

# ROCK TALK

May - June 2011  
Volume 5, Issue 5

Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.  
PO Box, 42588, Tucson, Arizona 85733  
Ph: 520-322-5773  
Fax: 520-322-6031  
E-mail: [tgms@tgms.org](mailto:tgms@tgms.org)  
Website: [www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)

## President's Page

A year has passed since you, with your vote of confidence, allowed me to serve as your President. It has been an interesting time that has been eye-opening in many respects. I have, with the advice and assistance of an involved Board of Directors and an extremely competent Office Staff, tried to serve the needs of our Society to the best of my ability.

To recap some of the year's events:

I want to thank the individuals that donated their time and opened their homes for our potlucks during the heat of June and July. We so appreciate this respite from the heat and a chance to visit with our friends and fellow rock hounds during a time when everything else, pretty much, shuts down. Also I have to mention here the loss of our Rock Hound Extraordinaire, Harrison Yocum. He always enjoyed his potlucks so much and he is sorely missed.

In August we are always invited to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum for a potluck as well as a peek into their vaults where we get to see what others can only wish for but rarely have an opportunity to experience. Then in January we have the "Mineral Madness" to which we have a preview and the opportunity to buy wonderful specimens before the general public gets invited. Our members always look forward to this chance to get the best for less. Thank you Penny, Jack and Anna for making these events possible.

For the whole year of meetings I want to express my sincere appreciation to the volunteers that prepared the refreshments for our breaks; John Callahan, Bob and Jeannette Barnes, Carole Lee, Jo Anne Sam and Wayne Klement. Also, a word of thanks to Pat and Rose from the office that are always on hand to help out with the set up and the preparation of coffee and lemonade. Then, I must not forget the guys and gals that come early and stay late to help with the set up and tear down of the tables and chairs in the meeting room. That is such a job and it just could not be done without your help.

Jo Anne Sam does a wonderful job coordinating the December Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Art and Craft Sale and, because of her skills, it turns into a positive experience for everyone, buyers and sellers. Of course, our Christmas Party could not happen without the attention and time that Carol and Sue put into it. Thank you so much ladies for making this such a memorable and special event.

There is also an event that many of you do not visit or maybe even know about, but it is so important to our Society's mission of Junior Education and awarding excellence. It is the SARSEF which is the city wide Science Fair. We award several prizes to children of all ages who participate in the Earth Sciences division. It is a wonderful experience to see kids recognized for positive achievements rather than negative. It is a real pleasure to meet these kids and their parents and give them their prizes. I would encourage anyone that has a bit of time to attend this event and get involved. Our thanks for coordinating the TGMS judging and awards goes to Anna Domitrovic. Huge undertaking.



Last but never least, our wonderful Show. This is what we work all year for and the result is an absolute phenomenon. That volunteers can come together and put on the biggest Gem and Mineral Show in the world is just mind bending. But we do, with your help to supply the manpower, Pat, Rose and Carolyne working together with the Show Committee all year to coordinate people, contracts and space, and the tremendous effort that goes on behind the scenes to provide world class mineral specimens (thank you, Peter) and a special theme every year. What an opportunity to be a part of such a committed group.

I have probably gone on far too long but these were things that I felt needed to be said and people that needed to be recognized. We have a great year ahead with a very special Show to put forth. I will look forward to working with all of you and making it the best it can be for our Society. Thank you all for your support and patience this past year.

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

President: Diane Braswell, ph. 520.574.1942  
Vice President: Peter Megaw, ph. 520.529.2231  
Recording Secty.: Marilyn Reynolds, ph. 520.296.0688  
Treasurer: Ellen Alexander, ph. 520.743.9383  
Membership Secty.: Alrene Hibben, ph. 520.529.6502  
Director: Bill Hodgson, ph. 520.575.0731  
Director: Carol Johnston, ph. 520.293.5871  
Director: Ed Schaffer, ph. 888.474.5509  
Past President: Gene Schlepp, ph. 520.325.4534  
Field Trip Chairman: Tom Corson, ph. 520.225.0244  
Librarians: Robert & Elaine Royer

*Encouraging interest and  
study in geology, mineralogy,  
lapidary and allied earth  
sciences.*



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## GENERAL MEETING March 7, 2011

General Meeting, 3.7.11 ... CONTINUED

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

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Diane Braswell expressed heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work on a wonderful Show. The 2011 Show was a very successful event due to the efforts of members and dealers. Dr. Robert Downs reported that \$400,000 was raised at the Show for the Arizona Mineral Museum. Over \$1 million has now been raised toward the \$3 million endowment goal.

Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments for the April and May meetings. The club reimburses up to \$75.00 for this expense.

### PROGRAM:

Dr. Marcus Origlieri, an expert mineralogist at the University of Arizona and owner of the mineral business Mineral Zone, spoke on "A Mineralogical Surprise" which was an entertaining and educational story of his trip to Burma in 2002. He passed around the piece of jadeite he purchased for 100,000 kyat or approximately \$80.00 which started his collection of Burmese minerals. Imperial jade and rubies from Burma are some of the best in the world and the most expensive. Jadeite and nephrite are forms of jade. Imperial jade contains chromium and it occurs as spots in the normal white jadeite. The jade market is in Mandalay where the jade is cut and polished by hand. Mogok is the land of rubies where men do the mining and women do the selling in the gem market.

### BREAK:

Refreshments were provided by Jeannette and Bob Barnes who generously volunteered again. There were finger foods and ice cream bars which were a real hit. Thanks Bob and Jeannette!

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**MOTION:** To approve the January 3, 2011 and February 7, 2011 General Meeting minutes as published in Rock Talk. Seconded and approved.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Tom Corson reported on field trips and reminded members to come early to sign up for the trips at meetings. If a trip has no fee, members can sign up by calling or emailing the office.

Brazil trip plans are complete for June 11-26, 2011. Sign up through the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Silver Bell Mine trip is full with a waiting list.

The contact for the proposed Utah trip was unsatisfactory so the trip will not occur unless other arrangements can be made.

Ray Grant will lead the trip to the Wickenburg area to visit the Purple Passion and Midnight Owl Mines on April 2-3, 2011.

Bill Shelton's class on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 p.m. will be on "Categories of Minerals."

Discussion was held regarding ways to publicize the Society and to get the club involved in the community, i.e.: after school clubs or sponsoring youth sports teams. We want the public to be aware of the Society and that the Show is put on by a club. Please give any ideas to the Board.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Tim Hicks announced that he is moving so is selling lapidary supplies and equipment as well as his gem lab. He passed out business cards to members expressing interest.

The By-Laws are complete, but were not published in time for voting on at this meeting. They will go out to members shortly for review and will be voted on at the April 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Helen Serras-Herman will have open studio tours April 2-3, 2011. There will be a special tour for TGMS and OPLC members on Friday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For directions to the studio call 520-761-9907 or email helen@gemartcenter.com. Also see her Bachhus gem sculpture at the Tubac Center of the Arts exhibit March 18 – May 1, 2011.

### DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES:

Winners were Ruby Munson, Elaine Royer, Ron Johnson, Jo Anne Sam, Joe Knue and Christina Marikos.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The Board has, by unanimous vote, agreed to award the TGMS scholarship this year to one of our active members, Ms. Madison C. Barkley. She is a PhD candidate studying Mineralogy under Dr. Bob Downs at the University of Arizona. She is scheduled to complete her degree in August of 2011. Many of you know and have worked with Madison during the Show and have seen her at our meetings. She is a very deserving young lady and, hopefully, this will help her along in attaining her goals.

## GENERAL MEETING APRIL 4, 2011

The General Meeting of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 7:30 p.m. No guests were present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Evan and Bob Jones will have a special mineral sale Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Evan's home in Scottsdale, Arizona, featuring material from the James Hansen Bisbee collection and the Evan A. Jones reference collection. This will also be an opportunity to see Evan's mineral collection.

**PROGRAM:** Evan Jones spoke on "Paramelaconite from Bisbee, Arizona, and the Importance of Bisbee as a Mineral Locality in Arizona." Paramelaconite was discovered in Bisbee in 1890 and has not been found there since then. It is a copper oxide with a structure between cuprite and tenorite. The crystals are tetragonal, purple black, heavily striated and have metallic/adamantine luster.

