMILY $30.00**
TWO ADULTS & ALL MINORS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE/AT SAME ADDRESS

Co-Applicant / Spouse:	Email:	
Date of birth (Mo/Day):	Cell Phone:	Work Phone:

JUNIOR INFORMATION — **JUNIOR $10.00**
UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE ☆ SPONSORED BY AN ADULT

Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name:	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:
Name	Birthday (Mo/Day/Year)	Relationship:

☆ EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION ☆

Name:		
Relationship:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:

INTEREST INFORMATION

Hobby Interest: **(Each applicant initial interests)** **Jewelry Interest:**

_____ Fossils
_____ Minerals
_____ Lapidary (____Cabbing, ____Faceting, Etc.)
_____ Field Trips (Creeks, Gravel pits, Mines, Etc.)
_____ Special Interests _____

_____ Beading
_____ Kumihimo
_____ Pearl Knotting
_____ Other _____
_____ Wire Wrapping
_____ Chainmaille
_____ Silversmithing

APPLICATION FEES

Applications can be mail to: Harrison County Gem & Mineral Society P. O. Box 10136, Gulfport, Ms. 39505

Single $20.00 Family $30.00 Junior(s) $10.00 Each	**DUES:** $
Dues: *Circle One* **NEW** **RENEWAL** **No Proration** **Deadline: 3rd Saturday of January**	**TOTAL:** $

SIGNATURES

How did you hear about our society? _____
I authorize HCGMS to use my picture or likeness for society promotions? YES or NO
I authorize HCGMS to include my information in society listings for members only? YES or NO

Signature of applicant:	Date:
Signature of co-applicant/spouse *(only if for a family membership)*:	Date:
*Newsletter will be sent via email @ no charge	Modified 11/20/17 LF

Our goal is to promote, educate and stimulate interest in the earth sciences and lapidary arts context.

Gulfport Gems, Editor
P O Box 10136
Gulfport, MS 39505

Address Service Requested





THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE HARRISON COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

HCGMS 2026 Workshops

January 17 Happy New Years	**February 21** Happy Valentines February 14th	**March 21** Wire Wrapped Ring By Sue W. Wired Wrapped Pendant By Karen, Helen, & Nicole Mardi Gras February 17th St. Patrick's Day 17th	**April 18** Wired Wrapped Pendant By Karen, Helen, & Nicole Happy Easter April 4th
May 16 **S H O W** **16th & 17th**	**June 20** Chain Connection By Nicole HAPPY Father's DAY	**July 18** Crystal Ring By Beverly Happy 4th	**August 15** Star Ornament By Leslie J.
September 19 5 Weave Braided Bracelet By Niccola Program: Cancelled Circular Cutting Machine By Nicole G.	**October 17** Spider By Sue S. Flat Infinity Bracelet By Helen D. Happy Halloween	**November 21** TBA By Sue W. Christmas Ornament By Jan Happy Thanksgiving	**December 19** Merry Christmas CHRISTMAS PARTY