

ROCK TALK

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2019 - 2010 Officers & Directors

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**EXPLORE
DISCOVER
SHARE**

TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

EXPLORE DISCOVER SHARE



I hope everyone had a safe, pleasant and enjoyable summer. The Rocky Mountain Federation convention was hosted by the Prescott Gem and Mineral Club during their annual show in Prescott Valley the first weekend in August. This may be the second largest indoor show in Arizona with 60 dealers and attendance of over 5000 people. It is a nice time of the year to be in this part of the state with rain usually happening or at least clouding up to make the days more pleasant. We managed to attract nine competitive exhibits, almost double what they had at last year's conference.

I first joined the TGMS in the fall of 1970 when I started at the University of Arizona. But, my history with this organization started in 1964 when I attended my first Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. What's interesting is at the time the Maricopa Lapidary Show in Phoenix was the larger show. By 1965 I knew to save all of my mineral money for the Tucson Show. So, it is with a great sense of history and respect that I am grateful to now be your President.

The TGMS is a great organization with a long and proud history. We are on the cusp of our 75th year and we should celebrate this milestone. The Board will be discussing how we plan to celebrate this momentous event. Look for more news about this in the near future.

Mike Hollonbeck started to engage the membership in community outreach to further expand the mission and presence of the Society in Tucson. In addition to providing speakers to schools, there are certainly more opportunities to utilize our members and their vast experiences to engage and entertain and hopefully entice this next generation of potential collectors. There will be many of these opportunities as the new school year starts. I encourage all of you to consider being part of this effort. It is truly rewarding to experience the excitement of the children as you dazzle them with the marvels of Mother Nature. If it is a case of needing some training that is holding some of you back, maybe we can do a workshop on how to do one of these presentations so you can become familiar with the materials and the criteria. Let us know if this is something you would like to do.

Let's talk about volunteering; the Show Committee is the only functioning committee of the Society and they do a tremendous job. For example, the By-laws contemplates committees for budget/finance, membership and even hospitality. An organization like ours is only as strong as the membership is willing to support the organization. And, I do not mean just by paying your dues on time. We have a monthly attendance of 150 or more members, yet we have difficulty filling the few committees and other requests to get involved. To this end, the Board has started a goal setting process for this next year and already the theme of engaging the membership has been discussed. We will be asking you, the membership, through a survey to tell us what direction you would like to see the Society go.

See you at the September meeting and maybe even at the Denver Show.

Les Presmyk
President



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TGMS General Meeting - May 6, 2019

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Michael Hollonbeck at 7:04 p.m. Visitors and new members were recognized and welcomed to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Books for sale, "The 100 – A Practical Guide to Mineral Collecting in Today's World" for \$15.00 each. Proceeds go to the TGMS Library Fund.

TGMS members have completed three school visits since the last meeting: Kindergarten, second grade, and participated in an "Earth Day Carnival" at Robins K-8 School. Volunteers showed shark teeth and fluorescent minerals to the students. Books and mineral samples were given to them.

PROGRAM: Mike Hollonbeck introduced Les Presmyk. Les has been an active member and leader of various mineral and mining entities. He has collected in Arizona, Missouri and Mexico and provided mining engineering expertise in Mexico, Missouri and Arizona. Les has written several articles and co-authored the recently published "Collecting Arizona".

Les lead us on a historical tour with pictures of mines and minerals from the Pioneer Mining District in Pinal County, Arizona. He began with The Silver King outcrop that was originally discovered in 1872 by civil war soldiers. Eventually a mine shaft was sunk, and a community and mill were built. The mine was profitable for only seven or eight years and by 1890 the town was abandoned. In 1874 a shaft was sunk in the Silver Queen Claim but at 300 feet deep the silver mineralization turned to copper. At this time, the high-grade copper ore was not economic. It was not until 1910 when Boyce Thompson bought the property, renamed it the Magma Mine, that development was started again. By 1915, a mill, railroad and two more shafts were built. The Magma Mine produced copper, gold and silver through 1984 and then again from 1988 until the mine closed in 1994. In the early 2000s, a deep, mineralized porphyry was discovered and is estimated to contain one billion tons of ore averaging between 1.5% and 2% copper. So far, Rio Tinto, in partnership with BHP, has spent hundreds of millions of dollars developing the property. The future looks bright, once again, for this historic mining district.

