



Conglomerate

JULY 2009 • Vol. 5, No. 7 <http://edisk.fandm.edu/mike.seeds/BMS.htm>

• 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>.

AUGUST

7-9: East Coast Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show, West Springfield, MA. 200 dealers from U.S. and abroad. Door prizes, guest speakers, museum quality exhibits. Air-conditioned hall. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. \$6 for adults and seniors; under 12 free with adult. Parking fee is \$5 per day. *Better Living Center at the Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield.*

SEPTEMBER

12-13: Harrisburg, PA - 44th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club. *Zembo Shrine, Third & Division St. Harrisburg, PA.*

26-27: West Friendship, MD - 45th Annual Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. *Howard Co. Fairgrounds, MD 144 nr. MD 32 & I-70; West Friendship, MD*

OCTOBER

2-4: Elkridge, MD - 53rd Annual Desautels Micromount Conference hosted by the
see next page

July 15 BMS Meeting: 'Collecting Adventures'

The next meeting of BMS will be held July 15th, 2009 at the Cockeysville Public Library Meeting room. The program will be "Collecting Adventures," given by Fred Parker. Fred says he is bring a crate of his favorite minerals and will discuss his adventures collecting over the years. This is a program you don't want to miss!

Special Note: Because of an earlier reservation for the library meeting room we cannot get into the room until 7 pm. Come a bit earlier so we can get into the room quickly, hold a short business meeting at 7:15, and leave plenty of time for Fred's talk.

Meeting Room News

Because the Baltimore Public Library system has scheduled the Cockeysville Public Library for extensive renovation beginning in September 2009 and extending into October 2010, our usual meeting room will not be available for BMS meetings after September 1st, 2009. The BMS Board has been searching for alternatives, and has found two promising potential locations. Arrangements are still being worked out, but members can be confident that we will soon have a new regular meeting site.

Recall that we do not meet in August. Thanks to Larry and Alice, we will be meeting at their house, 1106 Gypsy Lane West, on Wednesday, September 16th. We do not have a regular meeting in October because we will be presenting the Desautels Micromount Symposium October 2-4, 2009. So the first meeting to be held at our new home will be in November. Stay tuned for news about that location.

June 17 BMS Minutes

Vice President Bradley Grant called the June 17th meeting to order at 7:10. Minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed in the *Conglomerate*.

Unfinished Business:

- Bradley reported that several meeting places were being investigated and urged members who had ideas to contact Mike with details.

Announcements:

- Brad indicated that he was working on a field trip to the LaFarge Quarry in Churchville, MD for later this summer or fall.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 and was followed by the annual Tucson show report given by Steve and Carolyn Weinberger and Jake Slagle.

—Submitted by Carolyn Weinberger, Secretary

June 29 BMS Board Meeting

President Mike Seeds called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 7:15 P.M. In attendance in addition to Mike were Bradley Grant, Bernie Emery, Steve and Carolyn Weinberger, and Al Pribula who hosted the meeting.

There were several items of new business on the agenda.

- The Board made its selection for the 2010 Micromounters Hall of Fame induction. The selection announcement will be made at the October Desautels Conference on October 3rd.

see next page

Baltimore Mineral Society.
*MHA Conference Center, Elk-
 ridge, MD. Info & Registration:*
*C. Weinberger, <cscrystals2@
 verizon.net>. See story, pg. 1.*

31: Fairless Hills, PA - The
 Rock and Mineral Club of
 Lower Bucks County, PA pres-
 ents "Ultraviolation," an all-
 Fluorescent Mineral Show, at
 the *First United Methodist
 Church, 840 Trenton Road,
 Fairless Hills, PA., 9:00 AM –
 5:00 PM, \$2.00 Donation,
 Children 12 & younger FREE.*
 Info: 856-663-1383 or e-mail:
ultraviolation@yahoo.com

NOVEMBER

21-22: Fairfax, VA - 18th
 Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil
 Show sponsored by the Nor-
 thern Virginia Mineral Club
 Show site—*George Mason
 University, Student Union Bldg
 II, Rte 123 & Braddock Rd,
 Fairfax, VA. Hrs: Sat. 10:00
 AM-6:00 PM, Sun. 10:00
 AM-4:00 PM. Adults \$4,
 Seniors \$3, Teens (13-17) \$3,
 Children 12 & under and
 Scouts in uniform free. rock-
 cllctr@aol.com, http://www.
 mineralclub.org/*

Baltimore Mineral Society
 Mike Seeds, *president, 717-285-
 3745; Al Pribula, vice president;*
 Bob Hudgins, *treasurer; Carolyn
 Weinberger, secretary, Larry
 Krause, newsletter, 410/828-0024.*

E-mail news or questions to:
mseeds@fandm.edu or
managingeditor@verizon.net
Write c/o 1106 Gypsy Lane West
Baltimore, MD 21286.

FIELD TRIP INFO:
*E-mail Edmund.A.Gold-
 berg@usdoj.gov to learn about*
upcoming mineral field trips.

- A lengthy discussion was held concerning finding a **new meeting location**. The idea of returning to meetings at the homes of members, as done in the past, was unanimously rejected since doing so would make it very difficult for potential new members to find us. The Board did decide to continue the practice of holding annual holiday parties and picnics at the homes of members.

Several locations were discussed. Some, especially numerous churches, could not accommodate the group on Wednesday evenings. The Board felt strongly that moving to a Friday evening would be counter-productive to our growth, but if needed, another Wednesday in the month could be considered.

The Natural History Society of Maryland is still anxious to have us meet at their new facilities, but the Board decided to hold off on considering that location until more progress is made to their meeting area.

Bernie indicated that he and Lynne had investigated Cockeysville Fire Hall (York Rd, just south of Shawan Rd) and were awaiting a call back from someone who could give us a cost. Although on the 2nd floor, the hall is handicapped accessible.

