

The Conglomerate

Newsletter of the Baltimore Mineral Society
<www.baltimoremineralsociety.org>

Volume 7, Number 2
February, 2011



BMS Meeting February 23rd

from Jake Slagle

The next meeting of BMS will take place on February 23rd at the Cockeysville Fire House. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

The program will be presented by Martin Schmidt Jr., a science instructor at McDonough School. His topic will be The Geology of Maryland. Martin has done significant research into the geology and mineralogy of our state and is the author of "Maryland's Geology" He'll share lots of good information for anyone interested in Maryland Minerals.



In addition to Martin's talk, we will be voting on the new bylaws (see the January Conglomerate for a copy) since our January meeting was cancelled.

And as a last reminder, your BMS membership will expire at the February meeting unless you renew by that time. We'd hate for you to miss out on upcoming field trips, the Conglomerate, news of our members, etc. A renewal form is on page 7 of this issue.

The meeting will be hosted by Brad Grant.

January Meeting Minutes

by Carolyn Weinberger, Secretary

The January 2011 meeting had to be cancelled because of a bad snowstorm, so there are no minutes from the January meeting.

Kudos

from the Weinbergers

We're pleased to announce that member Jessica Simonoff's paper on the Hollowed Galenas of Bulgaria was published in a recent issue of Mineral News. We're also pleased to report that she won the Friends of Mineralogy Award for the best article published in the journal!



As a result of her research, the Tucson club banned the sale of the hollowed galenas from the show this year.

Jessica and Jolyon Ralph (founder of Mindat .org) put together a case of "minerals under \$10. Sara also had a display at the Tucson show -- gems and minerals in literature.

She's also been asked to present her Hollowed Galena talk at both the Atlantic Micromounters Symposium and during the Technical Session at the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium this April.

And even more great news!

Ed Goldberg's efforts at getting displays of Maryland Minerals out and about the state is paying off. In addition to the Science Center display that's being designed by the Center, Ed has recently put a case in the lobby of the County Office Building in Westminster (225 N. Center St.) and has had inquiries from County Exec. Kevin Kameletz for Baltimore County AND from one of the counties in Western Maryland. Congratulations!!!!

Baltimore Mineral Society

The BMS was established in order to allow its members the opportunity to promote the study of mineralogy and to act as a source of information and inspiration for the mineral collector. We are members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month (except October, December and June) at the Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Hall beginning at 7:15 p.m. Visit the club website <www.baltimoremineralsociety.com> for directions.

Yearly dues are \$10 for individual members and \$15 for family memberships. Send payment along with your name, list of family members, if applicable, address, phone and e-mail to: Bob Hudgins, 6713 Balmoral Overlook, New Market, MD 21774.

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Write for "The Conglomerate"!

Send news, announcements, comments, observations, or articles to <mseeds@fandm.edu>. No e-mail? Hand in your submission at a meeting.

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Rubble from the President

by Bradley Grant

Did I ever tell you guys that I am a closet neat freak? While Patty will beg to differ (especially when you look inside my car), I do like things organized.



So what does this have to do with Rocks and Minerals? Plenty. Many of us collect specimens from quarries and we put them in boxes or buckets until we get around to sorting them out and identifying the minerals. The problem I have (and you probably have too) is that I am starting to get stuff that I forgot to label and now can't remember where I got it from (I really hate it when the synapses stop working!!!!).

So several weeks back, I went to WalMart and bought some really nice containers to sort all the hand size specimens out. Altogether I think I spent about \$35.00 on different size containers. I placed labels on each container identifying which quarry the specimens came from. This exercise allowed me to get rid of a lot of stuff that I did not want. It also allowed me to properly identify where the specimen came from even if I have not had a chance to make a final identification of the mineral(s) in the specimen and prepare it for display. Also the room where I keep my collection is a lot cleaner now and I can find stuff quicker.

With Collecting Season almost here, I am working on scheduling some trips. Here is what I have so far. These dates are tentative because I am waiting for final confirmation from the quarries. We will be at Churchville on March 12th and Havre De Grace on April 23rd. I will be working the phones the rest of this week trying to get trips lined up.

While on the subject of the upcoming collecting season, if you are planning on going out to collect with the club this year, doing some light exercise now will help you when you get to the quarry. You don't have to become a "Gym Rat", but 30 minutes of some cardio and some light circuit training three times a week will help you immensely when out to collect.

Until next time,

Brad

Final Reminder!

from Bob Hudgins, Treasurer

This is your last reminder about renewing your membership for 2011. Please fill out the form on page 7 and send it in with your check so that you can continue to participate on field trips, receive the Conglomerate, etc.



