

ROCK TALK

Volume 15, Issue 3/4
Jan. - Feb.
March - April

2020 - 2021 Officers & Directors

President:

Les Presmyk

Vice President:

Mike Hollonbeck

Recording Secretary:

Linda Ross

Treasurer:

Ellen Alexander

Membership Secretary:

Marilyn Reynolds

Director:

Mark Candee

Director:

Diane Braswell

Director:

Bill Shelton

Past President:

Mark Marikos

Parliamentarian:

Alrene Hibben

Librarians:

Janette Simister & Kathy
Heitzmann

**EXPLORE
DISCOVER
SHARE**

TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

ROCK TALK is the official publication and is © 2020/2021 by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. to reproduce material contained herein for non-profit use only. All commercial and other use requires written permission from the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

EXPLORE DISCOVER SHARE



If there was no pandemic, we would all be basking in the glow of having completed another successful Show. Pat and Rose would be trying to catch up on all of their lost sleep and attempting to bring some semblance of normalcy back to their lives. But, this has been anything but a normal year. Our monthly meetings are now being held virtually, as are the educational classes. Although Governor Ducey has just rescinded all COVID-19 related restrictions at the state level, this does not mean we should let down our guard, or our face masks. And, there are still county and city level restrictions in place we still need to abide by. Our elected officials have to weigh all of the information regarding the pandemic when making these decisions but this does not make them experts.

Each of us have to decide how we are going to best protect ourselves and our families.

The demographics of our membership puts us in the higher to high-risk categories just because of our ages. I do not expect we will be meeting in person until at least September. And I hope we will be able to start doing field trips and the other activities we so enjoy. In the meantime, we will continue using our computers for both the monthly and educational meetings. In addition, the Board and Show Committee will continue to meet virtually in order to move the business of the Society forward and prepare for the 2022 Show. Even when we meet in person, I hope we will be able to offer our members who are no longer able to drive at night the opportunity to participate in our monthly meetings using their computers. There are still issues we need to work out but we have several months to do so.

The 2022 Show is going to be fabulous. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary (plus one) of the Fluorescent Mineral Society with "The Show That Glows" in the Fluorescent Mineral Pavilion. The members of the FMS are working to provide 70 to 80 or more fabulous displays of fluorescent mineral collections from across the country, many of which have never been on public display. In addition, the Apatite Supergroup will be featured, which includes all of the apatite species and vanadinite, mimetite and pyromorphite. Pat and Rose have not missed a beat during the pandemic and are working hard, along with the Show Committee, to make this the best Show ever. With specimens glowing in the dark from ultraviolet lights and the beautiful minerals of the Apatite Supergroup, I am expecting this to be a fabulous Show.

Some years ago, our Treasurer, Ellen Alexander proposed monies be set aside in a rainy-day fund to carry TGMS over in the event of some sort of catastrophe. No one could imagine what that event might be but the pandemic shutting down the 2021 Show certainly proved the wisdom of this decision. So, thanks to Ellen and not just the Board members who originally approved the idea, but all of the subsequent Boards who have continued setting aside these funds.

On May 3, we will have our annual meeting via ZOOM. There are at least three items we will need to accomplish (through MailChimp). The first two will be the election of Directors and Officers and approval of the budget for our next fiscal year. The third is the approval of a set of By-Laws changes the Board has reviewed and approved for your consideration. And, I know Mike Hollonbeck will have a great speaker for us that evening as well.

Please be safe and I look forward to seeing all of you whether on my computer or at the clubhouse in September (I hope).

Les Presmyk
TGMS President

TGMS General Meeting - November 9, 2020

The ZOOM General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 7:06 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approve the minutes for the March 2, 2020 General Meeting as published in Rock Talk. **MOTION:** to approve and second the minutes. Seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS: No new business.

PROGRAM: Vice President Mike Hollonbeck introduced Phillip Persson who presented "Outstanding Crystallized Minerals of the Colorado Mineral Belt." Phil is a geologist, mineral dealer and collector living in Denver, Colorado. Colorado has produced some of America's most iconic crystallized mineral specimens. Phil's presentation included some great photos of gold, rhodochrosite and other minerals associated with Colorado. In addition to an excellent presentation, we want to thank Phil for donating his speaker stipend back to the Society to be used for educational purposes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Marques
Recording Secretary Pro Tem



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

TGMS General Meeting - December 7, 2020

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: President Les Presmyk welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared that the Board had reviewed the budget and discussed plans for moving forward. He expressed his hope that in-person meetings could resume in September 2021. The President asked the virtual audience if there was any old or new business. With no comments from the audience, the speaker was introduced.

