



Bonnie Wolff, GG

HERITAGE APPRAISER FOR THE WEST

My gemological journey began when I was very young, helping my Uncle hunt for Montana agate in the river bed on his property. We would take the “rocks” back to his shop where he would transform them into beautiful pieces of jewelry.

I had begun working in a jewelry store as I worked at getting my gemologist degree through distance education. Working various aspects at this time, in sales, wholesale color gems and managing a retail store in Montana, I went to the Gemological Institute of America to finish my degree. While there, I started asking questions about how my lab instructors got their jobs. I applied and before I knew it, I was working for GIA as a traveling lab class instructor teaching Diamond Grading, Gem Identification, Colored Stone Grading, Pearl Grading, and other classes involving the treatment of gem stones.

I love history and travel and the stories that define a city or place. That is why I feel the jewelry appraisal field is my perfect niche. Every piece of jewelry has a story and while I am appraising, I get to know that little piece of history that comes with the jewelry.