



Conglomerate

November, 2010 - Volume 6, Number 10 <www.baltimoremineralsociety.org>

Baltimore Mineral Society

The Baltimore Mineral Society is a member of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The BMS was established in order to allow its members the opportunity to promote the study of mineralogy and to act as a source of information and inspiration for the mineral collector.

Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month (except October, December and June) at the Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Hall beginning at 7:15 p.m.

Directions: From I-83 take the Shawan road 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. There is a sign 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.

BMS November Meeting • Wednesday, November 24

The next meeting of BMS will take place November 24th at the Cockeysville Fire Hall Social Room. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm.

Carolyn and Steve Weinberger will present a program highlighting some of the minerals found in one of the quarries of the Eifel region of Germany. That region was the site of major volcanic activity during the Tertiary and Quaternary geologic era. Beautiful scenery abounds, but the main attraction of the area for mineral collectors are the numerous quarries that can be found there.



Although the geology is dominated by Devonian slates, sandstones and limestones, the Eifel is mainly known due to its numerous localities in wide-spread volcanic rocks of Tertiary or Quaternary age. The Earth's crust in the Eifel area still shows volcanic and tectonic activity: the area is lifted by 1 to 2 mm each year.

All of that geologic activity has produced a wide range of beautiful collectable minerals. Don't miss Carolyn and Steve's presentation.

Holiday Party News

Alice Cherbonnier has invited us to hold our annual Holiday Party at her home on Saturday evening December 18 at 7 pm. Mark your calendars for this annual get-together. Arrangements for the pot luck will be announced at the November meeting

Upcoming Field Trip • December 4th

A trip is being arranged for Saturday December 4th to the Lafarge Churchville Quarry. The same Safety gear is required. BMS members must register with Brad by Wednesday, December 1 in order to participate.



Note that on all BMS collecting trips the BMS safety rules apply as a minimum and may be extended by the quarry management and the BMS Collecting Trip Leader. See page 6 for the complete rules that all BMS members going on the trip must agree to adhere to.

Baltimore Mineral Society



President: Bradley Grant
410-515-4293
<bseball1@yahoo.com>
Vice President: Jim Hooper
410 747-4321
<jhooper@jhu.edu>
Secretary Carolyn Weinberger
410-833-7926
<cscrytals2@verizon.net>
Treasurer: Bob Hudgins
301-865-3212
<hudginswr@msn.com>

Directors:
Bernie Emery
Ed Goldberg
Steve Weinberger

Editor: Mike Seeds
<mseeds@fandm.edu>
717-201-8750

Dues are \$10 for individual members and \$15 for family memberships. 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.

Write for "The Conglomerate"! Send news, announcements, comments, observations, or articles to <mseeds@fandm.edu>. No e-mail? Hand in your submission at a meeting.

Non-commercial reprint permission granted to non-profit organizations unless otherwise noted.

Rubble From the President • by Brad Grant



The 54th Paul Desautels Micromount symposium was held last month and it was a very enjoyable weekend. I would like to thank everyone in our club who helped out with the Symposium. I also want to give a special thank you for Carolyn for coordinating and preparing all the refreshments at the Symposium; to Steve, Bernie, Jim and others who helped with set-up and tear-down; to Al for handling the auctions and to Cal for handling all the program details. If you were not able to make this year's symposium I would encourage you to try coming next year.

I also was very excited to see the new members at our club meeting September. I am also encouraged that we have two younger members in our club. I am hoping we can continue to grow this number. I am going to try to see if we can get some collecting field trips in place so that members who are under 16 can go collecting. As a tangent to this, one of the items I would like the club to try working on next year is to increase our exposure in Public Schools. Making as many people as possible aware that we exist will only help our membership.

We have elections in December so this is a fantastic time for members to make an impact on their club. So don't be bashful, step up and nominate someone (with their approval) or yourself. Please send me an email if you are interested in a position.

Moving onward, the club had to two trips since our September meeting and both were quite successful with a lot of nice specimens found (at least by me!!!!). I was particularly happy with how well the November 13th trip to the Lafarge Texas Quarry went. I would imagine that there were close to 30 people participating on that trip. We have tentative trip for December 4th which I hope to have the final details for at our November Meeting.

