



The Rockhound Record

Mineralogical Society of Arizona - March 2011 - Volume 77, Issue 3

Going Strong for 76 Years - 1935 - 2011

19th Annual Minerals of Arizona Symposium
Sponsored by the Flagg Mineral Foundation
Saturday, March 26, 2011 - 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
2021 N. Kinney Rd., Tucson, AZ



8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
9:00 - 9:10 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks and Introductions
9:10 - 9:40 a.m.	Minerals of the Mission mine - Bill Williams
9:40 - 10:10 a.m.	Tourmaline from Willow Springs, Pinal County - Barbara Muntyan
10:10 - 10:50 a.m.	Break, Mineral Silent Auction
10:50 - 11:20 a.m.	The Forgotten Silver District - Peck Mining District - Brian Beck
11:20 - 11:50 a.m.	A snapshot of the mineral collecting history of Arizona - Tony Potucek
11:50 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.	Lunch, Mineral Silent Auction Visit Museum's mineral exhibits, limited tour for the Museum's mineral vault.
1:30 - 2:00 p.m.	Rosemont Copper project, Coronado National Forest - Beverley Everson
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Mines and Minerals of the Amole District, Tucson Mountains, Pima County - Anna Domitrovic
2:30 - 3:00 p.m.	Break, Mineral Silent Auction
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Minerals of the Evening Star mine - Ron Gibbs
3:30 - 4:00 -	What's New in Arizona Minerals - Marcus Origlieri, Harvey Jong and Ray Grant
4:00 p.m. -	Visit Museum's mineral exhibits, limited tour for the Museum's mineral vault.

Registration Form on Page 3



Upcoming Program

Friday, March 11, 2011

Mineral Collecting in Tasmania

Presented by Harvey Jong

Tasmania is extremely rich in mineral resources and has deposits of iron, copper, lead, zinc, tin, tungsten, and gold. This program explores some mineral collecting areas of the small, rugged island state which is located 150 miles south of mainland Australia. It covers several locations including the huge Mount Lyell copper mines; the Adelaide mine, famous for crococite; the Magnet mine, known for yellow "chrome" cerussite; and the Mt. Bischoff tin mine. Numerous photos of minerals from museums, private collections, and self-collected specimens are presented along with images of local flora and fauna.

See you there!

Betty Deming

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WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

**Staci Rolfe
Phoenix, AZ
Joined February 2010**

WELCOME BACK, RETURNING MEMBER!

**Don Crenshaw
Prescott, AZ
Re-Joined January 2011**

19th Annual Minerals of Arizona Symposium
Saturday, March 26, 2011, 8 AM to 5 PM
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Baldwin Education Building
(Follow Symposium Signs)

Registration fee includes: coffee hour, breaks, lunch, Symposium Proceedings, and Museum admission.

Saturday evening there will be an open house at the Flandrau Museum at the University of Arizona. They have a special exhibit "Dangerous Beauty: Minerals of the Hindu Kush". There will be food at the open house and a mineral sale. Directions and time will be available at the Symposium.

Sunday there will be a field trip to Bisbee. It will be at the #7 Stockpile from 10 AM to 2 PM. The trip is limited to 50 people, and opportunity to sign up for the trip will be given by the order of the symposium registration date. Field trip participants will be notified before the symposium with final details available at the symposium.

Registration Form:

Please mail this form with the \$45.00 registration fee (Foundation members pay \$40.00) **before March 21, 2011**, so lunch and other food can be ordered.

Mail to:

Flagg Mineral Foundation
P.O. Box 41834
Mesa, Arizona 85274

Make checks payable to: Flagg Mineral Foundation

Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ registrations.

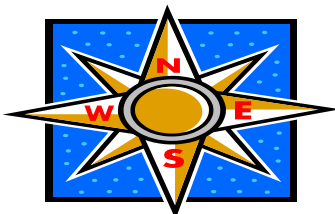
Name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

I (we) want to be placed on the field trip list ____ and understand the trip is limited to 50 people.

COALITION FIELD TRIP



**March Coalition Field Trip
Saturday, March 26, 2011**

Materials to Be Collected - Jasper, Agate, Travertine and Saginite

Sponsor: Arizona Leaverites
Trip Leader: Tom Parks - 602-481-0647
Meeting Time: 7:45 AM - Departure 8:00 AM
Meeting Point: Sears Kay Ruin Parking Lot
GPS: FRS/GMRS radio frequency - 5 with 0 or no subcode

The parking lot is located a couple miles north of the Bartlett Lake turnoff on Forest Road 24 or Seven Springs Road. Search this location on the Internet; you will find directions. This location is in Tonto National Forest.

I will lead the group to all the known/published collecting locations along Seven Springs road all the way to Sheep's Crossing. Trip Duration up to 14 hours, depending on your level of ambition.

Standard collecting tools are required. Remember to bring plenty of water and whatever else you think you will need for a trip of this duration.

Most vehicles are capable of making the trip. The remaining 8 miles to Sheep's Crossing is extremely unpleasant. Imagine driving over 8 miles of bowling balls half buried in concrete and you get the idea.