BREAK: Thanks to Melanie Elam for providing refreshments.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approval of minutes for General Meetings for March 4, 2019 and April 1, 2019 as published in Rock Talk:

MOTION: To approve the minutes. Seconded and approved.

Approval of By-law change: **MOTION:** To approve the proposed change in By-law Section XI - Election of Officers, sub section b, as published in the May - June 2019 issue of *Rock Talk*. Seconded and approved. The term of office for Board members was changed from no more than two to no more than four consecutive years, except for the Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Recording Secretary who may serve indefinitely upon reelection.

Field trips: Kerry Towe has planned a field trip to Cal Portland Cement Quarry on Saturday, May 11, 2019 to collect fossils, fluorites and calcites. Safety gear is required. Trips to New Mexico's Blanchard Mine and the Silverbell Mine are being planned for the fall.

Educational Class: Streak and Hardness and Species Sphalerite on Wednesday, May 8th from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Micromount meeting: Monday, May 13th at 7:00.

Community Outreach: Presentations at the Children's Museum (downtown) are scheduled for June 17th and July 29th. Volunteers are needed.

Summer Potlucks: The June potluck will be hosted by Doug Reif, and the August potluck will be hosted by Karen Wenrich. A volunteer host is needed for July.

TGMS General Meeting - May 6, 2019 CONTINUED

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations and voting for officers: The Nominating Committee reported on nominees for offices: Les Presmyk for President, Michael Hollonbeck for Vice President, Ellen Alexander for Treasurer, Linda Ross for Recording Secretary, Diane Braswell for Membership Secretary, and Marilyn Reynolds, Bill Shelton and Mark Candee for Directors. Additional nominees were not brought forward : **MOTION:** To approve the ballot as presented. Seconded and approved

Approval of the 2019 – 2020 TGMS Budget: **MOTION:** To approve the budget. Seconded and approved.

Recognition of 2018-2019 Board Members. Certificates of Appreciation were given to Les Presmyk, Vice President; Ellen Alexander, Treasurer; Diane Braswell, Membership Secretary; Linda Ross, Recording Secretary; Marilyn Reynolds, Director; Mark Candee, Director; Bill Shelton, Director; Mark Marikos, Past President; and Mike Hollonbeck, President.

DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES: Melanie Elam, as meeting host, made the first selection. Winners were Denis Menard, Diana Mueller, Paula Sherrick, Zoe Zeszut, Alrene Hibben, Wayne Klement, Wolfgang Mueller, Louis Pill, John Ebner, Larry Maney, Bruce Kaufman and Peter Megaw.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ross
Recording Secretary



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In Memorium



Dr. William R. "Bill" Hodgson, a long-time TGMS member and friend, passed away on August 9, 2019.

He served on the Board as President, Vice President and Director, as well as on the Show Committee as Ex. Hall Information Booth Co-Chair. He loved traveling, camping and would go to almost any length to get to that "special" collecting site.

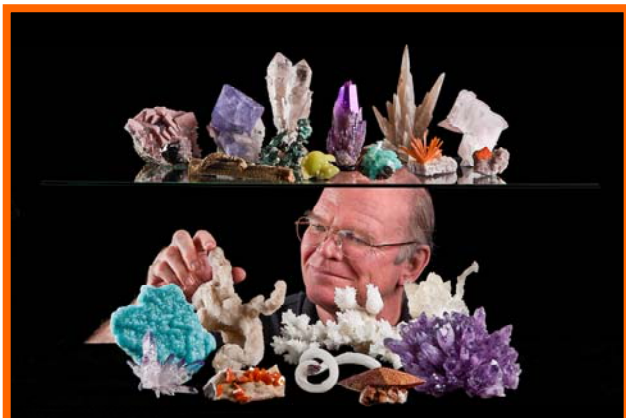
We are all going to miss him!

