

ROCK TALK

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2023- 2024

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**EXPLORE
DISCOVER
SHARE**

TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

EXPLORE DISCOVER SHARE



Well, that's all folks!

The 69th Show is done and over with and what a Show it was. First, I would like to start with a huge thank you to the Show Committee Chairs; without all your efforts this would not have been possible. We love our club and I believe it gives us all great joy to be part of the world's biggest and best Show. This leads to my next thank you to our office staff, Pat and Rose, who spent hours coordinating everything and helping keep this monster on track. These ladies put in so much time because they love our Show and help make it the best possible. If you have a chance, please let them know.

Next is our volunteer teams. You guys are truly what makes the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society so great to be a part of. Starting with case setup/tear down, to the case linings crew; then the move in/out team, to the product sales people, the lectures chair, school visits team, and all the docents. What a terrific bunch of people you are; so if you had part in this, give yourself a pat on the back and get ready for next year. Talking to our dealers this year, I received kudos on just about everything that our Show offers them. The Show was very prosperous to all the dealers, and I saw lots of transactions happening. As I went and talked to as many of them as possible, they all had one thing in common, they will be back next year, and some want bigger spots. On a personal note, I'm hoping we don't have giant green specimens that need lifting next year, lol!

We had Mayor Regina Romero, City Manager Andy Squire, Jane Roxbury from Visit Tucson, and several others join us in the Opening Ceremony. It truly is amazing to see what the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® does for the local economy. We were talking about how more and more mineral and jewelry dealers are buying houses here, boosting the economy. Andy was also talking about how every rental car, and almost every hotel room in town was booked, and the amount of revenue that our city receives in one form or another. The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® has been the template and envy of all other shows, but none will ever be as good as ours. So, keep your excitement and passion up as we look forward to the 70th Show "Shades of Green – Experience the Magic."

Moving forward before the season ends, we still have some great lectures coming in our monthly meetings, so please try to join us in person. Also, if anyone has news events, digging ideas or wants to lead a field trip, please contact the office. I know soon we will lose our winter members as we move into the dreadful summer months, but at least we get to have fellowship with the potlucks. If you would like to host one at your home, or even here at the clubhouse, please contact the office. And be sure to go to the Member Hub for upcoming events and field trips. There are a lot of fun and exciting things that will continue making 2024 a special and great year to belong to this club.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the March General Meeting.

Michael Hollonbeck
President



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

**THANK YOU!
TO THE DALLAS MINERAL SYMPOSIUM FOR NAMING THE
TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
AS ONE OF THE BENEFICIARIES OF THEIR 2023 ONLINE AUCTION.
IF YOU WERE AT THE 2024 TGMS SHOW AND NOTICED THE NEW LIGHTING IN OUR
SPOTLIGHT CASES (12) - YOU SAW THE BENEFIT OF THIS DONATION!**

TCMS General Meeting - January 8, 2024

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Mike Hollonbeck at 7:05 p.m. He introduced new guests and welcomed all attendees (both online and in-person) to the January General Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Members were reminded to put a ticket in the bucket for prize drawings.

Members were reminded to wear their name badges and welcome our visitors and new members.

Members are to sign up for events online using the TGMS HUB. Nonmembers can contact the office (by phone or email) to get information.

The next General Meeting will be on January 29. It will be the last meeting before the Show.

PROGRAM: Dave Korzendorfer introduced Brad Ross, who presented "South Dakota Fossil Adventures." Mr. Ross guided us on a virtual fossil-hunting adventure to look for ammonites, dinosaurs, and fossils of mammals in western South Dakota. The tour included maps and photographs of South Dakota fossil collecting sites and fossils. The tour also included photos of small towns, collectors collecting, landscapes, and tourist attractions. He brought fossils to show the audience and answered interesting questions from the audience.

BREAK: A thank you to Cathie Logan for providing refreshments for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of the November 6, 2023, and December 4, 2023, General Meeting minutes as published in the January/February 2024 issue of Rock Talk: MOTION: To approve the November 6, 2023, General Meeting minutes. Seconded and approved. MOTION: To approve the December 4, 2023, General Meeting minutes. Seconded and approved.

