



Conglomerate

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<http://www.baltimoremineralsociety.org>

• 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>.

DECEMBER

12: Timonium, MD - Private show (Fred Parker Minerals, Mike's Minerals, Highland Rocks & Fossils and Octahedron Minerals). *Holiday Inn at I-83 & Padonia Rds.*

FEBRUARY

20-21: Albany, NY - 7th Annual James Campbell Memorial Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show and Sale co-sponsored by the Capital District Mineral Club and the NY State Academy of Mineralogy. *Museum of the Empire Plaza, 4th Floor, Albany, NY.*

MARCH

6-7: Stanton, DE - Annual Gem & Mineral Show and 60th Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Delaware Technical College, Rts 58 & 7, Stanton, DE.

20-21: Gaithersburg, MD - The 42nd Gem Lapidary and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD Show Hours: Saturday 10:00 to 6:00 Sunday 11:00 - 5:00. *Montgomery Co. Fairgrounds. Directions: <http://www.mcagfair.com/>*

BMS Holiday Party: Sat., December 19 at 6pm!

The BMS December meeting will be the annual **Holiday Party**, on Sat. December 19 at 6 p.m. at the home of Larry Krause and Alice Cherbonnier, 1106 Gypsy Lane West in Towson. The club will provide ham, turkey breast, rolls, condiments and beverages; if everyone brings what they brought last year, or a variant thereof, we'll have a wonderful feast—chili, vegetable dish (example=latkes!), fruit dish (example=ambrosia!), dessert (please see Minutes for a caveat on sweets!). Please call Alice or Larry at 410-243-4108 days or 410-828-0024 evenings if you have questions or want a suggestion.

This event serves as our **annual meeting with election of officers**. The Nominating Committee reports the following list of nominees for BMS officers for 2010.

President: Brad Grant

Vice President: Jim Hooper

Treasurer: Bob Hudgins

Secretary: Carolyn Weinberger

At-Large Board Members: Bernie Emery, Al Pribula and Steve Weinberger

Note that the Field Trip chair and the Symposium Chair are *ex-officio* members of the board.

Further nominations will be accepted at the holiday party and the election will be held at that time.

Copies of Marco Ciriotti's book, *Italian Type Minerals*, will be available for purchase by BMS members at the holiday party. The book, in English, contains 357 pages and over 1000 photos of minerals and sites in Italy. Marco autographed these copies on the day he was inducted into the Micromounters Hall of Fame. The book is marked 40 Euros, about \$60, and autographed copies sold at the Desautels auction for \$74 and \$76. The price to members is \$50 with all monies going to the BMS. Al Pribula will handle the sales.

Directions to the party site: Take Dulaney Valley Rd. North. Just after crossing over the Beltway, turn right on Hampton Lane (Towson Methodist Church is a landmark) and travel one mile on Hampton Lane, past the historic site, to Gypsy Lane West. Turn right on Gypsy. #1106 is on your right; minerals surround the mailbox.

Next BMS Meeting: Wed., Jan. 27

The next meeting of BMS will be held Wednesday, January 27th, 2010 at 7:15 p.m. at the Cockeysville Fire Hall social room, 11210 York Road in Cockeysville. **The fire hall is off of York Road, but it is not visible from York Road.** From I-83 take the Shawan Rd. exit 20A east toward Cockeysville, and after 0.8 miles turn right on York Road. Look for the Finch/John Deere dealer on your right and turn right into the driveway between John Deere and the Hunt Valley Animal Hospital. This turn is about 100 feet north of the traffic light at Ashland Rd. in front of the Hampton Inn. There are signs for the fire company at the turn. Drive down the hill to the parking lot and park to your left at the side of the lot directly away from the entrance doors. Do not block the big doors housing emergency vehicles and do not park in the middle of the parking lot where firefighters park when they arrive to answer an alarm. Enter through the green doors and take the stairs up to the Social Room.

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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/efmls/>), 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.

Wildacres Sessions

The EFMLS sponsors two annual lapidary and jewelry-making workshops at Wildacres, a retreat in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains. Sessions last one week. Info on 2010 events will be posted soon. Visit <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>.

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.Goldberg@usdoj.gov to learn about upcoming mineral field trips.

Minutes: November 28 BMS Meeting

President Mike Seeds called the November 28, 2009 meeting of the Baltimore Mineral Society to order at 7:19 pm. This was the first meeting held at our new meeting place, the Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Hall, and all present were pleased with the venue. A round of thanks was given to Lynne Luger and Bernie Emery for finding the location for us.

There was no Unfinished Business.

New Business—Mike circulated a list asking members to sign up to bring refreshments to meetings in 2010.

Larry and Alice volunteered to hold our annual Holiday Party at their home again this year with the date being Saturday, December 19. The party will begin at 6 p.m. and members are asked to bring “pot luck” items to share. The club will provide meats and beverages as usual. It was suggested that we go a little lighter on desserts this year, as most have remained untouched in previous years. Members should call Larry (410-828-0024) and let him know what you are bringing. Spouses are, of course, invited.