If you would like to leave a message to his family, please use this link: [https://](https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tucson-az/william-hodgson-8818255)

www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tucson-az/william-hodgson-8818255



WORLD CLASS MINERALS - by Peter Megaw



We are very excited about our Theme for the 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show ®: "World Class Minerals"... and we're expecting it to bring an outpouring of top-quality specimens from all over the world. However, we are getting a lot of questions about what World Class means, so here's a bit of an explanation. Before touching on all the *physical* aspects of World Class mineral collecting, we need to acknowledge the World Class Mineral Community to which we belong, composed of people passionately interested in minerals and sharing their knowledge, time and specimens with others. The TGMS Show relies on this community to annually volunteer their precious pieces to help us assemble a World Class Mineral Museum that exists for a mere four days and

then vanishes, never to be seen in that form again. We try to pick themes that will stimulate exhibitors to use their imagination to determine how to play to the strength of their collections and hope that this freedom encourages them to have fun in deciding what they have to show off that fits the theme. Experience shows that our attendees appreciate the process...or at least the results. So, keep in mind this means that to a significant extent what is World Class is up to you because there is no single, unique yardstick for World Class...although like fine art most of us "know it when we see it"... and are often willing to discuss it endlessly. **Show us...and the world...your best!!!**



Merriam Webster defines World Class as "being of the highest caliber," which sounds simple...but who makes the call and based on what? Mineral specimens are different from most other collectibles such as stamps, coins, comic books and baseball cards where the ideal is a known physical paradigm that each other example can be compared to. However, like fine art, each mineral specimen is unique, and appreciation is subjective on many levels; most mineral collectors use their experience and aesthetic sense to weigh their personal reactions to a Kongsberg silver versus an agate slice much as an art aficionado does with a Rembrandt versus a street-fair offering. What matters is what resonates with the individual, not what we think will resonate with an expert or group of experts. There may be consensus on

what is aesthetic at a given time, but tastes change ... Renoir, Van Gogh and Picasso were not appreciated in their day ... so show us what you think is the best and let fashion catch up when/if it does.

To many, World Class conjures up visions of highly valuable giant colorful gem or oxide crystals, **and we wholeheartedly welcome exhibits of these!** But it can also encompass a suite of specimens from a World Class locality like Tsumeb, Ojuela, Broken Hill or Franklin or superb wulfenites, sulfides, fluorites, quartz etc., from a single remarkable pocket or mine, or a range of localities. It can be a collection of nicely matched Thumbnails or Miniatures ... or Micros (remember, many mineral species never get more than a few millimeters long, so the world's best may need a microscope for proper appreciation). The best specimens from a famous by-



WORLD CLASS MINERALS - by Peter Megaw ... CONTINUED



gone collector or author would clearly rate, as would the best specimens from *your* collection...after all they are the best in *your* world. In the final analysis it is YOUR perception that matters... specimen value, or species popularity need not (many might argue should not) be your guiding criteria!

Another avenue we want exhibitors to explore is how perceptions of what is World Class have evolved over time. Tastes change and many of the spectacular specimens available today, collected and prepared with exquisite care, reflect efforts to meet the demand from increasingly sophisticated collectors. This ties nicely into our celebrating the 50th Anniversary of The Mineralogical Record! Founded during the TGMS Show back in 1970, The Mineralogical Record (MR) has both documented the evolution of mineral appreciation and led the way by expanding awareness of what is out there and just how good, good can get (an integral aspect of World Class). The MR has spearheaded focus on appreciating the artistic aesthetics of mineral specimens; something that has more and more influence on TGMS exhibits and personal collections

every year. The MR also strives to present the historical, cultural and geological context of the spectacular minerals in their features, enhancing our understanding of where the specimens come from and how they get to us. The MR's modest subscription price is within reach of almost all collectors and provides exposure to the best of what exists, regardless of whether or not we personally can possess it. Simultaneously the MR has raised the bar for mineral publications across the world and has led us to today's well written and profusely illustrated journals including *Rocks and Minerals*, *Mineral Monographs*, *Mineral Up*, *Lapis*, *Mineralien Welt*, *Monde et Mineraux*, *Le Regne Mineral*, *Bocamina*, *Mineral Lover* and *Mineral Observer*. Combined, these let all of us build World Class libraries of mineral literature of a quality that simply did not exist before The Mineralogical Record came along!