Micromount Meeting: A Micromount Meeting will be held on January 15, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. We will be looking at micros starting with the letter "R". Members are to sign up through the Member HUB.

Educational Class: An Educational Class will be held on January 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bill Shelton will lead a class on "Carbonates." Members are to sign up through the Member HUB.

NEW BUSINESS:

Publicity Flyers and Discount Coupons: Members can pick up flyers and coupon books for the 2024 Show to be distributed to the public.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Dave Korzendorfer conducted the drawing. Cathie Logan, as meeting host, made the first selection. Cathie then picked the next ticket for prizes. The winners were: John Richardson, Pat Pearson, Bob Melzer, John Callahan, Karen Wenrich, Warren Weimer, Jim Kennedy, Marie Gutierrez, and Merritt Simmons.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ross,
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

TGMS General Meeting - January 29, 2024

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Mike Hollonbeck at 7:02 p.m. He introduced new guests and welcomed all attendees (both online and in-person) to the January General Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Members were reminded to put a ticket in the bucket for prize drawings.

Members were reminded to wear their name badges and welcome our visitors and new members.

Members are to sign up for events online using the TGMS HUB. Nonmembers can contact the office (by phone or email) to get information.

Volunteers can pick up their packets at the conclusion of the meeting.

PROGRAM: Wade Mullin introduced Dr. Nathalie Brandes, who presented "The Famous Silver Mines of Kongsberg, Norway." Ms. Brandes used maps and photos to discuss the basic geology and ore deposits of the area, the discovery and mining methods of the mine, and the history of the town. She also showcased the Mining Museum, the museum's vault, and the Kongens Gruve (King's mine tour). She answered questions from the audience.

BREAK: A thank you to Ortrud Schuh for providing refreshments for the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

The membership did not announce any old business items.

NEW BUSINESS:

Publicity Flyers and Discount Coupons: Members can pick up flyers and coupon books for the 2024 Show to be distributed to the public.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Ortrud Schuh, as meeting hostess, selected the first prize and then drew the ticket for the next prize. The winners were Kathy O Donnell, John Empsall, Rob Pearson, Mary Ellen Raines, John Richardson, Marie Gutierrez, and Ed Madsen

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ross,
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

2024 FLAGG MINERAL FOUNDATION MINERALS OF ARIZONA SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
8 AM TO 5 PM



775 N. GREENFIELD ROAD, GILBERT, AZ 85234

[2024 Flagg Mineral Foundation Minerals of Arizona Symposium Registration \(click here\)](#)

Pegmatites – Crystals Big & Beautiful - What a Show!

BY MARK MARIKOS

WOW! What a beautiful and fascinating show this was. Even if someone had never heard the term “pegmatite” before, they certainly had opportunities to learn about them and see some beautiful examples of the magnificent minerals they produce. I’m calling it the “First Tucson Pegmatite Conference”. Between the exhibits and lectures presented by some of the foremost pegmatite authorities and collectors, it was stimulating and informative. Thank you, Peter, for all of the wonderful exhibitors you invited.

The Show Poster is stunning! Thanks Katie and Herb for getting it and the other products into the hands of visitors.

Thanks Les and your panel of judges, for the many competitive cases you filled and evaluated, including our first fluorescent mineral competitor.

Of course, none of the exhibits or competitive displays would have had a home without the hard work of Robert, Elaine, and their crew to prepare the cases they occupied. Kent and his team, as always, did a great job of managing the liners that provide the finishing touch for the cases. John, Nancy, and friends ensured the move-in and move-out went smoothly for exhibitors. Tim, as usual, was constantly available to quickly trouble-shoot and handle the occasional “issues” that arose, and special requirements related to new lighting (visible and UV).

And thanks to Kenny, we have a photographic record of all of the displays and moments from the show.

The Exhibition Hall and Ballroom were filled with an excellent variety of high-quality dealers; thanks Ortrud, Mike, Sara, and Connie for your hard work before, during, and after the Show.

I heard many positive comments on Ellen’s team of docents that were on the floor to enhance visitors’ experience at the Show. Thanks also Ellen, for the diligent work you do throughout the year keeping the financial books for the Show and Society.

