



# Conglomerate

September, 2010 - Volume 6, Number 8 <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 September Meeting • Wednesday, September 22

The next meeting of the Baltimore Mineral Society will be Wednesday September 22nd at the Cockeysville Fire Hall social room just off of York road south of Shawan Road. You can find detailed directions at our club web site, [www.baltimoremineralsociety.org](http://www.baltimoremineralsociety.org). The meeting starts at 7:15 pm.. The program will be given by Jessica Simonoff: "On the Authenticity of Galenas from Magan Bulgaria" to be followed by commentary on her field collecting experiences and her collection.



## Desautels Symposium • October 1 - 3

BMS has presented the Desautels Symposium since 1957, and it has become a premier event in micromounting. It is also an exciting mineral weekend, and collectors of larger minerals find the slide shows, auctions, dealers, and conversation rewarding. A few of the highlights include:

- "Microminerals of the Michigan Copper Country" – Tom Rosemeyer
- "Microminerals of the San Juan Mountains of Colorado" – Tom Rosemeyer
- "Gems and Minerals of Tanzania" – Quintin & Willow Wight
- "The Minerals of Gold Hill in Utah" – Mike Kokinos

Add to that trading, giveaway tables, mineral sales, silent and voice auctions and lots of free time to talk minerals plus dinner on Friday night and lunch on Saturday and Sunday! Plan to attend at the MHA Conference Center, 6816 Deerpath Road, Elkridge, Maryland. For information call Mike Seeds, 201-8750 or e-mail Steve Weinberger <[cscrytals2@verizon.net](mailto:cscrytals2@verizon.net)>. Registration forms (available on our website) should be mailed or given to Bob Hudgins.



Legrandite  
 $Zn_2[OH|AsO_4] \cdot H_2O$   
 Ojuela Mine  
 Mapimi, Durango, Mexico  
 ©JBS, 2006. Used w/permission

**Member Help Needed:** BMS members are needed Friday afternoon October 1 starting about 3:30 pm to set up tables, chairs, run electrical cords and prepare the building for the symposium. Members are also needed Sunday afternoon from about noon to put tables and chairs away, run vacuums, and empty trash, etc.. Please help BMS present this famous event.

## Baltimore Mineral Society



President: Bradley Grant  
<info@baltimoremineralsociety.org>

Vice President: Jim Hooper

Secretary Carolyn Weinberger

Treasurer: Bob Hudgins

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.

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## Rubble from the President

I hope everyone has had a great summer. Yours truly has been having a swell time with Vmware and networking all summer (not really, but I need to save up for a microscope somehow!!!). Even though I have not been collecting this summer I have been spending a lot of time reading about crystal structures and using them for identification of minerals. Will this knowledge help me? It should. Will it actually work on someone like me? I kinda doubt it!!!!!!

I have also read about the good stuff Ed Goldberg is doing with setting up a display at the Maryland Science Center. I want to thank him for stepping up and doing something like this. I am looking forward to seeing this display when it is done. If you have something to donate for a Hands-on Table, let Ed know. Colorful, but not fragile minerals work great and are a neat way to get someone hooked.

We also have the 54th Desautels Micromount Symposium happening on the weekend of October 1st. It cost \$30.00 (\$35.00 at the door) and it is well worth it. There are some fantastic presentations lined up this year by this year's Micromounters Hall of Fame inductees. There will also be vendors coming to the show and there are the giveaway tables. Even if you are not a Micromounter, the mineral knowledge you can pick up at the Symposium is impressive. Stop by if you can.

I have already lined up a trip for October 9th back to Havre De Grace. I am now firming up trips to Cornwall, Pa, and to Teeter Quarry in Gettysburg. Those two trips will happen sometime in late October or early November. I am canceling for now the trip to the Delaware Mineral Museum due the fact I only heard from one person. I hope to try rescheduling it for some time November.

For our website I would like to create a section for someone who might be new to the hobby and wants to learn more about how to go collecting and identifying minerals. I would like to let this be something of a group effort from the club with the only restriction being that it not have links to commercial vendors.