As a final note, it is election time and if you are interested in running for office, please let me know.

The Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

The November 28th meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Brad Grant. Those present, in addition to Brad were Bernie Emery, Ed Goldberg, Jim Hooper, Mike Seeds, Carolyn & Steve Weinberger, and invited club members Jake Slagle and Fred Parker.

The purpose of the meeting was to formulate a set of safety rules to be used by the club of field trips. After some deliberation, a set of rules was adopted along with a waiver to be signed by all participants.

Carolyn Weinberger also handed out a draft revision of the club Bylaws and asked that all board members offer feedback to her by November 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm..

submitted by
Carolyn Weinberger, Secretary

• 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>.

November:

20-21: 19th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show sponsored by the No. VA Mineral Club. George Mason Univ., Fairfax, VA.

December:

11: Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show & Sale. Holiday Inn Hotel, 9615 Deercro Rd; Timonium, MD (I-83, exit 17, Padonia Rd.). 10 am - 4:30 pm. Dealers: Mike's Minerals, Octahedron, Highland Rock & Fossil and Parker Minerals.

February:

1 - 13: Annual Tucson shows.

10 - 13: Tucson Gem & Mineral Club Show - Theme - "Minerals of California". Tucson Convention Center.

March:

19-20: 47th Annual Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD.

April:

1-3: Atlantic Micromounters Conference, MHA Conference Center, Elkridge. Featured speaker: Tom Loomis.

11-17: EFMLS Wildacres Workshop

14-17: Rochester Mineralogical Symposium

Texas Quarry Field Trip Recap

The last BMS field trip was held on Saturday, November 13 to the Texas Quarry in Cockeysville, MD. Twelve members enjoyed the glorious weather and came away with a good inventory of "collectibles".

Those enjoying the day were Steve Dyer, Bob Eberly, Bernie Emery, Brad Grant, Stuart Herring, Jim Hooper, Sam Litton, Robert Miller, Fred Parker, Stuart Stider, Stephanie Thi and Robert Zopfi.



Photos: Pam Jeffries
Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore



Mineral Pioneer: Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe (1749-1832)

By John F. Sanfaçon
from The Rockhound Register, November 2010

To most people, Goethe is the most important author in all of German history: his epic works Faust and The Sorrows of Young Werther ushered in the Romantic movement in German poetry and fiction, while his play Gotz von Berlichingen brought Shakespearean forms to German theater. Little wonder, then, that the German government created the world-wide Goethe Institute, with cultural centers to encourage and spread German language and culture. Manhattan alone has 3 branches which offer language and literature courses, films, exhibits and seminars. While we rockhounds recognize his name in goethite, we might not be aware of his many contributions to zoology, botany and optics. A true polymath, Goethe was estimated to have an IQ of 210 by modern psychologists who delved into his papers to measure the logical consistency of his thought.

Born to middle-class parents in Frankfurt am-Main in 1749, Goethe followed his father in becoming a lawyer, all the while avidly studying mining engineering, geology and mineralogy. In 1784, Goethe oversaw the reopening of the copper mines at Ilmenau, and began to formulate his own theories on geological processes, which agreed with the prevailing theories of his day, but were to be superseded in the next century once a better understanding of stratigraphy and subterranean dynamic forces was achieved. An avid field collector, Goethe was to amass over the course of 50 years a collection of some 18,000 specimens, mostly ore samples with only a relatively small number of



continued on next page

• Other Local Clubs

♦ **American Fossil Federation.** Meetings are held the 2nd Sunday of alternate months (Jan., March etc.) at 10:30 am at the Bowie Community Center, Bowie, MD.
<americanfossilfederation.com>

♦ **Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society.** Meetings are held the 2nd Friday of each month (except August) beginning at 7:30 pm at the Woman's Club of Catonsville, 10 St. Timothy's Lane. Catonsville, MD.