Dave, Barb, and the folks who manned the information booths provide such a vital service, and I heard many compliments on the service you all gave. It was good to see you on the floor Dave, so soon after your surgery. I hope you didn’t hurt yourself being there.

Penny, it must be fun to see the delight when you get to send raffle winners home with some unexpected treasures. Thanks for all you do to make that happen.

And to the quintessential “voice of the Show”, thanks Anna. Too bad so many didn’t get to hear you as well the first day.

I know micromineral collectors really appreciate the chance to see the Show through a microscope. Mark and Ron did an outstanding job managing the Micro Room and Micromount Symposium.

One of the Show’s highlights is always the Junior Education area. I saw many excited budding rockhounds mobbing the tables. Thank you, Victoria, for taking that bull by the horns, and thanks to all the club-members and SESS members that helped with that. Those rock-pups are our future.

Friday mornings are always bristling with excitement and energy. Thanks to Bear, Hollie, and the clan for making our school visitors feel welcomed and educated.

DEGMATITES – CRYSTALS BIG & BEAUTIFUL - WHAT A SHOW! ... CONTINUED

Thanks Bob, for helping Pat get the word out about the show. Thank you, Alrene, for keeping the committee's activities documented.

I know there were many other volunteers doing a variety of tasks that helped the rest of us. Thanks to all of you!

There are three people I want to give a special thank you.

Thanks, Linda, for the wonderful Job you and your helpers do to decorate the Show, and how you keep everything moving in the right direction on the floor. Over the years I have heard many comments of appreciation regarding how smoothly this Show runs, and how beautiful it is.

Pat and Rose; I cannot thank you enough for all of the heavy lifting you two do throughout the year that makes this the best Show in the world, and that's on top of all you do for the Society. You are an amazing team. You make all of our jobs easier and do it with such diligence and attention to detail. And despite lack of adequate rest and the constant barrage of questions and challenges, you do it with enthusiasm and dedication. Anna may be the "voice" of the Show, but you two are the "HEART"!



2024 TGMS SHOW "GRAND PRIZE" WINNER!

**DAVID DEVITO FROM NELLYSFORD, VA IS NOW THE PROUD OWNER
OF THE BEAUTIFUL GARNET AND DIAMOND NECKLACE
DESIGNED BY ERIK STEWART.
CONGRATULATIONS!**

TGMS Competitive Exhibits and Winners!

Junior

Junior High Score
 Junior 2nd High Score
 Junior-Master
 Novice
 Advanced
 Master - Best in Show

Hannah Brodhagen
 Nathanael Brodhagen
 Hannah Brodhagen
 Nathanael Brodhagen
 Al and Mary Rose
 David Tibbits
 David Tibbits

Educational
 Fossils
 Educational
 Fossils
 Minerals
 Single locality - Peru
 Thumbnails

Best of Theme

Thumbnail
 Small Miniature (Toe-Nail)
 Miniature
 Small Cabinet
 Cabinet
 Lapidary-Jewelry
 Self-Collected

Alex Venzke
 Robert Thacker
 William Wray
 Mary and Jim Walker
 Irv Brown
 Jonathan Feigin
 Wolfgang Mueller

Danalite
 Jeremejevite
 Pezzottaite
 Elbaite
 Beryl var. Aquamarine
 Beryl var. Heliodor
 Beryl

