

THE TUCSON SHOW

The largest mineralogical event of any type in the world (bar none) is the annual phenomenon commonly referred to as the Tucson Show, or among regular participants, simply Tucson. It is actually an amalgam of numerous (in recent years over 30) mineral, rock, meteorite, gem, fossil, jewelry, etc. shows, which grew out of a single mineral show that started in 1955. This is an international event extraordinaire. During the last week of January and first two weeks of February of each year, tens of thousands (estimated 100,000 in 2002) of mineral and gem collectors, curators, scientists, and natural history enthusiasts, from every corner of the globe, descend on Tucson. Shows are held in giant tents, at hotels and resorts, and in exhibit halls all over the city, with the majority located in the city center.

The show that began it all—the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show organized by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS) (www.tgms.org/tgms.htm)—occupies the Tucson Convention Center over the last four days of the event. There are several hundred dealers at this show along with displays from major mineral museums and private collections from around the world. Numerous talks, symposia, and meetings are held in conjunction with the show, including a symposium cosponsored by the TGMS, the Friends of Mineralogy (FM), and the Mineralogical Society of America (MSA). The symposium theme coincides with the theme of the TGMS show and is usually a mineral or mineral group. In 2006 the show and symposium theme was “Minerals of Canada” (see photographs in this article). All are welcome to participate in this symposium (see this year’s call for abstracts on page 216 of this issue).

For a comprehensive guide of each year’s shows, covering almost all aspects of the Tucson phenomenon, see the print and online show guide (www.tucsonshowguide.com/tsg) published by *Color Stone* magazine.

John Rakovan



“Minerals of Canada” was the theme of the 2006 edition of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. The presence of the main Canadian museums as exhibitors, including the Royal Ontario Museum and the Canadian Museum of Nature, ensured that exceptional samples of the main mineral locations of Canada were on display. It was possible to admire some of the best specimens of carletonite, catapleite, elpidite, eudidymite, epididymite, leifite, and serandite ever retrieved from Mont Saint-Hilaire; a selection of magnificent phosphates from Rapid Creek and Big Fish River, including augelite, gormanite, lazulite, ludlamite, wardite, and whiteite; and some outstanding specimens of grossular and vesuvianite from Asbestos. PHOTOS JULIAN GRAY

Alessandro Guastoni



David Vaughan of Outback Mining proudly displays their find of tiger eye from the Hamersley Range of the Pilbara region, Australia. PHOTO J. GRAY



This year, among the best specimens that deserve to be mentioned, were some samples of dark pink elbaite from Paprok in Afghanistan, including a large specimen on matrix displaying a group of well-formed crystals more than 20 cm long. WAYNE THOMPSON FINE MINERALS, PHOTO A. GUASTONI

Next year the theme of the show will be
“Australia – Minerals from Down Under”
 (February 8–11, 2007).