

President's Page

Well, my friends, we have come to the end of another year and I will be "passing the torch" to a new and very qualified President and Board of Directors. I have enjoyed the position and appreciate your entrusting me with the privilege of being your representative for 2014- 2015. The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society is world renowned and respected and to be in a position to represent this group, is a bit scary. I have tried to be an acceptable leader and hope I have lived up to your expectations.

I want to thank you all, members and volunteers, who have made my job so much easier and helped me, in so many ways, to present the best Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® in the world to a public that waits, every year, for a bigger and better Show. It never ceases to amaze me that, it not only gets done every year, but done so well. You are responsible for that and, for that, you should be so proud. Without your support, time and help, no officers or leaders in the world, could pull this off.

Having said that, let me remind you that our Society is more than a Show. We are a very proud group of people that have come together to promote interest and education in the fields of Earth Sciences, Gemology and Geology. This is our passion and we must insure that this passion is passed on to the generations to come. Please join with me in planning and implementing programs, as well as recruiting new members, families with children, even more of us "ole folks" with grandchildren to whom we can pass along a great legacy.

So again I say, with great respect and sincerity, thank you for the opportunity to be your spokesperson for another year. It has been "a ride" I will never forget or regret !!



Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. 2014 - 2015 Officers & Directors

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TGMS General Meeting - March 2, 2015

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:30 p.m. Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

PROGRAM: Dr. Mark Barton presented "Recent Developments in the Geology and Mineralogy of Arizona Copper Deposits". He covered two areas: 1) context for copper and Arizona and 2) porphyry copper deposits and ore forming systems with an Arizona focus based on the last decade of research. Copper is a durable raw material which will probably stay in use for centuries, including both new and recycled copper. Arizona has the largest copper resources in the United States and the Southwest is among the top three in the world. Porphyry deposits are a much larger source than all others combined. The Morenci District has been in production for over one hundred years and is still going strong. Arizona has large reserves, but mining has more regulations and societal restrictions now. The newest area is the Resolution Copper Deposit which was undetected before because it is totally buried. It was found due to research which led to the current method of studying deposits which is four dimensional, with time being the fourth dimension, and understanding geological processes over time. The formation and area of an original deposit can be reconstructed by understanding the movements along faults and fractures that occur over time and can result in buried and/or separated areas of deposit. Geologic age is determined using radioactive decay of uranium to lead in zircons. Reconstructing geologic evolution may lead to finding more deposits like Resolution. Arizona will continue to mine copper for the next one hundred years.

BREAK: Thanks to Denis Menard for providing refreshments of roast beef, potatoes and fruit.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of Minutes for January 5, 2015 and February 2, 2015 General Meeting minutes as published in Rock Talk. **MOTION:** To approve the minutes as published. Seconded and approved.

Field Trips: Members on the February 27th Mission Mine trip found nice material. The March 7th trip to Silverbell Mine must be rescheduled. Participants will be contacted. March 21st there will be a trip to Granite Gap, New Mexico. April trips to Deming, New Mexico and Helvetia are being planned.

Show: Attendance was over 20,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Education: Bill Shelton's class "Identifying Minerals Using Sophisticated Methods" will be Tuesday, March 3rd from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Election of Officers: Anyone interested in running for office, please see Mark Ascher. Elections will be held during the May General Meeting.

Scholarship: Students interested in the TGMS scholarship to be presented in May need to submit a letter of interest and qualifications to the Board.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Denis Menard, as meeting host, made the first choice. Drawing winners were Christina Marikos, Janet Rupp, Jerry Glazman and Alrene Hibben.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

May 2015 - Gem & Mineral Shows

16-17—PINETOP, ARIZONA: Show and sale; White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club, Hon-Dah Conference Center; 777 Highway 260; Sat. 9:00 am-6:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Adults \$2.00, Seniors 70+ Free, Students 18 and under Free, Children 18 and under Free; Member Displays, Raffles, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Children Activities, Dealers, Fluorescents, Dinosaur Exhibit and Demonstrations.; contact Rick Olson, 8276 Tahoe Pl, Show Low, AZ 85901, (928) 251-0949; e-mail: walkaround@earthlink.net; Web site: whitemountain-azrockclub.org

23-24—SEDONA, ARIZONA: Annual show; CKM Productions, LLC, Sedona Red Rock High School; 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Road; Sat. 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 10:00 am-4:00 pm; Adults \$3.00; Vendors from around the region will be offering mineral specimens, crystals, gemstones, jewelry, findings, beads, fossils, cutting material and lapidary equipment. An hourly raffle will be held for a chance to win one of many amazing prizes to be offered throughout the show. Food will be available for purchase during the show as well. This is a unique event the entire family

TGMS General Meeting - April 6, 2015

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:35 p.m. Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

PROGRAM: "TGMS Leadership Opportunities and Challenges – A Discussion" was presented by Paul Harter, the Show Chair for the past five years. Any organization needs younger members to learn and step into leadership and committee positions as older members retire. TGMS needs to draw younger people, especially families, into the Society and encourage them to participate in activities and volunteer opportunities to help prepare them to step into leadership positions. Ideas to attract children include showing kids what's on the ground and talk about it; take them to museums such as ASDM, UA Mineral Museum and the Discovery Center off Pima Mine Road; stick a membership information flyer to the inside of egg cartons used at the Show's Junior Education; teach a merit badge in geology to Scouts; have a display at the Children's Museum with hands-on material and exhibits and someone present to talk about the display; continue current community outreach in schools. Other ideas to attract younger members included having a mini-show in malls and libraries and a speaker's bureau to present talks to other organizations, clubs, church groups, etc. Suggestions for involving members in learning and training included using members who volunteer on the membership form; ask people if they want to be your assistant; shadow committee chairs to learn their jobs; be a co-chair; develop relationships with curators and collectors; have "Show and Tell" at meetings; list in Rock Talk areas which will need help or replacement; Show chairs attend meetings and ask for interested members to work in areas of the Show. Other ideas were to reach out to other clubs in Arizona and publish in Rock Talk news of what their clubs are doing and put something in trade magazines such as Rock and Gem prior to the Show to invite people to participate. In closing, Paul listed things to think about: become an active participant in Show committees, volunteer to be a backup/assistant, recruit a young member, and help with the Show, special exhibits, talks, etc. Make the Show the best – don't let it slide.

BREAK: Many thanks to Sara Day and Mike Braswell for providing refreshments including cheese and crackers, dates stuffed with goat cheese, Vienna sausages (pigs in a blanket), chocolate covered pretzels and Easter egg candy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Field Trips: Kerry Towe reported some nice wulfenite was found on the trip to Silverbell Mine. Participants on the March 21st trip to Granite Gap found fluorescent material, cerussite and quartz.

April 25th there will be a trip to the J. C. Holmes Mine for vanadinite and other lead minerals. Four-wheel drive will be needed to get into the area by the dumps. For those who are unable to climb down to the collection area, some material will be brought up for them to look through.

In May there will be a trip to Helvetia.

NEW BUSINESS:

2016 Show: MOTION: To have the 2016 Show. Seconded and approved.

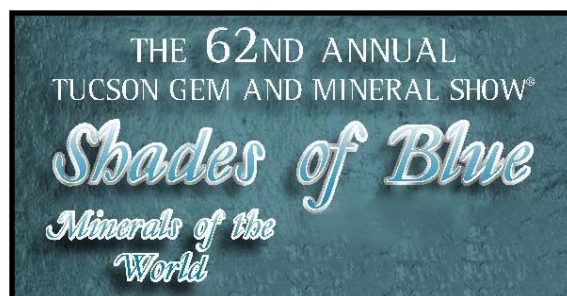
Educational Class: Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m. Bill Shelton's topic will be "Mohawkite and Related Topics." A sign-up sheet is in the back room.

Summer Potlucks: There is a sign-up sheet in the back room. Dick Gottfried has volunteered for June. Henry Miller has volunteered for June or July. It is unknown whether the August potluck can be held at the U of A Mineral Museum. It was suggested that the Desert Museum be looked at again.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Sara Day, as meeting host, made the first choice. Drawing winners were Vera Schlichter, Meredith Jewett, Deborah Alderman and Janette Simister.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary



TGMS Board Meeting - November 17, 2014

Present: Ellen Alexander, Mark Ascher, Madison Barkley, Diane Braswell, Dick Gottfried, Alrene Hibben, Mark Marikos, Jo Anne Sam and Marilyn Reynolds.

Staff: Pat McClain

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 6:35 p.m. in the TGMS Conference Room.

Minutes Approval of the May 3 and May 28, 2014 Board Meetings: **MOTION:** To approve as written. Seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Income is \$136,285.94. Expenses are \$63,534.72 which included a new heat pump and thermostat, roof repairs and carpet repairs. Tucson Gem & Mineral Society Compiled Financial Statements dated June 30, 2013 was distributed.

Old Business:

Disposition of the old TGMS display cases:

MOTION: To sell the cases. Seconded and approved. The cases are on the Mayflower trailer and are currently inaccessible for the needed inventory.

Storage/Property: Society property is stored in several different places and there is no accurate inventory. The asset list which the accountants had needs to be revised and updated. Dick Gottfried volunteered to work with Pat McClain on an inventory. Listings on commercial properties received to date were distributed for review. The consensus is that it will be better to buy than rent/lease.

Trade Name Update: Pat has been enforcing non-use of "Tucson Gem & Mineral Show" by other entities.

Website Update: The site is up and running. Pat has access to make additions or changes. The Society is now on Facebook, Twitter and You Tube.

New Business:

Richard Flagg's estate has donated his Micromount collection to the Society accompanied by a contract with conditions and an IRS form for the value, both of which must be signed. These are under review and an appraisal will be done on the specimens. Madison Barkley stated that museums do not accept contracts with conditions, or if they do, there must be

an expiration date on the conditions.

Case Endowment Donations: Bryan Lees wants to donate funds towards cases in honor of Star Wars characters Hans Solo, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Yoda and Darth Vader. A recommendation was made that a determination be made that this will not be a trademark infringement.

Recommendation from the Show to the TGMS Board to give two new awards: 1) Best Museum Case – in recognition of Clayton & Betty Gibson, and 2) Best Volunteer Guest exhibit – in recognition of Bill & Millie Schupp. **MOTION:** To approve the Show recommendation. Seconded and approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn V. Reynolds, Recording Secretary

June 2015 - Gem & Mineral Shows

5-7—FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA: Annual show; Coconino Lapidary Club, Outdoor Market At Silver Saddle; 9001 N Hwy 89; Fri. 9 am-4 pm, Sat. 9 am-4 pm, Sun. 9 am-4 pm; Admission is Free!; Coconino Lapidary Club will be having their 3rd Annual Show. Gems, minerals, fossils, lapidary equipment, jewelry and findings, slabs, rough, plus gold prospecting equipment and displays will be available from the vendors. The club sponsors an Education Corner where they have activities for kids, a magnificent fluorescent display, a make a fossil area and a rock hunt for kids. Mineral identification. We also sponsor a raffle drawing. This is a Free Admission outdoor event.; contact Wayne Scott, (928) 607-3185; e-mail: 4nsgsrocks@gmail.com; Web site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/122043251214208/>

July - August 2015 - Gem & Mineral Shows

31-2—PRESCOTT VALLEY, ARIZONA: Annual show; Prescott Gem & Mineral Club, Prescott Valley Event Center; 3201 North Main St.; Fri. 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Sat. 9:00 am-5:00 pm, Sun. 9:00 am-4:00 pm; Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$4.00, Students \$4.00, Children under 12 yrs free!; 12th annual Prescott Gem & Mineral Show. Minerals, fossils, meteorites, slabs, tools, jewelry, exhibits and demonstrations. Hourly raffle drawing for valuable prizes. Child friendly demonstrations, displays, games, face painting, geode cracking, spinning wheel, fluorescent rocks and minerals. Currently all spaces for vendors are filled at this time. New vendors will be added to our waiting list.; contact Prescott Gem & Mineral Club Attn: Melanie, P.O. Box 3923, Chino Valley, AZ 86323; Web site: www.prescottgemmineral.org

TGMS Board Meeting - March 18, 2015

Present: Ellen Alexander, Diane Braswell, Dick Gottfried, Mark Marikos, Marilyn Reynolds and Jo Anne Sam.

Absent: Mark Ascher, Madison Barkley, Alrene Hibben.

Staff: Pat McClain.

Guests: Paul Harter and Les Presmyk.

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 6:35 p.m. in the TGMS Conference Room.

Minutes Approval of the November 17, 2014 Board Meeting: **MOTION:** To approve as written. Seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report: As of March 6, 2015 income is \$180,349.29. Expenses are \$140,340.34. Work is proceeding on the budget to be reviewed at the April Board Meeting.

Board entered and exited Executive Session.

Old Business:

Acquisition of warehouse space. A building with a large lot near Ft. Lowell and Dodge may be available now as well as a vacant strip mall at Thornydale and Overton. These will be investigated for possible purchase. Tentative questions regarding financing a purchase, including areas in the budget that could be drawn from for funds and would a mortgage still remain, must be resolved.

New Business:

Approval to accept donation to the 2016 Show: Pak Designs has donated a tanzanite and diamond ring valued over \$7000.00 to the Society with the stipulation that something be done to increase attendance in the Arena at the Show. The ring is to be displayed in the center aisle of the Arena. It was suggested to give a raffle ticket for the ring to anyone who purchased \$25.00 worth of merchandise or more in the Arena. **MOTION:** To accept the donation. Seconded and approved. An appraisal on the ring is needed.

Nomination of Gloria Quigg for 2016 Show Chair:
MOTION: To accept the nomination. Seconded. Gloria has done an excellent job as Publicity Chair

and wants to continue in addition to being Show Chair. The consensus was that doing both would be overwhelming; she cannot divide her time. **MOTION amended:** To approve on condition she relinquishes Publicity Chair. Seconded. **MOTION:** To postpone this until the next meeting. Seconded and approved.

The issue of Show Vice Chairman: **MOTION:** To have a Vice Chair. Seconded and not approved.

Suggestions for changes to bring new (younger) people into the Society/Show: Ask Bob Downs' students to be more involved in the Show; other groups have kid's groups with their own meetings and activities such as monthly field trips for kids and their parents; members need to bring in other people; invite guests to the summer pot lucks.

Lifetime memberships: No nominations were suggested.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

THE TGMS NOMINATING COMMITTEE HAS SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING NAMES FOR 2015 - 2016 TGMS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS; VOTING TO BE DONE AT THE MAY GENERAL MEETING:

List of candidates for TGMS Officers:

President:	Mark Marikos
Vice President:	Michael Hollonbeck
Treasurer:	Ellen Alexander
Recording Secty.:	Marilyn Reynolds
Membership Secty.:	Alrene Hibben

List of candidates for TGMS Directors:

- Richard Gottfried
- Jo Anne Sam
- Sara Day

Limited Budget...Unlimited Pleasure – Jerry & Mary Glazman

As docents at both the TGMS Show and at the University of Arizona Mineral Museum, we have heard from a lot of parents and grandparents that their child/grandchild was interested in collecting rocks but everything that they saw was so expensive. How could they encourage the child and not spend a fortune? We were reminded of the first TGMS Show we ever attended which had a case displaying a collection of minerals that had been purchased at the shows for an average price of \$10 each. At the 2014 Show, we made the mistake (?) of asking, during the Docent meeting, why there wasn't a display case like that anymore. Everyone thought it had been a really good display case, but since the person who did it was no longer doing it, we were asked 'why don't you do it.' We could think of lots of reasons why we couldn't, like we had never put together a display case of minerals and had no idea how to go about it.

But the seed had been planted. So we spoke to Pat and Rose about the mechanics of entering a case at the Show. "Sure, just send us an email indicating interest and we will get the material to you for the 2015 Show." During the 2014 Show we made a point of checking out exhibits to see what could be put in various sized display cases and get an idea of what worked to make a display interesting and appealing. We also checked out vendors to see what quality specimens we could find for around \$10 per piece. It didn't take long for our original concept of 10 or 12 inexpensive specimens and some text to morph into the idea of a display of inexpensive mineral specimens someone could buy plus examples of minerals we had self collected. We could include some rockhound guidebooks as well as a pitch to join a rock and gem club reinforced by specimens we had won at club raffles and free give-aways. So we put in our application for a display case. We weren't sure we would have enough quality material to fill a four foot case but anything smaller was definitely too small.

One of the biggest problems was coming up with a good title for the exhibit. We kept coming up with things like "Collecting on a Shoe String" or "Collecting on a Budget" and those just didn't have the right tone. It was literally the last minute for submitting the application for our case – everything on the form had been filled in except for the title - then we came up with "Limited Budget...Unlimited Pleasure."

Once we had received notice that our application had been accepted, we continued to plan the case. Then about a month before the show, we received an e-mail that all the four foot cases were needed for the

competitive exhibits and only 30" cases were available. We thought about what we could leave out of our planned exhibit.



However, the next day we received an e-mail that there was a pair of six foot high, three foot wide cases that had been set up at the bottom of the ramp going into the Arena at the 2014 Show. If we wanted, we could have one of these cases. We asked around but no one could remember exactly what those cases looked like. Then Ken Don found a photograph of one of

the cases and someone else remembered that the cases had come from Tucson Store Fixtures. Sure enough, on the Tucson Store Fixtures web site was a picture of a "fiber optic" case that matched Ken's photo. It was 81" tall, 40" wide, with three glass shelves plus a base, fully wired with built in lights. It was a beautiful case with curved glass doors front and back and glass on both sides. Yikes! In less than a day we had gone from a four foot wide case with glass on one side to about 12 linear feet of shelf space visible from four sides. Did we even have enough quality material to display? Glass shelves ... we would need stands and things to display the minerals and protect the glass shelves plus label holders so people could read labels on higher shelves.

A frantic month was spent in going through 30 years of self-collected minerals. A lot of "why did I ever collect that?" stuff was disposed of, so it actually was a good thing. Then the early shows opened and we needed to purchase the inexpensive minerals to be displayed. We planned to purchase as many as possible from vendors who would be at the TGMS Show. Armed with the show guides, we attacked the early shows. Our original intent was to buy 10 to 12 small, quality mineral specimens at an average price of \$10 or less. Enthusiasm did overcome judgment in a few cases (we kept finding things we really wanted for our collection) and ended up with 16 minerals at a total price of \$158.91 meeting our goal of an average cost of under \$10 a specimen. The least expensive was \$3.00 and the most expensive was \$25.00.

Limited Budget...Unlimited Pleasure – Jerry & Mary Glazman CONTINUED

And then it was the day before the Show opened. Set up hours were noon to 6 PM. We planned to get there around 1 PM so vendors and exhibitors who knew what they were doing wouldn't be held up by us newbies checking in. First problem. We couldn't find our case. It wasn't in the Arena where it was supposed to be. It took about an hour to locate the case still out in the unloading area and still wrapped in plastic, then get it set up in the Arena. While setting up the case, we were pleasantly surprised by the spirit of friendliness and co-operation between the vendors. If someone needed scissors, a paper cutter, glass cleaner or whatever, no problem, someone else had it and shared. Fortunately, loading the case didn't take as long as we had expected because at 6 PM we needed to be at the docent orientation meeting with Ellen Alexander.

The top shelf was too high to see anything laid flat on it so we put an assortment of books – rockhounding site guides, a BLM map, a mineral identification book – stood up so the covers could be read.



Peridot from San Carlos, Arizona, Sapphires (with examples of as found, after heat treatment, and heat treated and faceted), as found and polished Turquoise collected on a

TGMS field trip to Nevada, Chrysocolla, Jasper and Carnelian, and some geodes, to name a few. Minerals that could be cabbed or otherwise polished, we tried to display both the rough as collected and finished cabbed or polished pieces.

On the bottom shelf we placed big, heavy specimens, like a large piece of petrified wood, a chunk of Golden Barite, a chunk of Blue Fluorite with



Barite, a chunk of Arizona Blue Opal, and a yard rock with Calcite on Chrysocolla collected on a field trip to the Mission Mine, to show that it's OK to collect rocks that are just "pretty rocks" that catch your eye. On the sides of the case, we displayed a few of the photographs that we had taken on club field trips.

Would we do it again next year if we have the chance? You bet!! We learned a lot this year and are already planning how we can do it better.



The second from the top shelf was the right height to see mineral specimens and that's where we put the 16 specimens we had bought. Specimens

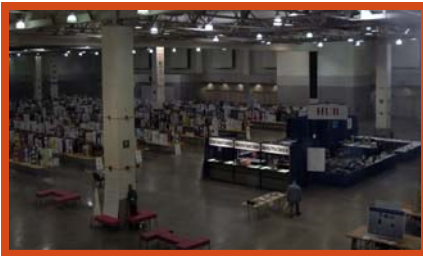
ranged from good sized chunks of Amethyst and Celestite geodes to a thumbnail sized Diopside from Tsumeb. Most specimens averaged one to two inches in size and included a Quartz cluster from Mt, Ida, a Quartz scepter from the Spruce claim, a Pyrite from Navajones, an Azurite from Copper Basin, a Pakistani Aquamarine, a Cavansite, and a Crocoite to mention a few.

On the third shelf we put mostly smaller self-collected minerals and specimens won at club raffles and free give-aways. These included Garnets from Montana,



PHOTOS BY: Jerry & Mary Glazman

HAPPY 60th SARSEF - By Anna Domitrovic

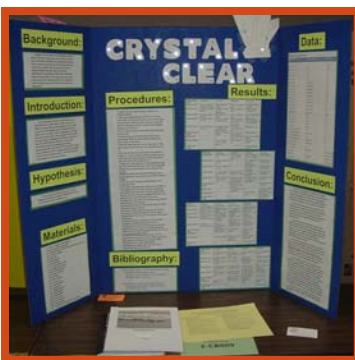


SARSEF celebrated its 60th anniversary this year, and TGMS was proud to be a part of it. Our 2015 team included newbies Elaine and Bob Royer and returnee Janet Reue, with “yours truly” at the helm. After judging for more than

two decades, I've noticed an increase in mineral-related projects over the years. I'm certain it's because of the Society's involvement in the judging process. Part of the attraction, too, may be what the Society offers to those projects the team deems worthy of awards - a gift bag chock full of TGMS paraphernalia, not to mention a donation to the Science Fair Foundation. Some of the things in the Society's canvas gift bag include a current Show poster and tee shirt, a commemorative lapel pin and a framed certificate with cold, hard cash. Just as important is an invitation to join the Society at the family membership level, plus the students are invited to display their projects at the next year's Show.



For the last two years, all four SARSEF projects the TGMS judging team recognized have made it to the TCC Exhibit Hall floor for the 2014 and 2015 Shows. We're anxious to see this year's winning projects at the 2016 Show. The winners came from the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 8th grades.



Kaleb Antone, a 2nd grader at Fruchthendler Elementary, won for “Crystal Clear.” LED lights twinkled around the title and drew us in. We noticed some materials had been removed from display and sought them out at the Hub. Kaleb grew some very colorful crystals on strings but enclosed them in a glass-covered case. And it was the glass that had to be

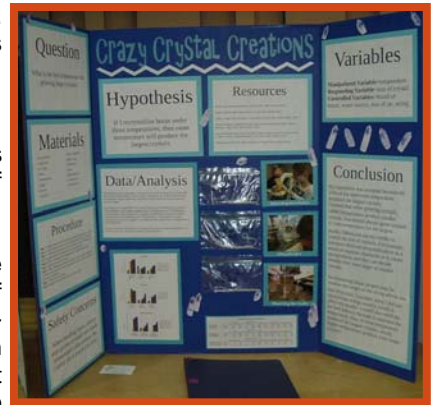
removed from display. We hope the glass will be replaced with plastic for next year's Show. Korrine Tinsley was Kaleb's teacher.

