



# Conglomerate

JANUARY 2010 ¥ Vol. 6, No. 1

<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>.

### **FEBRUARY**

**20: Upper Marlboro, MD** -- 20th Annual Mineral, Jewelry, and Fossil Show sponsored by the Southern Maryland Rock & Mineral Club., 10am - 4 pm. at The Show Place Arena, 14900 Pennsylvania Ave., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772.

<http://www.freewebs.com/smrmlc>.

Demonstrations of faceting, bead stringing, wire wrapping, and gold panning. Adults and children 7 & up \$3. Children 6 & under free. Contact: Michael Patterson, 301-297-4575.

**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 61st Annual EFMLS Convention hosted by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 11am-5pm, Delaware Technical and Community College @ I-95

*see next page*

## **Next BMS Meeting: Wed., Jan. 27 at 7:15pm**

The next meeting of BMS will be held January 27th, 2010 at the Cockeysville Fire Hall. See our web page [www.baltimoremineralsociety.org](http://www.baltimoremineralsociety.org) for directions. The meeting will begin at 7:15 pm. After the annual election of officers, the program will be the DVD "The Golden Age of Minerals. The DVD was made at the 2004 Tucson Gem and Mineral Show and contains stories and comments by some of the world's top collectors. Hear how they search for those pretty rocks and what they see as the future of mineral collecting. The meeting will be hosted by Lynne and Bernie.

## **Snowstorm and Election**

Because of the snowstorm last month our annual Holiday Party had to be cancelled. We thank Alice and Larry for hosting the party even though the weather prevented us from gathering at their home. The snow storm also cancelled our annual election of officers, so that will take place at our January 27th meeting. The candidates are:

**Brad Grant** – President

**Jim Hooper** – Vice President

**Bob Hudgens** – Treasurer

**Carolyn Weinberger** – Secretary

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

Note that the Field Trip Co-Chairs (Ed Goldberg and Brad Grant) and the Symposium Chair (Cal Pierson) are *ex officio* members of the Board.

## **Mineral Bliss: Jake Slagle's Web Site**

BMS member Jake Slagle has created a beautiful web site that contains a number of articles and photos. If you haven't checked it out, you should do so right away.

A feature article now on the site is "More Maryland Minerals from Harvard Museum." It includes 9 color photos and discusses such minerals as Haydenite, named after Dr. Horace Hayden, an early 18th century dentist. The mineral is now known as Chabazite. The specimen shown came from the Harris Quarry over a century ago. That quarry was long ago filled in. As you might guess from the title, this article is just one of a number of articles on Maryland minerals at Harvard, and all previous articles are accessible from the Mineral Bliss web site.

Another article now on the site is "A Classic Pennsylvania Calcite." The specimen includes a crystal 4.5 inches in diameter and was collected in 1993 from a pocket at the Delta Carbonate Quarry, which is now known as the York Building Supply Quarry, in York, Pennsylvania.

Yet another article you might like is "Minerals from the State of Delaware." It includes 8 photos, including an interesting image of a stilbite specimen from an I-95 road cut.

Take a break soon and check out Jake's Mineral Bliss blog at <http://minerabliss.blogspot.com/>.

—Mike Seeds

Exit 4B, Churchmans Road (Rt 58) Newark (Stanton), DE. Adults \$6, Seniors \$5, Juniors \$4, children under 12 free with adult. [www.delmin-society.net](http://www.delmin-society.net); Wayne Urion (302) 998-0686 or [wurion@aol.com](mailto:wurion@aol.com). Discount coupons and more info at [www.delminsociety.net](http://www.delminsociety.net).

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

**26-28: Elkridge, MD** - 37th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference, hosted by the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. MHA Conference Center, Elkridge, MD. Registration & Info: Steve Weinberger, [csccrystals2@verizon.net](mailto:csccrystals2@verizon.net).

**27-28: Chambersburg, PA** - 32nd Annual Gem-Mineral & Jewelry Show, sponsored by the Franklin County Rock & Mineral Club. Shalom Christian Academy, Chambersburg, PA.

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

E-mail news or questions to: [mseeds@fandm.edu](mailto:mseeds@fandm.edu) or [managingeditor@verizon.net](mailto: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.