PROGRAM: Mike Hollonbeck introduced Evan Jones who presented "The Milpillas Mine, Sonora, Mexico." Mr. Jones reviewed the location, history, and geology of the mine's operations from 1975 until it permanently closed in 2020. He shared photos of the mine, the miners, and stunning mineral specimens from 42 different species. This mine is world renowned for its beautifully colored azurite formed in a variety of habits. Mineral specimens from this mine ranged from interesting, to collectable in quality, to world class.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ross,
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

TGMS General Meeting - January 4, 2021

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Bill Shelton will lead an educational class on nuggets on January 13 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Members are invited to attend a virtual tour of the University of Arizona's Alfie Norville Gem and Mineral Museum on January 27 at 4:00 p.m.
- TGMS has face masks available for sale.
- Brochures/flyers are now available for members to pick up and distribute.

PROGRAM: Vice President Mike Hollonbeck introduced Dr. Gene Meieran who presented the history of "The American Mineral Heritage Award - 2012 to 2020". Dr. Meieran established this award to honor mineral collectors who personally collected, over an extended time period, the greatest mineral specimens that are now displayed in major museums or in the collections of advanced mineral collectors. Ed Swoboda was selected as the first recipient of the Award in 2012. Subsequent recipients were Wayne Thompson (2013), Brian Lees (2014), Bill Larson (2015), Terry "Skip" Szenics (2016), Stan Esbenschade (2017), Rod Tyson (2018), Graham Sutton (2019), Mike New (2020) and Joe Dorris (2021). Dr. Meieran shared their history through photos of their hard work in the mines and the beautiful minerals they discovered and collected.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be the first Monday of February.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ross,
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

TGMS General Meeting - February 8, 2021

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 5:37 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TheRock.show is a virtual mineral, gem, fossil, and lapidary show that will be open through Sunday, February 14, 2021, and again in April.

PROGRAM: Mike Hollonbeck introduced Ian Bruce of Crystal Classics. Ian presented "UK Fluorite Mining". Ian shared photographs of the location, pockets and beautiful fluorites collected in the UK. The pockets had incredibly unique names, such as: "Lemon Meringue", "Poison Ivy", "Toxic Apple", and "Minty Cheesecake". Indeed, the pocket names described the spectacular colors of the fluorites mined in them.

Ian is excited to be opening a new mineral gallery here in Tucson in 2022. He plans to have guest speakers and work with the TGMS to promote the education of minerals in the area.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be held the first Monday of March, via Zoom, with the time to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Ross,
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

2022 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® - Peter Megaw



So, by now we should all be recovered (or at least resigned) to the absence of the 2021 TGMS Show ... but that means we only have one year left to plan the only Show we've ever had with a two-year lead-in! Rest assured the Show Committee is gearing up for this!! But we also must take into consideration the fact that the world has changed forever in some ways and certain commercial realities of the overall Tucson Gem, Mineral and Fossil Showcase are changing ... especially those revolving around mineral specimens.

In case you haven't noticed, a new center of mineral-related commercial gravity is evolving along Oracle Road between Grant and downtown with everything from repurposing of old factories to purpose-built facilities all designed for mineral sales. This realignment has been in progress for several years and would have happened anyway, but the process is accelerating thanks to Covid-19. This represents an opportunity for many dealers to refocus and reconcentrate their businesses and means that some of our long-time Show Dealers may choose to leave us.



Multi-level parking in Lot A



Major upgrade to the Grand Ballroom

If we are forward-thinking, we can use this shift as an opportunity to strengthen what we do best ... the exhibits and educational programs that set us apart from the commercial shows. This may present a financial challenge, but we are confident we can rise to it, and many in the broader mineral community are offering to help. This will mean some adjustments in how we operate, but we have done this before and have come out better for it. (Just look at what Pat, Mike and Sara pulled off with the Ballroom after we moved completely

out of the Arena!). Fortunately, we will be moving back into a remodeled and revitalized Tucson Convention Center so we'll have a spiffy new look from that ... and maybe even some space to spread out into.

