

Bay Area Mineralogists

April 2017

Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2017; 7 pm
USGS, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
Building 3, 2nd Floor, Rm 3-237

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BAM web site: www.baymin.org



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The Bay Area Mineralogists meet monthly during the school year, on the 2nd Wednesday, at the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, on the second floor of Building 3, where the campus map says "Rambo Auditorium."

(<http://online.wr.usgs.gov/calendar/map.html>)

The front doors will be locked so you'll have to come up the exterior stairs on the Middlefield Road side of the building. Parking is free.

April Program: BAM Website 2.0 Demo

By Gawan Fiore

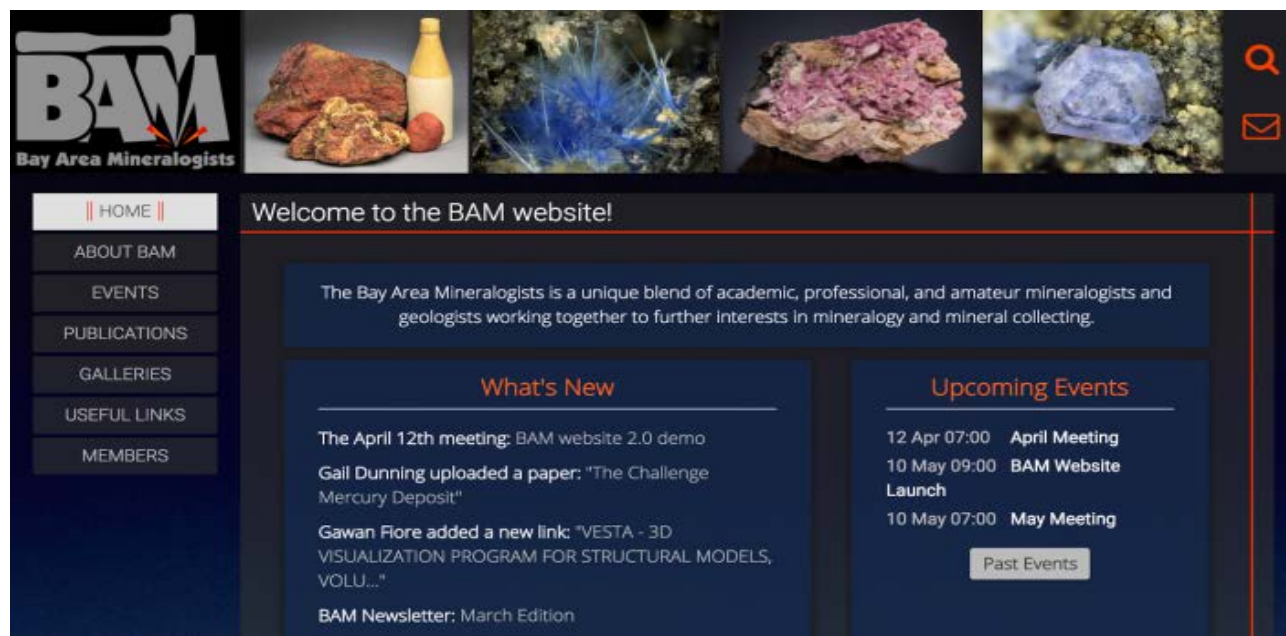
As challenging as providing universal healthcare, and similarly spanning multiple administrations, the BAM web site redesign project is finally reaching fruition and the new site launches this spring. Here's a glimpse of the new home page:

History

The BAM website initially launched in 2004 – designed and developed by Seattle-area-based BAM member Chaz Nelson. It has undergone a few revisions since it launched and has served BAM quite well over that time.

According to some recent statistics, the BAM website receives about 500 unique visitors per month. One of the main reasons visitors come to the site is to download papers, the current favorite being "Geology of the Champion Mine" by Fen Cooper.

The website redesign project began several years ago with the collective input of many BAM members including and not limited to Stan Bogosian, Dan Carlson, Gail Dunning, Gawan Fiore, Dan Evanich, Rick Kennedy, John Magnasco, Barb Matz, Len Piszkiwicz, Bill Spence, Brian Thurston and Don Windeler.



Over the course of a few planning meetings, many of the aforementioned members arrived at numerous goals including:

- The ability for members to upload their own articles and presentations (“decentralized publishing”), and manage/edit their own member pages
- An updated look and feel
- The ability to support photo galleries and allow batch uploading to those galleries by members
- Ease of adding events to the calendar

An information architecture was agreed upon and we set out to get it built. It took a few patient years for us to acquire local design and development resources, and another year to pull everything together – but we’re finally there!

Special thanks

Thanks to Herculean efforts amidst computer science coursework, internshipping, and helping design, build and race the Stanford Solar Car*, our own BAM member Gawan Fiore has undertaken the coding as well as the visual redesign of the new site, so the lion’s share of thanks and appreciation goes to him.

Many thanks also go to our Seattle-based BAM member, Charles (Chaz) