

# Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

## ROCK TALK

Volume 8 - Issue 1

September - October 2013

### President's Page

Welcome back everyone from wherever you went this summer to escape the heat, and kudos to all who stuck around for another summer in Tucson. It has been a tolerable season with, never enough, but a fair amount of rainfall.

This has already been a busy year and no relief in sight. We have a lot to do and a lot to look forward to. This will be our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show and we are working very hard to make it exciting and special. We will need all our volunteers to help in this effort.

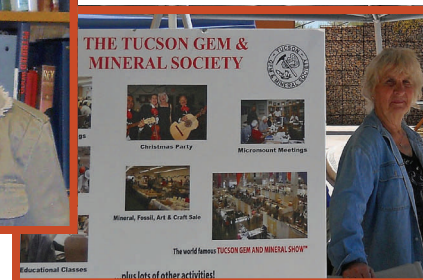
Some highlights on the horizon are:

New cases for our Show, one of which you will be able to see at the September General Meeting. We are still in the bidding process but making progress toward our goal.

An exciting and progressive "look" to our floor plan that will be, not only more eye appealing, but user friendly and interesting.

On the home front, we are joining forces with a publication that will really enhance and promote our Community Outreach efforts. We are becoming more involved in school programs and adult organizations in an effort to give relevant information to bring new people into our Society. Unfortunately, most residents of Tucson think we are a "four day wonder" in February, and we are committed to change that perception. We have been here for 66 years, offering numerous resources to our members and the community, and TGMS is not going anywhere.

This is going to be a great year folks. Join me in thanking all of the people who are working tirelessly to make this happen. The Office Staff, Pat and Rose, are hard at work with the logistics of the Show; Arizona Cine who donate so much of their time and resources; the Show Committee, some of which are already involved in projects; and your Board of Directors. We are going to be calling on you for help as volunteers. We cannot do it without you. It is the volunteers and the "get it done" attitude that sets us apart and makes us the "Best Show in the World." You have every reason to be proud of being a part of our Society.



#### Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. 2013 - 2014 Officers & Directors

**President:** Diane Braswell ph. 520.574.1942  
**Vice President:** John Callahan, ph, 520.888.3302  
**Recording Secty.:** Marilyn Reynolds, ph. 520.296.0688  
**Treasurer:** Ellen Alexander, ph. 520.743.9383  
**Membership Secty.:** Alrene Hibben, ph. 520.529.6502  
**Director:** Madison Barkley, ph. 804.761.8324  
**Director:** Mark Marikos, ph. 520.360.4264  
**Director:** Bob O'Donnell ph. 972.523.3567  
**Past President:** Mark Ascher, ph. 520.886.0397  
**Librarians:** Robert & Elaine Royer

ROCK TALK is the official publication and is © 2013 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.

**ROCK TALK Editor:** P. R. McClain  
**ROCK TALK Assistant Editor:** R. Marques  
**ROCK TALK Reporters/Contributors:** Mark Ascher, Anna Domitrovic, Peter Megaw, Diane Braswell, Kerry Towe, Bill Hodgson, Donn Cusson, Helen Serras-Herman, Paul Harter, Jim Bleess, Ellen Alexander, Karen Weinrich



## TGMS General Meeting - May 6, 2013

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

**PROGRAM:** Jim McGlasson graduated from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology with a BS degree in Geology and a minor in Mining Engineering, then went on to earn his Master's Degree in Geology from the Colorado School of Mines. He worked for Phelps Dodge Corp. for 11 years and since then has worked as a consulting exploration geologist to various client companies in Mexico. He has been a mineral dealer since 1979. His topic was "Pyromorphites". Pyromorphite, a lead chloro-phosphate, is in the Apatite Group, in the mimetite-pyromorphite series which also includes vanadinite. It was first described in 1693, vanadinite in 1833, and mimetite in 1835. The crystal form is generally hexagonal prisms with a dark green to greenish yellow color, although some brownish and reddish brown specimens are found. Pyromorphite forms in the oxidized portions of lead deposits. Jim highlighted his program with photos of pyromorphite specimens from around the world.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** William Ascarza, an author and member of TGMS, is writing a series of articles on Arizona mines which are appearing in the Monday issues of the Arizona Daily Star.

Dick Gottfried spoke on the difficulty schools are facing in providing transportation to the Show for their invited students. Many of the elementary schools cannot afford to pay for the buses necessary for transportation, particularly in the TUSD, Flowing Wells and Sunnyside districts. Dick encouraged members to use the \$200 state tax credit to help a district or a particular school. The tax credit is an actual credit on an individual's state tax, therefore it amounts to a \$200 donation to schools and the state tax paid is \$200 less. Tax credit forms are available by emailing [tgms@tgms.org](mailto:tgms@tgms.org) or calling 520-322-5773, or at school district offices. When filling out the form, please specify the donation is for student transportation to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show on February 14, 2014.

Please sign one of the cards in the back room for Don Feyrer who is in the hospital.

Copies of the budget and election slate are available in the back room. Please pick up one of each and look at during the break.

**BREAK:** Many thanks to Shiela Powell, who provided a wonderful assortment of fruit, meat, cheese, chips, cookies, cake, candy and bread.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes for the March 4, 2013 General Meeting and the April 1, 2013 General Meeting were published in the May-June 2013 Rock Talk. **MOTION:** To approve the minutes as published. Seconded and approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Field Trips:** Diane Braswell announced there will be a field trip May 25-27 to Dobell Ranch near Holbrook to collect petrified wood and on to western New Mexico for Luna blue agate and carnelian. Sign-up sheet and information are in the back room. Kerry Towe announced that the committee is working on a trip in late September or early October to Ocean View, California to tour a mine and collect tourmaline; a trip to a turquoise mine in New Mexico where only four people at a time will be allowed in the mine; and trips to other turquoise mines.

**Community Outreach:** Diane Braswell and Pat McClain have participated in Earth Day and Earth Science activities through Pima College and Rogers Elementary School. The goal is to get the TGMS name in front of the public and let people know what TGMS does and what it has to offer.

**UA Mineral Museum:** Mark Candee announced that Princeton has donated their Arizona minerals collection to the museum, a lot of which is mine fresh (still dirty) from the 1880's. There is a possibility of hosting the August pot luck at the museum.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Bill Shelton's educational class on "Azurite and Barite" will be Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at TGMS. There is a sign-up sheet in the back room.

**2014 Show: MOTION:** To have a TGMS 2014 Show. Seconded and approved.

**Meeting Time: MOTION:** To change the General Meeting time to 7:00 p.m. Seconded. Motion failed.

**Budget for 2013-2014 Fiscal Year: MOTION:** To approve the proposed budget. Seconded and approved.

Dr. Peter Megaw will be attending the first gem and mineral show in Changsha, China and helping the Chinese with displays, as well as giving a lecture on the

## TGMS General Meeting - May 6, 2013 - CONTINUED

history of TGMS. He has requested that he be designated an ambassador representing TGMS.  
**MOTION:** To approve Dr. Megaw as TGMS Ambassador for the China show. Seconded and approved.

2012- 2013 Scholarship: Ben Schumer was awarded the scholarship and expressed his thanks to the Society. Ben is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geosciences at the U of A. He is working on the chemical bonding in sulfides.

Election of Officers: A call to the floor was made for nominations for each position with no response.  
**MOTION:** To accept the slate as nominated. Seconded and approved. The officers and directors for 2013-2014 are as follows: President – Diane Braswell, Vice President – John Callahan, Treasurer – Ellen Alexander, Recording Secretary – Marilyn Reynolds, Membership Secretary – Alrene Hibben, and Directors – Mark Marikos, Bob O'Donnell and

Madison Barkley.

Lifetime Memberships: The Board nominated Linda Oliver and Shirley Wetmore for Lifetime Memberships in TGMS for their many contributions to the Society over the years. **MOTION:** To accept the nominees for Lifetime Membership. Seconded and approved.

Plaques of Appreciation were presented to the members of the 2012-2013 Board.

**DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES:** As hostess for the meeting, Shiela Powell had the first choice. Drawing winners were Sugar White, Stew Towle, John Ebner and Denis Menard.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
 Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

### Summer Potlucks

#### June 15, 2013 TGMS Potluck:

The June potluck, hosted by and in the home of John Callahan and Kathy Steiner, coincided with the official beginning of the monsoon season. And a few humidity-enhancing raindrops did indeed fall. The get-together was attended by about 30 people and about 30 people complained about the difficulty of the host-sponsored mineral quiz (although the host received a high score). Bob O'Donnell and Barb Muntyan also did well with the challenge and Dick Morris could have excelled if only he was competitive enough to turn in his quiz. The quiz helped keep guests busy until it was cool enough to move outdoors for a bountiful, nutritious, and delicious summer meal thanks to attendee contributions.

#### July 27, 2013 TGMS Potluck:

On July 27 from 5-9 pm, Bob and Elaine Royer hosted the potluck held at the TGMS clubhouse.

Around 30 people enjoyed a chance to meet new people and reconnect with others, a wonderful assortment of food was available, and everyone enjoyed an entertaining and educational power point program of their trip to Antarctica.

### Hosts Needed for our General Meetings

**Something to consider.** Our General meetings start again on September 9, 2013. We all like seeing each other after being away for the summer. We know that we will enjoy the great lectures that are scheduled by our Vice President, John Callahan. And we all love the refreshments that are provided by gracious volunteers.

We have the dates set for our meetings. John has almost completed the schedule of guest lecturers, but we need volunteers to provide refreshments.

Look for the sign-up sheet at the September 9, 2014 meeting and **VOLUNTEER!!**

### Junior Education - Community Outreach

Donations of rocks and minerals are needed for our Society programs. Not only Junior Education at the Show, but Community Outreach for classroom activities. PLEASE, as you go through your collections, consider giving what you no longer want to TGMS. Any donation is appreciated and will be picked up or may be delivered to the TGMS facility. Call me, Diane Braswell, at 520.574.1942 or 520.954.6099. If I am not home, leave a message and I will return your call.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!!!**

## A Greek Rock becomes Artistic Jewelry - By Helen Serras-Herman

After all the years of accumulating gems, I am always excited to carve gem materials that I have not used before, especially one that I have self collected. I rarely have the chance to go rockhounding, so when the opportunity came up in Greece, it was a welcomed good fortune. And if it wasn't for the circumstances that you will read below, I may have not considered Flint to be part of my artistic palette.