Evan followed with an update on the Centennial Exhibits for the 2012 TGMS Show "Minerals of Arizona." The best Arizona minerals are being gathered from all over the country. Each case will represent a specific locality, theme or species. Localities will include specific mines or areas, including Ajo, Bisbee, Christmas Mine, Courtland/Gleason area, Washington Camp area, Fat Jack Mine, Glove Mine, Aravaipa/Klondike area and many more. Species will include azurite/malachite, cerrusite, quartz, native gold and silver, vanadinite, wulfenite and others. There will be cases for Arizona misfits, gems and gem minerals, Arizona type species, cover specimens from magazines and specimens from the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Committee members are working hard on specimen procurement for what will be "Mineral Treasures of Arizona," the working title at present.

**BREAK:** Jo Anne Sam provided the refreshments including fresh vegetables, guacamole and brie with crackers and baked goods. Thank you Jo Anne!

### OLD BUSINESS:

- No field trips are scheduled at the present time.
- Bill Shelton's class will be Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, on the "Chemistry of Minerals." There is a sign up sheet in the back room.

### NEW BUSINESS:

- By-Laws: **MOTION:** To approve the updated By-Laws. Seconded and unanimously approved.
- Spring Mineral Sale: Tim Hicks will organize a members' mineral and jewelry show for Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. Interested dealers may contact Tim at 749-4701 or Pat McClain in the

General Meeting, 4.4.11 ... CONTINUED

TGMS office. Tables will be \$20.00. Tim asked for volunteers to help with publicity and will try to get announcements on the radio. Tucson Weekly was suggested for advertising also. It was suggested to call the event a semi-annual mineral sale or fair as opposed to mineral show.

- Election of officers and directors will be at the next meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Nomination Committee members are Gene Schlepp, Carole Lee and Shirley Wetmore. Anyone interested in running for a position should contact one of them or all.

**DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES:** Winners were Dick Bibbens, Alrene Hibben, Skip Barkley, Tim Hicks and Jerry Behn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marilyn Reynolds, Recording Secretary

## EDUCATIONAL CLASS!!!

DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2011

TIME: 7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

PLACE: 3727 E. BLACKLIDGE

TOPIC: "COLOR OF MINERALS"

INSTRUCTOR: BILL SHELTON

A SIGN-UP SHEET WILL BE  
AVAILABLE AT THE MAY 2 GENERAL  
MEETING.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
CONTACT BILL AT 520.818.0192 OR  
THE TGMS OFFICE AT 520.322.5773

## TGMS Board Meeting November 22, 2010

**Present:** Ellen Alexander, Diane Braswell, Alrene Hibben, Bill Hodgson, Carol Johnston, Marilyn Reynolds.

**Absent:** Peter Megaw, Ed Schaffer and Gene Schlepp.

**Staff:** Pat McClain

**Guest:** Gloria Quigg

- I. The Board Meeting was called to order by President Diane Braswell at 6:05 p.m. in the TGMS Conference Room.
- II. **Minutes Approval of the October 25, 2010 Board Meeting:** Correction under Old Business B. Conflict of Interest Policy: Last sentence "Policy and employee manuals will need to be addressed." is a separate item and was moved to C. Articles of Incorporation became D.  
**MOTION:** To approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and approved.
- III. **Treasurer's Report:** The Society has money and is not over budget in any area.
- IV. **Old Business:**
  - A. TGMS By-Laws: Final changes were made. The final draft will be sent to the lawyer for approval. The proposed revised By-Laws will then be sent to the members to review before voting on at the General Meeting.
  - B. Conflict of Interest Policy: Postponed
  - C. U of A Scholarship Update: Postponed
- V. **Call to the Audience:** Gloria Quigg, Show Publicity Chair, discussed her proposals as presented in her letter to the Board dated November 16, 2010. Thanks extended to Gloria for her ideas.
- VI. **New Business:**
  - A. Category (Account) Definitions/Notes for Treasurer/Category(Account) Authority:  
**MOTION:** To approve as written. Seconded and approved.  
Definitions of and Goals for Set-Aside Monies:  
**MOTION:** To approve as written. Seconded and approved.
  - B. Proposals from Show Publicity Chair:
    1. Suggestion for Society Publicity Chair: Board will not make an appointment for this proposed position at this time. Any ideas or opportunities can be presented to the President and Board as they occur by any member.
    2. Display case in the U of A Mineral Museum: The President will talk to Mark Candee, Curator of the Mineral Museum, for further clarification on this idea.

