



THE GOLDEN NUGGET

Sep 2005
Number 05 - 09



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

September Program

When: Thursday, September 8, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Mureal Crump Community Center
1735 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, AL
What: Selecting Gem Stone Beads and Other
Techniques for Quality Beading,
Presented by Sue Medina.



Refreshments



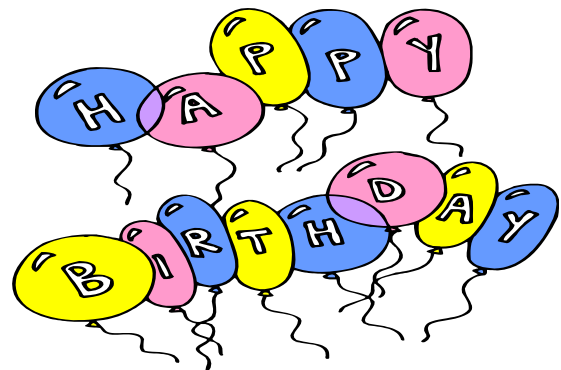
Refreshments for the September meeting will be provided by the Michael Keen, drinks, and the Jean Mc Donald, snacks.

Next month's refreshments will be provided by Monica Hendricks, drinks, and Steven Easterling, snacks.

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

So, (you think) you know everything.....

1. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
 2. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
 3. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
 4. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
 5. The shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
 6. There are more chickens than people in the world.
 7. Two-thirds of the world's eggplant is grown in New Jersey.
 8. The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched".
 9. On a Canadian two-dollar, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
 10. All of the clocks in the movie "Pulp Fiction" are stuck on 4:20.
 11. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
 12. "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
 13. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the \$5 bill.
- Via Hound's Howl, April '02 Via Tips and Trips, May 2002



to

**Drucilla Hornsby,
David Sherrod, Terry Toney,
Elizabeth Corley
& Harold Glover**



YOUR HELP PLEASE

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies is attempting to attain gemstones on U.S. stamps. We need you to actively support and promote the project by continuing letters or notes to the USPS. You do not have to be an AFMS member to write. Please mail the lower part of this sheet or personal letter to:

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee
Stamp Development
US Postal Service
1735 North Lynn St., Room 5013
Arlington VA 22209-6432

Competition is stiff with about 50,000 proposals to the USPS annually. We are convinced that gem stamps, would be attractive. We and the public would use them, keep them, and we would all enjoy their beauty.

Don't you agree?



To Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee:

I support the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' efforts to try to get gemstones on American stamps. Gems have never appeared on U.S. stamps, and would be attractive. We and the public would all enjoy their beauty. They would not be controversial. American gems would continue the theme of America's Mineral Heritage.

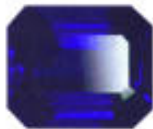
Signed: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP _____



September's Birthstone Sapphire



The sky is just a gigantic blue Sapphire stone into which the earth is embedded – this belief was cherished in ancient times. And, in fact, does there exist a better image to describe the beauty of an immaculate Sapphire of purest blue? This gemstone exists in all the shades of blue skies, from the deep blue of evening skies to the bright and deep blue of a clear and beautiful summer sky which charms all people. The splendid gemstone, however, also comes in many other colours, not only in the transparent greyish misty blue of far horizons, but also displaying the bright fireworks of sunset colours – yellow, pink, orange and purple. So Sapphires are really and truly heavenly stones, although they are being found in the hard soil of our so-called "blue planet".

Blue is Sapphire's main colour. Blue is also the favourite colour of about 50 per cent of the population, men and women alike. This colour, which is strongly associated with sapphire, is also linked to emotions such as sympathy and harmony, friendship and loyalty. These emotions belong to features which are permanent and reliable – emotions where overwhelming and fiery passion is not the main element, but rather composure, mutual understanding and unshakeable trust. Sapphire blue has thus become a colour related to anything permanent and reliable, and this is one of the reasons why women in many countries settle on Sapphire for their engagement rings. Sapphire symbolises loyalty and faithfulness, while at the same time expressing love and yearning. The most famous musical example for this melancholic shade of blue can be found in George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue". Sapphire's blue colour is also evoked where clear competence and controlled brainwork are the issue. After all, the first computer ever to wrangle a victory from a chess grandmaster and world champion was named "Deep Blue".



What makes Sapphire a fancy stone?

Its beauty, magnificent colours, its transparency but also its resistance and permanence are characteristics which gemstone lovers and experts assign to this gemstone – however, this does not only apply to blue Sapphire as will be pointed out later on. Sapphire belongs to the corundum group which is set apart from other gemstones by their very good hardness (Grade 9 on the Mohs' scale). They are second in hardness to diamonds only, and diamonds

represent the hardest mineral on Earth! Because of their good harness, sapphires are easy to care for as gemstones and demand from their wearers only the usual and normal care.

