



Club Picnic

We've scheduled to hold our annual summer picnic on Saturday, June 23rd from 4 - 8 pm. We hope that you and your family can join the fun.

A big change to note. **Rather than holding the event at Al & Linda's as previously announced, we'll be gathering at the Natural History Society.** Linda's mother is having major medical issues and our Board thought it unfair to ask them to host the party while this was going on, so we approached NHSM and they agreed to allow us use of the facility. And a plus is that we don't have to dance around our ever challenging Baltimore weather since we'll be indoors and no one will have to clean their house!

As a result, there is a change in the menu. Since there is no kitchen at NHSM, the club will supply fried chicken (perfect for a party), the paper products, cutlery and utensils. Al will bring the soft drinks and ice.

So what do we need from you....

First tell us whether or not you will attend and if you will bring a guest. (Need to know how many for the chicken order).

Second, tell us what type of salad, veg. or dessert you plan on adding to our mini-feast. You should plan on enough food for about a dozen people. Please bring along serving utensils for your offering.

We'll also need someone to bring about 6 plastic disposable table clothes.

I'll need your response by Wednesday, June 20.

BMS Member Inducted

by Steve Weinberger

The National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame was founded by June Culp Zeitner in 1987 to recognize excellence in the earth sciences by inducting one or more persons each year in six categories: Minerals, Fossils, Metal Craft, Lapidary, Education and Tribute (Deceased). At this time we have inductees representing 33 states. All of the inductees are experts in their fields. Many of them have published several books and most of them have been active in community service.

The Hall of Fame is governed by a seven member Board of Consultants composed of one person from each of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies member regions. These people review nominations submitted from throughout the country and select individuals whom they think should be recognized.



It was my great pleasure to announce the name of one of the three individuals inducted for 2018 during the recent EFMLS Wildacres Workshop. All of you know him... it's none other than our own **Bernie Emery!**

Bernie Emery is a fabulous lapidary! He excels in cutting free-form cabochons, knife blades and handles, faceted gemstones and carvings. He is also a graduate GIA gemologist.

Over the years, Bernie has given talks to several

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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:

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<apribula@towson.edu>

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Jim Hooper Steve Weinberger

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Editor Mike Seeds
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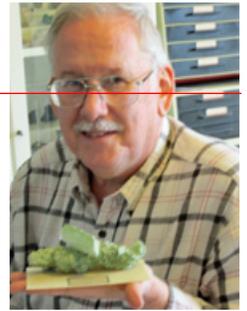
Write for "The Conglomerate"!

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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President's Message

From Al Pribula



As I write this, there's actually no rain falling—a rarity over the past couple of weeks. I even managed to get my lawn (which was beginning to look like a wheat field) cut this morning. What a spring! All the rain has been a mixed blessing for flowers (some have bloomed nicely, only to be beaten down and have their petals knocked off by the next rainstorm), but the weeds have loved it! I hope that those of you so inclined have found some relatively dry occasions for your field collecting—but I suspect that the rain has brought out the vegetation (including the dreaded briars and poison ivy) at many of the most popular collecting sites, making collecting there less than a totally pleasant experience.

Thanks to the Society members who brought specimens for "show and tell" at the May meeting. The variety of items displayed (or pictured) was great, and the associated stories were interesting. Every specimen has a story to tell—some of which are even true.

Last month, two local mineral-related events were held on the same day. The Chesapeake Gem and Mineral Society had its annual show in the morning and afternoon of May 19, and the Natural History Society of Maryland put on its "Cabinet of Curiosities" gala that evening. Both events were well-attended and judged successful by their respective sponsors. Seeing the NHSM building transformed into a glittering showcase for their collections was quite the experience. At the gala, yours truly gave a brief presentation on fluorescent minerals, but it was tough to compete with Richard Hoff's talk on Victorian jewelry and with live animals such as a Gila monster, a screech owl, and a 125-lb alligator snapping turtle—not to mention some really good food. Even rocks that glow in the dark have a tough time against competition like that! The displays in the new cases that were installed for the gala are still there. If you missed the gala but were at the May BMS meeting, you got a chance to see some of the wonderful items that have been lurking in the basement of the NHSM building since the Society moved to its current location. Kudos to Joe McSharry and the Gala committee for a great event.