Winifred Harelson Elementary School's 3rd grader, Leon Gutierrez, got the nod for his project, “Classifying Minerals.”

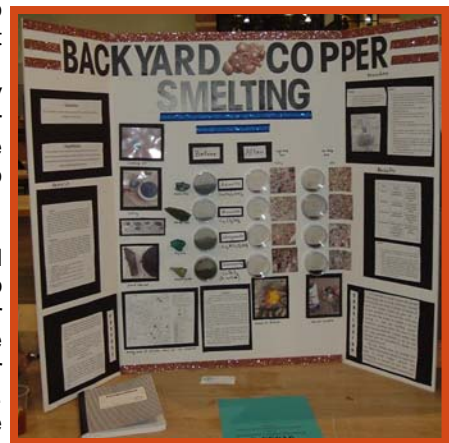


Leon used the physical property of hardness and Mohs' Hardness Scale, to note differences among and identify four different minerals. S. Lane was Leon's teacher.

“Crystal Creations” was the title of Hannah Hindman's project. She noted the size of various home-grown crystals in three different temperatures to determine how temperature variations affected the size of crystals. Jori Conrad was Hannah's teacher at Sonoran Science Academy.



Finally, our middle school winner was 8th grader Paige Brumm from Gregory School. “Backyard Copper Smelting” was designed to determine if Native Americans, given the technology of the time, could extract copper from rocks. Paige used a backyard campfire to simulate what Native Americans may have had at their disposal. She also built a kiln to represent modern technology, and was able to extract copper from ore collected at four regional mines. The campfire didn't work, but the kiln did! Jori Conrad was Paige's teacher.



I have been privileged to be involved in SARSEF judging for more than 25 years. It never gets boring, as the projects change from year to year. And it's always a joy to see “what's next”, what the teachers are teaching and what peaks the students' interests. If it's about minerals or some mineral-related subject, that makes the judging experience all the more rewarding. There's an option on our membership applications to get involved with SARSEF by joining the judging team. If you're interested in being a team member and haven't heard from me by November, contact me by email or leave a message on my home phone. I'm in the membership roster.

PHOTOS BY: Anna Domitrovic

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE TUCSON GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY - From Dona Leicht

It has been many weeks since the 2015 TGMS show concluded and it has given me some time to reflect back on the show and what is good and what is not so good. I hope that my remarks will be taken as only deserved praise in some areas and constructive criticism other areas.

The show certainly come a LONG way in our over 40 years of participation. The recent changes under the leadership of show chairman, Paul Harter, are the most obvious and the changes that have lead many of us to do more outstanding booths and to stick with the show over the long haul. Many of you are totally aware that many of your participating dealers do not actually need this show to make a profit - the many 'outside' shows before the TGMS shows, and in particular the Westward Look show, are where our profit is made. We continue to stay with the club show because we firmly believe that exposing the public, and in particular children, to the wonders of nature will furnish us with our future collectors.

The Society needs to keep the forward thinking mode - what makes a show successful for all is the overall general feeling when one enters. The efforts over the last few years to make the very dull, old looking convention center more inviting is much appreciated. I have encouraged any number of club members to make the trip to the Munich show to observe what a hugely successful show does in terms of the social side, the decorating side, the hospitality side, and the advertising side. I don't think I have to point out to you that the show is the tail wagging the big dog before it.

Each year their is a noticeable decline in the number of collectors that attend. In the long three to four weeks before the TGMS show these collectors have come into town, seen their favorite dealers at the hotel shows and then leave. The Westward Look show has now become "Tucson" for a majority (note: when you have collectors who are spending up to 7 million as happened at the Westward one wonders why they are not attending the most important mineral show in the states). The collectors that participate with exhibits are to be treasured for they are what might bring in other collectors to see the fabulous displays that are always there.

The best years we have had as dealers have been under the leadership of Paul Harter. The decor has improved, the food service has been much improved, the early set-up helps tremendously and the extra publicity on radio and TV are good moves. The free WiFi is a big, big gift for us in this age of computers, iPhones, iPads and the advent of all kinds of devices that depend on that WiFi.

Commonwealth Electric is easy to work with and their fees are not out of line. They are always so helpful when needed on the center floor.

