



# THE GOLDEN NUGGET

Jul 2005  
Number 05 - 07



*The Official Voice of the Montgomery, Alabama Gem & Mineral Society*

## May Program

**When:** Thursday, July 14, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Mureal Crump Community Center  
1735 Highland Ave.  
Montgomery, AL  
**What:** Knapping demonstration presented  
by Sonny Hall



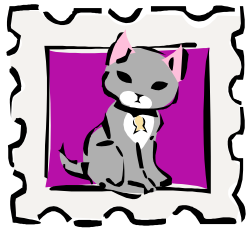
## Refreshments



Refreshments for the July meeting will be provided by the Clara Glover, drinks, and the Iris McGehee, snacks.

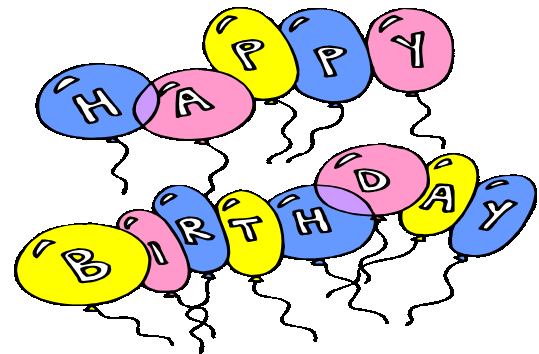
Next month's refreshments will be provided by Joy Matthews, drinks, and Annette Graves, snacks.

Please remember to bring paper plates, napkins and cups. Ice is available at the community center.



## SFMS Stamp Program

Please remember to keep saving those cancelled stamps and bring them to the meeting and give them to our stamp person Iris.



to

**Jane Barkley, Leonard Davenport,  
Mary Holland & Linda Lord**



Dear Members,

Well once again a workshop was planned for those who said they wanted to learn to bead. I am sorry to report that once again those who planned this workshop were disappointed when only two people showed up at the Lowder Library on Bell Road to participate in the class. I suggest that in the future a \$5.00 fee be paid upon sign-up to be refunded when class is over to those who attended. This should compensate for the inconvenience of planning an outing or class where no one bothers to show up. Those who do will receive their money back.

Linda Lord

## Birthstones: choosing a gem for you



Most gem scholars agree that the tradition of birthstones arose from the [Breastplate of Aaron](#): a ceremonial religious garment set with twelve gemstones that represented the twelve tribes of Israel and also corresponded with the twelve signs of the zodiac and the twelve months of the year.

Because ancient people did not always classify gemstones by mineral species like we do, there is some debate about which gemstones were set in the breastplate and why. Because of this, different cultures around the world have developed different birth stone lists. The modern day list that you know is only the most recent list: some older lists still exist. Some also argue that the proper way to assign gemstones is according to astrological sign and not month. We think it is more fun to choose the gemstone that speaks to you from all the possibilities. Of course it is hard to keep track of all the lists. Enter the Gem-o-Matic! Select your birthdate or other significant date or anniversary and the Gem-o-Matic will give you the list of all the birthstones that correspond to that date! The Gem-o-Matic can be found at the following web page:

[http://www.gemstone.org/gem-o-rama/gem-o-rama\\_birth.html](http://www.gemstone.org/gem-o-rama/gem-o-rama_birth.html).

© International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) (<http://www.gemstone.org/index.html>)



### Ruby: July's Gemstone



The ruby, known as the "Lord of the Gems" because of its rarity and beauty, is the accepted gemstone for July birthdays, also 15th and 40th anniversaries. Its name is derived from the Latin word "ruber", which simply means red. The ruby is a very durable gemstone; only the diamond surpasses its hardness. The Ruby, like the sapphire, is a variety of corundum and only exists as a true red in color. The finest color is a vivid, almost pure spectral red with a very faint undertone of blue, as seen in Burmese rubies, which are considered the finest. Large rubies are very scarce and costly, worth more than 2 to 3 times a diamond of equal size and quality.

In ancient times, rubies were thought to contain a glowing spark struck from the planet Mars. Ancient lore held that the ruby was capable of curing illness and reconciling lover's quarrels. Hindus believed its deep red color came from an eternal fire, which was capable of boiling water. The highest quality rubies were said to protect their owners from all kinds of misfortune. A fine ruby assured the owner he would live in harmony with his neighbors and would protect his stature in life, his home and his land. Its protective powers were said to be intensified when set in jewelry, and worn on the left side.

Virtually all rubies are heated to permanently improve their color and appearance. The finest rubies come from Burma, having been mined there since ancient times. Other sources include Thailand, Vietnam, Kenya, Tanzania, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and India. As with all gemstones, care should be taken to protect it from scratches and sharp blows.

## A Selection of Gem Shapes and Cuts

In addition to these standard gemstone shapes, gem designers are inventing new ways of cutting gemstones in unique individual styles. Some facet gems in unusual geometrical shapes, some carve gemstones in soft sculptural shapes, and some use a combination of faceting and carving. In the future, Gem Site will feature some of this gemstone art.



