



The Conglomerate

Newsletter of the Baltimore Mineral Society
www.baltimoremineralsociety.org
Volume 13, No. 1 January, 2018

January Meeting: Eye Candy

photos by Jake Slagle

With the ground frozen and covered with snow and ice, it's natural for the thoughts of rockhounds to turn to the best and most beautiful minerals. Jake Slagle will speak on "Mineralogical Rarities and Eye Candy from Pennsylvania". He promises a show concentrating on some of the most interesting and enticing minerals from our part of the world.

The meeting will take place on January 24th at the Natural History Society of Maryland, 6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21206.



Wavellite
Phosphate Mine, Juanita Co., PA
from Carnegie Museum Hillman Hall

Because the November-December meeting had to be cancelled, the election of officers did not occur. Therefore, the first order of business at the January meeting will be the election of officers. The slate is:

Officers

President _____ Recording Secretary – Jake Slagle
Vice President – Al Pribula Treasurer – Carolyn Weinberger

Board Members:

Bernie Emery, Jim Hooper, Mike Seeds, Steve Weinberger

Nominations for President and any other position may be made from the floor at the time of the election. Please however, be certain that the person you nominate is willing to accept the position.



Wulfenite and Pyromorphite:
Phoenixville
from Harvard Mineralogical Museum

Winter Weather Policy

If Baltimore **County** schools cancel their **evening activities** our meeting will be cancelled. You can obtain this information by tuning to WBAL radio (1090 AM) or most TV stations. You usually can also find it on the web at <wbaltv.com>. We'll also try to put out a notice via e-mail and on our website <chesapeakegemandmineral.org>.



Baltimore Mineral Society

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. We are members of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical Societies and affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of each month (except November, December, June & August) at the Natural History Society of Maryland beginning at 7:30 p.m. Visit the club website <www.baltimoremineralsociety.com> for directions.

Yearly 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: BMS, PO Box 302; Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

Officers:

President Jim Hooper
<[ijhooper at jhu.edu](mailto:ijhooper@jhu.edu)>

Vice President Al Pribula
<[apribula at towson.edu](mailto:apribula@towson.edu)>

Secretary Jake Slagle
<[jake at marylandminerals.com](mailto:jake@marylandminerals.com)>

Treasurer Carolyn Weinberger
<[cscrystals2 at gmail.com](mailto:cscrystals2@gmail.com)>

Directors:

Bernie Emery Al Pribula
Brad Grant Steve Weinberger

Conference Chair Mike Seeds

Editor Mike Seeds
<[mseeds at fandm.edu](mailto:mseeds@fandm.edu)>

Write for "The Conglomerate"!

Send news, announcements, comments, observations, or articles to <[mseeds at fandm.edu](mailto:mseeds@fandm.edu)>. No e-mail! Hand in your submission at a meeting.

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Retiring President's Postings

by Jim Hooper, BMS 2017 President



Well, a new year and a new administration. I don't anticipate an inaugural parade at the next meeting, but you never know with our group. While I'm not handing over the reins to a new president per se, I do want to celebrate and thank Al Pribula for taking over the position of Vice President for 2018. Al knows well the significance of the Baltimore Mineral Society as an organized group of collecting hobbyists in the area and it's international presence in micromount collecting. Thank you so much, Al.

And thank you too to all the membership who were able in the last year to help keep the club going by promoting growth in membership and participation. We can celebrate the admission of new members from our presence at other club shows in the area and from our growing interactions with the Maryland Natural History Society. Let's challenge ourselves in the new year to find areas to increase our participation and keep this great local tradition going and growing.

I would also like to thank at this time the membership for allowing me to serve as president in the last two years. I look forward to my own continued membership in the Society and to find supportive methods in promoting our continuance in 2018.

Thanks all,
Jim

Minutes From our Last Meeting

by Jake Slagle, Secretary



With the cancellation of our Holiday Party, we could not have our annual election of officers to serve us in 2018. We'll take care of that bit of business at the beginning of our upcoming January 24th meeting.

The slate of candidates appears on page 1 of this issue. Additional nominations for office, including that of president, will be accepted at the meeting.



Displaying Your Collection: Two-Mineral High-Contrast Specimens

text and photos by John Vanko

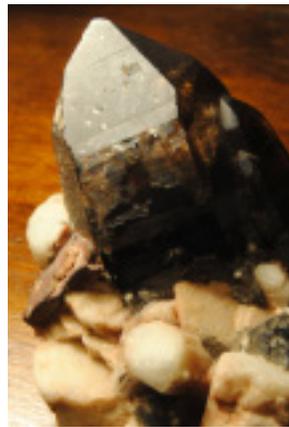
Some of the most interesting display specimens show two minerals, equally developed, both deserving of display in their own right, but made more special by their combination, especially if there is strong contrast between the two.

I'll bet you have some specimens like this in your collection. Let's look at a few examples, some better than others. We'll discuss what makes the better ones more desirable, the poorer ones less so.

Here is an example of Apatite and Quartz. The Apatite is free-standing and nicely developed with a termination, but the Quartz displays no terminations, so it is less interesting. Moreover, the color of the Apatite is dull and not vibrant, also making it less interesting. Although I treasure this specimen, it is on the low end of desirability for display because of its low contrast.



This next specimen shows nice crystals of Microcline and one much larger crystal of Smoky Quartz. One or two Microcline crystals have the hint of the Amazonite color, but it just doesn't come out. The remaining color contrast is fairly good, light vs dark, and the contrast in crystal forms is good, but overall this specimen lacks the wow-factor.

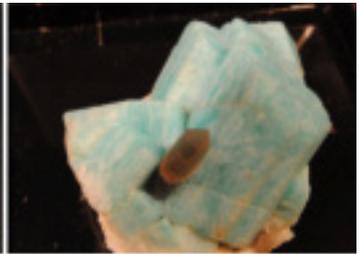


This specimen of Arsenopyrite and Quartz is better. The Arsenopyrite crystals are large and well-developed,

displaying their characteristic, classical curved form. The Quartz crystals are also well-developed, terminated, and lustrous. The high contrast in color (metal vs. glass), luster (metallic vs. glassy), transparency (opaque vs. transparent), and crystal form (Monoclinic vs. Hexagonal) make this a very good display specimen.



Here we see another Smoky Quartz crystal with Microcline crystals, but this time it is the variety Amazonite. The Smoky Quartz is not as large and dark as it might be, but the Amazonite has that beautiful distinctive color of specimens from the Pike's Peak Area. Although this is a good specimen, it is not a great specimen due to the short-comings of the Quartz.



This specimen of Amazonite and Smoky Quartz has more equal balance between the two kinds of crystals, making it a better example.



Displaying Your Collection

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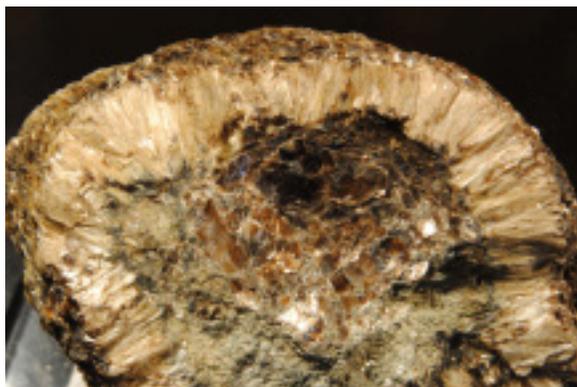
Next is a Quartz and Pyrite specimen. The Quartz needles are abundant, well-developed and clear. The Pyrite crystals, though small, are lustrous and well-crystallized. The contrast in color, crystal form, and transparency make this a very nice display specimen. Furthermore, there is one Japan-Law Quartz Twin (at the top) that makes it even more special.



I have a special love for Quartz, can you tell? This specimen contrasts it with Hematite. The Quartz crystals are clear throughout, distinctly colored reddish by a Hematite coating. The Hematite crystals are large, lustrous, tabular flakes offering very high contrast to the Quartz. This is a good example of a high-contrast specimen.



This specimen of Anthophyllite surrounding Phlogopite shows less contrast. The colors of the two minerals are close. The crystal forms are distinct: tabular micaeous vs. prismatic. Although this is an interesting specimen I intend to keep, it lacks the very high contrast I seek in the most outstanding display specimens.



Next we'll look at Emerald combined with Schorl. This specimen has good contrast in color, but the crystals don't have the sharpest definition. Nevertheless, the location of this specimen, the Crabtree Emerald mine in North Carolina, makes it a keeper.



This specimen of Siderite and Quartz exhibits well-developed crystals with distinctive forms and lusters. The Siderite shows excellent rhombohedral form and the crystal face surface characteristic of this mineral - in contrast to the hexagonal prisms and rhombohedral terminations of the glassy translucent Quartz. The Siderite is not vibrant and makes this specimen what it might otherwise be.



Lightly colored twinned Calcite crystals and deep, dark, black-red Sphalerite present a highly desirable contrast in this specimen. It needs more Calcite crystals to make it really outstanding because in the whole specimen this is the only good Calcite.



Displaying Your Collection

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The best color contrast is in this specimen - lustrous deep green Malachite crystals and fuchsia-colored Cobaltian Calcite. The Calcite crystals are small but very deeply colored. If they were larger, this would be a more spectacular specimen. It would be better if the Malachite crystals were more distinct. But this piece was inexpensive, yet a very good example - an excellent bargain.

Last, here is Smoky Quartz and Microcline. The crystals are very well developed.



The Quartz is dark, lustrous, terminated and well-shaped. The opaque and uniformly colored Microcline crystals are very well

expressed, exhibiting many different crystal faces with a surface sheen that looks like a million little points of light when they reflect it from just the right angle. All things considered, this may be my very best example of a Two-Mineral High-Contrast Display Specimen.



With this background, why don't you look through your collection, see what you have, and perhaps move your better specimens to the front shelf?

Mineral of the Month – Corundum: Al_2O_3

by Steve Weinberger. Photo: R. Lavinsky, i-rocks.com.

One of the most popular minerals as far as use in jewelry is corundum. Its two most recognizable forms are ruby and sapphire.

The name is probably derived from the Sanskrit, *kuruvinda*, "ruby".

Corundum generally comes from a variety of deposits, but most abundant from metamorphic rocks and pegmatites, and in some nepheline syenites.



var. Ruby.
Madagascar
Used with permission

The corundum group forms in the trigonal system and the crystals are hexagonal prismatic ones, usually tapering at both ends, but can also be barrel-shaped or even be tabular. Quite often crystals have striations on the faces.

When red, corundum is called *ruby* and the color is produced by chromium. Any color other than red is known as sapphire and can be blue (Ti-Fe), green (Fe), and rare pink/orange is known as padparadscha.

When rutile needles are aligned in certain ways, a star stone is produced producing beautiful effects when light is reflected from its surface. If you have seen the unbelievable Rosser-Reeves ruby in the Smithsonian you can appreciate the description.

Corundum is very hard with a Mohs reading of 9, just under diamond's 10 (although there is a big difference between 9 and 10.) Density is 4.0-4.1; often fluorescent; and is pleochroic with ruby showing deep red and orange, and blue sapphire blue and pale green.

World-wide sources of corundum are way too numerous to list here but some of the most famous areas are near Chantaburi, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, and Australia. When crystals wash out of their host rocks and come downstream as alluvial deposits they become very easy to mine.

References:

Bernard, Jan H., and Hyrs. *Minerals and their Localities*
Sinkankas, John. *Mineralogy*.

Color in Minerals – Part XVIII: The “Caboose”

by Al Pribula

Throughout this series, I have described the cause of color in a wide variety of minerals. However, space limitations prevented me from discussing the cause of color in many other cases, and I have become aware of additional information on others since writing the original articles. In this (almost) concluding part of the series, I’m merely listing the cause(s) of color in some additional cases. While writing the series, if I have left out anyone’s favorite mineral or color, I apologize in advance—that simply means that I either didn’t think of that case or haven’t yet found anything in the literature to explain why that mineral has the color it does.

Key: CC = Color Center CT = Charge-Transfer I = Inclusions
TMI, TMa = d-d transition in transition metal (idiochromatic or allochromatic)

<u>Mineral</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Cause</u>
Adamite.....	Yellow	TMa; “iron compounds”
Amber (Dominican Rep.).....	Blue.....	UV-induced fluorescence of perylene
Apatite.....	Blue (dark).....	CT; $O \rightarrow Mn(V)$ in MnO_4^{3-} ; also REE
Apatite.....	Brown	I; hematite
Apatite.....	Green	TMa; Fe^{2+}
Apatite.....	Green	I; actinolite
Apatite.....	Pink.....	CC; e^-
Apatite.....	Red.....	I; hematite
Apatite.....	Yellow-green	TMa; REE
Apatite (synthetic)	Color-change..... (purple-pink in incandescent violet-blue in fluorescent)	TMa; Nd
Apophyllite	Green	I; celadonite
Aragonite.....	Blue.....	TMa; Cu^{2+} for Ca^{2+}
Aragonite.....	Pink.....	TMa; Co^{2+} for Ca^{2+}
Axinite-(Fe).....	Brown	TMI; Fe^{2+} ; or TMa; Fe^{3+}
Barite.....	Black	I; galena
Calcite.....	Violet	TMa; Nd
Carnallite	Red/Orange.....	I; hematite and/or goethite
Celestite.....	Green	I; sulfur in addition to “normal” blue
Celestite.....	Orange.....	TMa (or I?); Cu^+
Cordierite (“bloodshot iolite”).....	Red	I; hematite or lepidocrocite
Coquimbite.....	Violet	TMI; Fe^{3+}
Datolite (MI).....	Blue.....	I; chrysocolla
Datolite (MI).....	Green	I; malachite or paratacamite
Datolite (MI).....	Orange/Red/Yellow	I; hematite
Datolite (MI).....	Orange.....	I; Cu or chalcotrichite
Dolomite.....	Blue.....	CC or TMa; Cu^{2+} for Mg^{2+}
Fluorite	Black	I or coating of bitumen
Fluorite (Clay Center, OH)....	Brown	I; organic impurities
Fluorite	Green	CC; involves Sm^{3+} and/or Y^{3+} ; $Sm^{3+} + \gamma \rightarrow Sm^{2+}$
Fluorite	Red.....	I; hematite
Gahnite.....	Blue.....	TMa; Fe^{2+} for Zn^{2+}
Gahnite.....	Green	TMa; Fe^{2+} for Zn^{2+} and Mn^{3+} for Al^{3+}
Glass	Blue (turquoise).....	TMa; Cu^{2+}
Glass	Brown/amber	CT; $Fe^{2+} \rightarrow Fe^{3+}$
Glass	Green	TMa; Fe^{2+}

The “Caboose”

continued from page 6

Mineral	Color	Cause
Glass	Green (“Vaseline”)	TMa; U (probably UO ₂₂₊)
Glass	Yellow	TMa; Fe ₃₊
Gypsum (Alabaster)	Brown	l; hydrous iron oxides
Halite	Pink	l; colored algae
Hemimorphite	Black	l; galena
Heulandite	Green	l; celadonite
Jade	Violet	CT; Fe ₂₊ → Fe ₃₊
Kyanite	Orange	TMa; Mn ₃₊ for Al ₃₊
Melanterite	Blue-green	TMa; Cu ₂₊ for Fe ₂₊
Neptunite	Red-brown	CT; Fe ₂₊ → Ti ₄₊
Oligoclase (sunstone)	Red	l; platelets of hematite or lepidocrocite
Oligoclase (sunstone from OR)	Red	l; metallic Cu
Opal (Peru)	Blue	l; chrysocolla
Opal (Peru)	Pink	l; organic compounds (quinones)
Opal (“fire opal”)	Red-orange	TMa; Fe ₃₊
Orthoclase	Red	l; hematite or lepidocrocite
Pyromorphite	Brown	TMa; Fe ₂₊ for Pb ₂₊
Pyromorphite	Green	TMa; Fe ₂₊ (and Cu ₂₊ ?)
Rockbridgeite	Blue-green	CT; Fe ₂₊ → Fe ₃₊
Rutile	Red/Yellow/Brown	CT; O → Ti ₄₊
Rutile (synthetic)	Blue	band transitions involving Ti ₃₊
Scorodite	Green	TMi; Fe ₃₊ (possibly CT; Fe ₂₊ → Fe ₃₊)
Smithsonite	Yellow	l; greenockite and/or hawleyite
Staurolite	Red-brown	CT; Fe ₂₊ → Fe ₃₊
Strengite	Violet	TMi; Fe ₃₊
Sugilite	Purple	TMa; Mn ₃₊ , Fe ₃₊
Sylvite	Red/Orange	l; hematite and/or goethite
Vesuvianite (Idocrase)	Brown	CT; Fe ₂₊ → Ti ₄₊
Vesuvianite (Idocrase)	Yellow	CT; O → Fe ₂₊
Villiumite	Red	CC (e ⁻)
Wavellite	Green	TMa; V ₃₊ for Al ₃₊
Wavellite	Blue	TMa; VO ₂₊ + Cu ₂₊
Wavellite	Yellow	CT; O → V in VO ₄₃ ⁻
Wulfenite	Blue	CT; O → Mo(IV/V) in MoO ₄₄ ^{-/3-} or l; ilsemannite
Zincite (Franklin, NJ)	Red	l; manganese (or iron?) oxides
Zincite (synthetic)	Green	TMa; Ni ₂₊ (?)
Zincite (synthetic)	Yellow	TMa; Fe ₃₊ (?)
Zincite (synthetic)	Red-orange	TMa:
Zircon	Red-Brown	TMa; Th ₄₊ or CC; e ⁻
Zircon	Red	CC; involves Nb ₄₊