Arizona Cine on the other hand is difficult and fees are

higher than normal. The consensus among the dealers I talk with have the same opinion. I know that the dealer fees are what makes this boat float and to keep instituting 'nickel and dime' fees for the smallest details does not make for happy campers.

If I could have a wish list for the future:

1. Carpeting throughout the center
2. Dump the hospital white curtain dividers and put some color into the hall
3. A designated parking area for dealers only - we spend \$48 per day for staff to park - at other shows dealers are offered parking tickets for the duration of the show at a discounted price and at shows in Springfield and Denver dealer parking is set aside. Parking is a MAJOR problem at the center for all visitors as well.
4. More seating areas for visitors - this year was a nice start on this situation
5. Release of the show poster before the show so that we may publicize the show at our home locations and other venues.
6. I realize this is mostly a volunteer operation (we certainly have been through this with other societies and have even served on these committees) but some of the members seem to rule over their particular 'kingdoms' like a war lord. Unless something is life threatening is it really worth it to fling arrows and test your trash vocals? Ease up folks...I witnessed one member this year venting at someone and it was embarrassing to see this member acting so childish and dictatorial.
7. Don't ever let "but we've always done it that way" dictate - take some chances, make the changes needed and put the show back where it derseves to be: at the head of the pack, not trailing behind it.

We thank all of you for the time you devote to the show. We know that you cannot please all of the people all of the time but by consenting to consider new ideas I think the future looks brighter. Go for it!!!

For my part, I will continue to twist arms, advertise the show and do everything I can to get those collectors back through the door.

Dona Lee Leicht

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A Weekend Visit to the GIA - Paul S. Harter

As members of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society there are many opportunities for education, fun and camaraderie. April 18, 2015 was one such opportunity. For thirteen years the San Diego Gem and Mineral Society, in concert with the Gemological Institute of America, have co-hosted an annual symposium. This year the theme was "opal," but before I get to the theme, let's take a short journey.

The symposium is hosted by the GIA at its facility in Carlsbad, California. This is an easy drive for those of us living in Arizona. In my case Marilyn and I took the opportunity to visit with friends along the way. One of the pleasures of this great hobby is becoming friends with folks around the world. On the road from Phoenix/Tucson to Carlsbad one might visit with the many show dealers in the Fallbrook area or Laguna Beach. Each of us should be ambassadors for TGMS and reach out to those who support our Show. I know the effort is appreciated. Dinner on Friday night overlooking the Pacific Ocean is always a pleasant experience. But, Saturday morning beckons and there is a short drive to the GIA.

The GIA campus in Carlsbad is stunningly beautiful as its back lawn overlooks the Pacific. A cool breeze is always welcome to those of us living in the Sonoran Desert. The exhibits inside are stunning and give you the opportunity to see spectacular gems and jewelry. Saturday was no different. The co-hosts serve a continental style breakfast which gives everyone a chance to renew friendships and say "good morning" to all. Then it is time to walk upstairs to the lecture room.

Wow, what a speaker line-up. The list read like a who's who. Speakers from all corners of the earth. The first was Eloise Gaillou from the Paris School of Mines, followed by Andrew Cody noted author on opal and director of the National Opal Collection in Australia, Raquel Alonso-Perez curator of the Harvard Mineralogical and Geological Museum, Jack Hobart and Bill Larson got us to lunch. Each speaker shared knowledge and information regarding this most beautiful gem. The programs included historical information, scientific information and a thorough discussion of why some opal (common opal) does not show flashes of color while others do. One true highlight of this symposium is Bill Larson and his entire family sharing with each of us items from their collection. Indeed a once in a lifetime opportunity to see so many beautiful opal specimens and pieces of jewelry.

A delightful lunch and a second opportunity to eat outside and enjoy the beauty of the Pacific. Balboa certainly had it correct, from a distance the view is as peaceful as one could ever hope for. Lunch afforded me two opportunities: to visit with Andrew Cody and learn more about opal from Australia and to visit with Carl Larson about his time in Paris. Fortunately the day was not yet concluded.

After lunch, Alan Hart from the Natural History Museum in London regaled the audience with some priceless humor, but also insight into his museum's collection of opal. Several other presentations occurred, including photography tips from Robert Weldon and the Symposium concluded with George Rossman from Cal Tech talking about color in opal. His talk was amazing in that he took an incredibly complex topic and was able to distill same to information which was readily understandable. I might also add that Helen Serras-Herman, who is known to many of us, gave a superb presentation on Common Opal, including a reference to blue opal from Arizona. I know I have not mentioned every presenter. For those I missed, please accept my apology. Your presentations were as significant as those I have mentioned.

Then off to King's for one last seafood dinner. This has become a tradition which is hard to top, including a long, tall Mojito. Again outside, cool breeze and looking at an entire hillside of ranunculus in full bloom. If you have time, stop by the gardens to see acres of these flowers in all their glory, including an American flag that must have been 200' by 100' in its magnificent red, white and blue.