Round Brilliant



Oval



Emerald Cut  
(Rectangular  
Step-Cut)



Cushion Cut  
(Antique  
Cushion)



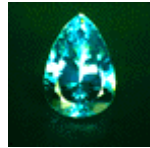
Square Cut



Princess Cut



Cabochon



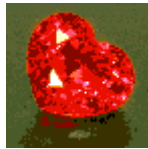
Pear Shape



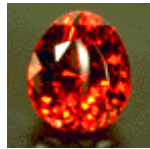
Marquise  
(Navette)



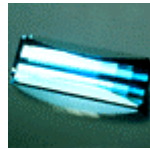
Trilliant Cut



Heart Shape



Buff Top  
(cabochon top  
and faceted  
bottom)



Opposed Bar



Radiant Cut



Beads

© International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) (<http://www.gemstone.org/index.html>)



I would like to give a special thanks to Barbara Lipatapanlop, Executive Director, International Colored Gemstone Association (ICA) for granting me permission to use their materials in our newsletter.

# MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005

---

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Iris McGehee who substituted for James Easterling.

The May Minutes were approved as published in The Golden Nugget.

The Treasurer's report was given by Iris and is on file.

Iris read a thank you note received from Linda Lord for the fruit basket and Diet Dr. Pepper sent to her following her surgery.

Drucilla Hornsby gave a report on Jeannette and Ramona Simpson and urged everyone to call or sent cards.

Iris reported the air conditioners for the workshop have been purchased and need installing. Sonny Hall and Randy Hirst volunteered to put them in on Saturday, June 12.

Drucilla Hornsby announced a beading workshop to be held June 25 at the Lowder Library at 9:00 AM. A supply list was given and will be sent by e-mail.

Iris will mail the rocks and minerals donated by members to the young man in South America.

Programs for the months of July, August, September and October are still unfilled. Sonny Hall volunteered to do the program in July.

Becky Fetzer is acting as a good ambassador for our club by doing crafts for children who come to at the Lowder Library. The first session was a success and Becky was reimbursed by the club.

Iris recently visited the East Alabama club. Their members expressed the desire to come and work in our workshop. Members were told to think about it and be prepared to vote in July.

Drinks were provided by Stan Stevens and Randy Hirst brought home baked goodies. Everyone agreed that Randy should bring refreshments more often. Good job Randy!

After the break a video of Gemstones of America was shown.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clara Glover



[We did not mail the rock and mineral samples to Andrés Nadal, in Argentina last month. So, if you have any you want to donate, please bring them to the July meeting.](#)

## Upcoming Shows

---

July 22-24, 2005, Pensacola, FL – Pensacola Jewelry, Bead and Mineral Show. Pensacola Interstate Fairgrounds, 6655 Mobile Highway. Hours: 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.; 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM – 5:00 P.M. Contact: Elmar Robbins at 813-754-0858.

July 27-31, 2005, Franklin, NC – The Gem and Mineral Society of Franklin, North Carolina, Inc. Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Macon County Community Building on 441 South. Hours: 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M.; 31<sup>st</sup>, Noon – 5:00 P.M. Contact: Fred Plesner at 828.349.4224.



## Club Officers

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| President:        | James Easterling, 875-3089                         |
| 1st V. President: | Open   |
| 2nd V. President: | David Sherrod, 285-5537                            |
| Secretary:        | Mary Lou McHugh, 272-1817                          |
| Treasurer:        | Iris McGehee, 262-7275                             |
| Directors:        | Minnie Jerido, 724-9125<br>Harold Glover, 285-3501 |



## General Information

The purpose of the Golden Nugget is to inform members of news about gems and minerals along with news about club, state, and regional activities of interest to our members. Most important, the Golden Nugget provides a way for each of us to share information about projects and to pass on tips that will help others enjoy our hobby. Unless members are willing to contribute, the *Golden Nugget* cannot meet this latter purpose.

Copyrighted 2005 by Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society, Inc. Except for items that are specifically copyrighted by their authors, all material in this bulletin may be freely copied. Please give credit to *The Golden Nugget*.

Meetings of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Mureal Crump Adult Center, 1735 Highland Avenue, Montgomery, AL. The annual gem show replaces the December meeting. Anyone interested in gems and minerals is invited to attend. Field trips, workshops, and classes are held at various locations. These are announced at monthly meetings.

The Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society is a member of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.

In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. section 107, this material is distributed without profit or payment to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving this information.

Terry L. Fetzer, Editor  
The Golden Nugget  
Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society  
1837 Heatherton Drive  
Montgomery, AL 36106  
Email: GoldenNugget@Knology.Net

**Buy, Use and Save  
Commemorative Stamps**



# ***The Golden Nugget***



The Official Voice of the Montgomery, Alabama Gem & Mineral Society