Board Meeting, 11.22.10 ... CONTINUED

3. Sonic Drive-Ins partnership in support of Junior Education at the TGMS Show:  
**MOTION:** To proceed with investigating this option further. Seconded and approved.
4. "Mineral of the Month" column in Bear Essential News: Society does not have money in the budget for this item. Need more clarification on financial arrangements and to explore possibility of free column.
5. Criteria for Honorary Life Membership: Tabled

The next Board Meeting: To be announced.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Marilyn V. Reynolds, Recording Secretary

**The TGMS Nominating Committee has submitted the following names for 2011-2012 TGMS Officers & Directors; voting to be done at the May General Meeting.**

**List of candidates for TGMS Officers:**

<b>President:</b>	<b>Diane Braswell</b>
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Mark Ascher</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Ellen Alexander</b>
<b>Recording Secty.:</b>	<b>Marilyn Reynolds</b>
<b>Membership Secty.:</b>	<b>Alrene Hibben</b>

**List of candidates for TGMS Directors:**

<b>Bill Hodgson</b>
<b>Peter Megaw</b>
<b>Ed Schaffer</b>
<b>Anna Domitrovic</b>
<b>Mark Marikos</b>
<b>Bob Melzer</b>
<b>Shiela Powell</b>

## Field Trip Update

Since my last article, we had the following trips:

### Silver Bell Mine

On March 19th, Mark Candee led another trip to this mine hosted by the mine geologist. It was well attended and all of the participants seemed to find something of interest.



### Purple Passion and Midnight Owl Mines:

On April 2nd and 3rd, 2011, Dr. Ray Grant led a two-day trip to the Wickenburg area to visit three localities - Amethyst Hill, the Purple Passion Mine, and the Midnight Owl Mine. The trip was well attended and a success. See Ray's article in this issue for the details.

The following trips are currently scheduled:

### Brazil Trip:

Dr. Anthony Kampf of the LA County Museum of Natural History will be leading this trip to Minas Gerais, Brazil which is now finalized for June 11th through the 26th, 2011. Tony has led many such trips over the years and his offer to organize one for our club is a fantastic opportunity for our members. The itinerary looks simply amazing! The cost is \$4500 plus airfare. Those of you on the interest list should have already received the trip brochure via email. Signup and payment is directly through the LA Museum as described in the brochure. Those of you who did not receive a brochure and who are interested in this trip may obtain one by contacting either the office or myself. The deadline for signing up (and full payment) is May 1st.

### Utah Trip:

Further work on this trip has been cancelled due to the poor quality of sites currently available.

Currently, we do not have any other trips in the planning stage. This means it is likely that no further trips will be announced until our club meetings reconvene in the fall.

### Cancellations/Refunds:

Please note that per club policy, field trip fees are to be paid at the time you sign up and are not refundable, unless the trip is cancelled by the club. Cancellation by the member does not entitle the member to a refund.

### No Shows:

On the subject of cancellations, we had a problem on several of our recent trips where people signed up

## FIELD TRIP UPDATES ... CONTINUED

and never showed up or called to cancel. Those trips had a waiting list of members wanting to go who were denied the opportunity to do so by the "no shows." I would ask all of you to exercise common sense and courtesy and contact either the office or the trip leader if you are not going to attend a field trip that you have signed up for. Another way to look at it is: the time that we have to spend deciding how to deal with "no shows" is time we could be spending arranging new collecting opportunities for all of you.

This will be my final Rock Talk article as your Field Trip Committee Chairman. Having served for two years, I am stepping down from the post at the end of June. I wish to thank the members of the field trip committee - Diane Braswell, Mark Candee, Ray Grant, and Tony Jones for their contribution to our efforts over the past two years - efforts which I hope you have found rewarding. The committee will continue and my replacement, along with the replacements for Tony Jones and Ray Grant, who are also stepping down, will be announced in the fall.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Feel free to send them to me at [corson@infodyn.com](mailto:corson@infodyn.com)

On behalf of your Field Trip Committee,

Tom Corson  
Chairman

## GEM & JEWELRY FAIR

offering great deals on:

Jewelry • Gemstones • Mineral Specimens  
Fossils • Cabochon Rough • Facet Rough

Saturday, May 7, 2011  
9 AM - 4 PM

FREE ADMISSION

at the  
**T.G.M.S. building**  
3727 E. Blacklidge Dr.  
(just S of Fort Lowell and W of Alvernon)  
Tucson, AZ 85716



