
Bay Area Mineralogists

April 2012

Special Time & Place!
April 14, 2012, 9:00 am
California Academy of Sciences
<http://www.baymin.org>



In this issue:

- **April meeting at the California Academy of Sciences!**
- **April Program: Jean deMouthe. "Mineral Collection Basics"**
- **May Program & Other BAM Potpourri**
- **SFG&MS Invitation to Memorial Day Collecting Trip at the Spider Mine**

See the first item below – for this month only we won't meet at our usual place & time

The Bay Area Mineralogists assemble on the second Wednesday of every month during the school year. We now meet at the USGS Menlo Park in Building 3. See campus map at <http://online.wr.usgs.gov/kiosk/mparea3.html>. Our room is located in Building 3, second floor where this map says "Conference Room" – note that the front doors are locked and you will have to come up the stairs on the Middlefield side of the building. Parking is free.

April Meeting at the California Academy of Sciences!

Per numerous notices, our April meeting will be a special edition taking place Saturday, April 14, 9:00am at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Dr. Jean DeMouthe, curator of the Academy's mineral collections, was kind enough to arrange this opportunity and will be our host.

Please note that attendance is by reservation only, as there is limited space. As of 4/5, however, there were still a couple of slots open – contact President Spence at bill.spence777@sbcglobal.net if you're interested.

For those who have never been to the Academy, it's located at 55 Music Concourse Drive in Golden Gate Park; see the directions at http://www.calacademy.org/visit/getting_here/

You will enter by the staff entrance, which is off Middle Drive, in the middle of the huge glass wall on the south side of the Academy. Do NOT try to come in the front door; you won't get in. Parking is not restricted in the park on weekends, so the usual 4-hour limit does not apply.

BAM April Program: Jean DeMouthe, "Mineral Collection Basics"

In addition to hosting BAM's motley crew, Jean will be providing the program for the meeting. She'll be drawing on her experience at the Cal Academy and providing an abbreviated version of a course she teaches on mineral curation, summarized in her own words below:

"Using examples from the Academy's collections, we will talk about how minerals should be stored. This will include the physical environment, security, and materials appropriate for specimen packing, wrapping, and support. We will also

address documentation: cataloguing, labeling, marking, and photography. It is important to keep ancillary items with your collection, such as photographs, field notes, old labels, maps, and correspondence. These can easily be linked to specimens in a collection, but they need to be stored safely.

Exhibiting specimens has some risks, but everybody wants to see at least some of their collection, whether it is at home or elsewhere. There are some basic guidelines for lighting, supports, and labeling that we will share.

If anyone has subjects they would like to talk about, please let me know if advance so that I can have some appropriate specimens available to make discussion easier.”

Contact Jean DeMouthe directly at jdemouthe@calacademy.org if you have logistical questions, or would like to suggest other topics for our discussion during your visit.

May Program & Other BAM Potpourri

In addition to the usual orders of business at the April meeting, President Spence will catch us up on the latest status at Clear Creek. Meetings are planned in DC for April 11th and if all goes smoothly and gets signed off, we might even see reopening by mid-summer.

The USGS Menlo Park Open House will be May 19-20. Last month Bill brought up the idea of BAM hosting a table to raise awareness of the club. If you have ideas about things we could do or show to go with the field trip photos and personally-collected rocks – or might be interested in volunteering for a shift! – please let Bill know.

As the June collecting trip to western Nevada is drawing nigh, the May program will be devoted to material on the Yerington district, the hub of the field trip. Don Windeler (aka yours truly) will reprise a talk on the skarn deposits near Ludwig, last heard at BAM in 2006. More to come in next month’s newsletter, for sure.

SFG&MS Invitation to Memorial Day Collecting Trip at the Spider Mine

Barb Matz passed along notice of a fun opportunity for those interested in collecting some lapidary rhodonite. The San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society owns the Spider Mine in Trinity County, up in the same neighborhood as the Hale Creek inesite locality. They will be running a collecting trip there on Sunday, May 27. The rhodonite is massive and primarily of interest for lapidary applications, but is attractive and a popular carving material.

Attendees will meet at a stop on Highway 36, 1.5hrs north of Red Bluff, at 8:30am on the 27th. Fees are \$5 for the first 30lbs, \$0.50/lb after that. For more information and to sign up, contact Barb at barbmatz@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Shows

April 14-15
Mariposa Mineral & Gem Show
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5005 Fairgrounds Rd, Mariposa
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 10am-4pm

April 20-22
Santa Clara Vly Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road, San Jose
20th, 9am-5pm; 21st -22nd, 10am-5pm

April 28-29
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Corner of Center and Church, Santa Cruz
10am-5pm both days

Letters to the BAM Editor

Please send your comments, content, compliments, and/or complaints to Don Windeler, don.windeler@rms.com, 650-591-1644.