Mike announced that the slate of candidates for office is to be voted on at the Holiday Party. Those interested in holding office should contact him.

Announcements:

- Al Pribula offered three copies of the excellent book on Italian Minerals donated by 2010 Micromounters Hall of Fame inductee Marco Ciriotti. Copies were autographed by Marco and were available for \$50 each. He also had CD copies of the program given by Marco at his induction for \$1.00 each. Proceeds from the sale of these books will go to the club.

- Mike thanked Jim Hooper for providing the refreshments for the evening.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m., after which Jeff Nagy from the Gem, Mineral & Lapidary Society of Montgomery Co., MD, gave a talk on his search for the Fountain Mine in Montgomery Co., MD.

—Submitted by Carolyn Weinberger, Secretary

Shoebox Adventures: Lac Nicolet

The shoebox on the end of my bench is labeled “Atlantic Micromount Conference 3/09.” The other day I pulled out a baggie containing two little gray rocks and a slip of paper that said “Lac Nicolet”—goodies from the giveaway table at the conference. Micromounters know that site as the Lac Nicolet Antimony Mine in Ham Sud, Quebec. A lot of interesting minerals come from that mine.

The little gray rocks proved to be almost solid stibnite, although there could have been native antimony and galena mixed in. They would be hard to recognize. Some of the stibnite made nice sprays a millimeter or two in diameter, but there was also Kermesite as brilliant crimson acicular sprays. Although they were quite small even for a micromount, the Kermesite sprays were really beautiful and stood out against the gray background.

The words “Lac Nicolet Antimony Mine” suggest a huge open pit with monster trucks spiraling down the dusty access road to the big shovels at the bottom. In fact, Lac Nicolet is a

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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. 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, 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.

small, eroded depression in the south side of a hill near the village of St-Martyr-Canadiens, in South Ham (Ham Sud) Township, Quebec. The only sign of mining is a chain link fence around the brush filled depression.

MinDat says the mine was "never economically viable," and except for exploratory work, "never went into production." You can learn more from the March-April 1996 *Min Rec*. The antimony was discovered in 1863. Two shafts were sunk about 100 feet deep and a few drifts were dug. Later an adit was dug for drainage. Mining in the 1860s recovered 79 tons of poor ore. Except for rich pockets, the ore averages 5% or less antimony. Mining in the 1880s recovered 180 tons of ore, but the mine shut down again. Starting in the 1940s, various mining companies explored the site, but it never went back into production. One of those companies, the nearby Lac Nicolet Asbestos Mines, Ltd, left behind nothing but their name.

Today gravel pits have destroyed nearly all traces of the mine except for the two shafts now surrounded by the fence. It's not clear from the article whether the gravel pits expose true river gravel or mine tailings. Nevertheless, collectors continue to visit the area (with prior permission) and collect interesting minerals from the remains of the dumps. MinDat lists 43 minerals from Lac Nicole. But take care: the *Min Rec* article warns that the gravel pits are used by locals for target practice, so prior permission and extreme care are important.

The two little rocks from the baggie were mostly stibnite, but close examination revealed senarmontite crystals (Sb₂O₃). They are translucent and faintly gray octahedral crystals in masses so that turning the specimen under the microscope produces a barrage of triangular flashes as the faces catch the light. Collectors on MinDat refer to this mineral as a "rare species," but micromounters find it from Lac Nicole.

If you have specimens from Lac Nicolet, look carefully for valentinite. It is a rare antimony oxide, but it shows up on one of the two little rocks from the baggie as stubby, cream colored crystals with lengthwise striations. It has the same chemical formula as senarmontite, but is easy to distinguish by its crystal structure.

You will probably never own a cabinet specimen from Lac Nicole, but micromounters know the site well. It is a rare giveaway table that lacks rocks from the Lac Nicole Antimony Mine.

—Submitted by Mike Seeds

Reminder: The Tucson Mineral Show

From Jan. 30 to Feb. 14, Tucson, AZ comes alive with mineral enthusiasts from around the world. Dealers set up in motels for the duration, often "sleeping where they sell" by folding down the mattresses and box springs they stack against the wall during the day in order to have selling space. Just visiting these dealers at the private shows is an adventure, but the centerpiece of the experience is the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, held annually in the city's convention center on the second full weekend of February. This year's dates are Feb. 11 to 14; hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Thurs., Fri. and Sat., and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sun.

Sponsored by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., the event is the largest of its kind in the U.S. One of the highlights for show attenders is the beautiful exhibits of minerals, fossils, jewelry and lapidary. Lectures and seminars round out the experience.

This year's show theme is "Gems & Gem Minerals." For more details about the club show at the Tucson Convention Center, visit: <http://www.tgms.org/2010show.htm>.

For information about the entire Tucson experience, including the many private shows, visit: <http://www.xpopress.com/AZ-show-schedule.html>

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