## The Rock Dump

- **Nominations:** Since we had to postpone our elections due to the December snowstorm, there's still time to nominate from the floor at our January meeting. If you would like to serve as President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer, you can nominate yourself or ask someone else to nominate you. You can also nominate someone you think will do a good job, but get their permission first. BMS is even more fun if you are involved.
- **Memberships:** It is time to renew your membership. All memberships expired December 31st, so please re-up soon. Individual memberships are \$10 and family memberships are \$15. Send your payment to *Treasurer Bob Hudgens, 6713 Balmoral Overlook, New Market, MD 21774*
- **Tucson:** A number of BMS members will be leaving soon for the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, where they will survey acres of mineral specimens and chat with collectors from around the world. Although they will miss the fine weather here in Baltimore, we wish them well and suggest they take lots of good photos so they can present a special program later in the spring to show us what they saw.
- **Programs:** Jake Slagle will continue as program chair, and he has some interesting ideas for future meetings, but don't hesitate to suggest ideas to him or volunteer to give a program yourself. BMS programs are informal, and members would love to hear about your recent collecting trip to a quarry, to a mineral show, or to a rock shop. Bring your favorite specimen from years ago or a new one, and tell us all about it. Ask Jake for a meeting date when you can tell us about your minerals.
- **Email Addresses:** If you have an email address, make sure the club has it on file. You can get your newsletter direct by email and you can receive updates and bulletins about BMS activities such as field trips and sudden cancellations of Holiday Parties because of snow storms.
- **BMS Web Site:** Brad Grant has finished the official BMS web site at [www.baltimoremineral-society.org](http://www.baltimoremineral-society.org), and it's very classy—don't miss it! It is full of information about our club, including photos of minerals and of club activities. You can get the latest information about coming meetings, field trips, and programs plus links to other sites. Congratulations to Brad for producing such a beautiful site to represent BMS to the world. In fact, the site has been entered in the EFMLS web site competition, but once you see it you will declare it a prize-winner right away.  
—Submitted by Mike Seeds

## Shoobox Adventures: Keeper Calcite

The voice auction at a micromount conference is lots of fun, and the minerals are often well worth owning. Recently I pulled a baggy out of the shoobox on the end of my microscope table and found that it contained a dozen minerals I had bought in the auction at the Atlantic Micromount Conference in March 2009. They were all nice, but one is a real keeper.

*see next page*

### —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 if applicable, 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

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

Individual memberships \$10; family memberships \$15. Send payment along with your name, names 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!

## 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.

The specimen is calcite from "Milepost 5 roadcut, Highway 82, High Rolls, New Mexico." It was contributed to the auction by Eric Grundel. *MinDat* has no information about this collecting site, so I imagine Eric parking beside the highway and picking up rocks in the road cut. He does that.

No one in the room bid on the calcite, so I bought it for \$3, the opening bid. Micro-mounters don't usually donate duds to auctions, so it seemed likely that there was something special about the mineral. Besides, the money goes to support the conference. The specimen went into my shoebox of goodies.

At first glance, the calcite seemed to be dogtooth calcite, just a cluster of scalenohedral points, but turning it under the microscope produced sudden flashes from narrow faces along alternate edges of the largest points as if someone scraped the edges with a paring knife. Looking closely at the other crystals on the specimen revealed that all of the points have the same extra faces. Whatever went on as the crystals formed affected them all in the same way.

*MinDat* contains 8,984 photos of calcite crystals (at the time of writing) and some of those are large enough scalenohedrons to see the edges. It isn't too hard to find an example with these extra faces, so they are not rare. One BMS member who is an expert on crystal structure nodded and said, "Oh sure, you see those faces now and then on scalenohedrons. They must be rhombohedral."

If you crank up the magnification and look at the specimen even closer, you can see that each of these extra faces has a very narrow groove running part-way down the center. The groove does not reach the apex of the crystal and it does not go all the way to the junction with other faces. But every one of those narrow faces has the same groove. The BMS crystal expert said that grooves are a sign of twinning, "but calcite doesn't twin that way." OK, then: what's going on? "Maybe the faces are starting to etch." I haven't looked at all of the scalenohedrons on *MinDat*, but of the few hundred I've checked, none of the scalenohedrons have these grooves. That's a neat mystery to find in a \$3 specimen.

After the auction, Eric joked with me that I had bought his plain little calcite, but I think he knew it was special and that's why he put it in the auction. He even suggested that I put it back in the auction next year and he would buy it back. We could make a tradition of buying the mineral from each other year after year (and each time giving the \$3 to the Conference). That's a fun idea, but, Eric, I'm not sure I want to give it back.

—Submitted by Mike Seeds

## Wildacres: 2010 Season Schedule

The spring dates for Wildacres are April 23-29. BMS's own Bernie Emery will be one of the instructors, teaching Basic and Intermediate Cabochons. Other workshops include Chainmaille Jewelry, Exhibiting and Judging, Faceting, Basic and Advanced Fused Glass, Jewelry, Kumihimo, Mineral Identification, Scrimshaw, Basic and Intermediate Silversmithing, and Wirewrapped Jewelry. The speaker in residence will be Bob Jones.

Fall dates are September 6-12. BMS's Steve Weinberger will teach Faceting, while Bruce Gaber will lead workshops on Photographing Small Mineral Specimens and Photographing Gems & Jewelry. Other workshops include Basic and Intermediate Cabochons, Geology I & II, Glass Engraving & Etching, Making Metal Beads (Cold or Hot), Precious-Metal Clay, Silversmithing, and Basic & Intermediate Wirewrapping.

Other activities for participants are field trips, auctions of "good stuff," tailgates, and Fun Nights. Facilities include two lodges, a dining hall, a library and auditorium, a mineral and lapidary workshop and a pottery studio. All 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.

Each session costs \$350, including lodging, meals, and instruction. Registration form is available at <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/regform.pdf>. For more info, call Pamm Bryant at 804-457-4698, or email her at [pjbryant6@juno.com](mailto:pjbryant6@juno.com).