The corundum group consists of pure aluminium oxide, which a long time ago was caused to crystallise into beautiful and splendid gemstones by the pressure and heat in the depths of the ground. Small proportions of other elements, mainly iron and chrome, are responsible for the resulting colours and make the basically white crystals a blue, red, yellow, pink or greenish Sapphire. But this does not necessarily imply that any corundum is a sapphire. Which stone may be termed a Sapphire – this is a question which for centuries has fuelled heated discussions among experts. Finally agreement was achieved to call ruby-red Sapphires "Rubies", and all other colours "Sapphires".

If we talk about Sapphires, most gemstone lovers will immediately think of a velvety blue. It is an adaptable colour which is attractive on many people. A blue Sapphire is optimally suited to a well-balanced style of life, where reliability is joined with spirit, and where there is an openness for new ideas and influences – just like the

woman wearing it. The fact that this beautiful gemstone does also exist in many other colours was for a long time a piece of information known to insiders only. In the gemstone trade any non-blue Sapphire is termed "fancy". And to clear up matters the colour denominations are also used, so that when talking about [fancy Sapphires](#), we talk about yellow, purple, pink, green or white Sapphire, etc. Fancy sapphires are the epitome of individualism, the perfect choice for women who love unique coloured gemstone jewellery. These Sapphires exist in a charming variety of designs - set in rings, as pendants or earrings, as solitary stones, in elegant line-ups or as sparkling pavée.

But there are even more surprises about Sapphire: for example, there is an orange colour variety with a fine pinkish undertone, which has been given the poetic name "Padparadsha", meaning "lotus flower". Another rarity are the [star Sapphires](#). These are stone cut in half-dome shape displaying a star-shaped light phenomenon, which seems to dance magically across the stone's surface when the Sapphire is moved. There exist rumours about gemstone lovers who have forever and truly lost their hearts to these sapphire rarities – but then, permanence and loyalty come along with these stones.



Top-Sapphires are rare

Sapphires, these gemstones of the skies, rest hidden away in only few places of the earth and have to be brought to daylight in laborious procedures. Sapphires are found in India, Burma, Ceylon, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Brazil and Africa. From the gemstone mines the rough crystals are supplied to the cutters, where skilled hands turn them into sparkling gemstones. A cutter must draw on all his experience and deftness when cutting sapphire, because these gemstones are not only hard, they also display a different colouring and saturation depending on the perspective. Therefore, then, the cutter must align the orientation of the stone in such a way as to bring about the best possible display of colour.

Depending on the place of occurrence the depth of colour as well as the shade displayed by the cut stones will vary, which in turn offers a wider range to select from. So shall a woman who has decided on a sapphire go for the medium blue stone evoking the summer skies even on a rainy day? Or should she rather prefer a lighter blue, because it sparkles brilliantly also in the evening? Bright daylight makes most Sapphires shine more vividly than the somewhat muted artificial light. Therefore the most highly cherished colour for blue sapphires is not the darkest blue as is often claimed, but a deep and satiated blue, which even in dim artificial light remains to appear blue.

For experts and connoisseurs the Cashmere-colour with its velvety sheen is considered the most beautiful and valuable shade. The wonderful Cashmere gemstones, which were found in 1880 after an avalanche had come down in a height of 5000 m, and which were intensively mined then for eight years, have for all times set the standard for our ideas of the colour of a top quality Sapphire. Typical for the Cashmere colour is a pure and intensive blue, which is enhanced by a fine, silky gloss. It is reported that this colour does not change in artificial light. But Burma-colour is also considered especially valuable. It ranges from rich royal blue to deep cornflower blue.

The oldest Sapphire mines are situated in Ceylon, today called Sri Lanka, where gemstones were mined in ancient times. The expert recognises Ceylon sapphires from the luminosity and brilliance of their light to medium blue colour. Most blue Sapphires, however, come from Thailand or Australia.

Their value depends on size, colour and transparency. For very fine qualities these criteria are supplemented by information on the origin of the gemstone. The colour as such is not necessarily linked to the geographic origin of the Sapphire, and this explains why there are such enormous price differences between the respective qualities. The most valuable sapphires are real Cashmere stones. Almost as highly cherished are stones from Burma, followed by Ceylon-Sapphires. Another factor reflecting on the price for a sapphire is a possible

treatment, as in our age of gemstone cosmetics a stone which has definitely not been treated becomes more and more desirable. And if this rare beauty should be a real Cashmere- or Burma-Sapphire with a certificate to document this, than you will definitely have to pay a collector's price.

