



Conglomerate

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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>.

APRIL

17-18: West Mifflin PA - 2010 Monongahela Rockhounds Gem Mineral and Fossil Show. Sat.: 10am-6pm; Sun.: 10am-4:00 pm. at West Mifflin Volunteer Fire Company, #4 Skyview Hall, 640 Noble Drive, West Mifflin PA 15122. Web Site: www.monongahelarockhounds.org or call 724-327-8618.

24-25: Franklin, NJ - 38th Annual NJ Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show (& Outdoor Swap). Co-sponsors: Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineralogical Society, NJ Earth Science Association and Sterling Hill Mining Museum. At Franklin Borough School, 50 Washington Ave. <http://sterlinghillminingmuseum.org/visitor/schedule.php#events>

MAY

1-2: Topsfield, MA - 47th Annual New England Mineral & Gem Show sponsored by the North Shore Rock & Mineral Club. Topsfield Fairgrounds, Topsfield, MA

15-16: Leesport, PA - The 42nd annual "World of Gems" *see next page*

Next BMS Meeting: Wed., April 21 at 7:15pm

The next meeting of BMS will be held Wed., April 21, 2010 at the Cockeysville Fire Hall social room just off of York road south of Shawan Road. NOTE THAT THIS IS A WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL due to scheduling conflicts at the Fire Hall. You can find detailed directions at our club web site, www.baltimoremineralsociety.org. The meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. Jim Stauffer from Lancaster, Pa., who with his wife figured prominently at our February show-and-tell meeting. He will do a program on collecting, highlighting the minerals from the iron locality at Chestnut Hill in Lancaster County, as well as from the old Bamford Zinc Mine in Hempfield Township Lancaster County.

Minutes of Feb. 24 BMS Meeting

President Bradley Grant called the March 24 meeting of the BMS to order at 7:30 pm. Minutes of the February meeting were approved as printed in the Conglomerate. Although absent, Treasurer Bob Hughes sent a report that indicated that the club remains solvent.

Steve Weinberger reported that he had reviewed the financial records of the club and that all funds were accounted for.

Unfinished Business: Brad reported that the yearly contribution for use of the meeting room had been sent and received by the Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Company.

There was no new business.

Announcements:

- Brad has contacted the Havre de Grace Vulcan Materials Quarry and believes that the club will be allowed to collect there. A date will be set once final permission is received.
- Steve Weinberger said that he had spoken with the President and Display Chairman of the Maryland Science Center and they would be very interested in having a display of Maryland minerals for the museum. Steve will talk further with the Science Center and with Ed Goldberg, who heads up our display project.
- Bradley announced that our April meeting will have to be the 3rd Wednesday of April because of a prior rental (before we sent in our reservations for the year) of the meeting hall by the Fire Department. The meeting will thus be held on Wednesday, April 21.

Following the business meeting, Dennis Coskren gave an interesting illustrated talk about his collecting adventures at Alum Cave Bluff in Tennessee and the subsequent identification of three new minerals by Dennis – Coskrenite - (Ce), Levensonite - (Y) and Zugshunstone -(Ce).

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

—Carolyn Weinberger, Secretary

From the BMS President....

Now that it is finally warmer, your humble President is getting ready for his first collecting trip of the year. I am planning on heading out to Mineral Hill early Saturday morning and in the afternoon heading over to Oregon Ridge to go look for some Goethite and Limonite.

I noticed in the *Baltimore Sun* this week a lawsuit is being filed in over a Fossil Whale Discovery in the Calvert Cliffs area. The fossil collectors got permission from the land owner;

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& Minerals” gemstone, jewelry, bead, mineral and fossil show will be held at the Leesport Framers Market Banquet Hall, Route 61 Leesport, Pa. www.leesportmarket.com for map. Sat 10-5 Sun 10-4 There is tailgating Saturday only. Presented by Berks Mineralogical Society, www.berksmineralsociety.org. For additional info contact Jim Woodeshick, brwoodpile@yahoo.com.

JUNE

26-27: State College, PA - 5th Annual Nittany Gem and Mineral Show. Sponsor: Nittany Mineralogical Society, Inc. At Mt. Nittany Middle School, 656 Brandywine Drive, State College PA 16801, near Oak Hall exit of US Route 322 east of State College. Featured: Best of PA mineral specimen contest. Sat. 10-6, Sun. 11-4. Admission (good for both days) \$5.00; seniors & students \$2.00; children 12 & under and scouts in uniform free with adult. Visit <http://www.ems.psu.edu/nms> or e-mail David Glick xidg@verizon.net.

Baltimore Mineral Society

Bradley Grant, president, 410/515-4293; Jim Hooper, 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.Goldberg@usdoj.gov to learn about upcoming mineral field trips.

however, the land did not actually belong to the landowner, but to a Homeowners Association. It will be interesting to see how this turns out. Please be careful and be sure you have permission from the right folks before collecting on private property.

I am really excited about our April guest. Jim Stauffer is going to do a presentation on the Iron Locality of Chesnut Hill and the Bamford Zinc mine in Hempfield Township, Pennsylvania. Both localities are in Lancaster County. This might be an opportunity for some collecting in PA.

Please remember we are meeting on April 21st this month. This is due to a scheduling conflict with the Fire Hall.

Also we have a collecting trip scheduled for April 24 at the Harve De Grace Quarry in Harford County MD. I need to let the quarry know who is going by the 21st. If you are interested, please send me an email.
—Brad Grant

Collecting Trip: April 24: Havre de Grace Quarry

There will be a trip to Havre de Grace Quarry on Saturday, April 24. If you are interested in attending, you need to have your dues paid and be at least 18 years of age. Directions and details will be available at the April 21 BMS meeting, or e-mail Brad Grant at BSE-BALL1@yahoo.com to learn about this and other upcoming mineral field trips.

