

Gem & Mineral Council Newsletter

April-May 2013

EVENT

As you all know, April 28th was our **Annual Meeting and Reception** at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. We had a fabulous cocktail party, as well as a silent auction in the Grand Foyer of the Museum. Our guests also enjoyed wine provided by [Coghlan Vineyard and Jewelers](#), as well as live music by [Byzantium](#); our live auction was conducted by Isadore Chait. Our distinguished speaker from the California Institute of Technology, Professor George Rossman, gave a lecture on feldspars, which was both educational and entertaining.



Left: our guest speaker George Rossman. Middle: Byzantium entertaining the cocktail party. Right: set up of wine and chocolate from Coghlan Vineyard and Jewelers.

With 200 guests, this very special event was a true success. **The auction brought in much needed funds for the Museum’s Mineral Sciences Department**, which will help us in our efforts to improve the gem and mineral collection and exhibition, as well as to continue our cutting-edge research.

Thanks again to our auction donors and sponsors, which include the Holland family, Siegel family, Van Pelt family and Lowy family, as well as Milton Street Residential Acquisition and Dentons US, LLP. We want to acknowledge the herculean efforts of the Council’s Annual Meeting **Organizing Committee** chaired by Danusia Niklewicz and including Bobbi Flusser, Joel Siegel, Janice Holland, Mary Stambaugh and Richard Dickinson. And, of course, thanks also to the **countless volunteers** whose help both before and during the event was so crucial to its success.

TOURS AND LECTURES

In April and May, the Mineral Science staff gave three notable tours and lectures:

- **April 5, 2013:** Once a month on **First Fridays**, the Museum puts on a big show with a tour of a collection, a lecture, and live music. Curator Eloïse Gaillou, Dr. Robert DeGroot of USC and students from the Southern California chapter of the American Chemical Society organized [the tour of the night](#). While the curator was giving tours of the Gem & Mineral Hall, Dr. DeGroot and his students had a booth in the Gold Gallery where guests learned about the periodic table through hands-on activities. The tour was followed by a lecture from Sam Kean, author of “The Disappearing Spoon”.
- **April 10, 2013:** Collection Manager Alyssa Morgan and Curator Eloïse Gaillou gave a tour and participated in a lunch organized by Museum Trustee Diane Naegle for her golf club.
- **May 9, 2013:** Curator Eloïse Gaillou gave a lecture at the Beverly Hills Women’s Club on “The Mystery of the Hope Diamond” for a special Mother’s day event. It was a full house!



Dr. Robert DeGroot demonstrating the properties of liquid nitrogen by dropping a ping pong ball into the super-cold liquid.

GEM & MINERAL SHOWS

As usual, the Mineral Science Staff went to the **West Coast Spring Gem & Mineral Show in Santa Ana** (May 17 – 19). We noticed that some dealers and buyers were not present, but quickly realized that many had decided to attend the **first Gem & Mineral Show in China (Changsha)**. A report on the show can be found, among other places, [on the Kristalle website](#). In Santa Ana, we saw some great specimens in several rooms, including aquamarine and water clear topaz from a new pocket at the California Blue mine, in Earth’s Treasures’ room. We did not see many new minerals compared to what we had seen in Tucson. We received a nice **donation from Gene Reynolds** – an amethyst plate from Wyloo Station, Western Australia (picture on the right).



COLLECTION

- The Museum is opening three new permanent exhibits in the next few months, including “**Becoming Los Angeles**”. One cannot talk about the history of Los Angeles without talking about the Gold Rush (gold in California was first discovered in 1842 in the San Gabriel Mountains near Los Angeles). We chose a few gold nuggets from the American River in Placer County that will be part of the exhibit soon, and tried them out in their new display case. The **five gold nuggets** chosen will have a new home in a few months!
- The famous California “**Golden Bear Nugget**” (which is actually a specimen of crystallized gold) has gone for his yearly retreat at the California Federation Show at the Ventura County Fairgrounds (May 31 – June 2). The Golden Bear Nugget, as well as a rough and cut benitoite, are owned by the C.F.M.S, and are put on display at their annual show.

