

# THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Volume 75, Issue 2 Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona  
February 2009



**NEXT MEETING:**  
**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2009**  
**AT 7:00 PM**

## MEETING TOPIC & SPEAKER

OUR SPEAKER FOR  
FEBRUARY WILL BE

JEFF SCOVIL

The program will be called "Tourmalines for Breakfast" and is about Jeff's trip to Madagascar last summer. It will cover mineral localities (lots of pegmatites) as well as national parks and lots of scenery.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, I would like to thank all those who came out to help with the club's booth at the Flagg Show. The Wheel was very popular, and we had people standing in line to spin the wheel most of the time. Special thanks goes to Bob Holm and Ed Nichols, who set up and tore down the booth and spent the better part of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday out at the show. I would also like to thank the following volunteers: Joanne Hesterman, Lynne Dyer, Debra and Dennis Long, Emil Stoyanov, Shirley Fiske, Roger Deming, Dave Lay, Garrett Torrey, Edna Luft, Kathy LaFountain, and Tom Cunningham.

There are a lot of great shows during the month of February: Wickenburg Gold Rush Days – Feb. 13-15; Tucson Gem and Mineral Show – Feb. 12-15 in the Convention Center, and all over town up until then; Prospector's Day at the Museum – Feb. 21; 2009 Rocks Are Fun, put on by the Apache Junction Rock and Gem Club – Feb. 21-22; and Queen Valley RV Resort Wood Carvers & Rockhounds, Queen Valley, AZ – Feb. 24. More details are available at the AZ Dept. of Mines and Mineral Resources' website, [www.mines.az.gov](http://www.mines.az.gov).

Happy rockhounding and looking forward to seeing you at the Feb. 20 meeting.

Lois Splendoria



## **ARIZONA MINERAL COLLECTOR**

### **NUMBER 116**

By Raymond Grant

Here is an additional mineral to add to the Arizona mineral list. It is mcguinnessite. This makes a total of 868 mineral species reported from Arizona.

It was found at the 79 mine by George Godas and identified by Claude Yoder. Mcguinnessite, a magnesium copper carbonate, is very similar to malachite, a copper carbonate. At the 79 mine it occurs as small (up to 4 mm) very pale green fibrous spherules to flattened groups and bowties.

Mcguinnessite is a relatively rare mineral usually found associated with serpentine, which is the source of the magnesium. At the 79 mine there is no serpentine, but at the 79 mine, there are a series of carbonate rocks and dolomite may be the source of the magnesium. It is a very late forming mineral, found in pockets of chrysocolla.

The 79 mine was worked sporadically for lead, zinc, silver, and copper for over 100 years. It was located in 1879, hence the name. In the 1960s the mine was discovered by mineral collectors and has been a source of mineral specimens since then. The first collectors to get in the mine found a bonanza of specimens (Leo Langland, MSA member and past MSA President, was one of the discoverers). There was a wulfenite room, an aurichalcite room, and a chrysocolla room plus many other areas with abundant specimens.

Since 1971, the mine has been under lease or ownership of mineral specimen miners, with a steady supply of mineral specimens produced every year. It is the source of some of the world's best aurichalcite, of smithsonite in a variety of colors including very unusual apple green colored specimens, of wulfenite crystals with the famous red centers, and of hemimorphite of a great blue color.

In the discussion of the mines in Arizona with the most minerals in some of the past columns, the 79 mine should be listed as 88 mineral species are reported from the mine. As was the case with the other Arizona localities with a large number of minerals, one or several persons has taken the job of keeping track of the minerals found there and getting unknown samples identified.

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHSTONE**

Aquarius (Jan 21 – Feb 18)

Pisces (Feb 19 – Mar 20)

By Heather Hill

The February birthstone is Amethyst, a member of the quartz family, occurring naturally as crystals within rocks. The amethyst is the most highly valued stone in the quartz group & once considered more valuable than diamonds. Its color ranges from violet to pale red-violet and is found in alluvial deposits, mostly in Brazil, Uruguay and Malaysia. Often, cut gems of amethyst are graded using the terms: Siberian, Uruguayan or Bahain; representing high medium and low grade respectively, regardless of the actual source. Because of the patchiness of the color distribution in the crystals, Amethyst is often cut as brilliant round cuts to maximize the color. Other cuts can be used when the color is better distributed. The amethyst is a 7 on the Mohs' hardness scale.

One of the ways an amethyst can form is in drusy crusts that line the inside of large volcanic rock pockets or "vugs". Some of the vugs form from trees that were engulfed in lava flow millions of years ago and have since withered away. Other vugs are just gas bubbles in the lava. Some vugs can be large. Calcite sometimes is associated and inclusions of caxoxenite are common. On occasion, even excellent crystals of gypsum have been found nestled inside amethyst lined vugs.