Expect to hear more on this in the very near future when we come to the Membership for approval for some of the changes we may have to make ... and be ready with ideas when we ask for your input on clever ways to make them. The changes will be a challenge, but this is also an opportunity to launch our Show in new directions that can put us in *front* of the changes that are happening worldwide and locally in our hobby. With some work and luck we may find in the future that our 2022 TGMS Show was (to paraphrase Humphrey Bogart) "The Beginning of a Beautiful Realignment."



New Double Tree Hotel is OPEN!

TGMS Board Meeting – July 17, 2020

Board Members Present: Ellen Alexander, Diane Braswell, Mark Candee, Michael Hollonbeck, Mark Marikos, Les Presmyk, Marilyn Reynolds, Linda Ross, and Bill Shelton.

Executive Manager: Pat McClain

Parliamentarian: Alrene Hibben (not in attendance)

Audience: (none in attendance)

Call to Order: The Board Meeting was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 2:17 p.m. via Zoom. A Zoom conference was held due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic.

President's Remarks: The President requested a motion to add a salary issue to the agenda. **MOTION:** To add a salary issue to the agenda. Seconded and approved.

Minutes Approval: **MOTION:** To approve the June 19, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes as written. Seconded and approved.

Old Business:

Approval of voting method for the 2020/2021 election of Officers and Directors and approving the Budget: Legal advised that it is within the Bylaws to hold elections and approve the budget via email/mail. The quorum will be the number of members who vote. It was also deemed that it was not necessary to obtain a motion and second to hold voting via email/mail.

Review and Discussion of TGMS Bylaws: The Board reviewed the minor grammatical changes to the Bylaws recommended by legal counsel. **MOTION:** To approve the Bylaws as amended. Seconded and approved. Bylaws will be mailed to the membership for review prior to voting.

New Business:

2021 TGMS Show Updates: The Board discussed the 2021 TGMS Show scheduled to be held in February. Representatives of the Tucson Convention Center have not yet established parameters for holding the Show. The Board views the 2021 Show as an opportunity to make changes and improve the Show so that it is a more enjoyable experience for attendees. In the next Board meeting the President and the Treasurer will present financial scenarios based on the anticipated decrease in dealers and attendees. The Board may consider other venues for the Show. In the event the 2021 Show cannot be produced, the Society has reserved funds that can be used to produce the 2022 Show.

Approval of Bonuses: The Board discussed providing a bonus to TGMS employees for their work on the 2020 Show. **MOTION:** To provide \$1500 bonuses for both TGMS employees. Seconded and approved, with one vote against.

Next Zoom Board Meeting: The Board agreed to meet again on Friday, August 21.

Adjourn Meeting: Meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Ross
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

TGMS Board Meeting - October 16, 2020

Board Members Present: Michael Hollonbeck, Mark Marikos, Les Presmyk, Marilyn Reynolds, and Linda Ross.

Executive Manager: Pat McClain

Parliamentarian: Alrene Hibben (absent)

Audience: (none in attendance)

Call to Order: The Board Meeting was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 3:42 pm via Zoom teleconference. A Zoom conference was held due to the current COVID19 Pandemic.

MOTION: To go into an executive session. Seconded and Approved.

Board discussed the recommendation from the Show Committee that the 2021 TGMS Show be postponed to 2022. A small committee will meet with government officials before a final decision to hold or postpone the 2021 TGMS Show is made by the Board. It was anticipated that the decision will be made within the next week. **MOTION:** To move out of executive session. Seconded and Approved.

New Business:

Floor Plans: Discussion on floor plans that were developed before recent government guidelines were established, and how the new guidelines would impact the plans.

Fluorescent Display: The importance of the fluorescent display to the 2021 TGMS Show was discussed.

Advertising Materials:

Advertising materials are being developed that will drive readers to visit the Club website.

Adjourn Meeting: Meeting was adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Ross
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**

TGMS Board Meeting - October 24, 2020

Board Members Present: Ellen Alexander, Diane Braswell, Mark Candee, Michael Hollonbeck, Les Presmyk, Marilyn Reynolds, Linda Ross, and Bill Shelton

Absent: Mark Marikos

Executive Manager: Pat McClain

Parliamentarian: Alrene Hibben (absent)

Audience: Dick Gottfried

Call to Order: The Board Meeting was called to order by President Les Presmyk at 1:10 pm via Zoom teleconference. A Zoom conference was held due to the current COVID19 Pandemic.