Last year a total of 5 flat tires were enjoyed by the trip members. Make sure your spare is functional.



ARIZONA MINERAL COLLECTOR NUMBER 137



By Dr. Raymond Grant

There was not much new from Arizona at the recent Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. Was it a slow year for Arizona collectors? The theme was California, so there were only a few Arizona cases. Here is a review of some of the cases of Arizona minerals that were at the Show this year. To me the best Arizona case was “Specimens collected from the mines at Bisbee by members of the Graeme family from 1895 to 1995”. Four generations of Graemes have worked at and collected minerals from Bisbee, and the minerals that they have found are spectacular. There is no question that the Graeme family has the best Bisbee mineral collection in the world. The Bisbee Mining and Historical Museum had a case of Bisbee calcites. The Arizona Republic had a write-up on February 17, 2011, about the Bisbee Museum. “It was the first museum in the Southwest to be designated a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate. “Digging In” is a stunning interactive display that takes visitors through tunnels, crystal caves and open pits loaded with minerals while never leaving the second floor.” I have not been to the Bisbee Museum, but it sounds like a good place to go. Check it out at www.bisbeemuseum.org.

The Arizona Mineral Minions, an informal group of local collectors, had a case of Arizona calcite specimens. Les and Paula Presmyk had a case of Arizona minerals from their collection. It had a great Magma mine barite that I liked. Finally, as a preview of things to come, Bob and Evan Jones had a collection of Arizona minerals titled Arizona Centennial 1912 to 2012. Next year the theme of the Tucson Show is Arizona, and people have already been working for over a year to assure that the best Arizona minerals will be on display. If you have any interest in Arizona minerals you don't want to miss next year's show. There will also be a new book **Arizona Mineral Treasures** with stories and photographs of Arizona collectors and mineral specimens. Tony Potucek is giving a talk at the Minerals of Arizona Symposium in March about some of the stories in the book.

President's Message

We are moving forward with some programs to help the club continue uninterrupted when the Museum closes. On one of these, we need input from you the members. That is a meeting place that will please both the members and guests without being too much of a hardship on our meager bank account. We are asking members to come forward with ideas for a new meeting place that doesn't cost too much. We would like to continue these meetings with get-togethers in local parks during the summer months, something on the order of tailgate parties, if you will. Just a bunch of friends gathered to share stories and hunting areas with each other, nothing really formal.

At the last board meeting we decided to handle the money we raise at the Flagg Show in a more formal way. All money will be counted by two people at a certain hour near the end of each day and proper control of the monies will be written down. It is something that other clubs do and demand. It is a wise bookkeeping measure. We also talked about limiting any president's term to two years, with a year in between that person being president again. That would give them time to find a proper place to hide! We also decided that we will move the library owned by the club to Ed's trailer for safe keeping until we can find a place to either store it or find a way to dispose of it in the best interest of the club. We need someone to step forward to help go through the collection and find out more about the books that we have.

We will have a meeting in June at a new place, since the Museum will be closing that month. Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

AGATE: Is a microcrystalline variety of quartz (silica), chiefly chalcedony, characterized by its fineness of grain and brightness of color. Although agates may be found in various kinds of rock, they are classically associated with volcanic rocks and can be common in certain metamorphic rocks.

HISTORY: The stone was given its name by Theophrastus, a Greek philosopher and naturalist, who discovered the stone along the shore line of the river Achates sometime between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC. Colorful agates and other chalcedonies were obtained over 3,000 years ago from the Achates River, now called Dirillo, in Sicily.

ANCIENT USE: Agate is one of the most common materials used in the art of hard stone carving, and has been recovered at a number of ancient sites, indicating its widespread use in the ancient world.

FORMATION/CHARACTERISTICS: Most agates form as nodules in volcanic rocks or ancient lavas, where they represent cavities originally produced by the disengagement of volatiles in the molten mass, which were then filled, wholly or partially, by siliceous matter deposited in regular layers upon the walls. Such agates, when cut transversely, exhibit a succession of parallel lines, often of extreme tenuity, giving a banded appearance to the section. Such stones are known as banded agate, ribband agate, and striped agate.

Many of the agates are hollow, since deposition has not proceeded far enough to fill the cavity, and, in such cases, the last deposit commonly consists of quartz, often amethyst, having the apices of the crystals directed towards the free space, so as to form a crystal-lined cavity, or geode. In Arizona most geodes are solid.

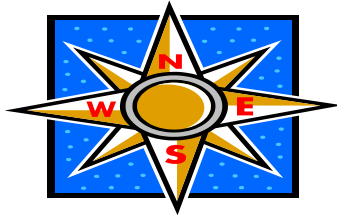
On the disintegration of the matrix, in which the agates are embedded, they are set free. The agates are extremely resistant to weathering and remain as nodules in the soil or are deposited as gravel in streams and shorelines.

There is a lot of agate in Arizona. On the Mohs scale it ranks 5,6,7, very good for polishing.

Source: Wikipedia

Roger Deming

MSA CLUB FIELD TRIP



March MSA Club Field Trip
Saturday, March 19, 2011
Location - Tortilla Flat

Our field trip for March will be to the east of Mesa to a small place called Tortilla Flat.

