



# Conglomerate

MAY 2009 • Vol. 5, No. 5 <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>.

### **MAY 2009**

**23: Towson, MD** - Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Show hosted by the Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society. *Ruhl Armory, 1035 York Rd (MD 45 just off I-695), Towson, MD.*

### **JUNE**

**27-28: State College, PA** - Nittany Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Nittany Mineralogical Society. *Mt. Nittany Middle School, State College, PA*

### **JULY**

**11-12: Syracuse, NY** - 43rd Annual Jewelry, Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the Gem & Mineral Society of Syracuse. *Verizon Center of Progress Bldg; New York State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY.*

### **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  
*see next page*

## **May BMS Event: SUN., MAY 24 SPRING PICNIC!**

The Baltimore Mineral Society meeting for May will not occur at the library. Instead, we will have our spring picnic on Sunday evening May 24 at the home of Larry Krause and Alice Cherbonnier at 5 pm. BMS will supply hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages, while members will be asked to supply salads, vegetables, and desserts. This is always a fun event—and there are plenty (!) of wonderful minerals to look at in the basement, plus you'll have a chance to browse the grounds of the Hampton National Historic Site. Address is 1106 Gypsy Lane West (one mile east of the intersection of Dulaney Valley Rd. and Hampton Lane, just north of the Beltway interchange). Call 410-828-0024 to arrange to bring something for the potluck.

## **Minutes: BMS Meeting on April 15, 2009**

President Mike Seeds called the April 15th meeting to order at 7:20. Minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the *Conglomerate*. Treasurer Bob Hudgins sent a report indicating that we remain solvent.

There was no Unfinished or New Business.

Announcements:

- John Coolidge invited members to an open house and tour of the Pequea Silver Mine on May 16-17.
- Mike urged members to write and submit articles for the *Conglomerate*.
- The BMS picnic will be held at the home of Alice & Larry Krause on Sunday May 24 beginning at 5 p.m. Members attending are urged to call Larry and let him know what pot-luck items they will bring – i.e. salads, chips, dessert. The club will furnish the hot-dogs, hamburgers, rolls, and beverages.
- The June program will be the annual review of the Tucson shows. This year the theme was “Mineral Oddities.”
- The July program will probably be Kathy Hrechka of MNCA, talking about her fabulous micro-diamond collection.

The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 and was followed by a program by Mike Seeds entitled “Why I Collect Minerals”.

—Submitted by Carolyn Weinberger, Secretary

## **Lafarge Quarry Collecting Trip**

On Saturday April 18, 2009, The Baltimore Mineral Society visited The Lafarge Quarry located in Marriottsville, Maryland. The quarry is located on Marriottsville Road, on the Baltimore County side of the road. Geologically, the quarry is Cockeysville Marble, is part of the Setters Formation.

The trip was arranged by Ed Goldberg and we had a very good turnout, with the following members attending: Mike Seeds, Ed Goldberg, Jim Schoonmaker, Fred Parker, Carol Glickstein, Jeff Nagy, Jim Hooper, Lawrence Davis, Jake Slagle, and others whose names I can't recall. With the weather sunny and warm, it looked like it was going to be a nice way to start the 2009 mineral collecting season.

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 Baltimore Mineral Society. *MHA Conference Center, ElkrIDGE, MD. Info & Registration: C. Weinberger, <ccrystals2@verizon.net>.*

**31: Fairless Hills, PA** - The Rock and Mineral Club of Lower Bucks County, PA presents our 20th "Ultraviolation," an all-Fluorescent Mineral Show, at the *First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA.*, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Cost \$2.00 Donation, Children 12 & younger FREE. Information: 856-663-1383 or e-mail: [ultraviolation@yahoo.com](mailto:ultraviolation@yahoo.com)

*Information courtesy of the Eastern Federation Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies, Inc., <http://www.amfed.org/efnls/>*

**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](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](mailto:Edmund.A.Goldberg@usdoj.gov) to learn about upcoming mineral field trips.

Upon arriving at the quarry, we went to the office to sign in and get our reflective vests. We then headed out to the quarry. While many collectors found some nice "Yard Rocks," I found several nice specimens of calcite. Many members found some specimens of pyrite and chalcopyrite that look really sharp under a microscope (at least mine did!!). I also found a nice crystal of tourmaline in calcite.



*Mike Seeds at the LaFarge Quarry.*

I also found a specimen that is in the mica family of minerals, but I don't believe it's muscovite or biotite. I am hoping to have it identified shortly. I spent a lot of time at this quarry just staring at a small area of ground, looking for something that appeared unusual. I found a nice specimen of clear calcite crystals that way.