I hope to see everyone at our September 22nd Meeting.

Brad

## Upcoming Field Trip

A BMS members only field trip has been organized to the quarry at Havre De Grace for Saturday, October 9th. Full safety gear is required. Minerals to be found in the quarry include pyrite and epidote.



Contact Brad Grant to register for the trip at 410-515-4293 or <bseball1@yahoo.com> and to obtain directions, meeting time etc. You must register in advance and no later than Wednesday, October 6th.

## • *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>.

### September:

18-19: 45th Annual Gem & Mineral Show sponsored by the Central PA Rock & Mineral Club. Zembo Shrine, 3rd & Division Sts; Harrisburg, PA.

25-26: 46th Annual Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show hosted by the Gem Cutters Guild of Baltimore. Howard Co. Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. Info: <[www.gemcuttersguild.com](http://www.gemcuttersguild.com)>

### October:

30: 21st Annual "Ultravioletation" Fluorescent Mineral Show sponsored by the Rock & Mineral Club of Lower Bucks Co. PA. First United Methodist Church, 840 Trenton Rd; Fairless Hills, PA.

### November:

13: 19th annual Fall Rock Swap, sponsored by the Richmond Gem & Mineral Society. Ridge Baptist Church, 1515 Eastridge Rd; Richmond, VA. Hrs. 9 am - 3 pm.

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

### December:

11: 20th Annual Fall Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Festival. Timonium Holiday Inn, 9615 Deerco Rd; Timonium, MD. Participants include Highland Rock & Fossils, Mike's Minerals, Octahedron Minerals and Parker Minerals.

## *July Meeting Minutes*

President Bradley Grant called the July 28th meeting of the BMS to order at 7:30 pm. Treasurer Bob Hughes indicated that the club remains solvent.

### Unfinished Business:

Carolyn Weinberger reported that she had purchased a digital photo frame for use in the club showcase displays at the Gem Cutters show and elsewhere. The Board of Directors had approved this purchase.

### New Business:

Brad reported that he was tentatively setting up a field trip to the Delaware Mineral Museum for September 12 and working on collecting trips for later in the fall. He also indicated that the Texas Quarry would hold an Open House on Saturday September 18 and that we were invited to participate with an informational table.

### Announcements:

Mike Seeds reminded everyone that our Desautels Micromounters Conference would be October 1 -3 at the MHA. Registration information will be mailed in August. Every member was encouraged to attend regardless of whether or not they are micromounters since the talks are always about minerals.

Alice Cherbonnier volunteered to host the annual Holiday Party at her home. The December date will be announced at a later time. Needless to say, her gracious offer was received with enthusiasm.

Following adjournment of the business meeting Jake Slagle and Steve and Carolyn Weinberger presented their annual visual recap of the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show. The 2010 theme was "Gems and Gem Materials."

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

submitted by Carolyn Weinberger -- Secretary

## *Help Promote the Club*

Thanks to the Gem Cutters Guild, BMS will have a table at the upcoming Atlantic Coast Show. Here's a good opportunity for us to promote the club, attract new members, and share our love of minerals with the public.

Your help is needed on Saturday, September 25th and 26th. It's easy work -- just bring along a few of your favorite minerals to put on the table and talk about as people stop by. We'll have a supply of our informational fliers plus a show case (elsewhere in the hall) showing photos of various minerals, club field trips etc. And while you are there, you'll have a chance to "shop 'til you drop" at the mineral dealer booths.

Please note that several members of BMS are also members of the Gem Cutters Guild and will not be able to help at the club booth. Please lend a hand and promote our activities to the public.

• 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>

## *Natural History Endowment Established in Larry Krause's Memory*

The family of BMS member Larry Krause, who died on June 2, has established the Larry Krause Natural History Endowment at Friends School of Baltimore. The fund is intended to foster in Friends School students, and in other students through the school's outreach programs, an appreciation of the beauty and diversity of the natural world, with a special emphasis on the study of geology and mineralogy.