We will meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning at the Carl's Jr. just south of Hwy 60 (Superstition Freeway) at Greenfield Rd. It is on the right side at Juanita Avenue. We will be leaving there at 9:00 a.m., back on Hwy 60 east to the exit at Idaho Rd., going north on Idaho Rd. to the old Apache Trail, Route 88, and on to Canyon Lake. A few miles above Canyon Lake along the Salt River canyon is the Tortilla Flat. There is no gas there, but small shops and a cafe. About one fourth of a mile beyond Tortilla there are geodes and in a wash some small and large agates in with the rhyolite. Some hiking down the hill is required to reach the wash, but it is a very short distance. Flash flooding over the years has separated many of the agates from the rhyolite. The geodes are mostly on the upper left side of the road and closer to the parking spot.

You will need small digging tools for the geodes. The agate in the wash may require prying tools to remove the from the gravel at edges and bottom of the wash.

Bring a lunch of your choice and liquid for hydration. Any vehicle can make the trip, as roads are good all the way to Tortilla Flat. If you have any questions prior to trip day, call me at (480) 636-1251, or e-mail **epidote555@yahoo.com**, or call my cell (480) 370-6716 **THE DAY OF THE TRIP ONLY**. See you at the meeting March 11, 2011.

Ed Nichols
YeOlde Rockhound

**Rockus Collectralus:
A Case Study**

By Chris Lee (17)

Georgia Mineral Society

From: Tips and Trips, 1/2008

(1st Place - AFMS Junior Articles, 12 - 17)

It is a horrible thing to be addicted to rocks. In the middle of the night you wake up, contemplating more purchases to make. The shelves in your house are overloaded, sagging under all the weight - 30 percent of the earth's crust sitting on them. You don't even bother showering any more, as the fine dust left on your hands from carrying rocks has built up to unmanageable levels. All but your best friends have abandoned you; they do not want to be seen in public with someone so dirty.

This is a glimpse into the life of a person affected by rockus collectralus, a horrible disease that causes compulsive rock collection. Sufferers of this disease can be easily identified by their bulging pockets, their vest covered in dust, and their beat-up hat. Many sufferers also can be seen at any place that rocks, minerals, or fossils are sold. They can be differentiated from other patrons by lack of the phrase: "How much?"

Unfortunately, there is no way to treat rockus collectralus. However, there are ways of making it more livable. One way is to provide frequent exposure to others with this disease; this will help the sufferer to maintain their sanity. Another way is to provide frequent opportunities and finances to purchase as many rocks as needed. This keeps everyone happy, except your accountant and spouse. Finally, the most important way to treat rockus collectralus is to have more social contact than just your rock dealer, and not to spend all day organizing, tagging, gazing at, and researching your collection.

If all of the above steps are followed, sufferers of rockus collectralus can have some of their lives back and be on their way to recovery.

**Reprinted from THE ROCK COLLECTOR,
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LET'S GO TO A SHOW!

March & April

March 11-13, 2011 - Cottonwood

Verde Valley Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show

Verde Valley Fairgrounds, 800 E. Cherry St., Cottonwood, AZ, 86326

Sponsored by: Mingus Gem and Mineral Club

Website: www.mingusclub.org

Hours: Fri., Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4

Admission: Fri. \$1.00, Sat.-Sun. \$3:00, children free

Show Chairperson: TBA

Dealer Chairperson: TBA

April 9-10, 2011 - Kingman

Kingman Annual Show

Kingman Academy of Learning HS

3420 N Burbank St., Kingman, AZ, 86401

Sponsored by: Mohave County Gemstoners

P.O. Box 3992, Kingman, AZ, 86402

Displays, silent auction, dealers, demos, raffle and door prizes.

Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-4

Admission and parking: Free

More Info: Nan Russell 928-846-0927 or visit

www.gemstoners.org

For a complete listing of shows for the 2010-2011 season, go to:

<http://www.admmr.state.az.us/Publications/circ136showlist2010-2011.pdf>



Follow the fate of the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum on Mineral Museum Madness at:

www.minmumad.blogspot.com

New posts will continue to appear as information becomes available.

LOIS SPLENDORIA
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
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Phoenix, AZ 85007

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Mineralogical Society of Arizona
Founded 1935
A Non Profit Organization
www.mineralogicalsocietyarizona.org

Purpose: To promote popular interest in the various Earth Sciences, and particularly the fields of Geology, Lapidary, Mineralogy, and related subjects. ID badges are available from the Treasurer.

Meetings: 7:00 p.m. at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ, *on the second Friday of the month, September through June (except February, which is the third Friday).*

Dues: Families & Couples - \$20.00, Single Adults - \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50. Please mail your dues to:

Betty Deming
2922 West Claremont
Phoenix, AZ 85017-1629

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UPCOMING MEETINGS	
FRIDAY	MARCH 11, 2011
FRIDAY	APRIL 8, 2011
FRIDAY	MAY 13, 2011
FRIDAY	JUNE 10, 2011

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