More Information:  
**T.G.M.S. Office**  
520-322-5773  
[show@tgms.org](mailto:show@tgms.org)

Dealer Coordinator  
**Tim Hicks**  
520-749-4701  
[eyeris123@yahoo.com](mailto:eyeris123@yahoo.com)

## Purple Passion Mine – April 2 and 3, 2011 By Ray Grant

Record-breaking temperatures were predicted for the weekend. On Friday April 1st it was 100 degrees in Phoenix. But the dedicated mineral collectors who arrived at McDonalds in Wickenburg on Saturday found the weather was good and it was not too hot anytime during the weekend. Saturday morning the group headed to Amethyst Hill about seven miles from Wickenburg. Collecting here is hard work, but cerussite, quartz, barite and calcite were collected.

Back to McDonalds in Wickenburg at noon for lunch and facilities stop. Here we were met by Bill Gardner of Way Too Cool ([www.fluorescents.com](http://www.fluorescents.com)). Some other collectors from Phoenix also joined us there and Bill had a great afternoon planned. First stop was the dumps of the Monarch mine for fluorite, malachite, goethite after chalcopyrite pseudomorphs, and more. Next a quick stop at his fluorescent cave, a mine tunnel that lights up under UV light. Then the Purple Passion mine, which is being worked at present for fluorescent minerals: calcite, fluorite, aragonite and willemite. It has produced other minerals such as wulfenite in the past. Bill set up a darkroom tent, a generator, and three wavelengths of UV lights so everyone could check their specimens. It was almost dark when we left to a great sunset. Many thanks to Bill Gardner for all his hard work in organizing this trip.

On Sunday the group met on the Castle Hot Springs road where Trilby Wash crosses the road and drove a slow six miles to the Midnight Owl mine. It is a pegmatite and over 90 minerals are reported. Mardy and Dick Zimmerman are the mine owners. They had samples of many of the minerals found at the mine and a small black box for looking at fluorescent minerals. The mine is most famous for the fluorescent eucryptite that forms as an alteration of spodumene and Mardy made sure everyone had some good specimens. Again, many thanks to the Zimmermans for sharing their mine with us.



Photos by: Ray Grant

## AND WE HAVE A WINNER (X6)

### Anna Domitrovic

What a day we had judging at this year's Southern Arizona Regional Science & Engineering Fair (SARSEF)! Mid-March every year, students from southern Arizona schools, many within Tucson school districts, converge on the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) with their science and math experiments and problems. Some get the results they expected. Others learn there are different ways to arrive at those results. The benefit for us, the TGMS judging team, is the opportunity to see all the projects and decide who gets the nod from the Society.



This year was a tough one, because there was a plethora of projects to consider, more mineral related ones than we've had to consider in a long time. But the judging team (Janet Reue, Rick Trapp and me) finally made the decision to, not only award the usual four students' projects but to

award a team and add another at the elementary school level.

The top award at the middle school level went to brothers Gordie and Clay Downs for their project "Garnets: Magnetic Susceptibility vs. Chemistry." Gordie and Clay are 8<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, respectively, at Doolen Middle School's Gate Program. Ivan Yokum gets credit for being their teacher guide for the project. The project involved measuring magnetic strength of varieties of garnet to determine iron content to identify the species.



Rather than the customary three awards for elementary school projects, we awarded four. First grader Anna Iacomini collected and weighed up to six varying sizes of different rocks for her project, "Do All Rocks Weigh The Same?" Her conclusion? No, they don't. Anna used a home-made scale to compare the rock weights. This

was a great effort and a great project from this industrious first grader at Ventana Vista Elementary School. Anna's teacher, Laura Perrilla, and her parents should be proud!

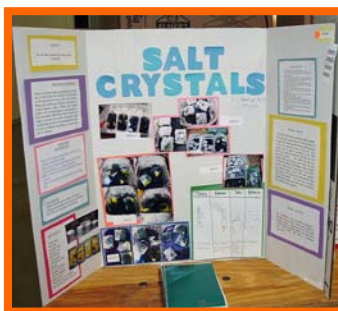
Two 3<sup>rd</sup> graders got the nod from us next. Matthew Fosdick, from Sycamore Elementary School on south Houghton in Corona, searched for meteorites in northern Arizona for his project "The Sky Is Falling... Statistically: How To Increase The Chances Of Finding A Meteorite Using Ellipse Geometry And Distribution Statistics". Hmm. Pretty sophisticated sounding stuff. But it seemed to work. Matthew actually found some meteorites.