Peter Megaw
Special & Guest Exhibits Chair

Treasurer's Report

UPDATE: Per the TGMS By-laws, the internal examination of the Treasurer's books for tax year 2018-2019 was performed on August 1, 2019 by Kent Stauffer, Janette Simister and Bruce Kaufman and they were found to be in good order. The records were turned over to our CPA and our tax forms have been completed. Once signed by the TGMS President, all will be filed.

Thank you all for helping to complete this task and keeping us on course for maintaining our non-profit status.

TGMS Board Meeting - March 20, 2019

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 (absent)

Audience: Christine Marikos, Richard Nassi

Call to Order: The Board Meeting was called to order by President Michael Hollonbeck at 6:03 pm in the TGMS meeting room.

Call for Orders of the Day: No changes were made to the agenda.

Minutes Approval: MOTION: To accept the September 26, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes as corrected. Seconded and approved.

President's Remarks: President Michael Hollonbeck thanked the Board Members for a successful Show. He noted that there was positive feedback from the dealers in the Grand Ballroom. The Show Committee is working on 2020 Show plans. Invoices from the Tucson Convention Center, Tucson Police Department and Arizona Cine are still being received and reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ellen Alexander reported on current income and expenses.

Old Business:

TGMS Facility - Building Information: The parking lot has been paved and striped, the old curb has been removed, and more stops will be added to the back of the lot. The roof has been resealed. Weed control has been ongoing; however, professionals will be needed to eliminate the weeds. The upstairs is being rearranged and organized. Computers have been updated and a lap top computer needs to be replaced. Discussed obtaining bids for painting the Club's building exterior.

Community Outreach Programs – Updates: Six schools have requested visits. The Club will present an overview of micro-mounting, fluorescent minerals, and how minerals are used in everyday life. At the next General Meeting, members will be called upon to volunteer.

New Business:

TGMS Society Budget for 2019-2020: The Board reviewed the proposed 2019-20 Fiscal Year Detailed Society Budget Draft. Adjustments were made based on the current status of the 2018 -19 Budget, increased membership and discussions on contributions to non-profit organizations. **MOTION:** To approve the budget with revisions to add a line item for a \$500 gift to the University of Arizona Mineral Department of Geoscience Mineralogical Research. The current \$500 donation to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

TGMS Board Meeting - March 20, 2019 ... CONTINUED

Geology Department will be continued, but now, both entities are to give TGMS public recognition for the donations. Seconded and approved, with two members opposing.

TGMS Employee Handbook Changes: The Board discussed that the current discretionary time of three days as stated in the Employee Handbook may be insufficient to compensate employees for the additional work load before, during and after the Show. Employees have a limited time to use those three days. **MOTION:** Change the discretionary time (in the Employee Handbook) from three days to up to five days to be taken by the end of the current calendar year with Board approval. Seconded and approved.

TGMS Bylaws Terms of Office: The Board discussed the limitations of a two-year time limit to hold an elected office. The first year is a learning curve making it difficult for an elected officer to initiate and establish programs and procedures. **MOTION:** Change the *Bylaws Section IX – Election of Officers, Sub Section B*, to read that no officer may hold any one office for more than four consecutive years with the exception of the Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Recording Secretary who may hold office indefinitely unless sooner defeated for reelection. Officers would be elected annually as stated in *Subsection A*. Seconded and approved, with two members abstaining, and two members opposing.

After the motion was approved, a member indicated that the Bylaws (*Section XIII – Amendments*) state that Amendments or changes must be proposed in writing, published to the membership and brought to a vote at a regular meeting where a majority of members must vote yea or nay. The member also stated that the current Vice President was planning on being ready to lead the group as President at the end of his term as Vice President. The Board re-voted, with the same results.

Call to the Audience: Audience did not have any comments. Executive Manager wants to request the membership be encouraged to share pictures (to be scanned and returned to the member) to be placed in the U of A Gem and Mineral Museum's case documenting the history of the Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda Ross
Recording Secretary



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SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

September 28, 2019: Field trip to the Blanchard Mine near Socorro, NM.