I hope to see all of you at the BMS picnic, scheduled for Saturday, June 23. As always, the Society will provide fried chicken and non-alcoholic beverages, and attendees will provide the side dishes and desserts. It's always a fun time to get together with mineral folks over a beverage or two and swap stories. An invitation and response form was sent out a day or two ago. Please take the time to respond to let us know what you'll be bringing and to help us plan what to have ready. We'll need your response by Wednesday, June 20.

Stay dry and work on your collections so that you can plan out that presentation that you'll be giving at one of our fall meetings. (Hint, hint.) And: Don't forget that the Desautels Micromount Symposium is coming up in October. Once we have a firm date, you can put it on your calendar so that you can help the Society put on its big annual event—the oldest micromount symposium in the world. Plan on attending!

April Meeting Minutes

by Jake Slagle

President Al Pribula called the meeting to order at 7:45p.m. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by consensus.



Treasurer Carolyn Weinberger's announced that the Society was solvent. Al Pribula noted that he was assuming that all members had paid dues.

Announcements:

President Al announced the remodeling and new exhibits in the adjoining room at NHSM and encouraged those present to check them out during break.

New Business:

President Al asked for word regarding any potential upcoming field trips to which members could look forward.

Announcement of BMS members recognized by the AFMS for written contributions published in the Conglomerate:

- Second Place: Steve Weinberger (non-technical articles) for his article about a Wildacres conference.
- Honorable Mention: Steve Weinberger for a Mineral of the Month feature regarding minerals named for people with whom many in the Society are acquainted.
- Honorable Mention: Lynn Emery for her article about a field trip to the Medford Quarry
- Honorable Mention: Carolyn Weinberger for her article on the East Coast Gem Mineral and Fossil Show at West Springfield.

Unfinished Business

Al Pribula announced that the Society's June picnic would take place at his house from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. on June 23.

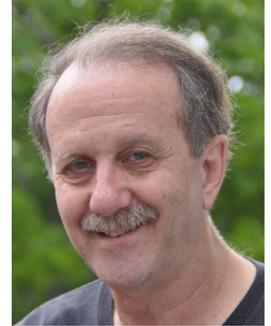
A break followed during which all present visited the adjoining room to observe newly placed exhibits in their new cabinets. A "Show and Tell" program followed during which members showed and spoke about favorite minerals from their collections. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jake Slagle: Secretary

Bernie Emery

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lapidary and mineral club (including our own), chaired the annual gem and mineral show for two other local clubs, organized several auctions of lapidary, mineral and gem material, and taught lapidary at the Eastern Federation Workshop held at the Wildacres Retreat in North Carolina.



In addition, Bernie has served on the Board of Directors and held offices for three local clubs and always jumps in to help with a variety of club activities, always arriving early to help with set-up and always remembering to stay behind and help with the clean-up. And, although not a micromounter, Bernie always attends our Desautels Symposium and helps with whatever tasks need to be done.

In addition, he is an avid collector always ready to help a novice or fellow collector unearth that "big pocket" or "read" the quarry. Many of the specimens he brings home are given away, especially to kids at the annual shows.

As a result of all of the above, Bernie has been recognized in the "Education" area.

You can easily nominate someone you know or know of to the Hall of Fame. A nomination form can be found at <http://www.rockhoundandlapidaryhalloffame.org> We're always looking for worthy individuals to recognize, but can't do so if you don't send a nomination.

And, if you go to the website and click on "Inductees" you'll find the list of all inductees and see the good company Bernie keeps.

May Program: Show and Tell

photos and text by Mike Seeds

The program for May was Show and Tell. Almost everyone who attended the meeting brought at least one specimen to show off and describe. We saw all kinds of specimens from a synthetic quartz spray to a head-size boulder with a fascinating inclusion. We saw Euclase from Zimbabwe, Sulfer from Pennsylvania, Malachite from Mineral Hill, and Pyrite on Emerald from Columbia. It was a fun evening with lots of rocks to look at and discuss.



