

The Show That Glows at the 2022 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show®

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(All photographs by the author)



In 1996 the Fluorescent Mineral Society (FMS) celebrated its 25th anniversary at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show® (TGMS). The FMS had over 80 cases of fluorescent minerals on display. The FMS' 50th anniversary was in 2021. Unfortunately, COVID delayed the celebration until 2022. In recognition of this milestone, the TGMS invited the FMS to feature a world-class exhibit of fluorescent minerals at the show. 50 cases were on display. Here is the story behind accomplishing this historic event.

The FMS has several veterans of the 1996 TGMS and several people were experienced with running local fluorescent shows or fluorescent rooms within larger gem and mineral shows. This was the case with our Denver Gem and Mineral Show.

Planning was a three-year effort. A planning team solicited FMS members to display and coordinated with TGMS and the Tucson Convention Center on space and power requirements. We determined the logistics of getting cases, lights, and minerals to Tucson.

Several "FMS Expresses" transported exhibits from New England, Franklin, NJ, Seattle, and the Denver area. Exhibiting FMS members who did not own UV display lights, UV Systems, Inc. sold them at a discount or made rentals available. TGMS loaned FMS many cases for displaying.



Lights supplied by UV Systems, Inc.



An FMS Express

TGMS supplied most of the cases. FMS members added black paper to darken the case and supplied risers and shelves for optimum display.



TGMS Cases



Risers and shelving



Creating darkening inserts

Next came the case setup. Exhibitors hung their lamps and placed their minerals. After the specimens were arranged, the labels were placed, and the front glass secured.



Arranging the minerals



Placing the labels



Securing the glass



Cases ready to show

The TGMS lasted four days. During this time FMS members acted as docents and provided security for the room. In my estimation several thousand people visited the Fluorescent Room. It was the highlight of the 2022 TGMS.

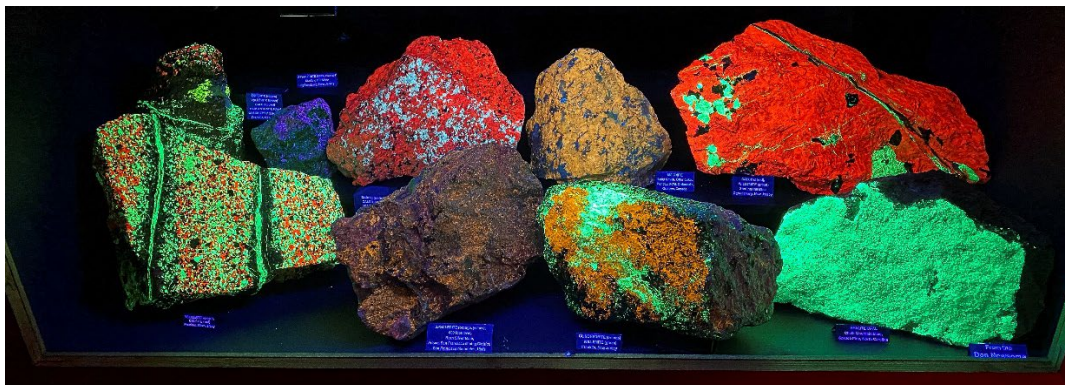
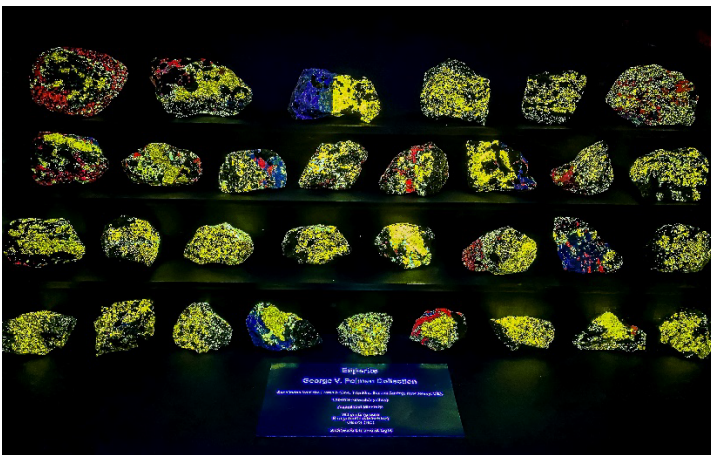