During our 2009 trip to Greece we spent two weeks on the island of Kefalonia (also spelled Cephalonia), located off the west coast of Greece in the Ionian Sea. The island is part of a chain of 7 islands known as the *Ionian Islands*, of which Corfu to the north may be the most famous and cosmopolitan of all.



Kefalonia can be reached by air from Athens in less than an hour, or traveling by car and via ferry boat from the mainland (about 4 hours drive from Athens and 1 ½ on the boat). In contrast to the well known Cyclades Islands

in the Aegean Sea with their stark natural beauty, white-washed houses and bright blue church domes, the Ionian Islands are very green, with beautiful idyllic beaches, mountains reaching down to the sea, vineyards and olive groves. The houses are built in the neo-classical style with bright red tile roofs, reflecting the Venetian rule from 1194 to 1797.

Kefalonia is the largest of the Ionian Islands with 688 square kilometers, and a population of about 33,000. One definitely needs a car to get around and see all of the sites. It is the bucolic island of Kefalonia made center-stage in the 1994 book "*Captain Corelli's Mandolin*" by Louis de Berniere, set during the Italian and German occupation of World War II, and made famous in the subsequent 2001 movie filmed on location starring Nicolas Cage and Penélope Cruz.

The town of Argostoli is the capital and main port of the island since 1757, and is almost completely rebuilt after the catastrophic earthquake of 1953. Only 3.5 miles away from the center of town, up on a rocky hill close to 1,000 feet elevation, and offering a breathtaking view of the town and its bay, is the picturesque village of Davgata. There, the remarkable *Museum of Natural History of Cephalonia & Ithaca* is located. Arriving at the museum on an

early afternoon on a late summer day during our 2009 trip, my husband and I were the only visitors. July and August is prime time for visiting the island with the best weather for swimming and when most of the cultural events and festivals take place. However September, when we prefer to visit, is still beautiful with fewer tourists and less crowded beaches and restaurants.

The *Museum of Natural History of Cephalonia & Ithaca* has some incredible displays of rocks, minerals, sands, shells, trees and plants of the island. Among them, we saw several specimens of *Kefalonian Flint*, but at the time we did not think much about it. Later I talked with my friend Nikos Garbis- a wonderful local goldsmith, who showed me some rock specimens a German tourist had found. They were small broken off pieces that had good orange color and translucency, and our thoughts went toward Quartz or Jasper.

Flint - what the material proved to be- is a cryptocrystalline variety (very small compact crystals) of Quartz. Flint was used in ancient times for tools because the nodules would flake off easily by knapping, and for engraved seals. It usually occurs as nodules and masses, often with a rough thin white cover layer, and has a glassy or waxy appearance. My friend knew the town in the northern part of the island where the specimens were found, but not the exact location. All he said was "*it is near the sea*"!!!



After rock-hounding for a while under the hot sun near the beaches, where we only found large white pebbles, we were ready to give it up. The elusive rocks could have been anywhere!! Driving back, I looked on the right hand side of the road, away from

the beach, and there seemed to be a small outcrop of rocks among an olive grove and free-roaming goats. We stopped to give that place a try. Within minutes we started finding pieces of flint, some better than others, some encrusted with a white coating, some complete nodules. Keeping only the best specimens, there was still plenty enough for us and to share with our friends.

Later I talked with the curator of the *Museum of*

## A Greek rock becomes artistic jewelry - CONTINUED

*Natural History of Kefalonia & Ithaca*, Mrs. Niki Katsouni, who confirmed the existence of flint on the island. The flint's historical significance has also been revealed by recent archeological research on the island that has uncovered several Paleolithic finds of flint.



Back at the museum, we looked with new appreciation at all the flint specimens and photographed them. The colors of *Kefalonian Flint* range from cream to pale yellow to reds and orange, bringing to mind petrified wood. Many of our specimens are bright orange-red, some are very translucent, and some are opaque.



We were thrilled to have been able to locate this gem material. Flint is found in many places in the world, and possibly in other places in Greece, but material from the island of Kefalonia is not known to be collected today or utilized in contemporary

lapidary or in artistic jewelry. When I came back home to my studio, I carved some of those rough stones, and they became beautiful, unique gems, similar to cornelian. Then I designed and created some artistic jewelry pieces with centerpiece pendants carved in the *Kefalonian Flint*.

During my 30-year plus career in carving gems and creating unique gem sculptures and jewelry, I am always excited to use a new material, especially one that has historic roots. As with all my artwork, I want them to tell a story. This *Kefalonian Flint Jewelry Collection* tells our rockhounding story and our warm friendships with other artists on the island. It also pays homage to my paternal grandfather's island of birth, the island that I have been visiting since I was very young, and now



travel from the faraway high deserts of southern Arizona to visit.