Mineral of the Month

by Steve Weinberger

There will be no Mineral of the Month in June because our meeting will be the annual picnic. Watch for the Mineral of the Month in July. Let me know if you have any suggestions.

Scrambles

Unscramble the following to spell the names of five minerals.

- Dogl _____
- Livers _____
- Anti plum _____
- Cat lob _____
- Tiny moan _____

Finally, what do all these minerals have in common?

Answers on page ____

New EFMLS Facebook Page

by Susie Lamb
from EFMLS News, June-July 2018

Incoming President David Nock and I are delighted to announce that our Eastern Federation is in the process of developing a new Facebook page. Once you log into Facebook, type EFMLS in the search block at the top right of your Facebook page and EFMLS will come up. It can be distinguished by the Federation logo if you're not certain.



For now, we're in the "building" mode and adding our EFMLS member clubs to the list of "likes". Doing so will allow your club to receive messages posted on the Federation page. **We want you to "like" us as individuals too.** And you can send us a message if you want us to post information about your upcoming show, field trip, workshop, or other activity. Currently the administrators will filter all posts to be sure that they are genuine and not insulting in nature. We'll keep political items and commercial advertising off the site as well.

If you have any suggestions about what you think should be on the page, please let us know. My e-mail is lambcheryl at hotmail.com

This is YOUR forum, so please send us information about your upcoming shows or activities as well as photos of your recent club activities so we can spread the word to our fellow clubs.

Scrambles - Answers

Dogl	Gold
Livers	Silver
Anti plum	Platinum
Cat lob	Cobalt
Tiny moan	Antimony

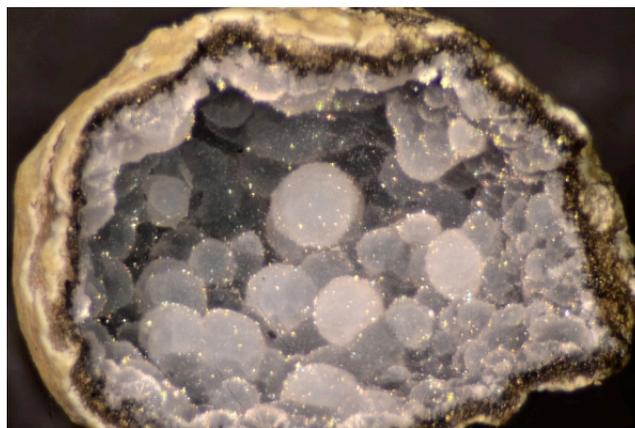
What do all these minerals have in common? They are all native metals.

Shoebox Adventures 78: Wild Things

Photos and text by Mike Seeds

In the deep of Yellowstone winters, the twilight-dawn temperature hangs at about -25 F, and the Madison River Valley is filled with deep snow and ice fog. Buffalo, congratulating themselves on having lived through yet another night, stand motionless conserving energy as they wait for the sun. Their steaming hot breath adds to the fog and wisps of vapor rise from their backs. More vapor swirls up from the river as the sun catches the mountain tops. Eventually, sunrise fills the valley and lights the fog like a wash of opal. If you were there, your pulse would slow and your breathing would become regular. Your blood pressure would fall. Psychologists have scientific evidence that exposure to nature is good for us; it calms us and restores us.

The world is full of blaring newscasts and ringing phones and people who say, "Sorry to bother you but . . ." and you know they aren't sorry at all. Given the non-existence of Scotty and his transporter, we can't shimmer into existence on the wide meadows of the Madison River Valley, so we need little pieces of the wild. A lovely mineral specimen sitting on our desk is as wild a thing as an eagle soaring over the river. We can find peace in our mineralogical wild things.