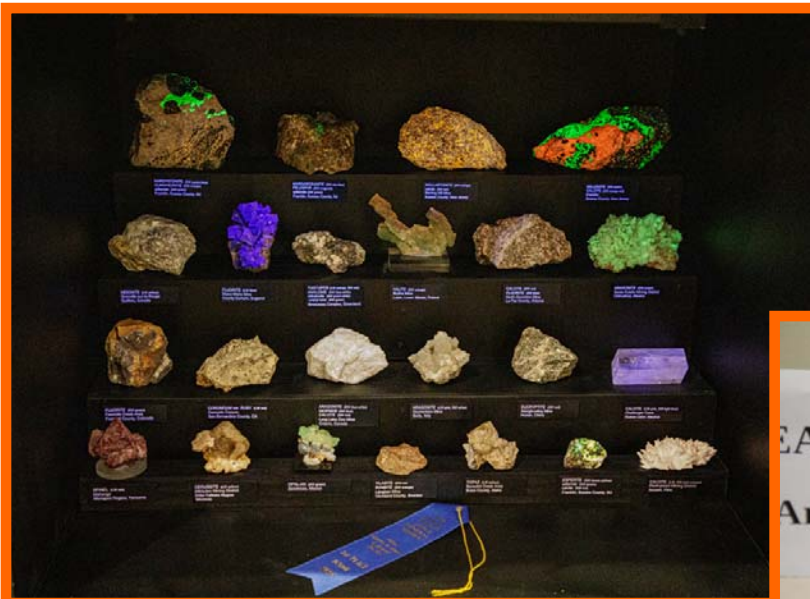
Special Trophies

Desautels
 Lidstrom (Best Single Specimen)
 Bideaux (Best Arizona Specimen)
 Yedlin
 Romero (Best Mexican Specimen)
 Gibson (Museum)

Tom Campbell
 Tom Campbell
 Steve Scott
 Matthew Metzler
 Bill Dameron
 U of A Alfie Norville Gem
 & Mineral Museum
 John Callahan

Vanadinite
 Micromounts

What is a pegmatite
 "Quiz Case"



FROM THE TGMS SHOW COMMITTEE AND TGMS BOARD!

ELLEN ALEXANDER, MARK ASCHER, DIANE BRASWELL, CONNIE CLARK, SARA DAY, MIKE BRASWELL, KENNETH DON, VICTORIA FILA, RON GIBBS, ALRENE HIBBEN, MICHAEL HOLLONBECK, NANCY HOWARD, JOHN HOWARD, ELAINE HUGHES, BARBARA KORZENDORFER, DAVID KORZENDORFER, MARK MARIKOS, PAT MCCLAIN, PETER MEGAW, BOB O'DONNELL, LINDA OLIVER, HOLLIE PITTS, BEAR PITTS, LES PRESMYK, SUZANNE COLLIER, LINDA ROSS, HERB ROSS, PENNY SAVOIE, KENT STAUFFER, ROBERT CROWELL, ROSE MARQUES, ORTRUD SCHUH, KATE VERBEKE

THANK YOU TO THE 2024 TGMS SHOW VOLUNTEERS!

GABRIELLE ACCATINO, BOB ALBERTS, SARA ALBERTS, DEBORAH ALDERMAN, WILLIAM BESSE, MICHAEL CARDUCCI, DAVID CLEMENT, RANDY COLEMAN, BARBARA COOK, MICHAEL COOK, DAVID CORMIER, MARILEE CRUMLEY, RILEY DAY, CARLOS DEMATTOS, CECILIA DEMATTOS, DAVID E. CRUMLEY, JOHN EBNER, JOHN EMPSALL, JOYCE ERICKSON, KATHLEEN ERMITAGE, CINDY EVANS, DAVID EVANS, DR ART FRIEDMAN, DAVID GERY, JIM GERY, LAURILANE GERY, JERRY GLAZMAN, FLORENCE GORES, CARLOS GRISTANI, MARIE GUTIERREZ, SUSAN HANON, STEVE HARSY, BARBARA HASBARGEN, JAMES HASBARGEN, KATHLEEN HEITZMANN, JACK HENDERSON, WILLIAM HILL, RACHEL HOWARD, NEIL HUBBARD, BOB JENKINS, DAVID JOYCE, DAVID KERSTEN, WARREN LAZAR, CATHIE LOGAN, KARYL LYNCH, ED MADSON, BARBARA MATZ, LAUREN MEGAW, TIMOTHY MCCLAIN, SUSAN MCCOLLAM, DENIS MENARD, RAYMOND MERRITT, ROBERT (BOB) MORGAN, DAVID MORRIS, CHRISTINA MORRISSEY, WADE MULLIN, ANITA NISONGER, KATHY O'DONNELL, PAT PEARSON, ROB PEARSON, MARYANN PENKOVA, MELISSA PERUCCA, DAVID RICHARDSON, JOHN RICHARDSON, SUSAN ROBERTSON, CYNTHIA ROEDIG, PATRICIA ROSE, BRADLEY ROSS, ROBERT ROYER, JEAN SARSON, ALEXANDER SCHAUSS, LAURA SCHAUSS, MIYOSHI SHAFFER, JANETTE SIMISTER, MACKENZIE SMITH, ECKHARD D. STUART, KAREN THOMPSON, KERRY TOWE, WAYNE WEBB, CHRIS WHITNEY-SMITH, FALEEN WIES, BARBARA WITWER, DAVID WITWER, MARC YALOM, AMBER ZAUGG

