

TUCSON-2012: IMPRESSION OF PARTICIPANTS



Figure 1. Sunset at Tucson. Photo: J. Fisher.

According to mineral connoisseurs and Tucson Show veterans, describing this unique event is an almost impossible endeavor.

A well-known American collector and dealer Jesse Fisher, while sharing his impressions, remarks that *“it is really difficult to truly describe the Tucson show to someone who has never been there.”*

One has to agree with John White, who believes that *“the annual Tucson Show is such an extraordinary extravaganza that it is difficult to try to provide a meaningful impression in anything short of a book.”*

While we do not yet possess the capability to do just that, we still want to tell our readers more about this show, to present it from multiple angles. To this effect, we invited people with varying experiences, interests, and personal philosophies to share their impressions on the pages of our almanac.

Was that a good idea? That will be for you to decide. We will be extremely happy to hear from you, any and all feedback is highly appreciated.

You can reach us at minbooks@rambler.ru.

Our best wishes,

Michael Leybov and Ludmila Cheshko, Mineralogical Almanac

Dr. John S. White, Mineralogist, Writer, Expert

Extraordinary Extravaganza

The annual Tucson Show 2012 in most ways was little different than that of former years, it was huge and overwhelming, just as one expected it to be. One thing that is always different, however, is what the featured exhibits will be in the “main” show, the show that is sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society and held in the Tucson Convention Center in downtown Tucson. Every year there is a new topic and somehow, in spite of the excellence of each year’s special exhibit, that of the

Figure 2. Display case of wulfenite specimens from the Red Cloud Mine, Arizona, at the TGMS show. Photo: J. Fisher.





current show is met with excitement and rave reviews. The 2012 edition “*Minerals of Arizona*” brought together for the very first time an array of specimens from this mineral-rich state that was breathtaking. Case after case contained so many exceptional specimens that after a while it became difficult to believe that the mines of just one state could have produced such an array of wonderful minerals. The organizer of the special exhibits deserves great credit for having been able to get so many collectors and museums to provide the minerals for the show, many of which are exceedingly fragile, particularly the delicate wulfenite specimens.

There was something else that excelled during Tucson 2012 and that was the weather. Every day for the two weeks that I was there the weather was beautiful, sunny and warm with no cloudy windy days and no rain. I cannot remember better weather at a Tucson Show.

Apart from the excellence of the special exhibits at the Convention Center, and the weather as mentioned above, the rest of the show was, for me, very much like former ones. The amount of new and interesting material available was modest, and will be described elsewhere in this review. Mineral specimen prices keep going up but with diligent searching one can always find good things at reasonable prices. It takes perseverance and, of course, one must be able to attend for longer than just a few days because there is so much to see. There are somewhere in the neighborhood of 40 formal show venues scattered around the town and who knows how many independent or renegade sales sites are out there as well. Some of the formal show venues have a very large number of dealers. The Hotel Tucson City Center (formerly InnSuites, hotels/motels in Tucson change their names frequently!) alone has something like 260 dealers, and this is the one that concentrates the greatest number of the best mineral dealers and is where most of the serious mineral collectors spend the greater part of their time while at the “show.”

For me the Tucson “show” is every bit as much a social experience as it is a buying, selling, swapping or information gathering experience. In the two weeks that I am there I have the opportunity to spend quality time with hundreds of close friends, most of whom I see only once or twice a year. I do a lot of writing about mineral-related things, so it is important for me to take advantage of the fact that I can sit down and chat with so many people who are active in the field while I am in Tucson.



Figure 3. **Apatite** with **albite**. 2.9 cm. Golconda, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Specimen: Frank Melanson.

Figure 4. **Bismuth**. 5.5 cm. Schlema, Erzgebirge, Saxony, Germany. Specimen: Kristalle.

Figure 5. **Mottramite**. 15 cm. Ojuela Mine, level 35, Mapimi, Durango, Mexico. Specimen: Jordi Fabre.

Photo: J. Callen.

Figure 6. **Heulandite**. 7.5 cm. Great Notch, Little Falls Township, Passaic Co, New Jersey, USA. Specimen: Brian Kosnar.

Figure 7. **Pyromorphite**. 5 cm. Daoping Mine, Guangxi Zhuang, China. Specimen: Stonetrust.



Figures 36–37. TGMS Show:
Figure 36. Mayor Jonathan Rothschild with presentation for TGMS Show Chairman Paul Harter.
Figure 37. Tresa Kosnar.
Photo: J. Callen.

Figures 38–40. Westward Look Show Sunday Program: Edward Swoboda: "A Life of Gems & Minerals":

Figure 38. P. Megaw opens the event.
Figure 39. Edward R. Swoboda, Bryan Swoboda and Wendell E. Wilson.
Figure 40. Edward R. Swoboda with American Mineral Heritage award.



Figures 41–42. Open Ceremony of Exhibition at the Arizona University. Photo: M. Mauthner.
Figure 41. Les Presmyk.
Figure 42. Dr. Bob Downs.
Figure 43. Anton Watzl and Tom Spann.

Figures 44–45. Pueblo Gem and Mineral Show Program.