• Other Local Clubs

♦ **American Fossil Federation.** Meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of alternate months (Jan., March etc.) at 10:30 am at the Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD. <americanfossilfederation.com>

♦ **Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society.** Meetings are held the 2nd Friday of each month (except August) beginning at 7:30 pm at the Woman's Club of Catonsville, 10 St. Timothy's Lane. Catonsville, MD.

♦ **Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore.** Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month except January, July and August beginning at 7:30 pm at Meadow Mill at Woodberry, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd, Suite 116; Baltimore, MD 21211. <gemcuttersguild.com>

♦ **Maryland Geological Society.** Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of alternate months (January, March etc.) beginning at 11 am at the South Bowie Community Center. <www.ecphora.net/mgs>

♦ **Patuxent Lapidary Guild.** Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm. at 169 Defense Highway, Annapolis, MD. <www.patuxentlapidary.org>

Paving A Road to the Future

by Mike Seeds

Three BMS members are doing good things for the hobby,

Ed Goldberg reports that his Maryland mineral display at the: Maryland Science Center at the Inner Harbor is nearing the final stages. Labels are being made by the museum and the display will soon be open to the public.

Furthermore, Ed contacted Carroll County museum officials and they agreed to allow Ed to put a display of Maryland minerals at the County Office Building in Westminster. The display will be dedicated to Larry. [See update on page 1). Ed has also contacted the State Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania inquiring into their interest in Pennsylvania specimens. Ed says he has quite a few Pennsylvania minerals collected from the southern part of the state.

Patrick Haynes says he will be "doing the two-headed scope thing" again at the next GLMSMC show in mid-March. He was pictured in a recent issue of Rock and Gem using his special scope to show a young boy a micromount. Pat says we will also set up a scope with a monitor. That always attracts attention.

Pat reports that in September he was collecting and camping on the East fork of the Gila River in Grant Co., NM. He had some battery trouble and was walking along the highway towards the hot springs hoping to find someone to give him a jump-start. A car was approaching so he stuck his thumb out, but the car kept going, unusual for that area. He kept walking and a second car approached. His thumb went up again and this time a mini-van with Texas plates stopped. They were a tourist family coming to see the cliff dwellings, but when Pat explained his problem, they agreed to help him. Pat squeezed into the crowded van, which included a husband, wife and 4 kids. The

family took him back to his car and gave him a jump, so Pat gave them a quick education on mineral collecting. Within 15 minutes they all had fresh specimens of mesolite, chabazite-Ca, heulandite-Ca and reverse scepter quartz. Pat and the family exchanged email addresses.

The father later emailed Pat to say that the kids, and he got pretty excited and they then had to go out and buy some hammers so they could become more active in the hobby. Pat advised them to join some local clubs.

You can read about Pat in the September/October 2010 Rocks & Minerals where he is the subject of the article Who's Who in Mineral Names.

President Brad Grant is arranging to visit a Girl Scouts meeting and tell them all about Maryland minerals. The date and time are not set yet, but if you are interested, Brad would be glad to have some help. This is your chance to show off some of your favorite minerals and inspire some future rockhounds.

Member News

Treasurer Bob Hudgins has had another bump in his road to recovery from recent surgery. This time, walking in his socks, he slipped and fell on the hardwood floor in his home. The impact of the fall was harsh enough to snap his femur near his pelvis. Ouch!

He now has some bolts holding things together, is in continuing pain and of course is dealing with a slower recovery.

Always upbeat, his comment is "I will get there!"

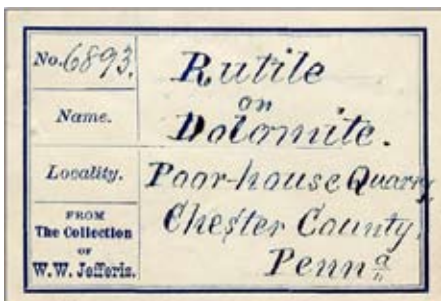
William W. Jefferis (1820 – 1906)

Author unknown from Philadelphia Mineral Society News, Jan. 2011



William Walter Jefferis was born in West Chester, PA on January 12, 1820 and made his home in West Chester. He was educated in the West Chester Academy, and then took a position in the local bank while still in his teens. By 1857 he had worked his way up to the position of Cashier at the Bank of Chester County, second in command to the bank President, Dr. William Darlington. He held this position for the rest of his career, until 1883 when he retired for health reasons, and it must have paid quite well.

Jefferis had developed his first interest in minerals at the age of ten, and started collecting minerals seriously in 1837, probably while studying mineralogy at the Chester County Lyceum. For the next 60 years he worked tirelessly at enlarging it, until it came to be regarded as one of the finest private mineral collections in the country. It was rich in suites of minerals from eastern Pennsylvania and northern New York, many of the specimens self-collected. In 1864 he published *Minerals of Chester County* (his only publication). Jefferis broadened his collection through exchanges and purchases from collectors and dealers in America and Europe, and accumulated countless specimens of calcite, barite and fluorite from classic British localities and significant suites from other European localities.