PEOPLE

- The Gem & Mineral Council has a new **volunteer Council Coordinator** since May 9, 2013: **Kathy Kampf**. Kathy comes every Thursday and can be contacted at: gmc@nhm.org or 213-763-3326.
- The Mineral Sciences Department also welcomed a **new volunteer** on May 29, 2013: **Brittany Bednash**. She is a graduate gemologist and volunteers every Wednesday.

We take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers (past and present), and encourage more people to join us! Help is always needed.

MEDIA

Recently, the Mineral Sciences staff was contacted by the executive producer of the [Kid's Science Challenge](#), Jim Metzner. Jim was looking for geoscientists, researchers, and specialists in the field of geology to produce a kid-friendly program on the topic. The Mineral Sciences staff was interviewed by Jim at the Museum, and we also did a [fun field trip to see rubies in Cascade Canyon](#), near Mt Baldy, only an hour away from Los Angeles.

PUBLICATIONS

- The Mineral Science staff published an article about the Gem & Mineral Collection of the NHMLA County in the Spring Issue of [InColor magazine](#), published both [online](#) and on paper.

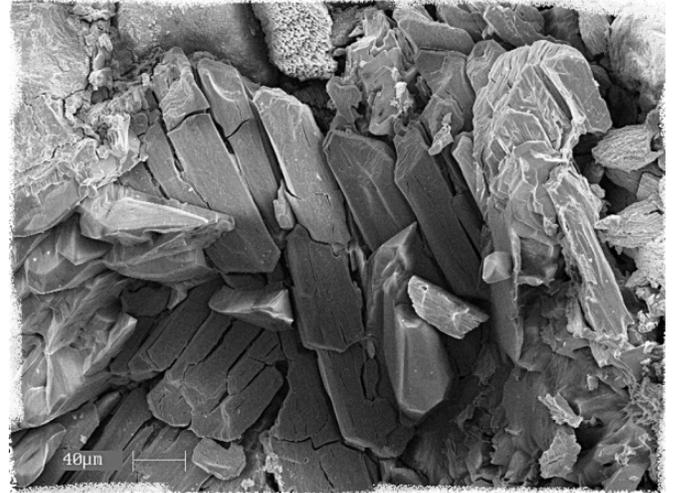
Morgan, A.R., Kampf, A.R., and Gaillou, E., (2013) Gem and mineral treasures in Los Angeles at the Natural History Museum. *InColor*, **1**, pp. 24-31.

- Dr. Anthony Kampf, Emeritus curator, continues to discover more new minerals than ever since his retirement! Here is his last discovery, named **Nashite**.

Kampf, A.R., Hughes, J.M., Marty, J., and Brown, F.H. (2013) Nashite, $\text{Na}_3\text{Ca}_2[(\text{V}^{4+}\text{V}^{5+}_9)\text{O}_{28}]\cdot 24\text{H}_2\text{O}$, a new mineral species from the Yellow Cat mining district, Utah and the Slick Rock mining district, Colorado: crystal structure and descriptive mineralogy. *Canadian Mineralogist*, **50**, pp. 27-37.



General View of the Gem & Mineral Gallery, one of the images published in the last InColor magazine.



Scanning electron microscope image of nashite crystals from the Little Eva mine, Yellow Cat District, Grand County, Utah, USA. © Canadian Mineralogist.

FUTURE EVENTS

- July 25th: Lecture by Charles Carmona on the Tanzania Gemological Center, at the Page Museum.
- September: we are planning a field trip to the Pala Chief and Oceanview mines in San Diego County. Date T.B.D.
- June/July of 2014: Trip to central Europe including France, Germany and Poland. Details will be announced in Fall of 2013.