Photo descriptions

All photos by Helen Serras-Herman

1. Kefalonian Flint assortment: We were thrilled to be able to find some good specimens of Kefalonian Flint, a rock with historic roots.
2. Kefalonian Flint carvings: I carved some of those rough stones, and they resulted into beautiful, unique gems, similar to cornelian.
- 3 - 4. Kefalonian Flint jewelry: I designed and created some artistic jewelry pieces with centerpiece pendants carved in the Kefalonian Flint
5. NHM museum displays: The museum has some incredible displays of rocks, minerals, shells, trees and plants of the island. A large specimen of Kefalonian Flint is visible on the floor.
6. HSH in Argostoli wearing Kefalonian Flint necklace: Helen Serras-Herman in Argostoli, on the island of Kefalonia, wearing one of her Kefalonian Flint necklaces.

**Helen Serras-Herman** is an award-winning gem sculptor with 30 years of experience in unique gem sculpture and jewelry art. She was inducted in the *National Lapidary Hall of Fame* in 2003. Take a look at her '*Kefalonian Flint Jewelry Collection*' at her Facebook page Gem Art Center/Helen Serras-Herman, or visit her website at [www.gemartcenter.com](http://www.gemartcenter.com).



## The First China (Changsha) Mineral and Gem Show, May 15-20, 2013.

BY: Dr. Peter Megaw

Despite Hunan Province being home to a number of Carbonate Replacement Deposits and skarns similar to those I work on in Mexico I have somehow never gotten there...or anywhere else in China for that matter. Thus it was with pleasant anticipation that Allison and I accepted the invitation of the organizers of the First China (Changsha) Mineral and Gem



Show (CMGS) to attend as their guests at what was billed as the **“Oriental Tucson Show”** and see whether it was possible to build a Tucson or Munich scale show essentially overnight. The Tucson Gem and Mineral Society naming me their official ambassador to the Changsha Show helped immensely as the Chinese bestowed full VIP status on us both. The TGMS letter of congratulations and Show Posters (2005 Minerals of China) were warmly received and the presentation was reported on Chinese national television!



Changsha lies in east central China and is the capital of Hunan Province. Considered one of China's "20 Most Economically Developed Cities," Changsha is a bustling industrial and commercial center of 7-8 million people. The area is mostly flat with a few rolling hills and the slow-moving Xiang River, tributary to the Yangtze, runs through the middle of the city and makes it a major inland port. The region is well known to movie fans because the bizarre rock pillars in the nearby Zhanjiajie Mountains were digitally modified to make the "Floating Mountains of Pandora" for the animated movie "Avatar." Vegetation is lush thanks to a warm and humid subtropical climate. We were there in early summertime and it was already in the 90s with 75% humidity, but we were told it gets a *lot* hotter and stickier later on. Hunan has a reputation for

spicy food but, for palettes attuned to Mexican cuisine, it presented few challenges. The "delicacies" like chopped turtle were another matter. All foods were



labeled in Chinese and English although the translation of some names ("bacteria chicken", "breakfast intestinal") was a trifle disturbing. Like

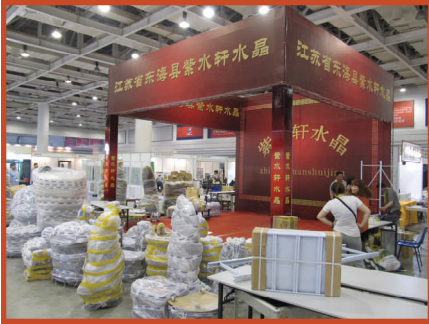
many Chinese cities, Changsha has mushroomed over the last 20 years and it does not have many historic tourist attractions as do Shanghai and Beijing. It is, however, next door to the boyhood home of Chairman Mao Zedong, which is now a museum and ritual touchstone for Chinese wishing to honor the Revolution. Other than the signage being in Chinese characters and often of mammoth proportions, the streets of Changsha are lined with modern department stores and fast food restaurants, many with familiar logos. Because of its location in a major mining area, Changsha has become a focus of the mineral industry in China, somewhat akin to Tucson, El Paso or Fallbrook.

Until recently, many mines in Hunan and neighboring provinces were operated mainly for specimens and the commercial mines were largely unmechanized so many specimens were produced locally.

Unfortunately for collectors, the commercial mines are getting increasingly mechanized and specimen mines have closed, so production has suffered. On the flip side working conditions for the miners are now much cleaner and safer.



## The First China (Changsha) Mineral and Gem Show, May 15-20, 2013. - CONTINUED



After an orientation meeting with the harried show staff and learning what our social, technical and logistical

schedule was, we were turned loose to witness the set-up of the first big mineral show in China. The organizers had put the international dealer coterie right up front and center, so on entering the first floor of the facility we were met by a lot of friendly faces well-known to TGMS members. Folks were in the middle of erecting some of the largest dealer booths ever built anywhere, surrounded by giant hanging billboards advertising "Arkenstone", "Collectors Edge" and the principal show promoter's favorite brand of "Baijiu," the ubiquitous (and very potent) Chinese white spirit distilled from rice or sorghum. The atmosphere was somewhat frantic as many dealers had not yet gotten their specimens through Customs or bits of their booths delivered by the decorators, but the mood was nonetheless upbeat. Delivery, Customs and tariff questions remained a significant headache for many of the visiting dealers throughout the show despite the organizer's attempts to streamline the processes. By the time the show was over, they clearly recognized that addressing this successfully will be critical to future visiting dealer participation.