Undated label for no. 6893, dating to 1870-1871.
"From the Collection of W. W. Jefferis"

As a constant correspondent of important mineralogists of his day, including George Brush, James D. Dana and Benjamin Silliman, Jefferis often loaned

specimens for study and illustration. Several of his specimens were illustrated in the 6th edition of Dana's *System of Mineralogy* – for example, phlogopite from Clark's Hill, St. Lawrence Co., NY and clinocllore from West Town, Chester Co, Pennsylvania. The mineral jefferisite was named in his honor by Prof. Brush, but later proved to be vermiculite and consequently the name was discredited. From 1877 to 1878 he served as Professor of Mineralogy at the West Chester Normal School in addition to his duties at the bank. In 1883 after retiring from the bank, he moved to Philadelphia and took the position of curator to the William S. Vaux collection, a position he held for 15 years until 1898.



Label dated December 1, 1887 (no. 10,737).
The cataloged collection eventually reached no 11.992 in 1891.

In 1900 the word got out that Jefferis was thinking of selling his enormous collection, and numerous important collectors and museums made a play for it. In 1904 Andrew Carnegie purchased Jefferis entire collection of over 14,000 specimens for \$20,000 and in January of 1905 donated it to the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Two railroad boxcars were needed to transport the collection to Pittsburgh. William Jefferis died in New York on February 23, 1906.

References:

- Jefferis, A. E. (1911). A tribute to William Walter Jefferis. Reprinted in 1999 in *Matrix* 7 (1), 21-26.
- Pennypacker, C. H. (1895). The W. W. Jefferis Collection. *The Mineral Collector*, 2 np 1 (March) p 4-5.
- SOUZA, R. et al. (1990) The Hillman Hall of Minerals and Gems. *Mineralogical Record*, 21, no.5, special 32-page insert.
- WILSON, Wendell E. (2011) *Mineralogical Record* Biographical Archive, at www.mineralogicalrecord.com

Comments on *De Re Metallica* by Georgius Agricola

by Dr. Timothy Baker



The excellent article in the July 2010 issue of *The Conglomerate* raised two points of interest. First, I have a hardback copy (obviously a translation) from which I used illustrations in my course on Occupational Health in Developing Countries; as many of the unsafe mining techniques in the 1500s are still practiced in small mines in developing countries.

Second an incident from President Herbert Hoover who was a mining engineer and made the first translation of *De Re Metallica*. He could not find his copy of the original Latin version and wrote an angry note to his secretary saying "you have lost a valuable, irreplaceable book I don't know what I shall do about this". When he came back from lunch the book was on his desk with a note in his wife's handwriting saying "I am an irascible old man to whom a number of terrible things have never really happened"

(The editor apologizes to Tim for the long delay in using his submission. – MAS)

Book Reviews

by Robert Miller

Minerals: Identifying, Classifying, and Collecting Them by Rupert Hochleitner. Besides having gorgeous pictures of minerals, is especially useful because it groups minerals according to their streak color and then by hardness. This is very helpful when trying to identify a mineral. For each mineral listed, the book gives other minerals that are associated with it and also minerals that might appear similar. I've found this to be one of my most useful tools when trying to identify specimens collected in the field.

Rocks & Fossils by Arthur B. Busbey III, Robert Coenraads, David Roots, and Paul Willis, has wonderful pictures and easy-to-follow explanations of geology, paleontology, evolution of species, rock identification, mineral identification, fossil identification, and field collecting. I especially enjoy the "field notes" given in the sections on collecting rocks and fossils. This is a great book to have in your library.

Shoobox Adventures: Tufer

by Mike Seeds

Most rare minerals are sorry little colorless crystals just visible with a microscope, or, worse yet, they are dirty little smudges. Henmilite, in contrast, forms brilliant blue crystals the color of azurite, so when I had a chance to buy a specimen, I had to take it seriously and balance the opportunity against the considerable cost. In the end, I bought it. It cost \$5.00.

Henmilite comes by its beautiful blue color honestly; it is a copper mineral $\text{Ca}_2\text{Cu}[\text{B}(\text{OH})_4]_2(\text{OH})_4$. Is it rare? Mindat lists 10 photos of Henmilite, and they all come from a single mine -- the Fuka Mine in Okayama Prefecture, Honshu, Japan. The mineral is not known from any other source. That means my Henmilite comes from the type locality, the place where it was first identified, and I can label it Henmilite TL.