Shoobox Adventures: Undaunted Apatite

The shoobox on the end of my microscope table contains minerals from giveaway tables, dealers, and folks I've traded with. I never know what the next mineral will be when I reach in for something to work on. Sometimes I pull out a mineral with attachments.

The mineral I pulled out last night was accompanied by a little slip of paper that said, "Apatite – Foote Mine – Charlie Hall 9-94." The rock was at least an inch across and mounted in a grungy box with stickum, so I pulled it out and studied it under the scope. It took a moment to find the apatite; it was small but worth the search. The little six-sided crystal was pale cream color and had the proportions of a beer keg although it was only about 1 mm long. It lay on its side half imbedded in hard, white matrix. Not a very interesting crystal except that it was peppered with glittering pyrite crystals on the three exposed sides. The matrix was free of pyrite, and there was no pyrite on the ends or edges of the apatite. The pyrites didn't even come close to the edges. Those little molecules knew exactly where they wanted to be, and they decorated the apatite crystal like glitter on an old fashioned Christmas tree ornament.

The specimen is special for three reasons. It's a beautiful crystal with interesting attachments, of course, but it also comes from the Foote Lithium Company Mine in North Carolina. That mine has produced some fascinating minerals including rare phosphates and silicates. *Mindat* lists 139 different minerals, of which 11 are type localities.

The third reason the specimen is special can be summed up by the line on the slip of paper: "Charlie Hall 9-94". Charlie Hall was a micromounter from Georgia who, in spite of diabetes and other health problems, drove his van to almost every micromount conference in North

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—BMS MEETING SCHEDULE—

7:15 P.M. 4th Wednesdays at Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Hall, York Road just south of Shawan Road. **EXCEPTION: We'll meet on Wed., April 21, 2010 this year due to a scheduling conflict at the Fire Hall. No meetings 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 if applicable, address, phone and e-mail to: **Bob Hudgins, 6713**

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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6713 Balmoral Overlook
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 to: *The Conglomerate*, 1106 Gypsy Lane West, Towson, MD 21286.

America. He was a southern gentleman full of loud goodwill. I met him in 2000 and traded minerals with him only a couple times before he died while traveling in the summer of 2001. He was a charming man full of enthusiasm and generosity who could be simultaneously entertaining and irritating.

He liked to sit in the back of the room at micromount conferences during the voice auction and bid on anything that caught his eye. When two collectors bid back and forth over a choice specimen and the price crept upward dollar by dollar – nine dollars, ten dollars, eleven dollars – Charlie liked to shout out, "FIFTY DOLLARS!" and everyone in the room would laugh except the two bidders who saw their choice mineral disappear into Charlie's work box. Sometimes Charlie would outbid someone, win the specimen, and then give it to the person he outbid. Sometimes he didn't. Once, he bid back and forth against someone for a special item, and the bids climbed higher and higher. Finally he shouted, "Shut up, will yuh? I'm gonna' give it to you!" It was a way to give money to the club sponsoring the conference, and it was fun, but it aggravated more than one collector who lost a prize item to Charlie's deep pockets, sense of humor, and undaunted enthusiasm.

Charlie was kind to me when I was a rank beginner, and after trading for a few of my primitive mounts, he invited me to come visit him in Georgia. "Call to make sure I'm home -- lots of room -- we'll have fun." I'm sorry I never had a chance to visit with him, but I'm glad I found his apatite in my shoebox.

—Mike Seeds

One little mineral can trigger a whole lot of happy memories.

Wildacres: 2010 Fall Season

The spring session at Wildacres, from April 23-29, will soon be over. Now's the time to consider attending the fall session, from Sept. 6 to 12. BMS's own Steve Weinberger will be teaching Faceting. (Students will learn to cut and polish a 57-facet round brilliant gemstone. In addition, they will learn how to identify well-cut stones and select rough material). Other workshops include Basic and Intermediate Cabochons, Geology I & II, Glass Engraving & Etching, Making Metal Beads (Cold & Hot Connections), Photographing Small Mineral Specimens and Photographing Gems & Jewelry (both taught by Bruce Gaber). Precious Metal Clay, Basic Silversmithing, and Basic & Intermediate Wirewrapping. The speaker in residence will be Lisa Carp. Facilities are heated. Meals are served family style. Sleeping rooms have private baths and have either two twin beds or one double and one twin bed. The session costs \$350, including lodging, meals, and instruction. Registration form is available at <http://www.amfed.org/efmfls/regform.pdf>. Call Pamm Bryant at 804-457-4698, or email her at pjbryant6@juno.com.

Do You Know...

...about the organizations that bring together mineral enthusiasts across the nation—and throughout the world?

One major resources for rockhounds is the **Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, Inc.** (EFMLS; <http://www.amfed.org/efmfls/>), established in 1950 to bring together the various clubs in the eastern U.S. The EFMLS is a member of the **American Federation of Mineralogical Societies** (<http://www.amfed.org/>), an umbrella association for seven regional federations: Eastern, California, Midwest, Northwest, Rocky Mountain, South Central, and Southeast.

Interested in traveling to the north? Check out the web site of the **Mineralogical Association of Canada** (Association minérologique du Canada). They offer publications, resources, tutorials, and resources about minerals. Visit <http://www.mineralogicalassociation.ca>