Ancient Greeks believed Amethyst held powers such as protection against intoxication.

In fact, "amethyst" comes from the Greek word "amethystos," meaning sober or "not drunken" since it was associated with the god of wine, and was a common practice to serve wine from amethyst goblets or worn as an amulet against drunkenness with the belief this would prevent overindulgence.

Even today, amethyst is considered a stabilizing force for people who struggle overcoming addictive behaviors. A gift of amethyst is symbolic of protection and the power to overcome difficulty. It is said to strengthen the bond in a love relationship, an ideal anniversary or engagement gem.

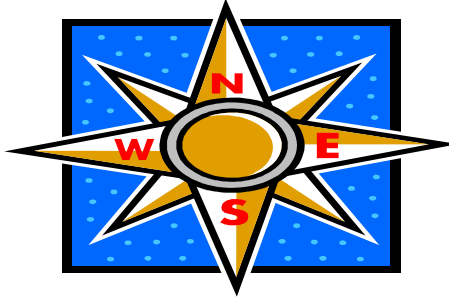
Amethyst has been found in ruins dating as far back as the ninth century, adorning crowns, scepters, jewelry, and breastplates worn in battle. Purple is the traditional color of royalty and amethyst has been used throughout history to adorn rich and powerful monarchs and rulers. Purple dye was scarce and expensive at one time, so was reserved for the garments of kings and queens. A large Amethyst is one of the closely guarded gemstones in the British Crown Jewels.

Additionally, amethyst is believed to be symbolic of piety & spirituality, used to ornament churches and crosses used in religious ceremonies, and worn in rings and on rosaries by bishops and priests.

Amethyst can be found here in Arizona, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania; Thunder Bay, Canada; Uruguay; Africa; Italy; Germany; Ural Mountains, Russia; Maraba, Brazil; Australia, India, Madagascar, Namibia and in Sri Lanka. Other fascinating and extremely valuable specimens can be found in Vera Cruz and Guerrero, Mexico.

*SOURCES: Birthstones.com, Aboutbirthstones.com, Galleries.com*

# **THERE IS NO COALITION TRIP PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY**



## **MSA FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP** **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st**

I have a request for a return field trip to the Bullard Mine. Last year's trip was very popular with many rockhounds.

We will meet again in Wickenburg at the McDonald's parking lot at 9:00 a.m., leaving there no later than 9:30 a.m.

Travel west on US 60 to the intersection of I-60 and Eagle Eye Road in Aguila. Drive 4.1 miles to mile post 31 and a sign that says "Leaving Maricopa Co.", road curves around to the west 3.1 miles to an unmaintained road on the right leading northwest. Follow this road 2.8 miles to the fork and the old BLM sign, take the left fork for 1.5 miles to Bullard Mine access road on the right (north). As usual, these roads are hard on tires so check your spare tire for air before leaving.

Bring the usual rock pick & larger pick for digging, if you wish. Bring water and your favorite lunch snacks.

I will have maps at the February meeting and at Wickenburg. See all my rockhound friends at the meeting. My cell phone for the trip day only is 480-370- 6716. If you have questions, please call my home phone prior to the day of the trip at 480-636-1251.

Ed Nichols  
YeOlde Rockhound

# **ROCK SHOWS**



## **FEBRUARY 2 – 9 BEAD RENAISSANCE SHOW TUCSON, AZ**

3340 E. Michigan  
next to the Holidome and Gem Mall  
Mon. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Tue. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Wed. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Thu. 10 a.m. – 9 p.m.  
Fri. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Sat. 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Contact: J&J Promotions, LLC  
P.O. Box 420 Williamsburg, NM 87942  
(575) 894-1293  
e-mail: [info@beadshow.com](mailto:info@beadshow.com)  
web site: [www.beadshow.com](http://www.beadshow.com)



## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 PROSPECTORS' DAY**

Co-sponsored by  
the Arizona Prospectors Association  
and the Maricopa Lapidary Society

Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum  
1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Gold panning, demonstrations, panning  
equipment, and activities for children and  
MLS selected mineral dealers.

Hours: Sat. 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
Free Admission and Parking

Dealer Chairperson: Laurette Kennedy  
602-944-5737 hm. 602-738-2552 cell

## **JANUARY 31 – FEBRUARY 14 ARIZONA MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW In TUCSON, ARIZONA Martin Zinn Expositions:**

The InnSuites Hotel 475 N. Granada

The Mineral & Fossil Marketplace  
1333 N. Oracle Rd.