Here are some cases that I couldn’t find information about, with my guesses in some cases as to what the cause of the color might be.

Aerinite	Blue	Fe ₂₊ → Fe ₃₊ CT?
Afghanite	Blue	probably S ₂ ⁻ or S ₃ ⁻ like lazurite
Anatase	Blue-Black	Fe → Ti CT?
Apatite	Blue (“neon”)	

The “Caboose”

continued from page 7

<u>Mineral</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Cause</u>
Apatite.....	Purple	
Apatite.....	Yellow	
Apophyllite (St. Andreasburg)	Pink.....	TMa; Mn ²⁺ ?
Apophyllite	Yellow	
Barite	Yellow/gold/brown	CC?
Brucite	Yellow	
Chabazite (var. Acadialite)..	Orange-red	I of iron-containing minerals?
Corkite	Green	TMi; Fe ³⁺ , + Fe ²⁺ →Fe ³⁺ CT?
Datolite (NJ, Dal’negorsk, etc.).....	Green	TMa; VO ₂ ? Cu ²⁺ ?
Fluorite	Dark indigo blue	CC? (from natural or artificial irradiation?)
Hematolite.....	Red.....	TMa; Mn ²⁺ + CT?
Heulandite	Red.....	I of iron-containing minerals?
Jeremjevite	Blue.....	CT?
Legrandite	Yellow	CT?
Pyromorphite.....	Yellow	CT?
Scheelite.....	Brown/orange	REE? or “Fe”?
Smithsonite	Green	TMa; Ni ²⁺ ?
Tugtupite	Pink.....	Mn ²⁺ ? Mn ³⁺ ?
Vauxite	Blue.....	

In the next and final installment of this series, I’ll list a number of references which you might want to consult for further information on this vast and fascinating subject.

Scrambles

by Mike Seeds

Unscramble the following to spell the names of well-known minerals.

Tea bile _____

I ate them _____

Nice steel _____

Obi teen it _____

Furl us _____

Answers on page 10

Rocks on Strings

by Chris Altizer

On vacation in San Diego some 30 years ago, a 12 year old girl ran to the beach upon arrival to collect shells as she had done every other trip to the beach. To her dismay there were no shells, only rocks. She picked one up and was curious, why no shells? The rock was light gray with speckles of something. What is it she thinks? How is this rock porous and smooth and shaped like a dinosaur egg? Returning to Phoenix her father explained that you can find sea shells in the desert. The “hound” was released. Forever. Roaming the desert for rocks and shells became a thing. Returning to the east coast her love of rocks overpowered the shells. She now has an interest in astronomy. (Rocks in Space) She likes to create jewelry. (Rocks on Strings) Pirates and more so buried treasure (Rocks in Dirt) had something to do with her fascination. She has not found a niche in the mineral world as yet, but is leaning towards collecting geometric minerals that look like a set of dungeons and dragons dice.