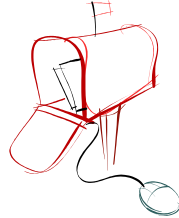
Only rarely some courageous pioneers will succeed in locating a gemstone occurrence of such dimensions as happened in Madagascar some years ago, when in the Southeast of the island there was found a large gemstone occurrence stretching out across several kilometres. Since then, there have not only been enough blue Sapphires on the market, there also appeared some magnificent yellow and pink Sapphires of special beauty and transparency. In the meantime experts also succeeded in finding the first evidence for two larger gemstone occurrences in Tanzania, where good, although not very large Sapphire crystals are found in blue, yellow and orange colours. And recently Brazil has joined the ranks as third country where blue to purple and pink Sapphires have been found. So, Sapphire lovers may rest assured: The "heavenly" gemstones with the fine colour spectrum will be available in the future in sufficient amounts. Top-quality Sapphires, however, remain a rarity in the gemstone mines all over the world.

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



Email From Andrés Nadal

(He asked that I reword his email since he is not proficient in English.)



Dear friends of the Montgomery Gem's and Mineral Society, I am Andrés Nadal, the young mineral collector from Argentina. Some months ago, I wrote a letter explaining my situation, and requesting minerals samples to help with my projects, based principally in the diffusion of Mineralogy. Today I write to thank you for answering my request and to help me with my collection and my study of diffusion. I want to thank each one of the club's members that helped send me the material. You are all big-hearted people.

All the pieces are beautiful and they will be of great use in my studies. I cannot believe I have Topacio (topaz) crystals from Utah. I was always looking at photos of them on the Web and they seemed so unreachable, but now I have some thanks to you.

Mineralogy in my country is an unknown subject for most people. It is nice to see the reaction of people when seeing a crystal for the first time. They are taken aback by the beautiful forms and colors, just like I was 5 years ago when a lady gave me an amethyst that aroused in me an interest in minerals.

Good-bye, but before I go, if anybody comes to Argentina, remember you'll always have a friend in San Rafael.

Forever thanks,

Andrés Nadal

Cabildo 433 - San Rafael (Mendoza)

Argentina

Código Postal: 5600

T

MONTGOMERY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY MINUTES

August 11th, 2005

The Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society met at 7:00 P. M. at the Mureal Crump Community Center. President James Easterling called the meeting to order and welcomed the twenty members present.

The July Minutes were accepted as printed in the Golden Nugget.

Treasurer Iris McGehee gave the treasurer's report and it is on file.

Field Trip Chairman David Sherrod asked for suggestions for a trip in September.

Iris announced the death of a long time member, Ramona Simpson. A Memorial Service will be held at Unity of Montgomery at 2:00 P. M. on August 13. In lieu of flowers a \$50.00 donation will be sent to Hospice of Montgomery in her honor.

Sonny Hall and Harold Glover installed the second air conditioner in the workshop and also worked on the big saw. Sonny donated a motor for it and said he would put it on.

James asked for volunteers for a workshop committee. Members were instructed to email ideas to James.

A motion was made to award at least two scholarships to either William Holland School of Lapidary Arts or Wildacres Retreat. Members working during the show will be eligible for the drawing in 2006. Checks will be made payable to the lapidary school of the recipients' choice. Motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding the club hosting the annual meeting of the Southeast Federation in December 2006. Several members were to check on facilities and report at next month's meeting.

Refreshments were provided by Annette Graves, Linda Griebel and James Easterling.

Following the break James presented a program on fluorescence in minerals.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara Glover



Reminder



If you have moved, changed telephone numbers or email addresses, please notify the club secretary and me! Also, if you haven't told me when your birthday is (month and day only!), please let me know so we can wish you a happy birthday in *The Golden Nugget*.

Terry

Upcoming Shows

September 2nd –5th, 2005, Hendersonville, NC - S Hendersonville, NC - Henderson County Gem and Mineral Society. 24th Annual Gem and Mineral Spectacular & Sale. Whitmire Activity Building, Lily Pond Road. Hours: 2nd-4th: 10:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M., 5th, 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Contact: Margaret L. Johnson, P.O. Box 6391, Hendersonville, NC 28739-6391, 828.692.1249, and email at mgt.j.ed@brinet.com. The summer SFMS board meeting is associated with this show.

September 10th – 11th, 2005, Clemson, SC - Upstate Gem Fest.

CANCELED

September 24th -25th, 2005 Jacksonville, Fl - Jacksonville Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. 17th Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Bead Show & sale. Hours: Sat: 10:00 am-6:00PM; Sun: 10:AM-5:00PM. Morocco Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South, Jacksonville, Fl. 40+dealers, Club displays. Show Contact: Mary Chambliss, (904) 269-4046 E-mail: IvoryTowers@msn.com



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 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.

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Meetings of the Montgomery Gem & Mineral Society are held every 2nd 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
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