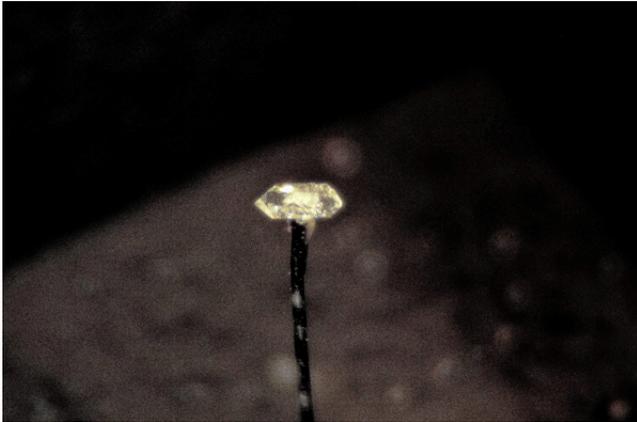
*Cowlesite, Lower Karandoli Quarry,
Maharashtra, India. Field of View 7 mm.*

Poet Wendell Berry wrote in a poem entitled "The Peace of Wild Things"* that when the world becomes chaotic and threatening . . .

I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.

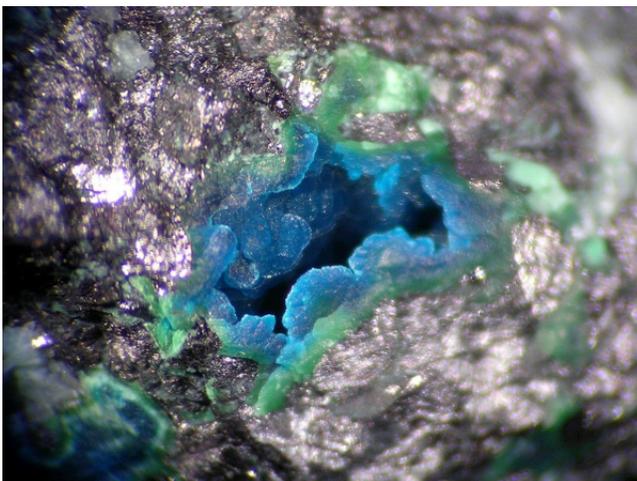
Minerals are wild things that were not banged out on production lines or contrived by an artist to sell in a gal-

lery. Cowlesite in a tiny vug is beautiful without effort or intention, and it assures us that the universe contains good without forethought. Natural beauty just is.



Doubly terminated quartz mounted on a squirrel whisker, Badlands, South Dakota. Field of view 10 mm.

The symmetry and perfection of even the tiniest crystal speaks to us of the order of the universe. Highway traffic and political campaigns may seem dangerously thoughtless and threatening, but built into the structure of the atoms themselves are the tiny electrostatic forces and bring them clicking together to form beautiful crystals. At heart the universe is orderly, and we can find confidence and peace in knowing that there are rules beyond human whim or official policy.



Arhbarite with conichalcite (green) in a vug within Enargite. Soledad Mine, Antofagasta, Chili. Field of view 5 mm.

Spring in the Madison River Valley melts the snow away in all but the deepest shadows, and if you could visit you would find the grassy meadows filled with wild flowers. Automatic and thoughtless, they pop up with brilliant colors busy with bee business. Many minerals sport colors that challenge the most impressive flowers, and they do it without guidance from interior decorators or color wheels. We can find peace in the knowledge that beauty exists beyond us. Arhbarite and conichalcite exist on billions of planets unseen by intelligent eyes. It is our good fortune to live on a planet with a rich inventory of colorful minerals.

The Japanese take "forest baths". Just minutes walking through a forest washes away the tension of the day. If only Scotty could beam us to the shore of the Madison, we could listen to the water and enjoy the breeze. But given the necessity of metal desks and mortgage payments, we are confined. Instead, we can take mineral breaks during even the busiest days by going to the wild things in our collection.

*onbeing.org/blog/wendell-berry-the-peace-of-wild-things/

Field Trip Ideas

Spring is when our thoughts turn to rock collecting.



If you are interested in collecting trips, contact the Field Trip Coordinator Bob Eberle with ideas and suggestions for collecting sites. Do you know someone at a quarry or a property owner of a good location? Give your suggestions to

Bob. 410-661-8436. Let him know that you are anxious to dig, and he will keep you on his list.