Shoebox Adventures 73: Doublewides

text and photos by Mike Seeds

Sometimes you find a really beautiful little rock and it's not quite small enough to go into a standard micro-mounters box. Of course, you can sometimes nibble off a corner of the matrix and fit it in, but there are nice specimens that are just a scooch too big and you can't trim them. That's when I reach for a doublewide, a micro box that is twice as wide as a standard box.

This peculiar Celestine appears to be a cast formed around a long crystal that has since weathered away. It fits nicely in a doublewide micro box. Woodville, Sandusky County, Ohio. Crystal 30 mm long.



You can buy doublewide boxes, but you have to buy a zillion at a time, and I don't use that many. So I watch giveaway tables and dealer bins of old mounts. If I can buy a rock in a doublewide for a dollar or two it is worth it for the box. Sometimes there are nice minerals in the boxes, but often the mineral is not a keeper. So I accumulate old doublewides and clean them up for use when needed.

Last year in Tucson, an Elbaite crystal spoke to me and even though it was too long for a micro box, I had to bring it home. It was dark with mysterious green glints down inside, and it had pinkish lepidolite crystals on its surface. It fit very nicely into a doublewide box and looks dramatic under the 'scope.

Elbaite with lepidolite.
Minas Gerais, Brazil.
The crystal is 27 mm long.



There are two problems with doublewides. You have to cut your own black paper liners, but after much experimentation, I have a pattern that I can use to cut liners from black construction paper. The other problem is labels. Small labels don't look right, so you need to print

oversize labels. Again, it takes a little experimentation to get the labels right, but once you do, you can print them as you need them.

One advantage of doublewide boxes is that they fit nicely into a tray of mounts. They are the same size as a standard micromount box except that they are twice as wide. So they fit right into your collection taking up two spaces instead of one.

Recently I pulled a hematite out of my shoebox, and it almost fit into a standard box. In fact, by turning it diagonally, I could fit it in, but it looked about as comfortable as a bird in a Coke bottle. It deserved more room. Also, its overall shape suggested a sailing ship – perhaps a pirate ship, so it needed to be displayed horizontally and not diagonally. Furthermore, as you turn it under a light its dark gray surface will suddenly catch the light and flash. Evidently, the surface is covered with epitaxial microcrystals, and because they are all aligned to the atomic structure of the main crystal, they all have facets that are aligned. When those jillion little facets simultaneously catch the light, the entire specimen flashes as if it were lit from within. Jamming it in a micro box along the diagonal makes it harder to turn it and catch the light. The specimen needed to be mounted in a doublewide.



The pirate ship Black Pearl sailing on a silent sea catches the moonlight and momentarily flashes in the darkness. Hematite after magnetite. Payun Volcano, Altiplano de Payun, Argentina. The crystal is 21 mm long stem to stern.

You don't need doublewide boxes if you can resist those beautiful specimens that are just a millimeter too long. But if you have a weakness for beauty that trumps your weakness for regularity, then you can accumulate a few doublewides and reach for one when a special mineral speaks to you.



Time Travel

by Ellery Borow, from EFMLS News,

Time travel is a hot topic in my household. Time: lack thereof, slow passage thereof, quick passage thereof -- always fodder for a great conversation. The topic this time is about the beginning of another trip around the sun.

history is often a vital part of the overall safety picture.

Local safety information might include information about specific local weather conditions (anomalies), local mine and quarry rules and regulations, specific safety guides for your show and meeting hall or venue. Other local items to consider are regional poisonous plants, critters, and insects. Safety concerns might also include local area flooding concerns.

As new officers begin their administration of their clubs for the year ahead there is the usually a swearing in, pledging, passing of the ceremonial gavel and otherwise commencing the new term. As part of the process the outgoing editor passes to the new editor all of the salient documents related to the position. New treasurer gains check signing responsibilities and copies of all financial documents. New show chair receives all the show history files and so on. Now, what about your new safety chair?

Lastly, a club's safety or first aid kit should be passed on to the new chair or the designated medical safety person, who may or may not be the safety chair. The "Kit" should then be checked for outdated meds and supplies... but that will be the topic of another Safety Matters Articles.

