

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report February 2016

The 2016 Denver Gem & Mineral Show will be on September 16 - 18 this year. It is always the second Friday, Saturday and Sunday following Labor Day. The show will be at the Denver Mart, 451 E. 58th Avenue (I-25 at Exit 215) as usual. The theme this year is "Minerals of Africa". Now Africa is a huge continent with a wide variety of geological settings. Thus, Africa has quite a variety of fabulous minerals that its geology has produced. Let's muse about them for a minute. There are the perfect blood-red scalenohedra rhodochrosite crystals from South Africa. There is the brilliant green banded malachite from Zaire. There are the striking aquamarine crystals from Erongo Mountain, Namibia, sometimes combined with black gemmy schorl for quite an attractive combination. There is Morocco with its suite of minerals such as azurite, vanadinite, cerussite and aragonite. Then there is Tsumeb in Namibia with its suite of 310 minerals, unsurpassed in quality and variety. Tsumeb is considered to have produced some of the world's finest mineral specimens. If a specimen comes from Tsumeb, it usually commands more reverence and a higher price. For gemstones, tanzanite from Tanzania is the ultimate in its beautiful sapphire blue color. For the lapidary, there is the lovely violet-colored sugilite from the Wessels mine in Northern Cape Province of South Africa. So for all of us hobbyists in Denver it means this year's show will be fabulous as well. There will be exhibits of all these minerals and dealers will have them for sale in their booths and rooms. There will be plenty to see and dream about.

As usual, many volunteers from the clubs are needed to put on the Denver Show. There is a wide variety of jobs, most of which are easy and some are sitting jobs. The jobs include selling and taking tickets (Admissions); serving food and beverages in the Hospitality Room; checking in volunteers; working security; selling grab bags, posters and pins; assisting the judges; assisting with exhibits; welcoming the school children; setting up the show; and tearing down the show. The volunteer sign up forms are out to the clubs and should be circulated at your club soon. Be sure to sign up and give generously of your time if you can. The show is a wonderful opportunity for all of us gem, mineral and fossil hobbyists in the Denver area and so we need to step up and help with the show.

In addition, new members are always needed for the Show Committee to help plan and put on the show. You can tag along with a member of your club and come to a meeting to see what it is all about. You will meet other club members and learn much. If you are interested, contact your club representative (each club has one) or Show Chair Lesley Sebol at 720-999-1372 or lsebol@yahoo.com.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Show Secretary