♦ **Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore.** Meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month except January, July and August beginning at 7:30 pm at Meadow Mill at Woodberry, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd, Suite 116; Baltimore, MD 21211.
<gemcuttersguild.com>

♦ **Maryland Geological Society.** Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of alternate months (January, March etc.) beginning at 11 am at the South Bowie Community Center.
<www.ecphora.net/mgs>

♦ **Patuxent Lapidary Guild.** Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 pm. at 169 Defense Highway, Annapolis, MD.
<www.patuxentlapidary.org>

Goethe

well-crystallized esthetic examples. The collection, which has been preserved intact at the Goethe National Museum in Weimar, is considered historically important, a significant chapter, according to Wendell Wilson, in what Germans call the "Heroic Age" of mineralogy.

Goethite, with the formula $\alpha\text{-Fe}^{3+}\text{O}(\text{OH})$ and a hardness of 5-5 1/2, crystallizes in the orthorhombic system. Discovered in 1806 (by Goethe?) in the Hollertszug Mine in the Rhineland-Palatinate, goethite is commonly found as a brownish-black weathering product in hydrothermal mineral, bog and marine environments. Over the years, I picked up many fine specimens from Mud Lake, PA from a dealer at the Franklin Show swap. Goethite is often referred to by rockhounds as bog iron.

Shoebox Adventures: DORS

by Mike Seeds

Last week I reached into my shoebox of minerals to be studied and pulled out a paper box about 4 inches square. I made it in an Arizona motel room nearly a year ago by folding a flyer explaining what to do if you encounter a mountain lion in the bush (make yourself look big, mean, and tasteless). The box contained 16 mineral specimens from the Dusty Old Rock Shop in Tucson, and they were beautiful

The Dusty Old Rock Shop (DORS) is my affectionate nickname for a nice shop just over the Tucson Mountains. It is dusty, but it sits in the middle of the desert, and it has been there a long time so it has earned a little dust. There is plenty of rock in piles and bins outside, and lots of specimens on shelves and in drawers inside. There's treasure there. If you ask about micromounts, the owner will take you into the back room, clear a space at an old microscope, empty a chair, and you can spend hours looking at thousands of beautiful specimens for sale for \$3 each. As you settle down at the 'scope, the shop dog, Stinky, will wander over to check you out and might settle down to keep you company.



Photo: Steve Weinberger

On my last visit, I bought a bunch of specimens and folded boxes to protect them in my luggage. The 16 in the mountain lion box were all nice, but four were outstanding. One specimen was a grey-green ball of cookeite studded with protruding quartz crystals making it look like an old fashioned under-sea mine. It is from Magnet Cove in Arkansas, and in fact, I bought two of them. I'll put one in my giveaway box.

Another lovely specimen contains paper-thin plates of Wulfenite from the Rowley Mine in Arizona. They are creamy yellow with slight bevels along the edges and so thin the light glows through. They are on a slightly purplish crystalline

continued on page 5

matrix that might be fluorite. In any case, the color contrast is striking.



*Diopside cup
Tsumeb, Namibia
Photo: Mike Seeds*

Diopside is pretty stuff, but it's not uncommon among micromounters. Nevertheless, one of the best specimens in the group is a cluster of diopside crystals from Tsumeb in the shape of a cup. It could be part of the Crown Jewels of England if it were bigger, but it's only 5 millimeters in diameter and would hold only one drop of grog.

One of the best specimens in this box is a small cluster of rutile crystals from Hiddenite in North Carolina. They lie in a single plane and meet at the precise angles specified by the atomic bonds and atomic spacing among the molecules. I managed to mount the crystals on the end of a brush bristle so it floats in its micro box and glitters under the microscope with teasing hints of red.

It is always a pleasure to work on specimens from the DORS. They were prepared years ago by the current owner's father. He spent many happy hours trimming the minerals just right and sticking them to little squares of Styrofoam with tiny bits of stickum. Then he formed a box around the Styrofoam using cardstock cut from old file folders taped together. The specimens are shelved inside 9x11 inch boxes and there are thousands to look at.

If you visit Tucson, drive over Gates Pass and turn left on Kinney Road. The DORS is about a mile ahead on the left just across from a small grocery store. It's called the Tucson Mineral & Gem World. Don't call it the Dusty Old Rock Shop. They might not understand. And don't call the dog Stinky. That's not her name and she isn't. – Mike Seeds

Interesting Web Sites

from Robert Miller

There are many good web sites out there that have information on anything related to rocks, minerals, and gems. Here are a few of my favorites. Some are quite extensive so explore.