Before his death, Larry consulted with the school's science teachers at the middle and upper school levels, and donated suites of minerals and fossils for students to examine in their science labs. The upper school has since added an intermediate-level geology course to supplement its introductory course. Among other things, the endowment is intended to support field trips.

Additions to the Larry Krause Natural History Endowment are welcome; send to the Development Office, Friends School, 5114 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210.

--Alice Cherbonnier

## *A Visit to the Redpath Museum in Montreal*

A century and more ago, the study of natural history was intense, inspiring legendary collectors who amassed an astonishing variety of specimens. One such collector was Sir William Dawson, an early leader of what is now McGill University in Montreal. In 1882 the Redpath Museum opened on the university campus. It was commissioned by Peter Redpath, a benefactor of McGill, and is considered Canada's oldest structure built specifically to serve as a museum. It supports the study of paleontology, geology, zoology, and ethnology.

At first the three-floor museum housed Dawson's personal collections, but today it has expanded to encompass over 3,000,000 objects ranging from fossils, shells, and minerals to animal species, Egyptian antiquities and ethnology (objects related to world cultures over the centuries). Its exhibits cover the 3.5-billion-year history of life on planet Earth. The exhibits even include letters written by Charles Darwin.

My son Mitch and I visited the museum in August, and found it to be not only fascinating in its contents, but architecturally beautiful as well. It's formal, but friendly and approachable, flooded with light from big windows and accented with lots of natural wood, including its handsome showcases, many of which are original to the building. The minerals—some magnificent specimens, and others more interesting for study purposes than for beauty—were arranged logically, mostly in counter-height displays allowing for easy label reading. The specimens from famed Quebec sites (especially quarries in Mont St. Hilaire, Asbestos and Thetford Mines) were particularly outstanding.



## *The Redpath Museum*

The museum is an adjunct to the university's science curriculum; faculty offices are located along the outside walls of the exhibit spaces. Recently McGill added a new course of study, "Science and Museums," that prepares students for careers in "research and management of natural history collections." Graduate-level courses in bio-systematics and evolutionary biology are offered as well.

This year the Redpath Museum is adding programs related to the United Nations-designated celebration called "2010: International Year of Biodiversity." I don't recall hearing anything about this back home in the U.S., but there's plenty of information online, including a map showing events occurring all over the world; visit <http://www.cbd.int/2010/celebrations/>

Admission to the Redpath Museum is free. For more information, visit <http://www.mcgill.ca/redpath/>

BMS field trip to Montreal, anyone?

-- Alice Cherbonnier

## *Hello Columbus, Again*

In July of this year I revisited Columbus, Ohio and found the two shops I'd seen previously are still there and 'improved' since last year's trip. The rock shop had substantially added to its inventory and had an overall more prosperous atmosphere. I picked up a sizeable barite dreadnought specimen that must go between 40 and 50 pounds as well as some daintier cabinet specimens. The owner said she had the good fortune of being offered a collection that had brought great variety to the shop. It's a must if you're ever in the area. The other shop was the curious bookstore that had the mineral and fossil specimens hiding amongst the literature shelves and racks. The owner there has apparently had a good year and the shop was much improved in organization and accessibility. One could actually get around without the fear of triggering bookslides. I bought a few interesting mineral specimens there as well and enjoyed a great talk with the owner about minerals, fossils, the hobby and so on.

My friend Jim had heard about a closed but still accessible quarry with fossils, so off we went. The quarry is in the process of becoming a town park the quarrying having stopped years ago. It is on the outskirts of the town of Fairborn which is just outside the Dayton area. It is shallow compared to quarries I've been in around here

## *Columbus*

-- maybe 60-80 feet high walls in some areas but less than that mostly. It's more of a worked out pit or scrape. There's a parking lot with directions for trails and what you'll see. Rainwater ponds abound and weeds have filled in here and there with dump areas specifically set aside for fossil collecting. Brochures and info boards had warnings against collecting from or climbing the walls. There were no park personnel. Everyone is on their own and responsible for using common sense to avoid misfortunes. At the same time it's a fairly hazard free environment. While outside the quarry it was a balmy 92; inside had to be over a hundred and that affected how long we could comfortably search and collect. I found a few 'plates' of jumbled marine flora and fauna; nothing of museum quality but interesting and fun. The brochures available there outlined the era stratigraphy of the former sea beds that you see fairly clearly on the walls. It was impressive going from late Cambrian to early Silurian I believe. I also found a nice rock with calcite crystals that had stained red with iron I thought it was a great 'recycle' job for the town turning the old pit into a recreation area; and no charge at the time we went! I would love to see something like this happen in our area!