The Lafarge Quarry Trip was a great trip to start the season. I want to thank Ed Goldberg for arranging the trip. For those BMS Members who were not able to attend. I hope you will be able to make it to the next trip!

—Bradley Grant

## A Gift to BMS

Harold Levey has given BMS three issues of *Rocks and Minerals* dated March-April 1958, January-February 1959, and November-December 1959. They will be added with thanks to the BMS Library.

What makes these issues remarkable is that they contain reports on the first three years of the Baltimore Mineral Society Micromount Symposium, which grew into the Paul Desautels Memorial Micromount Symposium. Ours was the first micromount symposium in history, and you can read about it in these issues.

The 1958 issue contains the article "An Experiment in Mineral Symposia: A Signal Event in the History of Micro Mineralogy." Club members were reportedly hesitant to undertake such an innovative project, but On September 14, 1957, after 6 months of planning, 53 collectors from 9 states and the District of Columbia met in Towson, Maryland. Paul Desautels and Arther Goodwin organized and hosted the program aided by Harold Levey, Neal Yedlin and other club members. Speakers included Mary Mrose, of the USGS, speaking on Micro-Phosphates of New England and Lou Perloff speaking on Micro Uranium Minerals.

The article concludes that, "This experimental symposium revealed the following important points: 1. That it is practicable and desirable to hold meetings limited to the field of micro mineralogy..." Other points foretell the structure and conduct of micromount symposium in Baltimore and around the world. BMS started it here in Baltimore.

The second symposium, in September 1958, lasted two days and had 66 attendees, including Bill Yost, who "was deluged with inquiries regarding one of the neatest rock-breakers we've seen." Neal Yedlin spoke on "The Micromounter" and Paul Seel won first place in a mineral competition with a suite of 5 diamond crystals.

The third symposium, in September 1959, included talks by Horace Greene, Isidore Adler USGS, and Edwin Roedder, also of the USGS. Jack Jedlicka arranged for the distribution of micro material, and William Hunt won first prize in the micromount competition.

The club thanks Harold Levey for his thoughtful gift. The text of the first article will be reproduced (with permission from *Rocks and Minerals*) in the October issue of the so it can be shared with attendees at the 53rd Desautels Micromount Symposium, October 2-4, 2009.

—Mike Seeds

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## BMS MEETINGS:

**3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. Cockeysville Public Library** except Oct. (*Micromount Symposium*); December (*BMS holiday party*), May (*BMS annual BBQ*) & August

### 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, 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!

### Write for "The Conglomerate"!

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

## Donate Minerals to the Desautels Symposium

Every fall, our club puts on the Desautels Micromount Symposium, and two of the highlights are the auction and the giveaway table. As a BMS member, please consider donating some rocks.

- Auction donations should be micromounts. Unusual minerals or minerals from unusual locations are welcome but so are attractive mounts of common minerals. Who can resist another nice wulfenite?

- Giveaway table donations should be unmounted rock from known locations containing interesting mineral specimens that can be trimmed out and mounted in micro boxes. A cigar box full of interesting fragments would be very welcome, but please no barren rock.

Bring donations to BMS meetings no later than September 2009. We can make our symposium even more exciting with a few good rocks.

—Mike Seeds

## Book Recommendation

I just finished reading a terrific popular-geology book by Walter Alvarez called *The Mountains of Saint Francis*. This book is noteworthy for combining clear explanations of geological concepts with the excitement of discovery, and blends in lots of the history of geology. It is focused on the peninsula of Italy and how work there understanding its geology has, over the years, led to major developments in geologic theory.

I speak, of course, as a lay-person, but it is worth checking out. (*The Mountains of Saint Francis: Discovering the Geologic Events That Shaped Our Earth*, Walter Alvarez, W. W. Norton, Dec. 15, 2008.)

—Ed Goldberg

## Rochester Mineralogical Symposium 2009

The annual mineral celebration began at the Radisson Hotel Rochester Airport on Thursday, April 23 at 4 pm with 34 dealers opening their doors on the 4th floor. Each dealer had filled their hotel room with display tables and cases of minerals along with flats and trays spread out over the beds. Some dealers had books, tools, maps, and supplies. Jeff Scovil had his room set up as a photo studio, so you could buy a mineral and carry it down the hall and have Jeff photograph it.