A broad array of government and military dignitaries participated in the opening ceremonies on the steps of the Convention Center. Chinese speaking style is quite dramatic, and one speaker after another forcefully exhorted the audience to appreciate the efforts exerted by the range of agencies and individuals involved in putting on the show. The speechifying ended with music, dancing dragons, fireworks and a shower of golden confetti strips, after which the crowd was admitted to the show and the dignitaries were

given a media tour through the exhibits. The organizers made "Mineral Museums" their inaugural theme and focused on getting the show's commercial/physical aspects established, leaving education and exhibits to grow in coming years. The focus was reflected by the range of international guests including: Johannes Keilman of the Munich Show, Joel Bartsch of the Houston Museum, Peter Larson of the Black Hills Institute, Me from the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™, and Bill Larson and other representatives of the GIA and ICGA. Each of the first three days featured a forum devoted to gems, minerals or fossils, with a fair blending of Chinese and guest speakers. Talks ranged from scientific themes



to overviews of mineral shows worldwide to general collecting philosophies and strategies. The organizers also took several pages from successful shows worldwide and featured a limited but very popular series of hands-on activities for children including gold-panning, (Mexican!) geode cracking and interactions with dinosaur experts. School children visits will be incorporated next year.

The show proper ran for five days and occupied three floors of the huge facility. Jewelry, gem and lapidary dealers occupied the upper floor. There were two show-stopping diamond and jade necklaces carrying price-tags of over \$10 million each ... both sold! The color and transparency of the five jade cabochons in these necklaces was astounding, as clearly was the value of each cabochon. The main floor was devoted to mineral and fossil dealers and exhibits. Front and center were the guest



## The First China (Changsha) Mineral and Gem Show, May 15-20, 2013. - CONTINUED

dealers from outside China and dominated by U.S., European and Himalayan dealers. Chinese collectors were especially drawn to the large gold specimens on offer; especially Kristalle's large "Eagle's Nest" specimen and the "Ausrox Nugget" parked in front of Arkenstone's booth, which drew a continual crowd of admirers and photographers. The "Empress of China" rhodochrosite in the Collector's Edge booth was equally popular. Unquestionably the most commercially successful guest dealer at the show was Superb Minerals India. Their booth was filled with bathtub-sized zeolite pockets from the Deccan Traps and they sold the entire contents of their booth ... twice!

Size seems to be the attribute that drives most Chinese collectors, with one meter seeming to be the minimum target dimension. Even where aesthetics drive a



p a r t i c u l a r collector, size matters, and you see very few specimens smaller than large cabinets. Small miniatures and thumbnails were virtually absent. Contrary

to western custom and laws, the Chinese actively harvest speleothems from natural caves and several booths were filled with bizarrely shaped stalactites and stalagmites. The fact that many Chinese collectors focus on very large specimens means few collections are very portable. The proof of this was seen in the "Main Show of Excellence"...an assemblage of giant specimens that were clearly fork-lifted into place into the 80 meter square loading platform on the lower level of the facility. This exhibit reflected only part (!) of the collection of Mr. Xiao, prime mover behind the show. It included about 40 giant specimens of calcite, gypsum, aragonite, fluorite, chrysanthemum stone and quartz, ranging in size from .8 to 2.5 meters, laid out in a square pattern and individually lit. Most of these pieces were spectacular, with many resembling classic worldwide materials hit by some alien's enlarging ray.

So, did the Changsha Show live up to its aspiration to become a Tucson Show overnight? Yes and No; it is

clearly a work in progress that will doubtless be very different next year. Overall, the facility is excellent and the show looked great, but it will look even better as they add more exhibits and create more interactive attractions that will bring in a broader spectrum of attendees. Economically, it appeared that the show was successful for Chinese dealers and collectors focused on Chinese specimens and goods, especially jewelry. Guest dealers with large and relatively inexpensive materials also did very well and Munich-like dolly loads of large pieces went out the back doors with regularity. The show was much less successful for the first-time visiting dealers who not only had to grapple with unresolved Customs and Duty issues, but also had materials that are not yet drawing strong interest from the Chinese market. The logistical issues should be solvable, but until China grows a larger internal collector base it is unlikely that many of these dealers will work on selling into the Chinese market. Over time, building this internal collector base will be vital to the continuation and growth of the CMGS and the Chinese domestic mineral business in general. Once this happens, the demand for more international specimen materials should grow. Rising awareness of mineral collecting in China will doubtless bring more Chinese collectors to our show and we have already had an overture from the Chinese Viewstone Association (4 Million members!) to establish "diplomatic" relations with TGMS.