Figure 44. Guests of the Program.
Figure 45. Maurice P. Destouet (right), Katya Ralph and speakers of the Program – Jolyon Ralph, and Tomasz Praszkiel (left).



do – another trip to Madagascar, India, Morocco or some other place. This year we decided to leave all other projects and finally go to Tucson as we'd dreamed for a long time.

All our friends told us that the biggest problem of Tucson is that it is too long and too big. After all we have to disagree with the first one and agree with the second statement.

For me it was always a problem of the big shows (such as Munich or even Sainte Marie) that there are too many things to do, too many people to talk to, and too many parties that you cannot miss – all packed in such a short time that after all it is very exhausting. Tucson was very different – we had three booths in three different locations and still it felt a little bit like holidays. Also the weather definitely matched to the "holiday atmosphere" of the show, it was sunny everyday, around +25°C – just perfect. We were extremely happy we did not have to be in Poland where it was -35°C at the time! There was enough time to talk with all friends from all around the world, make some new projects, meet the authors of the articles for our journal (*Minerals*), get to know a lot of new people, and still have a time for the evening parties. The last point was one of the very nice surprises – such a long time gives the possibility that a number of people make parties and you can have great fun together! The style of the parties is very diversified – starting from John Veevart's "*Benitoite & Wine tasting party*" (where you can drink "Mineral Vine" and buy benitoites), through a serious dinner party organized by Jordi Fabre and Gail and Jim Spann, and finally to a dancing-drinking costume party organized by Crystall Classics and Kristalle (this year the topic was the 20's). These events (besides great fun of course) are also an important moment to feel that beside of all serious aspects, our hobby is for fun, and we should share our passions with others.

But coming back to the minerals... as we said before – we found Tucson too big event – there are too many shows (around 40!) in too big an area – hotels, tents, private houses, halls are scattered in a 30 km distance. Nobody is able to visit them all. In my opinion the big problem is that very few of them are really "specialized" (like Westward Look – everyone knows that there are



46



47

Figure 46. **Gold**. 3.5 cm. Round Mt, Nevada, USA.

Specimen: Scott Werschky.

Figure 47. **Quartz, epidote**. 7 cm. Castrovirreina Prov, Huancavelica, Peru. Specimen: Stonetrust.

Photo: J. Callen.

Figure 48. **Helvite**. 10 x 12 cm. Chi Feng Mine, Inner Mongolia, China. Specimen: Jian Rong Zheng.

Photo: Kristalle.

Figure 49. **Sapphire**. 13 cm. Sar-e-Sang, Badakhshan, Afghanistan. Specimen: Rocksaholics.

Figure 50. **Sulphur, calcite**. 4 cm. Sicilia, Italy. Specimen: Jordi Fabre.



48



49



50



Figures 51–56. Kristalle and Crystal Classics Party "The Roaring Twenties".
Figure 51. Dona Leicht looking like someone out of 1927.
 Photo: J. Veevaert.

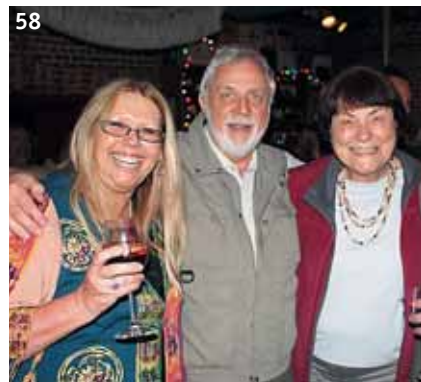
Figure 52. Ian Bruce, E. Callen, and Diana Schlegel. Photo: J. Callen.

Figure 53. Alan Hart and M. Rumsy.

Figure 54. Katya Ralph, Tomasz Praszkie, Joanna Gajowniczek, and Jolyon Ralph. Photo: D. Schlegel.

Figure 55. Roberta McCarty and Lois Nelson with her pink machine gun.

Figure 56. Dave Spiller, Dave Lloyd, Dave Hacker, Dave Whipp.
 Photo: J. Callen.



Figures 57–60. Party of Jordi Fabre, and Gail and Jim Spann.
 Photo: Gail Spann, Fabre-mineral-forum.com.

Figure 57. Jim Spann is with recently retired curators Carl Francis and Tony Kampf.

Figure 58. Gail Spann, Herbert and Monika Obodda.

Figure 59. Guests of the party.

Figure 60. Eloisa Callen, Jordi Fabre, Joaquín Callen, and Victor Yount.





Figure 61. Rob Lavinsky makes awards to Jean-Luc Rivieres, junior collector.

Figure 62. Marc Wilson of the Carnegie Museum with Dr. Jeff Post (Smithsonian), winner of the Carnegie award of 2011.

Figure 63. Les Premyk (right) with Al and Sue Liebetrau, Desautels winners!

Figure 64. Lauren Megaw represents specimen at the live auction of "Rocks and Minerals" magazine.

Figure 65. Alfredo Petrov.

Figure 66. Karl and Carol Warning. Karl lays out the MAD case for Denver and Tucson each year.

Figure 67. Ron Gladnick and Bryan Swoboda.

Figure 68. Evan Jones helps Jim Spann to carry new acquisitions to his collections.

**Photo: Gail Spann,
Fabre-mineral-forum.com.**

Figure 69. Bill Pinch and Art Soregaroli.

Figure 70. Peter Bancroft and his wife.

Figure 71. Dave Wilber and Gene Meieran.