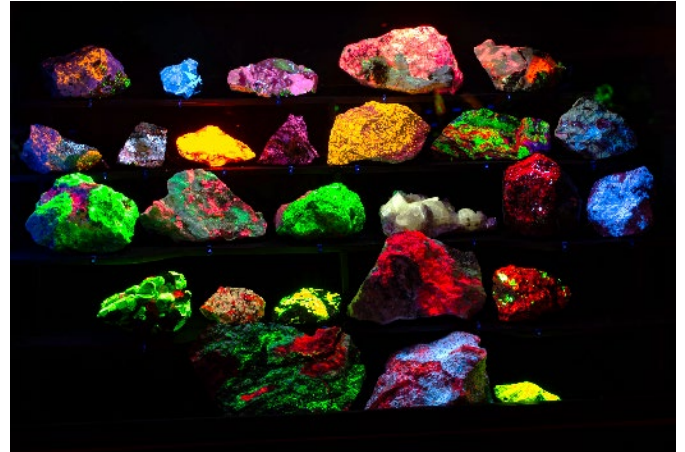
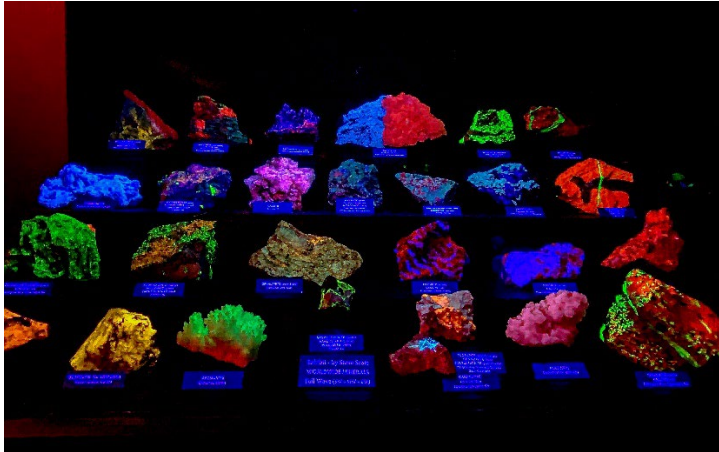
FMS docent explaining a case



Viewers at the Fluorescent Room

Photographing the cases was extremely difficult. TGMS rules prohibited removing the glass. Thus, reflections from the red safety lighting and photographing through glass did not create high quality photos. Here are a few case photos.

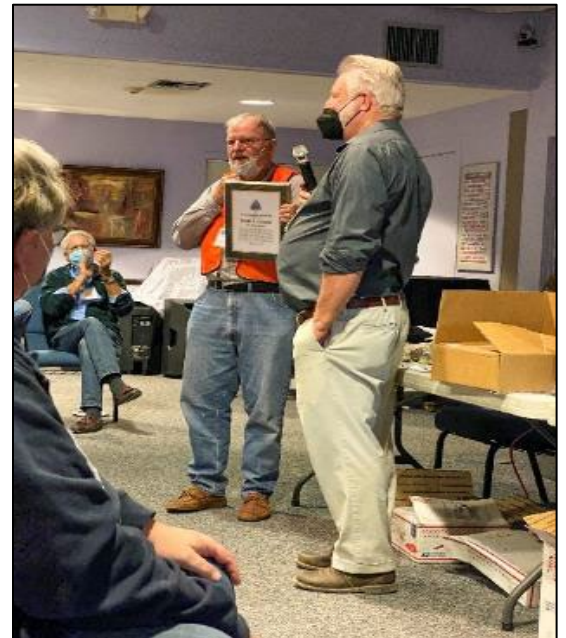




The FMS held its annual meeting one evening. About 85 FMS members were in attendance with another 30 on Zoom. Awards, auctions, a raffle, and members selling/trading resulted in lots of fun!



Celebration cake



Awards



Mineral trading



Door prizes

The FMS had a couple of educational displays on the TGMS main floor. The Story of the FMS with Hall of Fame members and Evolution of UV Lights.



Story of FMS

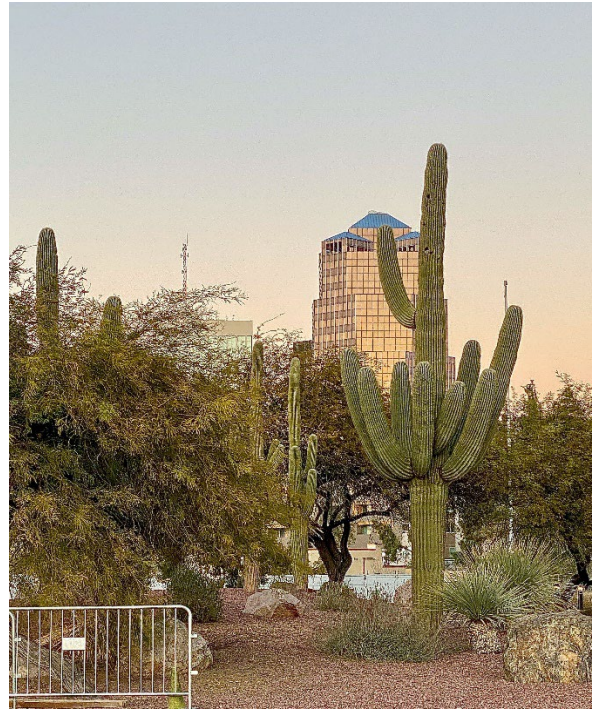


Evolution of UV Lights

After four days, it was time to pack up and say goodbye to the TGMS and a show all FMS members can be proud of.



Packing up



Goodbye Tucson Convention Center

Before heading back to Colorado, I took time to play turista. Plus enjoy a fine Mexican dinner serenaded by a Mariachi band.



Saguaro National Park



Mariachi band

Adiós Tucson!



Sunset from the Catalina Foothills

This article courtesy of Flatirons Mineral Club of Boulder County, Colorado and the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Fluorescent Mineral Society.



Flatirons Facets

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