SPECIAL “THANK YOU” TO SPECIAL VOLUNTEERS!

ROSE AND I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A BIG “THANK YOU” TO A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE WHEN WE NEEDED THEM. THEY WERE PRINTING THIS PRINTING THAT; FILING THIS, FILING THAT; CHECKING THIS, CHECKING THAT; AND WHEN IT CAME TO THE BADGES ... WE HAD TO PRINT, SEPARATE AND INSERT OVER ONE THOUSAND BADGES INTO BADGE HOLDERS. THAT’S RIGHT, ONE THOUSAND BADGES. THAT IS JUST SOME OF THE THINGS THAT THESE FOLKS HELPED US WITH.

AND THESE FOLKS ARE: ALRENE HIBBEN, MIKE COOK, BARBARA COOK, SHIRLEY WETMORE, SUZANNE COLLIER, CATHIE LOGAN, KATHY HEITZMANN AND TIM MCCLAIN ... WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP!

2024 PEGMATITES - CRYSTALS BIG & BEAUTIFUL



2024 PEGMATITES - CRYSTALS BIG & BEAUTIFUL



Pegmatite Minerals

Most pegmatites are similar in composition to granites and are dominantly composed of the minerals quartz, feldspar, and mica. Because of their association with more granitoid minerals (e.g. tourmaline) the dominant minerals of granitic pegmatites are often overlooked by collectors. However, some of the very best examples of quartz, feldspar, and mica are found in pegmatites.

Micas in Granitic Pegmatites

This case and the next two on the right individually focus on these three minerals, mica, feldspar, and quartz (feldspar and mica are actually mineral groups composed of species with the same atomic structure but different chemical). The left case in this series highlights some of the more exotic and typically gem-forming minerals and mineral groups.

Micas are a group of layer silicate minerals whose atomic structure (see schematic below) leads to their unusual physical characteristics of being easily split (cleaved) into very thin elastic plates.

More than 40 distinct mineral species comprise the mica group. Some of the more common micas found in pegmatites are muscovite $KAl_3(Al_2Si_7O_{20})(OH)_2$, double (an iron-rich), complex solid solution among the species annite, phlogopite, siderophyllite, and eastonite; and liquidite (a Li-rich, solid solution series between polythionite and tetraphenite).

Structure model of muscovite (muscovite is $KAl_3(Al_2Si_7O_{20})(OH)_2$)

SiO_4 tetrahedron arrangement #

AlO_6 octahedron

An educational display case for pegmatite minerals. It features two columns of text explaining the composition and characteristics of pegmatites and micas. A central diagram shows the atomic structure of muscovite, with labels for tetrahedral sheets (T), octahedral sheets (O), interlayer, F-O-T layer, and the arrangement of SiO4 tetrahedrons and AlO6 octahedrons. Below the text and diagram, several mineral specimens are displayed on white hexagonal pedestals. The specimens include various colors and shapes, such as green, purple, and brown crystals.

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PURPOSE: To encourage interest and study in geology, mineralogy, lapidary, and allied earth sciences.

Meetings: Usually the first Monday of the month, starting at 7:00 p.m., except September (second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday), June-August (potlucks). The TGMS facility address is: 3727 East Blacklidge Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85716

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show @:
The second full weekend in February, starting with Thursday.

Affiliations: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc. (AFMS), Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS), Visit Tucson, Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (TMCC), Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce

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