Safety chairpersons should also receive all pertinent files from the outgoing chair. Your club does have a safety chairperson does it not? In this litigious and safety conscious society sure would suggest having one in your club. Anyway, safety files maintained by a safety person might include a club's safety history, general and specific safety guide books, an area's specific mine, quarry, pit, or dig safety information and requirements. There are numerous general safety guides in print. Specific rockhound safety guides are often available through your regional rock and mineral federation. The club's own safety

Seriously, keeping track of a clubs own safety files is a very important task. One might even say safety files are the more important of the time travel items... as in time to travel on to the next chair.

We wish you all a good and safe collecting season with this trip around the sun. Please remember that your Safety Matters at all times!

Scrambles: Answers

Tea bile Elbaite

I ate them Hematite

Nice steel Celestine

Obi teen it Benitoite

Furl us Sulfur

For the Mineral Enthusiast

"I began to realize how important it was to be an enthusiast in life . . . if you are interested in something, no matter what it is, go at it all full speed ahead. Embrace it with both arms, hug it, love it, and above all become passionate about it. Luke warm is no good. Hot is no good either. White hot and passionate is the only thing to be."

Roald Dahl

Editorial: Sharing With Programs

by Mike Seeds

Garrison Keillor writes about a town where all of the kids are above average. That was true of my 6th grade class. Carol was outstanding at art, and Danny could spell anything in the dictionary. Bobby Joe was brilliant at math, and Ronnie could beat up anyone on the playground excluding a few of the tallest girls. He was a true artist.

In the same way, BMS members are all above average. We know of a member who's an expert on mineral chemistry, another who knows all about crystal faces, and another who's a whiz at metallic minerals. We have faceters, cabbers, diggers, dealers, and experts at mineral ID. We are all above average somehow.

Giving a program is a way to share your expertise with the rest of the club, and it is hardly more than a one-person show-and-tell. You can make fancy slides and write a detailed script, or you can just bring a few mineral specimens to illustrate your topic, spread a map to show the location you visited, or just wave your hands and tell everyone what fun you had.

Programs are hardly more than extended conversations. BMS members love to talk and laugh, so questions and comments are easy. As a group of friends, we all get along, so elaborate, formal programs are not necessary at all.

Consider sharing some of your hobby with the club. If you visit a nice museum, dig at a good site, attend an interesting show, or have a few nice specimens, please think about taking the club along on your mineral adventures by bringing your enthusiasm to a club meeting.



Baltimore Mineral Society – Membership Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Names of family members:

Annual dues for individual memberships are \$10.00

Annual dues for family memberships shall be \$15.00 for husband and wife and all children residing in the home under the age of 18.

Renewal deadline is the March meeting.

Mail or give to: Carolyn Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302.

Make checks payable to **Baltimore Mineral Society**

The Conglomerate

Mike Seeds, Editor
2412 Lime Spring Way
Lancaster, PA 17603



Events Near and Far

January

24: BMS regular meeting - 7:30 pm.

February

28: BMS regular meeting - 7:30 pm.

March:

3 - 4: 55th Annual Earth Science Gem & Mineral Show presented by the Delaware Mineralogical Society. Arshat Conference Center, University of Delaware (Wilmington), 2800 Pennsylvania Ave. (Ft. 52), Wilmington Delaware 19806. Info: www.delministry.net

10: 42nd Micromount Symposium presented by the Leidy Microscopical Society at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 140 Trenton Road, Fairless Hills, PA 9am – 3 pm. Don McAlarnen encourages everyone to come and Swap-Shop-Sell-Learn. There will be raffles, door prizes, a club sales table, dealers in minerals and supplies. Lunch will be provided. Table space is \$12 for half of an 8-foot

table. Make check payable to Don McAlarnen, 916 Senator Road, East Norriton, PA 19403 Info: Don.mcalarnen@hpe.com

17-18: 54th Annual Montgomery County Show Montgomery County Fairgrounds, Gaithersburg, MD. Info: www.glmsmc.com/show.shtml

28; BMS Regular meeting - 7:30 pm

April

6-7: 45th Annual Atlantic Micromounter's Conference, Holiday Inn, Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA Guest speaker Herwig Pelckmans from Antwerp, Belgium. Info: www.dcmicrominerals.org/

19-22: 45th Annual Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY. Lectures by mineral experts from around the world. Info: www.rasny.org/minsymp/

25: BMS Regular meeting – 7:30 pm