Show Committee Recommendation for Holding the TGMS 2021 Show:

TGMS Show Dealers, President Les Presmyk and Board Director Mark Candee withdrew from participating in the discussion of holding the 2021 Show due to Conflict of Interest. They could be available to answer questions. The Show Co-Chair was present to answer questions for the Show Committee. Mike Hollonbeck stepped in as Board Chair.

Board Members discussed the Show Committee recommendation that the 2021 Show be cancelled due to COVID-19. A meeting with the city officials could not be scheduled as planned. There are no contractual complications between the Society and the TCC for holding or not holding the 2021 Show.

MOTION: To not hold the 2021 Show based on the recommendation of the Show Committee. Seconded and approved.

President Les Presmyk and Board Director Mark Candee were invited to return to the meeting, and the Chair was transferred back to the President.

Notification Plan and Schedule:

Board discussed how to notify the public that the Show has been cancelled. The absent Board Member and the Show Committee Members will be contacted first, then TCC and AGTA contacts will be notified. Members, dealers, and exhibitors will quickly be notified. At that point, the cancellation will be posted on the website and other participating local entities will be informed. A press release will be published to news outlets to inform the general public that the 2021 Show has been cancelled but will return in 2022.

Adjourn Meeting: Meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Linda Ross
Recording Secretary



**TUCSON
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**



TGMS has masks for sale ... Black or Blue with the TGMS logo in the middle. They are four ply cotton and we are selling them for \$3.00 each.

Contact the Office at 520-322-5773 or tgms@tgms.org if you'd like to pick up a couple!

A Virtual Science Fair – BY Anna Domitrovic

We have learned to do a lot of new and different things this past year during the COVID-19 pandemic. And that includes TGMS's involvement in the science fair – SARSEF. Last year we managed to judge as we've always done, as the seriousness of COVID-19 had not entirely registered with the government and the public. So last year we awarded three elementary school students for their projects.

Elliot Garcia-Seminario, a 2nd grader at Innovation Academy for “Don't Judge A Geode By Its Shell.”

Angelyn Diaz, a 2nd grader at Highland Free School for “How To Make Your Own Malachite.”

Alexander Woodworth, a 5th grader also at Highland Free School for “Rocks vs Erosion: Who Will Win.”

One middle school award went to ...

Connor Pepe, a 6th grader at Butterfield for “Salty Solution.”

We sent our regrets last fall that we couldn't invite them to display their projects at the 2021 Show (since we had to cancel) but assured them that, if they kept their projects together, we would love to have them participate in the 2022 Show.

Judging at this year's SARSEF was very different. It was entirely virtual. This was quite a challenge for someone who is not as computer savvy as most. So the judging team was a team of one – Anna! SARSEF organizers did an excellent job of grouping projects by grade and general topic so judges could go directly to their particular interests. The projects were presented online “piece-meal.” There were titles and series of slides showing the processes and results of each project, but without the benefit of seeing the project as a whole. We've always started our judging by sight and project title. If it looked like something TGMS would be interested in, the TGMS judging team looked at it more closely. And so, this year's judging was based on just the elements that made up the project.

In spite of the limitations, three elementary school projects each received awards which included \$35 cash and TGMS gift bags of goodies. One for a middle school project was also awarded which included \$75 cash and the TGMS gift bag.

The three elementary school projects went to ...

Avery Johnson, a 3rd grader at Agua Caliente Elementary School for his project, simply titled “Geodes”. Avery wondered “whether it was possible to tell what the inside will look like based on the outside appearance.” The conclusion? “...the outside appearance of a geode will not necessarily determine what the inside will look like.”

Jacob Manning's project, “Eggshell Geodes”, was also a TGMS award winner. A 4th grader at Acacia Elementary School, Jacob learned how geodes might form by growing crystals in eggshells and noting the size and number of crystals. Jacob noted the importance of this project because “I am learning about chemical reactions and how geodes grow.”