Safety Matters: The Price of Safety

by Ellery Borow, EFMLS Safety Chair from EFMLS News June-July 2018

The price of safety is rarely discussed. Having read many manuals of OSHA safety, MSHA safety, corporate safety, Federation safety, workshop safety and club safety, rarely is there ever a mention of why. Why be safe? And, at what cost? One might think the answers are obvious – Safety. But if so, why are not more people striving toward being safe?

Curious as to the why and what of safety, I have asked many folks those questions about safety. Their answers include:

- It costs too much.
- It takes too much time.
- It is too distracting.
- My own safety ideas are better.
- No one was watching so I didn't need to.

and my own personal favorite –

- I'm a lucky kind of guy.

Well, let us evaluate those answers. Yes, I will freely admit that if one suffers a minor laceration and applies a 15 cent adhesive bandage (injury) compared with the cost of an eight dollar pair of gloves (prevention) it appears that the prevention could be more expensive than the cost of the injury. But what about a 900 dollar emergency room visit to remove a foreign body from the eye (injury) compared with the cost a pair of three dollar goggles (prevention). In that case prevention is far cheaper.

Taking too much time? Too much time (three seconds) to lower and secure the hood of a slab saw? Too much time to buckle ones automobile seat belt (two seconds)? Too much time to put on and adjust eye safety goggles (four seconds)? Too much time to walk over and turn on the ventilation fan for the soldering torch fume exhaust hood (nine seconds)? Really? Too much time?

Distraction does indeed occur with some safety gear. Gloves might not fit well. Goggles may indeed restrict some vision. Hearing protection sometimes muffles quiet voices. I would however submit that undamaged hands, injury free eyes and unmuffled voices may be preferred, in most cases, over a slight amount of inconvenience.

While one's own safety ideas may, at times, be

advantageous in certain unique circumstances, tool, equipment, and hobby supply instructions have been well thought by experts in the area.

Please give considerable weight to the collected wisdom of manufactures, suppliers and various safety organizations offerings.

"No one was watching so I didn't need to." Do I really need to talk about this one? To the individual who offered this response - if you are reading this please remember it is not just about you.

You no doubt have brothers or sisters, husband or wife or significant other, parents, neighbors, friends, or a four footed friend who cares about you. If you don't want to be safe for yourself, please consider being a bit altruistic and be safe for the special people in your life.

I'm a lucky kind of guy. Hmmm, are there any mathematics majors out there? Answer me this if you will - after performing a heads or tails coin toss game 10 times in a row and obtaining heads each time - what are the odds that, on the 11th time, it will be heads? The odds are again, still 50 / 50. Each toss of a coin, each strike of a chisel by a hammer, each lighting of a torch is a new game. In each instance of a possible unsafe act please consider doing the right thing and be safe.

Safety is more than any rule book, sometimes it even defies "common sense" (shouldn't that 11th toss of the coin also come up heads?). Safety is an attitude, an attention to detail, and a certain modicum of creativity.

Your safety matters, no why's or what's about it.

The Conglomerate

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



Events Near & Far

June:

23: BMS picnic at Natural History Society. 4 pm - 8 pm. RSVP by Wednesday, June 20.

July:



4: Happy 4th of July.

25: BMS meeting at Natural History Society. 7:30 pm.

August

10-12: East Coast Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Show, Better Living Center, West Springfield, MA

17-19: Mid-Atlantic Gem and Mineral Association Show, Lebanon Valley Expo Center, 80 Rocherty Road, Lebanon, PA.

September:



3 -9: EFMLS Workshop at Wildacres. Speaker-in-Residence, Alfredo Petrov, noted mineralogist and dealer. Info and registration: efmls-wildacres.org

4: Gem Cutters Guild meeting, Meadow Mill, 7:30 pm

14: Chesapeake Gem & Mineral Society meeting, Westchester Community Center - 7:30 pm

22-23: Atlantic Coast Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show, Howard County Firgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

26: BMS meeting - NHSM, 7:30 pm