## And We Have a Winner (x6) ... CONTINUED

Granted, nothing you need great strength to pick up and transport, but meteorites all the same. Sara Irvin is Matthew's teacher.

Our other 3<sup>rd</sup> grade winner was Ricardo Munoz-Hojya for his project "How To Create A Crystal." Ricardo looked at various minerals and compared their chemistry and crystallography in his attempt to determine how they formed. The research and documentation that resulted in this project was well worth the award he received. Good job, Ricardo! And kudos to his teacher Rebecca Cavazos at Cragin Elementary.



Finally, the fourth of our elementary awards went to Saralyn Kist's project, "Salt Crystals." Now, growing salt and sugar crystals is nothing new to science fairs. But Saralyn's was a bit different. She wondered if all salts produce the same type of crystal. She grew crystals from four types of salt, and studied and compared the resulting

crystals under a microscope. Saralyn's 4th grade teacher at Cottonwood Elementary is Renee Miranda. Congratulations to student, teacher and parents of Saralyn Kist.

I've been representing TGMS at SARSEF for nearly 30 years, and judging with a team of TGMS volunteers and staff for the majority of those 30 years. We've learned over the years that our awards are prized possessions. It started with a framed certificate and a small cash award. That's grown over the years to include the TGMS gift bag. While contents vary from year to year, with the help of our office staff, we've always included a current Show poster and tee-shirt, and then stuffed the bag with whatever the office can give us - water bottles, lapel pins, coloring books - anything with a TGMS logo. We even include a few things gleaned from the SARSEF memorabilia tables at the SARSEF Hub at the TCC. We upped the cash award a few years ago, and thanks to the generosity of past TGMS boards and a little number-crunching with the annual budget, we've been a SARSEF sponsor for ten years. We also invite our awardees to show their projects at the following year's Show, a good example to the students who come to the Show on Friday's School Visit event.

All in all, it's a fine and rewarding thing that TGMS does every year for the Southern Arizona Regional Science & Engineering Fair. And I am proud to be a judge and team leader for TGMS for nearly 30 years. Once again, special thanks go to this year's judging team, Janet and Rick, and the office for helping to make the awarded gift bags so well accepted. We'll be doing it again next year, so if you'd like to be a part of this satisfying event, let me know.

Photos by: Anna Domitrovic

## ARIZONA MINERAL SYMPOSIUM COMES TO TUCSON

Anna Domitrovic

For 18 years, with one exception in 2011, the Arizona Mineral Symposium convened at the Mineral & Mining Museum in downtown Phoenix in a building it shared with the Arizona Department of Mines & Mineral Resources. This year, this 19<sup>th</sup> Arizona Mineral Symposium came to Tucson on March 26. Ray Grant continued as Chair of the symposium and I was honored to co-chair the event with Ray. The Arizona - Sonora Desert Museum co-sponsored the event with the Flagg Mineral Foundation. The Desert Museum's Baldwin Education Building served as the symposium site and the Museum's Ironwood Terraces catered the event.



It was a beautiful day at the Museum and the meeting place was well-suited to accommodate nearly 90 in attendance.

Presentations on local sites included the Mission Mine Complex, pegmatites at Willow Springs near Oracle, Rosemont and the Tucson Mountains. But a few speakers took us north to the Big Horn Mountains in Maricopa County and the Bradshaws in Yavapai County.



We got a preview of a new book, Arizona's Mineral Treasures, which will make its debut at the 2012 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show™. Finally, we learned of three new Arizona type minerals, two of which are named after TGMS members - markascherite from Copper Creek named after Mark Ascher and rongibbsite from the Evening Star mine in the Big Horns named after Ron Gibbs. The third new type mineral is georgerobinsonite from Tiger. That brings our type specimens up to eighty-three.

During the breaks, nearly half of those who attended were treated to behind-the-scenes tours of the Desert Museum's mineral vault. And at the close of the symposium, the group was invited to the UA's Mineral Museum for a special after hours open house, hosted by TGMS members Mark Candee

Arizona Mineral Symposium Comes to Tucson ... CONTINUED

(also museum curator) and Marcus Origlieri.



