Mineral Mad/ness Month
In our world of proliferating professional meetings, it is difficult to choose which we will attend. MSA’s vision is to participate in several meetings, in part to reflect the diversity of our membership. One such “meeting” is the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show—the largest gathering of mineralogists, gemologists, and collectors in the world. The most difficult aspect of this “meeting” is deciding how long to stay.

For those of you who haven’t had the pleasure of visiting this show, it occurs over a four-week period beginning in late January. Thousands of mineral, gem, rock, and fossil dealers and collectors from around the world descend on Tucson, Arizona. Hotel rooms are transformed into mineral galleries, parking lots into showcases, and restaurants into bargaining rooms. Mineral madness month culminates with the official Tucson Gem and Mineral Society (TGMS) Show held in the convention center in mid-February. Dealers move their wares from hotels onto the convention floor and are joined by nearly 100 museums, educational institutions, and private collectors who bring awe-inspiring specimens to dazzle spectators. Our colleagues arrive from around the world. For some, it is eye candy at its finest and for others, an exquisite field area. Every type of mineral is available, as is every price range—including a $2 million quartz and tourmaline specimen!

This year MSA had the pleasure of presenting our Distinguished Public Service Medal at the TGMS banquet (described in the April issue, Elements 3: 88). Over 300 people attended the awards ceremony, including many of our members. Marie Huizing, our medalist and 30-year managing editor of Rocks & Minerals, is well known and dearly admired by this community. When I presented the medal to her, there was a standing ovation and such noise I had to yell into the microphone. The applause lasted for minutes. It was an awesome sight to see this level of enthusiasm for our medal and our winner, and to look out over a sea of clapping hands and standing colleagues. After her acceptance speech as she was stepping down from the stage, she received an even longer standing ovation! MSA gained much visibility and appreciation from the mineral-collecting community. And we netted a few new members, including the premier mineral photographer and dealers from Australia! This venue helped raise awareness about our society to an important group of (mostly) non-members.

Our next event will be the presentation of the 2007 Dana Medal to Dr. Frank Spear at the “Frontiers in Mineral Sciences” meeting in Cambridge, England, in late June. I look forward to seeing many of you there, and as enthusiastic as at TGMS.

Barb Dutrow
2007 MSA President

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Balloting for the 2007 election of MSA officers and councilors is underway. The candidates are Peter Heaney for president; Nancy Ross and Jeffrey Post for vice president; Mickey Gunter and Phil Brown for secretary; and Bruce Marsh, Carol Frost, Lee Groat, and Peter Burns for the two councilor positions.

MSA members should have received voting instructions at their current e-mail addresses. Those who do not wish to vote online can request a paper ballot from the MSA business office. As always, the voting deadline is August 1. Individuals elected to office decide on the direction of the Society. Voting is an important responsibility for all MSA members.

If you have not been getting the few e-mail announcements from MSA about new issues of American Mineralogist online, voting, your renewal, or confirmation of your online orders, either we do not have a working e-mail address for you or your system is blocking messages from MSA. Consider rectifying the situation. Otherwise, you will need to keep watch on this column or the MSA website to keep abreast of these matters.

The MSA staffed a booth at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Tucson, AZ, on 8–11 February 2007. MSA will share a display with other societies at the “Frontiers in Mineral Sciences” meeting, Cambridge, UK, on 26–28 June 2007. MSA will have a booth at the GSA meeting, Denver, CO, on October 28–31, 2007. During that meeting MSA will also hold its Awards Lunch, MSA Presidential Address, Joint MSA–GS Reception, annual business meeting, Council meeting, and breakfasts for the past presidents and associate editors. Do not forget the lectures by the Roebling Medalist, Gordon E. Brown, and the MSA Awardee, Richard John Harrison. More information is available on the MSA website.
SULFIDE MINERALOGY AND GEOCHEMISTRY
REVIEWS IN MINERALOGY & GEOCHEMISTRY VOL. 61

Mineralogical Society of America and Geochemical Society

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