

4. Social Events at Tucson 2020

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64–65. At an annual dinner event on Thursday evening, February 13, during the Tucson Shows, John S. White was presented with a very special award, *The John S. White Mineral Legacy Award for Excellence in Mineralogical Education*. The award was created by Gail and Jim Spann and Jordi Fabre, who together sponsor the dinner for members of the *Society of Mineral Museum Professionals* and members of Jordi's *Friends of Mineralogy Forum*. There were about 200 mineral lovers at the dinner and they gave White a standing ovation when he was presented with the new trophy. It is worth mentioning that White was the inaugural awardee of this trophy which is forever named for him so that future awardees will also receive *The John S. White Mineral Legacy Award* trophy. It also should be noted that White is a member of the editorial board of the *Mineralogical Almanac*.

64. Standing ovation to John White.
Photo: Blake Zastrow.

65. John White (right) says thank you words to Gails and Jim Spann and all dinner participants for honorary Award. Photo: Cindy Rzonca.

Getting organized and packed for another Tucson is almost easy these days! We have enjoyed many a trip to this fantastic show and with our displays all nicely secure we found ourselves hitting a little snow on the way, in TEXAS! It was a bit scary but we made it is just over 15 hours.

Once in Tucson, it was anything but snow, it was warm and beautiful. Jim and I start our social hellos right as we leave our room at the Westward Look show. Often we find ourselves standing in place for hours on end, catching up with everyone and meeting new friends.

Jim and I had a podcast to host and it was for Tsumeb experts, we call this series “*Breakfast With Minerals*” and we work with BlueCap Productions. It was truly a fun time. We hosted a second one two days later with *Women Collectors, New and Experienced*. Another great interview as we had breakfast. We love that there are sounds of dishes and pouring of rich coffee as we interview.

Harvard had a nice gathering with wine, food and a fun evening was had by all that attended! This was on Saturday, the 8th, at the Westward Look Resort.

On the Sunday morning, at the Westward Look, Jim and I host a breakfast for the *Mineralogical Record* Fellows, and since it was the 50th anniversary we had the honor of John White being there, the founder of the publication! And to make it even more inspiring, we had John, Wendell Wilson and the new assistant Editor, Chris Stefano, there for photography opportunities! Over 60 Fellows were there to enjoy their breakfast and catch up with everyone.

We had our annual board meeting for the *Mineralogical Record* a few days later, always enjoyable.

Jim and I have breakfast with different friends every single morning, and we might look at mineral treasures, or simply enjoy some fine company, or even better....both!

On Wednesday we went to the main show, at the convention center, as it was time for set up. The theme was *World Class Minerals* and also the *50 years of The Mineralo-*

66. *The Mineralogical Record* Staff in their booth at the TGMS Show. (left to right): Renato Pagano (*the European Representative*), Carolyn Wilson, Wendell Wilson (*the Publisher & Editor-in-Chief*), Thomas Moore (*Senior Editor and Advertising Manager*), Thomas Gressman (*Associate Publisher and Circulation Director*), Adriana Pagano (*the European Representative*), Christopher Stefano (*recently joined the Mineralogical Record, is Editor*). Photo: Renato Pagano.

67. A display celebrating the 50th anniversary of the *Mineralogical Record* and his many prestigious achievements and recognitions. Photo: Renato Pagano.

68. A display of Gemological Institute of America “*Art in Mineralogical Record*”.

69. A display of NH-Museum of Los Angeles County devoted to *Mineralogical Record*.

Photo 68–69: Peter Modreski.





70 (a,b,c) “Breakfast With Minerals” podcast with Tsumeb experts, Blue Cap Productions.
(a) Martin Števkó and Ian Bruce;
(b) Bryan Swoboda; (c) Mariusz Oleszczuk, Marshall Sussman, Malcolm Southwood.
71. *Spann Marquis* display by Jim and Gail Spann.
72. Set up the *Dragon’s Lair Gold* on *Collectors Edge* booth. Weighing 113 pounds, it is one of the largest and most spectacular gold specimens found in modern times. It was discovered in September 2018, over 1500 feet underground at *RNC minerals* – Beta Hunt mine, near Kambalda, Western Australia. It was prepared in labs of the *Collector’s Edge Minerals*.



77. **Quartz** (var. amethyst). 37.7 x 26.0 cm. Amatitlan, Guerrero, Mexico. Specimen: Gail and Jim Spann. Photo: Jeff Scovil.



78. **Copper** twins. 23.2 x 14.6 cm. Osceola Mine, Houghton, Michigan, USA. Specimen: Gail and Jim Spann. Photo: Tom Spann.



79. **Rutile & hematite** after **ilmenite**. 9.4 x 7.1 cm. Ambositra, Amoron'i Mania, Fianarantsoa, Madagascar. Specimen: Gail and Jim Spann. Photo: Tom Spann.

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Photo 70–73: Gail Spann.

73. Exhibit of Gail Spann devoted to Peter Lyckberg and collected by him calcite from Malmberget (Gällivare, Sweden).

74. Junior Earth Science Area of the TGMS. Photo: Peter Modreski.

75. Blake Zastrow in the Lobby of the Westward Look Resort in Tucson. Photo: Gail Spann.

76. Coton Kalina, young collector near his display at the TGMS. Photo: mindat.org.

gical Record. After getting our passes, we head down to put in two displays. One that I put together was to honor Peter Lyckberg, and Malmberget mine, Sweden. Jim worked with our sponsored young fellow, Blake Zastrow, to put in the *Spann Marquis* display.

Blake was this years recipient of a program we found, we fly in and involve young people and introduce them to the world of museums, dealers and collectors. Blake was enjoying the whole social and mineral side of things.

On Thursday, we had the dinner that we co-host with Jordi Fabre that involves 200 guests. Our portion is called *Meet the Mineral Museum Professionals*, and Jordi hosts the *Friends of Mineral Forum* folks. It is great fun! And we started a new award called the John Sampson White *Mineral Legacy Award*. Guess who got the first one? Yes, John! He was so honored, and we called him up on the stage as his wife, Merle, looked on. John was just so deserving of this award, not only for *The Mineralogical Record*, but for his many many years at the Smithsonian Museum.

The rest of the week consisted of enjoying the great displays and seeing the amazing minerals for sale, it was magical as always. The saddest part is taking down displays, saying goodbye and leaving Tucson. The mineral community is wonderful, and we are thankful we are able to go to Tucson and see our many friends!