The dealer stocks were exciting, but the hit of the symposium this year was the slate of lectures. They were all well worth the long drive. Frank Melanson led off with "Recent Mineral Collecting in Brazil" on Thursday evening. He took his audience to remote mineral mines and mountain villages to meet miners and dealers. Friday's lectures included "Microphotography of Agates," presented by Doug Moore, a talk that included stunning photographs of agates revealing complex and mysterious structures frozen into the agate.

The highlight of Friday's talks was "Mindat.org," a lecture given by Jolyon Ralph, the man who first created for his own use a list of minerals and locations that grew into the Mindat.org website. Jolyon explained step by step how the list grew through his expert programming skills and the contributions of mineral collectors all around the world. He pointed out little used features of the site such as discussion groups, and outlined his plans for the future.

Jeff Scovil began Saturday morning with his annual talk, "What's New In Minerals?," with digital images of minerals he has photographed from around the world. With each mineral, it is hard to decide which is more stunning, the specimen or the photography. Jeff's program always attracts a large crowd with people driving in on Saturday mornings just for that talk and to visit the dealers. Other collectors followed Jeff, showing their own images of newly collected minerals.

Saturday afternoon began with "Field Collecting in Upper Michigan," given by Robert

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## EFMLS Offers On-line Library

The Eastern Federation of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies (EFMLS) offers an on-line library of mineral-related articles. Visitors are permitted to republish the information, so long as proper credit is given. Visit <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/library.htm>.

## 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. Fall Dates are: September 7-13, 2009. Visit <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm>.

Courses include Pewter Fabrication, Basic & Intermediate Silversmithing, Exhibiting & Judging, Faceting, Basic & Intermediate Cabochons, and many more.

There's also a time for sharing information through mini-presentations or demonstrations of various lapidary skills, videos or slide presentations that are hobby-related, etc. These programs are generally less than 45 minutes each. Attendees are invited to participate.

Wildacres has two lodges, a dining hall building, a library and auditorium, a mineral and lapidary workshop and a pottery studio. All buildings are heated. Meals are served family style. All sleeping rooms have private baths and have either two twin beds or one double and one twin bed. Wildacres also has a lending and reference library and gem and mineral displays.

Visit <http://www.amfed.org/efmls/wildacres.htm#Fall>

Barron, who was introduced with the observation that he looks like a retired Navy Seal. His talk confirmed that he is an unusually determined, aggressive and competent collector. To find native copper, he dives to depths of 60 feet off the north coast of the Keweenaw Peninsula where his geological studies reveal that copper veins run out into Lake Superior. He has recovered everything from thumbnails to a 14-ton copper boulder now in a museum. He even uses underwater metal detectors. During questions, he observed that wannabe mineral pirates often follow him whenever he goes out in his own boat, so he often borrows his friend's boats to keep from revealing his best diving spots.

Saturday afternoon continued with an entertaining and thought provoking talk by Gail Spann from Texas, speaking on "Women in Mineral Collecting." Besides showing images of women collectors in quarries and with their collections, she discussed some of the errors that dealers and other collectors make when assuming that a woman is merely a companion to a collector. She suggested some steps that dealers can take to make women more comfortable as customers and collectors. Gail and her husband began collecting only 4 years ago and have amassed 20 custom-made cases containing 3700 specimens ranging from thumbnails to cabinet size minerals. You can read about their collection in the recent Texas supplement to the *Min Rec*. Gail moderates the women collector's discussion group on Mindat.org.

Saturday evening is always reserved for the dinner and auction, and this year the food was good, the conversation lively, and the auction exciting. Many minerals were auctioned off for the benefit of the sponsoring club, but the highlight of the evening may have been an envelope of letters and documents with the signatures of famous collectors. Bidding was also heated for a beautiful drawing of a cluster of uvite crystals, which was the basis for the cover of *The Vug* magazine. The artist, Brandy Naugle, assured the audience that the art was an original drawing and would not be reproduced as a print. The subsequent bidding was fast and furious.

Sunday morning is the time for the hard core—the day trippers having gone home Saturday evening. They missed a beautifully researched talk given by John Betts on "Minerals of New York City." He ranged from clay pits on Staten Island to marble quarries in Harlem and explored all of the subway, building, and tunnel excavations in between. Jeff Scovil returned for the final lecture—"Around the World in 18 years"—in which he showed the finest photos of the finest minerals from his 18-year career as the leading mineral photographer in the world.

Between the lectures, the crowd rushed to the fourth floor to shop with the dealers, to the lobby to examine books and magazines for sale, or to the micromounters room where the fun was small but well focused. As always, it was an exhausting weekend of mineral fun, and although it is a medium long drive up US 15 to reach Rochester, it was well worth the effort.

—Mike Seeds