Back to Columbus and the Orton Geological Museum on the Ohio State campus in town -- another great discovery. This is a great little museum set in a beautiful turn of the century (1893) building. On display are meteorites, mastodon teeth, minerals, fossils from Ohio and around the world. The displays are well managed and organized. It was a quiet place when I was there but I think it changes with a busload of school kids. It's connected to the university geology library which is huge and also stocked with some nice mineral specimens. If you ever find yourself going near or through the Columbus area, you definitely want to visit these locations.

Something Special Shoppe  
185 Old County Line Rd  
Westerville, OH  
614-891-9796  
[www.rockshopohio.com/](http://www.rockshopohio.com/)

Book Harbor  
32 W College Ave  
Westerville, OH 43081  
614) 895-3788  
[bookharbor@aol.com](mailto:bookharbor@aol.com)

Orton Geological Museum  
Ohio State University  
155 S. Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-891-9796  
[www.geology.ohio-state.edu](http://www.geology.ohio-state.edu)

- Jim Hooper

## *Shoobox Adventures: Vanadinite from Globe*

A month ago I reached into my shoebox of minerals to be studied and pulled out a baggie containing a rock and a label that said, "Vanadinite Apache Globe." As I studied the rock, I had to smile. It brought back memories.

The rock from the baggie was just a few centimeters in diameter with one hidden vug containing a few orange-red vanadinite crystals. They were lovely hexagonal prisms at most a millimeter long. They looked like they had been carved from Jello. It wasn't hard to trim the rock down, and get the vug into a microbox without disturbing the crystals. They came from the Apache Mine, Globe, Arizona

Those crystals sent me back to some of the first micromounts I ever made. I pulled them from the collection and they were the same orange-red prisms. They too came from the Apache Mine. I found them in a cheap gift shop in the middle of the desert, but it was an agonizing effort.

Years ago, I often took teams of a few college students to Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona where we observed all night, slept a few hours in the morning and then went sightseeing in the afternoon. Then we bought pizza and cookies and went back up the mountain to work all night again. Meteor crater an hour east of Flagstaff was a place we always visited not only so the students could see the crater, but because in those days you could hike around the crater. It was a nice 3-mile walk in the desert and you couldn't get lost as long as you kept the big hole on your right. After the hike, the students would hit the gift shop.

One year, the meteor crater gift shop had four shelves covered with mineral specimens for sale, and

every one of them was a matchbox-size hunk of gray matrix covered solid with those orange-red vanadinite crystals from Globe, Arizona. They looked like cupcakes covered solid with sparkling red jimmies. And every one had the same price tag -- \$25 -- a steep price that only tourists would pay.



While I waited for my students, I looked the specimens over. I had just bought my first microscope and was getting into micromounting, but I wasn't tempted at that price. In the back of the bottom shelf, however, I found an ugly little specimen. The gray matrix was the size of a pack of cigarettes and it had only a meager sprinkling of vanadinite crystals. It was marked down, but I wondered if I should buy it. Could I break it down? Would the crystals pop off? It might make some nice mounts, but I could waste my money on it if it didn't break right. I spent 10 minutes studying it, and when my students were ready, I put it back.

On the way out of the building they stopped at the restrooms, and I went back to the gift shop to look at the specimen again. In the end, I held my breath and bought it. When I got it home, it broke easily and I got 6 or 8 mounts of beautiful vanadinite prisms. It was a big risk, and I agonized over the cost, but in the end, I didn't waste the four dollar purchase price.

– Mike Seeds