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See pages 14 & 15

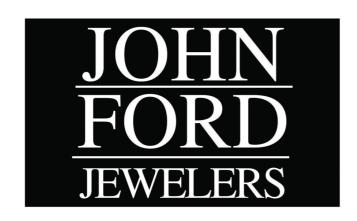
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See pages 30-31, 60-61 76-79, and 81-85

**Marketing

The Keystone Gems & Jewelry ** Magazine is a semi-annual publication devoted exclusively to the gem & jewelry trade; Published by the "Original Classic International Gem & Jewelry Show, Inc. "Pretty in Pink"

Rare Pink Diamonds by Supreme Gems Corp.









Designs by Internationally Acclaimed and 2014 AGTA Spectrum Award Winner, John W. Ford

JohnFordJewelers.com LightningRidgeCollection.com

Spring 2014 Schedule: Denver, CO Feb 28-March 2 Chantily, VA March 14-16 Collinsville, IL March 21-23 Houston, TX April 18-20

"The Maxine

John Ford's Winning Design

by Lee Roane

This July, at the peak of Galveston 2.44 carats of round and baguette Island, Texas's balmy summer, John Ford and his youngest son Christopher packed a few "After a night at the Bowling a twenty hour flight. And then Texas friends." rented a SUV for a ten hour drive. They finally ended up in Lightning Ridge, Australia. The Gulf Coast seagulls soaring above the barrier island sand were replaced by kangaroos bouncing around on something not unlike a moonscape.

John's made the trip several times, but he says this one ended with a nice surprise that made it special.

John Ford Jewelers was awarded Platinum Honors in the Classical Division of the American Gem Trade Association's 2014 Spectrum Awards. The awardwinning ring features a black opal that he purchased in Lightning Ridge.

John named the ring "The Maxine" in honor of Maxine O'Brien, manager of the Lightning Ridge Miners Association Ltd., in recognition of all her hard Ford's Lightning Ridge Collection

diamonds set in platinum.

sweaters and jackets, left their Club, I always leave with a few shorts and flip flops, and boarded stories worth sharing with my



John and Namesake, Maxine O'Brien

"Getting to catch up with Maxine and share life stories is always special," says Ford.

work and dedication promoting After leaving Lightning Ridge, the Australian opals. The ring from Australian visit culminated when he and Christopher were honored contains an oval black opal to meet Brook Holland, the 'Opal weighing 5.76 carats, accented by Queen of Lightning Ridge,' at the AGTA Awards Gala.

Left, "The Maxine" Designed by John Ford, AGTA Spectrum Award Winner

Below, John Touring a Lightning Ridge Mine



Australian opal exposition on the Gold Coast.

Back on Galveston Island, the good news arrived once again when Ford learned that jewelry insider and editor of Jewelry Trends from the Red Carpet to the Jewelry Box, Cheryl Kremkow, had cast her vote for the second piece of jewelry John had entered into the Gem Association's Awards. The piece is an elaborate ladies black opal and diamond necklace with companion earrings containing 76.15 carats of Lightning Ridge opals, accented by 8.60 carats of round brilliant cut diamonds set in 18k yellow gold.

John says he's already started to plan his next gem sourcing journey. But first, he looks forward to seeing Maxine and his other Aussie friends who'll be joining him February 8th at the

Winner of **Platinum Honors** in the Classical Division of the American Gem Trade Association's 2014 Spectrum Awards