Carolyn indicated that she would contact the Towson Library and see what the arrangements for use of the meeting room there would be. [The library proved to be unavailable.]

With time for finding a September location being short, the Board agreed that we should meet at Larry Krause's home in September. This would give the Board an opportunity to finalize plans for a new place beginning with the November meeting. Tentative plans are to rent a place for November, January and February (no meeting in October) while members still looked for other alternatives. This would also give the Natural History Society time to work on their facility.

- **BMS Awards:** The Corbett Award has been given to a member of the club who provides outstanding service to the Desautels Symposium. Carolyn Weinberger made a motion to open the award to any member of BMS who gives outstanding service to the club and that the award, if given, will be presented at the Holiday Party. Seconded by Bernie, the motion carried. The Board voted not to present the Desautels Award this year at the Conference.

- **BMS Library:** Al Pribula now has possession of the volumes that have been retained in the library. Al will e-mail a list of available titles later this summer and members wishing to borrow any will be able to do so by contacting Al.

- **De-accessioned books:** As previously agreed, books not yet sold from the de-accessioned list will be offered to the club and at the Desautels Conference for 50% of the price originally offered to the club.

Carolyn will e-mail a list of available titles to members prior to the July meeting should members wish to purchase titles in advance.

- Both the Eastern Federation and American Federation are holding fund raising drawings again this year. Al made a motion, with Brad providing the second, to purchase all the EFMLS Ways & Means tickets sent to the club (\$30). Motion carried. Brad moved that the club purchase 5 AFMS Endowment Fund drawing tickets (\$20). Seconded by Al. Motion carried. Should the club win any of the prizes, the Board agreed that they would be used as door prizes during the holiday party.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. with thanks to Al and Linda for hosting.

—Submitted by Carolyn Weinberger, Secretary

—BMS MEETINGS—

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. *Sept. meeting at home of Larry Krause, 1106 Gypsy Lane West in Towson; thereafter location To Be Announced. No meeting in Oct. (Micromount Symposium); December (BMS holiday party), May (BMS Picnic).*

—It's time to renew your BMS Membership!—

Individual memberships \$10; family memberships \$15. Send payment along with your name, list of family members, address, phone and e-mail to: Bob Hudgins, 6713 Balmoral Overlook, New Market, MD 21774. Or: renew at the next BMS meeting!

Other Local Clubs

Chesapeake Gem And Mineral Society, Inc.

(<http://chesapeake.rockclub.us/>)
meets the 2nd Friday of each month except August at 7:30 P.M. Women's Club of Catonsville, St. Timothy's Lane & Old Frederick Rd; Catonsville, MD.

Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore, Inc.

(<http://www.gemcuttersguild.com>)
meets the 1st Tuesday of each month except January, July and August at 7:30 P.M. at Meadow Mill at Woodberry, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Suite 116; Baltimore, MD

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New Market, MD 21774

Or: renew at the next BMS meeting!

Write for "The Conglomerate"!

Send your observations to octahedron1@mac.com or mseeds@fandm.edu for inclusion in *The Conglomerate*. Don't have email? Hand in your submissions at a meeting or by snail mail.

Lafarge Field Trip on Sat., Sept. 12

On September 12, 2009, BMS will be having a Field Trip to Lafarge Quarry in Churchville, Maryland. We got the approval from the quarry on June 30. While I am still firming up a time and any age restrictions for the trip, we do know that we should plan on no one under 18 years being allowed in the quarry.

Participants will need a hard hat, goggles, and steel-toed boots. Lafarge will provide reflective vests.

According to Fred Parker, some of the minerals that could be found at the quarry are:

- **Calcite:** cleavages, vugs w/ rhombic xtls to about 2 cm
- **Chabazite:** pale pink "rhombs" with zeolites
- **Clinzoisite:** large interlocking bladed in country rock
- **Epidote:** pistachio-green drusy crystals
- **Heulandite:** small pealy crystals w/ zeolites
- **Laumontite:** vugs w/ free-standing terminated white crystals to 1 cm (!!!)
- **Pyrite:** commonly massive/granular, some cubes, rarely w/ zeolites
- **Quartz:** massive
- **Stilbite:** vugs/clusters of white single crystals, rarely as hemispherical clusters; usually white, rarely pale orange

The quarry is at 1219 Calvary Road, Churchville Md. It is probably best to Google this address to get exact directions.

I would like to give Tim Williams an idea of how many people he can expect by August 28

—Bradley Grant

The Rock Dump

• **Fred Parker** and **Brad Grant** have volunteered to help the Maryland Natural History Society curate a large collection of minerals that has been in storage for years. Fred reports that some minerals have deteriorated, but many are in good condition and just need to be cleaned and properly stored. He says some come from Maryland collecting sites now closed. Putting this collection back into good shape is a service to the public and to the entire hobby.

• **Carolyn** and **Steve Weinberger** have been serving the hobby as well. They recently made a long drive to the home of a well-known collector who died a few months ago. They spent the day helping his family sort minerals and were able to preserve a large number of micromounts that will be sold for the family. That serves the hobby as well by putting those minerals back into the hands of collectors and keeping them out of the dumpster. It serves the collector as well. What better memorial for a micromounter than to have his specimens circulated and admired by other micromounters.

• **Charlie Davis** tells the story of a well-known collector whose mineral collection was stored in the school where he taught. On his death, the collection was left in storage. Eventually a new principal of the school decided to free up storage space, and a dump truck was backed up the school and the collection was thrown from the roof into the truck. The truck driver was told to take it to the dump and not tell anyone. Oops. The truck driver was Charlie's brother, so a few specimens were saved, but most were lost.

• Does your family understand the value of *your* collection?

—Mike Seeds