For most people this will need to be an overnight trip. There is no limit on the number of people to sign up. Four wheel drive vehicles are necessary to reach the collecting site. Folks who are driving two wheel drive vehicles, meet at the staging area to hitch a ride with those with a four wheel drive.

Minerals to be collected are: Fluorite, Brochantite, Linarite, Smithsonite, Galena, Cuprite, Selenite, Quartz and Wulfenite.

More information and sign-up sheets will be available at the September 9, 2019 TGMS General Meeting.

Competition for the 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®

It seems like we just finished the 2019 Show and the 2020 Show is five months away. As your Competitive Exhibits and Judging Chairman I am always looking for more competitive exhibitors. I know it can be daunting to consider exhibiting and on top of that, having your case judged. However, as someone who has been doing this for 57 years, I find it rewarding to have a group of knowledgeable judges provide an independent assessment of my specimens.



Okay, it is fun to win a blue ribbon and maybe even one of the trophies. There are many different categories you can enter from size specific like thumbnails or miniatures to a single species or locality and even a case of self-collected specimens. If you do not wish to do an entire case, there is also the Best of Theme where you can enter a single specimen or several, if you have more than one size you would like to enter.

In the past, Pat McClain and I have discussed holding an exhibitors' seminar at the clubhouse. If this is something members would like, please contact me at Presmyk@cox.net and Pat at tgms@tgms.org and we will set something up. We can talk about how to construct the liners and risers, the judging process and anything else you may be curious about.



For the past ten or more years, Dr. Rob Lavinsky (owner of The Arkenstone) has provided prize money for all of our junior age exhibitors. Just for entering an exhibit, a junior gets \$100 cash. The second highest scoring junior age case gets another \$200 and the highest scoring case gets another \$400. He does this to honor the mentors he had as a young collector and to hopefully encourage young collectors to compete.

Over the past 35 years there have been three distinct groups of junior exhibitors at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®. Many were

the sons and daughters of Society members or from the Mineralogical Society of Arizona and Flagg Foundation In Phoenix, but certainly not all. Many began their competitive careers even before Dr. Lavinsky provided his awards but his generosity has certainly encouraged a number of young collectors over the past decade. Most started exhibiting by the time they were 12 years of age, with a few as young as 9 or 10 and were very active until they started off to college. A few, like me, have used their hobby interests and turned them into college majors in the earth sciences, including geology and mining engineering.

We are now seeing what I hope will be the fourth generation of junior exhibitors but the Show needs your help. We need to always be looking for youngsters who show an interest in our hobby. For example, at the Prescott Show I met one young man who at the age of 10 has already been designing and crafting jewelry and just this year fashioned his first cabochon. Another young lady exhibited her first cabochon and the piece of rough agate she collected in South Dakota. The granddaughter of a retired mining engineer hopefully will be exhibiting at the 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® since she happens to live in Tucson. She has received a number of specimens from her grandfather.

With our upcoming Family Day we have another opportunity to encourage new collectors, young and old, to take up our fabulous hobby. There is no better group to engage and excite non-collectors than us. With any luck we will get new members and maybe even a few new exhibitors, whether they want to start as guest exhibitors or competitive. I hope to see your exhibit at our 2020 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show®.

Les Presmyk
Competitive Exhibits Chair



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Potlucks, Rock Swaps and Community Outreach Some of the things that we did this summer!

June Potluck hosted by
Doug & Deborah Reif



July Rock Swap hosted by
Tim & Pat McClain



August Potluck
hosted by
Karen Wenrich
& Jan Rasmussen



A group of us went to
the Children's
Museum in June & July



Volunteers:

- Tim McClain
- Kent Stauffer
- Mike Hollonbeck
- Marilyn Reynolds
- Diane Braswell
- Linda Stauffer
- Kathy Heitzman
- Victoria Fila
- Pat McClain

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

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

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

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show ®:

The second full weekend in February, starting with Thursday.

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

ROCK TALK Editor: P. R. McClain

ROCK TALK Assistant Editor: R. Marques

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