

January 27, 2011

Roger is back from Africa! This trip took him to Tanzania and Kenya. It seems that every trip has its own unique highlights. This one was about the animals! He saw many herds of elephants, water buffalo, kudu and wildebeest. One day a herd of ostrich was running next to their Land Rover!



A common occurrence in Tanzania is for local farmers to come up to Roger, reaching into their pockets pulling out a handful of gravel, worthless to the uneducated eye. The farmer doesn't really know if there is any value. After all, he's a farmer, not a gem dealer. Roger gives him money, even if the gravel is only gravel; enough money for a hot meal, transportation and something to take home. He leaves the farmer more confident with the drive to keep working his land. It may not be much, but contributing to a farmer helps a family, one at a time.

This trip was about green gemstones. Chrome Tourmaline. Tsavorite. Mint Green Grossular Garnet. Roger just finished cutting the first Tsavorite into a 2.35 ct round. It's stunning!



For those of you going to Tucson, Roger is coordinating a symposium for faceters from novice to veteran. He'll be spending most of his days at the Tucson Electric Park and most of his evenings eating Mexican food. Ole'!

Ginger