Cole Levy, a 5th grader at Ventana Vista Elementary, was the third TGMS elementary school recipient. Cole's project, “The Sedona Red Rock Experiment” caused him to wonder how the Sedona rocks got their red color. By adding a “hematite rock” to water with vinegar, lemon juice and salt to simulate weathering and erosion, he was able to reproduce a red color and relate that to the sedimentary rocks surrounding Sedona.

The middle school award went to...

Abryana Moran, an 8th grader at St Joseph Catholic School. The project, “Copper Plating Experiment,” asked which metals might attract copper through electro-plating. And it was determined that not all metals attract copper. Abryana's conclusion says it all. “My project is very important because copper plating offers a variety of benefits due to its malleability, conductivity, corrosion resistance, lubricious resistance and anti-bacterial qualities.”

And so another Southern Arizona Science & Engineering Fair comes to a close. In spite of the challenges in judging this year, one can only imagine the challenges students and teachers faced to participate in an event that continues to inspire young minds to pursue the sciences as a career long after their grade school science projects have been recognized. Congratulations to all our science fair awardees, this year 2021 and last year 2020.

A SARSEF THANK YOU!

Hello Pat, et al,

As a board member of SARSEF, I want to personally thank you for the generous TGMS contribution to the 2021 Science Fair. TGMS received a HUGE shout out during our board meeting on Monday. Everyone is appreciative of the continued support. It was quite sad not having the event live at the convention center, not seeing the many TGMS volunteers setting up the tables and chairs. However, the virtual fair was an over-the-moon success!

I joined the SARSEF board with the purpose to expand interest in geology, mineralogy, earth sciences. Just knowing that TGMS is so supportive makes me very happy.

I hope you can forward this "thank you" to TGMS board and members.

Wishing you all well,
Laura Schauss

You are invited to a Zoom TGMS Meeting and Lecture

When: Monday, April 5, 2021

Lecturer: Tom Kaye

Time: 6:00 p.m. - Tucson, Arizona Time

Topic: "*Laser Stimulated Fluorescence from Earth to Mars*"

Tom Kaye is an independent researcher with the Foundation for Scientific Advancement. He has spent the last six years pioneering the use of Laser Stimulated Fluorescence in paleontology and cave science. He uses fluorescence to discover hidden chemical signatures showing fossil soft tissues and differences in mineral growth patterns. His use of a laser for the

first time allows for panoramic fluorescence imaging of caverns and even has an autonomous, laser equipped night flying drone to seek out fossils in the badlands. His talk will show published discoveries his team has made from around the world and make an argument on why we should send a laser to Mars.

Join Zoom Meeting; <https://zoom.us/j/94337016345?pwd=T1BLdG16ZDV5TUM3V3RYckJkVXR2dz09>

Meeting ID: 943 3701 6345

Passcode: 982652



TGMS Educational ZOOM Class

When: Wednesday, April 14, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m. - Tucson Time

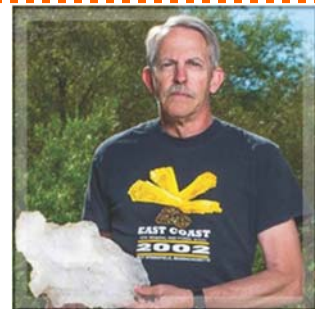
Topic: "*GIANT CRYSTALS*" - For about 25 species, we will tell you about the size, sample localities for each species and a few uses for some of these minerals.

Join the TGMS ZOOM Class:

<https://zoom.us/j/97709323235?pwd=aWgyNUgzeHFibFkxV3dQNXNSTFQrZz09>

Meeting ID: 977 0932 3235

Passcode: 257299



FROM:

**T.G.M.S.
3727 E. BLACKLIDGE DRIVE
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85716**



TO:

**Tucson Gem and Mineral
Society, Inc.**

**3727 E. Blacklidge Drive
Tucson, AZ 85716**

**Phone: 520-322-5773
Email: tgms@tgms.org**

ROCK TALK is the official publication and is © 2020/2021 by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. to reproduce material contained herein for non-profit use only. All commercial and other use requires written permission from the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

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

ROCK TALK Editor: P. R. McClain

ROCK TALK Assistant Editor: R. Marques

ROCK TALK Reporters/Contributors: Anna Domitrovic, Peter Megaw, Kerry Towe, Donn Cuson, Ellen Alexander, Bill Shelton, Les Presymk, Dick Gottfried