**[The above is excerpted from a longer and profusely illustrated review in an upcoming Rocks and Minerals magazine. Check that out for more details!]**



Members of the TGMS Board meeting with members of the Chinese Viewstone Association. Hosted by Allison and Peter Megaw



## 2014 TGMS SHOW - As to Exhibits



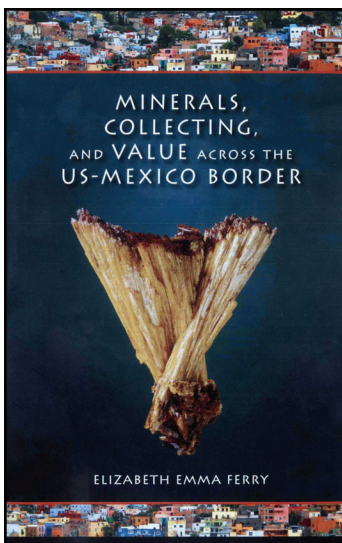
Initial reaction to our 60th Anniversary theme has been good with several diamond and gold exhibits promised so far. We even have "agents" out trying to track down the 11 year old boy who found a 5 carat diamond in Arkansas recently. Many of those who

can't bring diamonds (or don't have them) are planning on bringing some of their all-time favorites from previous exhibits. A collaborative patriotic case with a patriotic red, white and blue theme will feature Colorado rhodochrosite, the new blue halites from New Mexico and a suite of white minerals. Lots of folks are eagerly looking forward to our new exhibit cases and the new and polished look we expect those to bring to our Show.

I am often surprised at how few TGMS members exhibit, far fewer than at many of the other shows I attend. We have plenty of room, your rocks are better than you think they are, and although we're busy at Show time, if you start planning now you have plenty of time to be ready for a quick load in and out. It's also a good way to take a fresh look at your collection ... recognizing what you can live without and what you need to add to fill a hole you may not be aware of until you try to balance specimens in a case. If you can't exhibit by yourself, get to work on your collecting friends and do a group-shoot case featuring things you've found together. We have plenty of experts to help make this easy and fun!

Peter Megaw  
Special & Guest Exhibits Chair

## Minerals, Collecting and Value across the US-Mexico Border



Book Review: **Minerals, Collecting and Value across the US-Mexico Border**, by Elizabeth Emma Ferry, 235p. Indiana University Press ISBN 978-0-253-00928-9 cloth; 978-0-253-00948-7 electronic

Dr. Elizabeth Emma Ferry is an associate professor of Anthropology at Brandeis University who has studied aspects of the world of mineral specimens since 1994 ... you may well have seen or met her cruising the Tucson Shows with her pocket recorder and camera in hand. Her latest book is just out and traces many socio-cultural aspects of the mineral specimen market from production in Mexico to the Tucson Shows and other international markets. Focusing on "what makes things valuable", she uses historic and contemporary examples to trace the emergence of aesthetic and "fine" mineral collecting and the growth of our Show, which she attributes in part to our location near Mexico and its once plentiful supplies of inexpensive mineral specimens. She interviewed a lot of contemporary collectors, curators and dealers over many years at Tucson and elsewhere and you will recognize many of the individuals involved.

Definitely provides perspective on just how recent the phenomenon of high specimen valuations really is ...

This is definitely an academic publication at heart, written in the language of modern anthropology but there is a lot for everyone here. Although she uses Mexico as one end of her story, many aspects of the production end of the spectrum are equally applicable to Morocco, Africa, China and elsewhere.

**Elizabeth has offered to help with a bulk purchase of the book if TGMS members are interested. We need to buy 20 to get a 30% discount ... making the paperback around \$20 and the hardback \$45. (Not sure if we can mix them or not). Contact the TGMS Office at 520.322.5773 or tgms@tgms.org if you are interested in purchasing a copy.**

## 2014 - 60th Anniversary of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™

An excerpt from the Society's secretarial records for the year 1955 contained the following account, under the heading;

*"1955 Tucson Gem and Mineral First Show."*

*"At a meeting of the Board of Directors on March 10 at the home of Dan Caudle, the possibility of putting on a mineral show was discussed. Mr. Robert Roots, a dealer from Denver, and Mr. Ray Parent, a local dealer, entered into the discussion. The Helen Keeling School, at 435 East Glenn, had been offered free, and after much talk, it was decided to have the show. Mr. Dan Caudle and Mr. Clayton Gibson started to round up display cases; posters were printed and ready to be distributed on Saturday, March 12. Mrs. Betty Caudle arranged for several TV spots, one on "Visiting with Virginia" at KOPO on Tuesday March 15; Mrs. Therese Murchison, Mrs. Lena C. Marvin appeared on the program and exhibited some mineral specimens. Mrs. W. I. Rutledge and Sally were on TV at another time, and the Caudle twins, Kenneth and Ann, distributed Apache Tears at a children's program. Cards were sent to all members, visitors, and some former members, so there was good publicity.*

*At 4 p.m. on Friday, March 18, some of us went to the school to begin getting it ready. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Motel and Mr. Roots were there with their dealer displays and helped rustle chairs out of the way. We worked most of the evening too, and Dan and Clayton slept there each night to guard the specimens. We started in again at 8 o'clock the next morning, as more displays arrived and the dealers arranged their space. All available space was taken, and \$124 paid for it. People began coming to the show before opening time and 10 a.m. and continued to come all day. On Sunday they just flocked in until it was difficult to get near the cases. The dealers sold quite a lot; the only ones not doing well were the dealers in slabs and agates.*