Quality Inn, 1025 E. Benson Highway

Ramada Ltd. 665 N. Freeway

10-6 daily

Free Admission

More Than 400 Dealers From All Over The  
World, Free Shuttle Bus To Other Shows,  
Artists' Gallery At The Innsuites Hotel

Contact: Martin Zinn Expositions P.O. Box  
665

Bernalillo, NM 87004-0665

fax (505) 867-0073

e-mail: [mz0955@aol.com](mailto:mz0955@aol.com)

Web site: [www.mzexpos.com](http://www.mzexpos.com)



## **FEBRUARY 12 - 15 TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW**

Tucson Gem & Mineral Society  
Tucson Convention Center  
260 S. Church Ave. Tucson, AZ

Thu, Fri & Sat 10-6

Sun. 10-5

Adults \$9, Children 14 & Under Free With  
A Paying Adult

Displays Of "Mineral Oddities," 250  
Dealers, Jewelry, Minerals, Fossils, Door  
Prizes, Free Lectures And Symposiums,  
Interactive Children's Event Fri. thru Sun.

Contact: Tucson Gem & Mineral Society  
P.O. Box 42588, Tucson, AZ 85733  
(520) 322-5773

e-mail: [tgms@tgms.org](mailto:tgms@tgms.org)

Web site: [www.tgms.org](http://www.tgms.org)

## **MORE FEBRUARY ROCK SHOWS.....**

**FEBRUARY 13-15**

### **WICKENBURG GOLD RUSH DAYS ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW SALE**

Wickenburg Community Center  
160 N. Valentine, Wickenburg, AZ  
Website: [www.wickenburgchamber.com](http://www.wickenburgchamber.com)  
Hours: Fri., Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4  
Admission and parking: Free

Dealers Contact: Chamber of Commerce, John Creighton, 928-684-5061



**FEBRUARY 21-22**

### **MESA 2009 ROCKS ARE FUN**

Skyline High School  
845 S. Crismon Rd, Mesa, AZ 85208  
Website: [www.apachejunctionrockclub.org](http://www.apachejunctionrockclub.org)  
Sponsored by: Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club, Inc.  
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4  
Admission: \$3.00  
Senior \$3.00  
Students \$1.00 With Student ID  
Children Under 12 Free  
Parking: Free  
Show Chairperson: John Frary  
Dealer Chairperson: Sharon Szymanski



**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

### **QUEEN VALLEY RV RESORT WOOD CARVERS & ROCKHOUNDERS**

Queen Valley RV Resort Activity Center  
50 W. Oro Viejo Dr., Queen Valley, AZ 85218  
Phone: 520-463-1885

**NEWS FROM THE TREASURER:**

**THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF DUES AREN'T PAID SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING THIS NOTICE. THEY WERE DUE BY DEC. 31st & WE HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXTRA MONTH. PLEASE PAY NOW TO STAY ON THE EMAIL OR MAILING LIST.**

Thanks,  
Betty L. Deming  
2922 W. Claremont St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85017

*Thank you to all  
who came out to visit and  
work at The Flagg Show  
January 9, 10 & 11*



**SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!**

**KEEVIN SIMPSON & JAENA MOYNIHAN,  
PHOENIX**

**RON & DIANE GINN, CHANDLER**

**MSA CONTACT INFO:**

President:  
Lois Splendoria  
[chimes@extremezone.com](mailto:chimes@extremezone.com)  
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& Field Trip Coordinator  
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[epidote555@yahoo.com](mailto:epidote555@yahoo.com)  
(480) 636-1251

Treasurer and Coalition Field Trip  
Coordinator: Betty Deming  
(602) 242-1553  
[bd\\_mac2003@yahoo.com](mailto:bd_mac2003@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Position vacant.  
Interested?  
Contact Lois Splendoria

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[sagegirl777@juno.com](mailto:sagegirl777@juno.com)

Mineral Curator:  
John McLaughlin  
(623) 979-5246

Librarian/Door Prizes/Hospitality:  
Bob Holm (623) 247-1325

Refreshments: Lynne Dyer  
(480) 396-2393

**MSA BOARD OF GOVERNORS:**  
LYNNE DYER, TERRY DYER  
BOB HOLM, K.J. WERNER



BETTY TOOK THIS PHOTO AT THE  
SADDLE MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP



**HEATHER HILL  
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA  
1502 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007**

**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

[www.azminerals.com](http://www.azminerals.com)



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**Mineralogical Society of Arizona  
Founded 1935  
A Non Profit Organization**

**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:** Adults – Single Adults \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) -\$2.50, Families & Couples - \$20.00.

**Mail dues to Betty Deming at  
2922 W. Claremont, Phoenix, AZ 85017**

The Mineralogical Society of Arizona is a member of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

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