But it didn't end there. Another 27 symposium-goers traveled to Bisbee the next morning for a turquoise collecting trip to Freeport-McMoRan's #7 Mine Dump. While we

anticipated finding some turquoise, four lucky collectors (two TGMS members) came away with sizable nuggets. Everyone found samples of Bisbee Blue, but many were happy just for the opportunity to collect at this famous mineral locality. Being the

mineral enthusiasts that we are, we also collected other representative minerals – brochantite, malachite-infused calcite (Bisbee Ice), hematite, quartz and



malachite, to name a few. I'm certain, once we've carefully examined our loot, we'll discover we have many more. Mike Jaworski, FMI's Site Manager and our host, and Carrie Gustavson, Director of the Bisbee Mining & Historical Museum who arranged transportation to and from the dump, were instrumental in accommodating our group. Our gratitude and sincere thank yous go to them for all they did.



So, where do we go from here? The symposium will, more than likely, go back to Phoenix next year. Until then, the 19<sup>th</sup> Arizona Mineral Symposium will remain a successful event for the Flagg Foundation and the Desert Museum.

Photos by: Anna Domitrovic

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

### TGMS Calendar May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 TGMS General Meeting - 7:30 p.m.	3 TGMS Educational Class "Color of Minerals" 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	4	5	6	7 Gem & Jewelry Fair May 7, 2011 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
8	8 TGMS Micromount Meeting 7:00 p.m.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 TGMS Show Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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

## Summer Potlucks!!!

Summer is just around the corner ... if you would like to "Host" a TGMS Potluck for June or July ... give Diane Braswell a call, 520-574-1942.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, August 20, 2011. Debbie Colodner has graciously invited TGMS to have their August potluck at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. (Watch for further details.)

## CALENDAR OF SHOWS

**May, 14-15: FOUNTAIN HILLS, ARIZONA:** Retail show; Rick Obermiller; Fountain Hills Community Center, 13001 N. La Montana Dr.; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; adults \$2, children under 12 free; indoor show, mostly Arizona dealers, gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, kids' activities, drawings, raffles; contact Rick Obermiller, 1332 N. Jesse St., Chandler, AZ 85225-1598, (602)826-2218; e-mail: [obrocks@gmail.com](mailto:obrocks@gmail.com)

**May, 24: MESA, ARIZONA:** Show; Rings & Things; Holiday Inn & Suites, 1600 S. Country Club Dr.; Tue. 12-4; free admission; gemstones not available in our catalog or online store, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (509) 252-2900; e-mail: [d Robertson@rings-things.com](mailto:d Robertson@rings-things.com); Web site: [www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html](http://www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html)

**May, 26: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO:** Show; Rings & Things; Embassy Suites Albuquerque, 1000 Woodward Pl. NE; Sun. 12-4; free admission; gemstones not available in our catalog or online store, bead strands, 15% off many gemstone and bead

strands, findings and stringing supplies; contact Dave Robertson, PO Box 450, Spokane, WA 99210, (509) 252-2900; e-mail: [d Robertson@rings-things.com](mailto:d Robertson@rings-things.com); Web site: [www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html](http://www.rings-things.com/Show/index.html)

**June, 10-12: ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO:** Show; Gem Faire Inc.; New Mexico State Fairgrounds, 300 San Pedro NE; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; \$7 weekend pass; contact Yooy Nelson, (503) 252-8300; e-mail: [info@gemfaire.com](mailto:info@gemfaire.com); Web site: [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

**June, 24-26: COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO:** 3rd annual rock fair; Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society, Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies; Western Museum of Mining & Industry, 225 N. Gate Blvd., I-25 exit 156A; Fri. 9-4, Sat. 9-4, Sun. 9-3; adults \$5, children \$2; dealers, gems, minerals, jewelry, fossils, talks, gold panning demonstration, rock identification, Kids' Area, noncompetitive displays, silent auction, exhibitors, equipment demonstrations; contact Ronald Yamiolkoski, (719) 488-5526; e-mail: [info@csms.us](mailto:info@csms.us); Web site: [www.csms.us](http://www.csms.us)

**FROM:**

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

# ROCK TALK



**TO:**

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

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

**Meetings:** Usually the first Monday of the month, starting at 7:30 p.m., except February (On Monday, week of the Show), June-August (potlucks), and September (second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday.)

**The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™:**

The second full weekend in February.

**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)