<www.the-vug.com>

For general information and web site on fake minerals.

<www.mindat.org>

For properties of minerals, pictures and location data.

<www.efta.biz>

For lists of mineral and fossil digs in our area.

<www.rockhounds.com/>

The Internet's first e-zine for Rockhounds.

<webmineral.com/>

An on-line mineralogy database with pronunciations.

<www.johnbetts-fineminerals.com/index.htm>

Articles and photos. Also a site for purchasing extraordinary specimens!

<www.mineralogy.be//>

The Virtual Museum of the History of Mineralogy

Free Stuff!!!! • from Alice Cherbonnier

Showcases
Display Stands
Miscellaneous Minerals

First come, first served!
Remaining items will be available
for 'adoption' during the holiday party

Call Alice at
410-828-0024
for info or to arrange a visit

Baltimore Mineral Society



Collecting Rules

In order to participate on this field trip, the following must be followed:

1. The following safety equipment is required for everyone
 - Hard Hat, certified for industrial head protection. These are readily available at home centers and hardware stores.
 - Eye protection: goggles, face shields, or safety glasses are acceptable. All must have side eye protection
 - Steel toed shoes or boots
 - Gloves
 - Long pants
 - Fluorescent safety vest or equivalent if required by the quarry
2. Collectors must RSVP in advance.
3. **Collectors who are late will miss the safety briefing and will not be able to collect.**
4. All collectors must obey all instructions of the group leader and quarry employees.
Failure to do so or unsafe behavior can lead to a collector being asked to leave or being forbidden from future field-trips.
5. All participants must be current members of the Baltimore Mineral Society.
6. Children under the age of 18 will not be permitted on collecting trips unless the quarry management mandates an older minimum age.
7. **All quarry/safety/collecting rules established by the quarry or landowner must be followed.**
 - **The trip leader will caution participants who violate the rules. If a second offense occurs, the participant will be required to leave.**
 - **If on a subsequent trip, the participant again violates a safety/quarry/collecting rule, he will lose his collecting rights for a period of one year.**
8. When leaving the quarry, participants will notify the trip leader.

I have read and agree to the above

Signed: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____



Field Trip Waiver

Please agree to the following waiver:

Field trip attendees are solely responsible for their own safety.

Neither the club or property owners provide any insurance or funds to treat injuries that occur during collecting. Attendees must rely on their own insurance and financial resources to handle such events.

The fact that the club or property owner may insist attendees follow safety or etiquette rules or warn that an area or an activity is unsafe does not imply a duty to forbid attendees from or warn them away from all unsafe spots or unsafe activities. Attendees should not assume an area is safe just because others let you work there or are working there themselves. Attendees must use their own judgment, accept the consequences, and hold all others harmless.

All attendees agree to hold harmless field trip facilitators from liability from the attendee's participation in the field trip.

Signature: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

The Conglomerate

Mike Seeds, Editor
516 Bald Eagle Ct;
Lancaster, PA 17601



A Thanksgiving Wish

author unknown

"Twas the night of Thanksgiving
But I just couldn't sleep
I tried counting backwards
I tried counting sheep

The leftovers beckoned
The dark meat and white
But I fought the temptation
With all of my might.

Tossing and turning with anticipation
The thought of a snack became infatuation
So I raced to the kitchen, flung open the door,
And I gazed at the fridge, full of goodies galore.

Gobbled up turkey and buttered potatoes,
Pickles and carrots, beans and tomatoes.
I felt myself swelling so plump and so round,
"Til all of a sudden, I rose off the ground.



I crashed through the ceiling,
Floating into the sky,
With a mouthful of pudding,
And a handful of pie.

But, I managed to yell,
As I soared past the trees...
Happy eating to all -
Pass the cranberries please.

May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey be plump,
May your potatoes 'n gravy,
Have nary a lump.

May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize,
May your thanksgiving dinner
Stay off of your thighs!