



# THE STONE TABLET

## Miami Co Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



**Gems & minerals aren't the only nature you may experience in AZ - wild boars!**

### Tucson Gem Shows - Presentation by Dewey Buck

If you want to beat the cold snowy winters of Ohio and see collections of rocks, minerals, gems & fossils from around the world, then Tucson, Arizona is the place to go! Dewey Buck, Mike Manning and a few other members of our club have traveled west to experience such adventures over the past few winters. In fact, most of our spring show's raffle prizes have returned to Ohio from the Tucson Gem Shows.

How did this amazing venue get started? The year was 1955 and Bob Root, a mineral dealer from Denver, convinced Dan Caudle, Harold Rupert, and Clayton Gibson of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society to try hosting a rock show. The first show was held in a school, admission was free and 1,500 people were in attendance. This was a judged competition of exhibits. Some of the categories included cabinet specimens, miniature specimens, "thumbnail" specimens and cabochons. In addition, "fossil folks" were thrilled with the category labeled "paleontological oddities." The first year was quite a success and the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society began planning for next year's displays.

The years to follow saw continued growth in attendance, vendors and exhibits. It wasn't until the early 1960's however that show chairman, Clayton Chapman, had an inspiration. He invited Mr. Paul Desautels, the assistant

curator of the Smithsonian Institution's mineral collection, to come to the show and to bring with him a noteworthy exhibit from the shelves of the Smithsonian. The invitation was accepted and this began an amazing relationship between Tucson and the Smithsonian for years to come. It also opened the doors to others through out the U.S.A. and the world to see and hear about amazing collections and specimens.

Wulfenite, 19,227-carat ruby corundum crystal, calcite crystals, uncut emeralds, formacite, linarite, caledonite, diablete, cerussite with azurite & aurichalcite and a skull of an unidentified pre-historic animal were some of the curiosities that attracted visitors during the 1960's. The show was housed at the fairgrounds until the early 1970's and today the main show is held at the Tucson Convention Center. But, unlike the early years when the show was only a 2 day event in March, a rock enthusiast could literally spend January-March exploring Arizona and other parts of the west!

Everyone in attendance this evening agreed that a field trip to see the wonders of the world in Tucson would be amazing! Thanks for sharing some of the treasures that you purchased Dewey - the boxes of fluorescent stones under black lights were awesome! Make sure you pick Dewey's brain for all of the do's & don'ts if you plan a trip to Arizona!

<https://www.tucsongemshows.net>



## May Meeting Notes:

- President, Mary Manning opened the meeting with Pledge of Allegiance & Terry Lukac the prayer.
- Welcome to all of our new club members!!!
- Announcement - Hubert Bateman passed away in February. He was 91 years of age. The Bateman family had been very active in our gem & mineral club for many years. His wife, DiAnn had been a past president. Hubert is survived by his wife DiAnn and his son, Rob Bateman. Rob is a current member of the club. Our condolences to the Bateman Family.
- Treasurer's report was presented by Terry Lukac
- April meeting notes were presented in the April's Newsletter.
- Numerous Bring & Brag items were shared from our members!
- Mary Manning has large(L) size of club shirts still available. If additional sizes are need, please contact Mary for future orders.
- Mary discussed the possibility of having a t-shirt design contest.
- Ron Ditmer mentioned field trips with the Dayton Club - May 28th: 10 am-2 pm; Sylvania Quarry. June 11th: field trip to an Indiana quarry.
- Refreshment sheet was sent around for future meetings.
- Thank-you cards will be sent out to the businesses who made large contributions to our most recent gem & mineral show!
- Thanks to Manning's Rock Shop for the donation of tonight's door prizes.
- Dewey recapped the 2022 Miami Co Gem & Mineral Show: This year's show was a huge success - Attendance, sales, membership all saw an increase! Dewey would like to say "thank-you" to Kathy Barker, Dylan Koenig, Anita and Terry Lukac, Carol Herbst, Neva Rohrer, Lee Reed, Geraldine Reed, Matt Maxson, Becky Maxson, Steve Landes, Alicia Rubin, Chuck Hough, Cheryl Hough, Theresa, Amanda and Megan Hipple, Spencer Pratt, John Nichols, Teresa Nichols, Kerri Phillips, Marty Thomas, Duane Gray, Ron Ditmer, Tyler Adkins, Judy Burton, Lisa Morris, Mike and Mary Manning, Ginger Williams, Frank Brower, Todd Inderrieden, Diane Clark - Demonstrators: Marion Musser, Vaughn Hipple, Russ Bartley and Gary Getz.
- Tentative Meeting Programs:
  - June - Faceting by Frank Brower
  - July - Picnic at the Mannings
  - August - Ugly Rock Contest & Ice Cream Sundae Social
  - September - TBD
  - October - TBD
  - November - Novelty Night/Mini Gem Show (\*think of a new name for this meeting)
  - December - Christmas Holiday Dinner & Gift Exchange
  - January 2023 - Chili Cook-Off & Making Grab Bags for 2023 show.
- Suggestions for rearranging the tables for our monthly meetings?!
- Pre-meeting dinner at El Sombrero before the club meeting. Everyone is welcome to join us! Please RSVP Mary Manning so that she can let the restaurant know a number. We meet at 5:30 p.m. El Sombrero is located just before the church.

## Just a few of the 2022 Miami Co Gem & Mineral Show Memories:

