



Michigan Governor Whitmer declared a “Mineral Week” in Michigan at the request of the Michigan Mineralogical Society to recognize the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Greater Detroit Gem Mineral and Fossil Show held October 11 to 13, 2019. The Michigan Mineralogical Society was organized in 1935 and remains the oldest mineral club in the Midwest. As the official Mineral Museum of Michigan, the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum has been a long-term contributor to this show, Michigan’s largest. This issue of **Showcase** highlights the museum’s contributions to this year’s show, which were more than usual because of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The museum filled four exhibit cases, instead of the normal one or two. Previously the museum held a public silent auction on Sunday of the show featuring surplus donated minerals and more. This year the museum held two silent auctions, one on Saturday and another on Sunday. Patty Cobin, Associate Museum Manager, and I each gave a public lecture. The show attracted about 30% more attendees this year than the previous, with about 6,000 paid attendees and 1,000 middle and secondary school children. Exhibitions at mineral shows are an effective way of increasing exposure for the museum and Michigan Tech.

In line with the theme of the show, “Amazing Agates,” the museum took a selection of the best Lake Superior agates in its collection, which are normally on exhibit at the museum.



The museum’s second exhibit focused on semiprecious gems with a combination of examples of faceted gems and a specimen from which the gems could have been cut.



The Michigan Mineralogical Society, requested the third regular style exhibit. The Society donated to the museum a specimen from Michigan’s 2018 Hamburg meteorite fall. We put it on exhibit along with two other Michigan meteorites for three out of twelve recognized Michigan meteorites.



The 4<sup>th</sup>, a particularly novel exhibit, was very popular with show visitors. It “spiced up the exhibits” according to the show Treasurer. We have decided to use a version of the exhibit in the museum as a way to attract Michigan Tech students to the museum during the upcoming winter months. I’ll tell you more about this in another **Showcase**.

I’ve just enough space left here to tell you about a change to the museum’s first point of contact. For eight years Monica Rovano greeted museum visitors to the museum and assisted those who made purchases from the gift shop. She retired this past August and I thank her for making the museum a welcoming environment. Our new Sales Assistants, Janice Fraki and Julie Stark have considerable retail experience. I’m pleased to say they have quickly learned to appreciate the beauty and splendor of minerals. While they both grew up surrounded by the mining history of the Copper Country, neither previously knew the significance to mineral collectors of local minerals, such as crystallized native copper, datolite, and more. They are avidly learning about minerals, in sync with the mission of the museum to “educate people about minerals,” as they strive to provide our visitors with excellent customer service.

Until next time, Ted Bornhorst, Executive Director and Interim Curator