Meeting Wednesday, November 20

The next meeting of the gem and mineral society will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2019, Museum open at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7 PM. The program will be presented by Mr. Mark Hay on “CERUSSITE LOCALITIES IN ARIZONA.” Arizona is known among mineral collectors world-wide for its secondary lead deposits. Localities that fall in this category include some of the state’s most famous mines including the Red Cloud, Tiger, Glove, Old Yuma and many others. The mineral that is arguably most responsible for this fame is wulfenite, but many other fine minerals have been found also including vanadinite, cerussite, mimetite, caledonite, linarite, leadhillite and diaboleite to name a few.

Mark grew up in southwest Colorado where he developed a love of mountains, rocks and nature. But it wasn’t until the late 1970’s when he started working at the Magma Mine in Superior, Arizona that he became a mineral collector. At Magma, Mark became friends with two avid collectors – Reg Barnes and Les Presmyk. They were highly competitive, advanced collectors who ushered him into a new world filled with glorious minerals. Wulfenites, azurites, barites and so many more. He’s been collecting for 40 years now.
Cerussite (PbCO₃) is one of the more common minerals found in secondary lead deposits. It occurs widely through Arizona in a wonderful range of forms and associations with other mineral species. This discussion is focused on Arizona localities that have produced “collector-grade” cerussite specimens.

Cerussite, 2.3 cm, Grand Reef Mine, Graham County, Arizona, USA. John Lucking Collection; Jeff Scovil Photo.

Cerussite (twinned crystals forming finely reticulated mass), 7.5 cm, Mammoth-St. Anthony Mine, Tiger, Pinal County, Arizona, USA. Dick Morris Collection; Jeff Scovil Photo.

Cerussite, 7.1 cm, Flux Mine, Santa Cruz County, Arizona, USA. Stan Esbenshade Collection; Jeff Scovil Photo.

Cerussite, 2.3 cm, Grand Reef Mine, Graham County, Arizona, USA. John Lucking Collection; Jeff Scovil Photo.