My specimen contains two dark blue crystal clusters, each a millimeter or so across, imbedded in fluffy white matrix with a total diameter of about a centimeter. As I studied the photos on Mindat, I realized that the white stuff is Olshanskyite $\text{Ca}_3[\text{B}(\text{OH})_4]_4(\text{OH})_2$. Notice the similarity in the chemical make



up of the two minerals. Mindat lists Olshanskyite with only 5 photos, and the mineral is found in only two places, in the Fuka Mine in Japan and in a mine in the Sakha Republic in north-eastern Siberia. Unfortunately, the type locality for Olshanskyite is the Russian mine, so my specimen does not contain two type locality specimens, but it does contain two rare minerals. That's the trouble. Should it be labeled for Henmilite or for Olshanskyite?

From 17 to 80

by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger



The Tucson experience for 2011 was certainly one to remember. When we arrived on February 3rd, the city was enduring the coldest temperatures ever recorded for February – +17°F. High winds compounded the cold as outdoor vendors huddled in their unheated tents and chipped ice away from tubs of cutting rough. Unique! Pipes and outdoor fountains froze and thousands were without heat because of a gas line rupture. Our first thoughts were - “and we left Baltimore for this?”

Fortunately the biting cold was gone by the next day and was replaced by 60, then 70 and finally 80 degree days. Far more “Tucson like” and much, much better for the vendors at the various hotels, etc...and us!

Not much was new by way of minerals, but there was a new find of Russian cuprites that were being described as “the finest in the world”. We didn’t doubt the description, as these were massive - with some as large as 2 and

3” across. Prices reflected their size and uniqueness as well, but we did manage to obtain a thumbnail sized specimen at a reasonable price.

Chinese minerals were everywhere with perhaps the splashiest being rhodochrosite shown by Collector’s Edge. Specimens were priced from a low of a few hundred thousand to a high of \$8 million! Needless to say, we did not purchase even one, but we did capture several with our camera. The small photo included here just does not do them justice.

With California minerals being the club show theme this year, gold, tourmaline, kunzite and benitoite specimens were in abundance at dealers and in the display cases. The Ausrox Nugget, third largest gold specimen found in Australia was impressive as were the kunzites recently found at the Oceanview Mine in Pala and the Houston Museum’s fabulous Elbaite on Quartz.

In short, the 2011 Tucson event was wonderful. We had lots of opportunities to visit with friends, hear interesting talks and view the wonderful displays throughout the city. Do consider making the trek west in 2012 when the club theme will be Minerals of Arizona.



1 - The Ausrox Gold Nugget. 23.26 kg; 748 Troy oz.



2 - Rhodochrosite, Wuzhou Prefecture, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Reg., China



3 - Cuprite, Rubtsovskoe Cu-Zn-Pb deposit, Rudnyi Altai, Altaiskii Krai, Western-Siberian Region, Russia



4 - Elbaite on Quartz. Tourmaline Queen Mine, Pala District, San Diego Co. CA



5 - “The Big Kahuna”. Kunzite, Oceanview Mine, Pala District, San Diego Co., CA

Baltimore Mineral Society Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Names of family members included in membership:

Mail or give to: Carolyn Weinberger
PO Box 302
Glyndon, MD 21071-0302

Renewal deadline **is the February meeting** (per new Bylaws).
Annual dues for Individual memberships are \$10.00.
Annual dues for family memberships shall be \$15.00 for husband and wife and all children
residing in the home under the age of 18.




47th ANNUAL GEM-MINERAL-FOSSIL SHOW

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*Gems & Gem Rough *And Much More

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Income supports scholarships for college students in earth sciences, Science Fair awards, and gifts to the Smithsonian Institution's Gem and Mineral Hall



The Conglomerate

Mike Seeds, Editor
516 Bald Eagle Ct;
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Upcoming Shows

For the latest information, check out the web site of the Eastern Federation of Mineral and Lapidary Societies: <http://www.amfed.org/efmls>.

March:

5-6: Annual Delaware Mineralogical Society Show. Delaware Technical & Community College, Churchman's Rd (Rt. 58); Stanton, DE.

12-13: 21st Annual No. Jersey Gem & Mineral Show. The Benway School, 970 Rt US 202 (Black Oak Ridge Rd), Wayne, NJ.

19-20: 47th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. (Discount coupon on page 7).

26: Annual Micromount Show, Faith Reformed Church, 479 Stoneybrook Dr; Levittown, PA. Hours 10 am - 3 pm.

April:

1-3: Atlantic Micromounters Conference, MHA Conference Center, Elkridge. Featured speaker: Tom Loomis.

11-17: EFMLS Wildacres Workshop; Little Switzerland, NC. Registration forms <www.amfed.org/efmls>.

14-17: Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. Info & Registration at <www.rasny.org/MinSymposium/MineralSymp.htm>

May:

21: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show. Ruhl Armory, Towson, MD.

July:

6 - 10: EFMLS/AFMS Convention & Show hosted by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse, NY. AFMS meetings July 6-7. EFMLS Annual meeting Friday, July 8 at 7:00 p.m. Awards banquet, July 9. Show July 9-10.