*Our former secretary, Mrs. Marian Harris, came over from Deming, N. Mex., with an exhibit and a dealer from there took 20 feet of space. Ribbons were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for exhibits; a ribbon was also awarded for honorable mention. The PTA of the school served lunches and made about \$75; it was very good food. Mrs. Irene Barber and Mrs. Marian Smith mimeographed the sheets that showed the rules governing exhibits, and Mrs. Barber also got space in the papers and took care of the money.*

*We hope that for another show we can make cases, so that they will all be uniform; as it was, we were grateful to everyone who loaned us cases. Mr. Harold Ruppert was able to borrow a truck to transport them to the school and return them after the show. All members helped, during the hours the show was open, with registration and various things. Several door prizes were given. We felt that the show was a great success for our first effort."*

The dates for the first Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™ were March 19 - 20, 1955 and **NO** admission was charged. The records continue to say that "Mrs. Irene Barber, treasurer, gave a report at the April 5 meeting of the Society on the financial outcome of the show. Her report was to the effect that \$63.25 remained after all the bills were paid."

We are happy to say that this is the type of report that continues to be given to the membership from our Show Treasurers, "after all the bills have been paid, this amount \_\_\_\_\_ still remains."

We have a lot of people who have been members of the Society for a number of years and who have attended/worked at numerous TGMS Shows.

If you could take the time, we would greatly appreciate it if you would relay one of your favorite moments from attending the Show. Send your stories, and pictures, if you have them, to, tgms@tgms.org or TGMS, P.O. Box 42588, Tucson, Arizona 85733.

## 2013 - 2014 SHOW DATES

### August 2013-September 2013

31-2—SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO: 30th Annual Gem & Mineral Show; Grant County Rolling Stones; Business & Conference Center; 3031 US Hwy. 180 E; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5, Mon. 10-4; free admission; daily field trips, local geology and mining history trips, mineral displays; contact Lee Stockman, 16 McKinley St., Silver City, NM 88061; e-mail: [rollingstonesgmsshow@gmail.com](mailto:rollingstonesgmsshow@gmail.com); Web site: [rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com](http://rollingstonesgms.blogspot.com)

### September 2013

7-15—DENVER, COLORADO: Wholesale and retail show; Eons Expos LLLP; Denver Coliseum; 4600 Humboldt St.; Daily 9-6; free admission; 80 dealer tents outside, two floors of dealers inside, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads; contact Christine Coyle-Perner, 38 Fox Ridge Rd., Sparta, NJ 07871, (516) 818-1228; e-mail: [christine@eonsexpos.com](mailto:christine@eonsexpos.com); Web site: [www.coliseumshow.com](http://www.coliseumshow.com)

7-15—DENVER, COLORADO: 9th Annual Miner's Co-Op show; Miner's Co-Op; Denver Coliseum parking lot; 4600 Humboldt St., tent located in parking lot behind the Denver Coliseum; Daily 9-6; free admission; minerals, fossils, rock art, gemstones, retail and wholesale; contact Jack Crawford, (719) 375-2579 or (719) 221-5876; e-mail: [jamsrocks@wilblue.net](mailto:jamsrocks@wilblue.net)

11-15—DENVER, COLORADO: Wholesale and retail show; Martin Zinn Expositions LLC; Ramada Plaza Denver Central; 4849 Bannock St.; Daily 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; 200 dealers, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, beads, lapidary, metaphysical supplies, decorator items; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: [mzexpos@gmail.com](mailto:mzexpos@gmail.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

12-15—DENVER, COLORADO: Wholesale and retail show; The Bead Renaissance Shows; Denver Merchandise Mart; 451 E. 58th Ave.; Thu. 10-6, Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; dealers, vintage, silver and gold findings, semiprecious and precious stones, crystal and lamp work beads, designer beads and jewelry; contact Joan Johnson, PO Box 420, Williamsburg, NM 87942, (575) 894-1293; e-mail: [beadshow@aol.com](mailto:beadshow@aol.com); Web site: [www.beadshow.com](http://www.beadshow.com)

13-15—DENVER, COLORADO: Annual show; Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council; Denver Merchandise Mart; 451 E. 58th Ave., I-25, Exit 215; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and students \$4, children free with adult; Tourmaline theme, Colorado Fossil Expo, dealers, speakers, demonstrations, shuttle to satellite shows, free gem and mineral identification, Mr. Bones, kids' activities, gold panning; contact Larry Havens, Greater Denver Area Gem & Mineral Council, c/o Denver Museum of Nature & Science, Box 4, 2001 Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80205-5798, (303) 233-2516; e-mail: [info@denvermineralshow.com](mailto:info@denvermineralshow.com); Web site: [www.denvermineralshow.com](http://www.denvermineralshow.com)

