

Pinal Gem and Mineral Society

Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 6, September 2019

Artisan Village of Coolidge, 351 N Arizona Blvd., Coolidge, Arizona

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

The Pinal Geology Museum at the Artisan Village always needs volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Ray Grant - raycyn@cox.net

DIRECTIONS

The Artisan Village of Coolidge is located on Arizona Blvd. between Northern Avenue and Pima Avenue. Turn east on Pima and look for the gate into the parking area behind the building.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday,
October 16 World
Fossil Day
Program

Meeting Wednesday September 18

The next meeting of the Gem and Mineral Society will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, Museum open at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7 PM. Come learn about "Meteor (Barringer) Crater. The 50-year anniversary of the Apollo Moon landing on July 20, 1969 has put Meteor Crater in the news. The Apollo astronauts came to Arizona for training and one of the reasons was that the moon has many meteor craters and Meteor Crater in northern Arizona is one of the best examples in the world.



In 1903 Daniel Barringer put a mining claim on Meteor Crater to mine for the iron-nickel meteorite and the crater is still owned today by the Barringer Crater Company. Today they have the excellent visitors center on the rim. There are tours along the crater rim, there are many educational and interactive exhibits, there is a theater with a good film, there are exhibits about the Apollo program and astronaut training, and there is a large gift and rock shop. You will need a few hours to do it all. Go to meteorcrater.com for hours, admission fees, and other information.

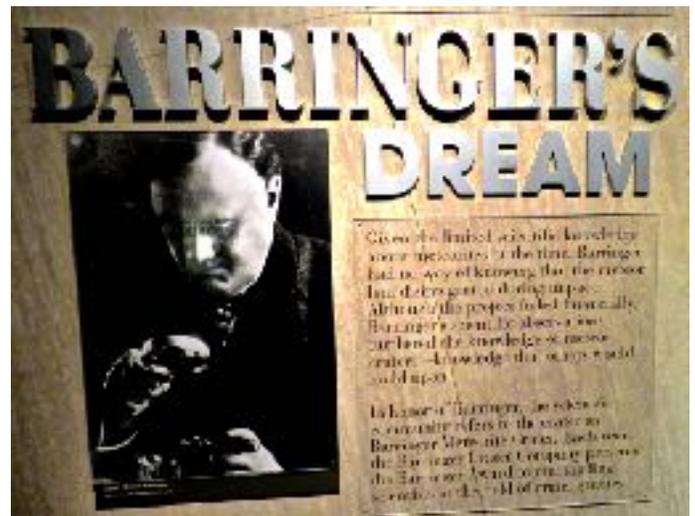
Of interest to mineral collectors is the fact that Meteor Crater is the type locality for two minerals, coesite and stishovite. These are high pressure forms of SiO₂ caused by the impact explosion. Meteor Crater is also the only Arizona location for diamonds, unfortunately microscopic and in the meteorite again from the impact.



Article in the Arizona Republic about Arizona's role in the moon landings.



Typical sample of the iron meteorite found at Meteor Crater



Story of Daniel Barringer at the Crater's visitor center.