Sunday morning arrives, the car is packed, but one last stop before heading home, the Carlsbad Strawberry fields to purchase a lug of berries picked that morning. They never sell day old berries, so these are the freshest, sweetest berries you could ever hope to eat. A great weekend filled with friendship and education. Next year's symposium will focus on sapphire, I cannot wait. As a closing thought I again encourage TGMS members to be ambassadors for not only the Society, but also the Show it presents. Many of the folks who work tirelessly to present the Symposium are also participants, exhibitors and dealers at our Show. We should show not only our support to these folks but also our appreciation for their support of TGMS. Hopefully each of you will make plans to attend this Symposium.

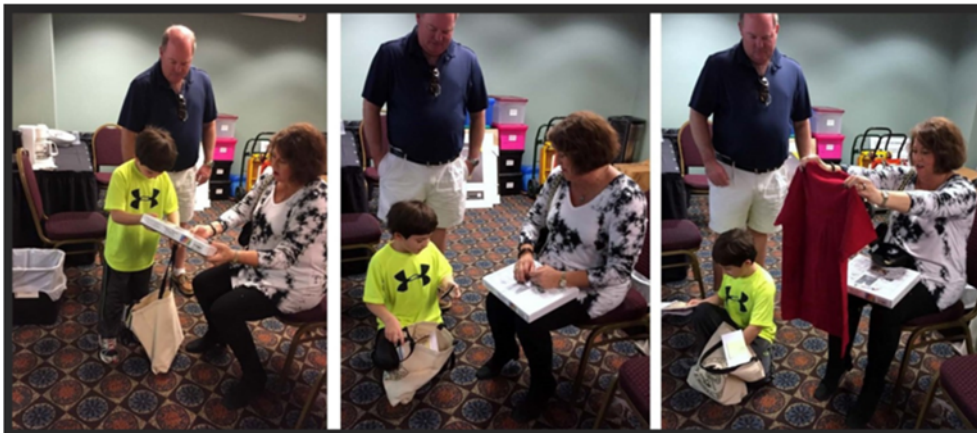
Chip's Birthday Surprise!!! - By P.R. McClain

Back in October of 2014, we received an email from Anne Cowin. In her email she told us that her nine year old son was VERY interested in "gems and minerals." She and her husband were going to surprise their young son for his birthday by flying from Alabama to Arizona just to attend the 2015 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. As a matter of fact, it would be the first time for the entire family!

Rose Marques, TGMS Executive Assistant, answered the initial email with as much information that she could give ... days, times, what will be on exhibit, information on the Dealers and especially information on the Junior Education area. Rose told them that we would have tickets for them and something special for the "birthday boy!" They would be introduced to our President, Diane Braswell, who would meet with them and introduce them to the "greatest show on earth!" Armed with all of that, they were even more excited!



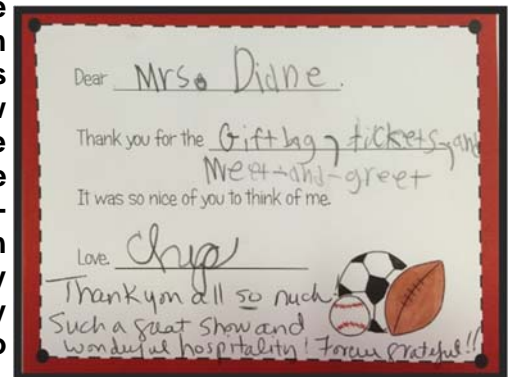
After a couple of email conversations with Diane and Rose, the plans were set for the Cowins to come to the TCC Show Office and meet with Diane. Once they arrived, she presented Chip with a "gift" bag from TGMS, wished him "Happy Birthday" and told him to have fun at the Show.



The following is from Chip in his own words:

“In my opinion the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® is much better than Disney World! I like rocks and minerals ALOT and it makes it really fun! But then it was my birthday and I thought my parents

were taking me to Disney World but then my parents showed up at school and checked me out and I didn't know where I was going ... but there was a taxi waiting and then my mom said where do you think you are going ... and I saw the picture of the rock and mineral show and the ad my mom had printed ... and we headed to the airport - it was awesome!! My favorite parts of the gem and mineral show were the people who gave my mom, my dad and me free tickets to the show and a gift bag! I loved the college students that had experiments and gave out free rocks - and looking at rocks under a microscope. In my opinion the Tucson Rock and Mineral Show is better than Disney world! We purchased some very special things for my collection including a Megaladon Tooth! I really want to go back next year!!!”



PHOTOS BY: P.R. McClain

ROCK TALK

FROM:

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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 7:30 p.m., except September (second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday), June-August (potlucks). The TGMS facility address is: 3727 East Blackledge 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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