13-15—DENVER, COLORADO: Annual show; Martin Zinn Expositions LLC; Denver Mart Plaza; 451 E. 58th Ave.; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; adults \$6, seniors and students \$4, children free; 50 dealers, fossils, amber, petrified wood, meteorites, large fossil displays; contact Regina Aumente, PO Box 665, Bernalillo, NM 87004, (505) 867-0425; e-mail: [mzexpos@gmail.com](mailto:mzexpos@gmail.com); Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)

### October 2013

4-6—ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO: Annual show; Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club; NM St. Fairgrounds, Creative Arts Center; 300 San Pedro NE; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-5; free admission; 65 dealers, gems, minerals, fossils, meteorites, jewelry, cut stones, crystals, books, equipment, tools; contact Amy Penn, 2324 Alvarado Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, (505) 883-4195; e-mail: [ampenn246@gmail.com](mailto:ampenn246@gmail.com); Web site: [www.agmc.info](http://www.agmc.info)

6—FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society; FGMS Bldg.; 123 W. Alvarado St.; Sun. 10-4; free admission; gemstone identification, gold panning, geode cracking, Wheel of Fortune, silent auction, special exhibits, raffle, street fair, society museum and gift shop; contact Angela Hicks, (760) 728-1130; e-mail: [fgms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fgms@sbcglobal.net); Web site: [www.fgms.org](http://www.fgms.org)

11-13—BIG SUR, CALIFORNIA: Annual show; South Coast Community Land Trust; Pacific Valley School; 69325 Hwy. 1, Los Padres National Forest, between Monterey and Cambria; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; free admission; jade collecting; contact Kirk Brock, PO Box 1349, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, (831) 659-3857; e-mail: [jademant1@hotmail.com](mailto:jademant1@hotmail.com); Web site: [www.bigsurjadefestival.com](http://www.bigsurjadefestival.com)

11-13—MOAB, UTAH: Annual show; Moab Rock Club; Old Spanish Trail Arena; 3641 S. Hwy. 191; Fri. 10-7, Fri. 10-7, Sun. 10-4; free admission; dealers, demonstrations, displays, spin table, field trips, photo exhibit; contact Jerry Hansen, PO Box 1459, Moab, UT 84532, (435) 259-3393; e-mail: [moabrockclub@live.com](mailto:moabrockclub@live.com)

12-13—SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA: 39th Annual Show; Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club; Cochise College; 901 N. Colombo Ave.; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; free admission; raffle, silent auction, gems, jewelry, lapidary supplies, fluorescent display, geode cutting; contact Maudie Bailey, 5036 S. San Carlos Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ 85650, (520) 249-1541; e-mail: [gmbailey@msn.com](mailto:gmbailey@msn.com); Web site: [huachucaminerallandgemclub.info](http://huachucaminerallandgemclub.info)

19-20—SEDONA, ARIZONA: Annual show; Sedona Gem & Mineral Club; Sedona Red Rock High School; 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Rd.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$3, children (under 12) free; more than 40 dealers, rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, beads, jewelry, Kids' Corner, displays, demonstrations, hourly raffle, grand prizes; contact Gayle Macklin, PO Box 21222, Sedona, AZ 86341, (520) 921-0100; e-mail: [gayleis@gmail.com](mailto:gayleis@gmail.com); Web site: [www.sedonagemandmineral.org](http://www.sedonagemandmineral.org)

### November 2013

1-3—BLACK CANYON CITY, ARIZONA: 37th Annual Rock-a-Rama; High Desert Helpers; High Desert Park; 19001 E. Jacie Ln.; Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-2; free admission; outdoor show, door prizes, dealers, demonstrators, minerals, gemstones, jewelry, fossils, crystals, tools, equipment, books, lapidary supplies, gold panning, beading, wire-wrapping, faceting, stone carving, gem setting, raffle, rock I.D.; contact Sue Coordinator, PO Box 212, Black Canyon City, AZ 85324-0212, (602) 471-0173; e-mail: [riverdiva@gmail.com](mailto:riverdiva@gmail.com); Web site: [www.highdeserthelpers.org](http://www.highdeserthelpers.org)

## TGMS EVENT CALENDAR

TGMS General Meetings are open to the general public. All other meetings/events are for TGMS Members only.

TGMS Calendar				September 2013		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2  Holiday Labor Day!	3 TGMS Educational Class 7:00 p.m.	4	5	6	7
8	9 TGMS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 TGMS Micromount Meeting 7:30 p.m.	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 TGMS Show Cmte. Meeting 6:30 p.m.	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Unless otherwise stated ... all meetings are held at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society facility.  
Located at: 3727 E. Blackledge, Tucson, Arizona 85716

# ROCK TALK

**FROM:**

T.G.M.S.  
P.O. BOX 42588  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85733



**TO:**

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

**P.O. Box 42588  
Tucson, Arizona 85733**

**Phone: 520.322.5773  
Fax: 520.322.6031  
E-mail: [tgms@tgms.org](mailto:tgms@tgms.org)**

We're on the web  
[www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)

**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 February (on Monday, week of the Show), June-August (potlucks), and September (second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday). 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), International Federation of Micromount Societies (IFMS), Metropolitan Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau (MTCVB), Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (TMCC).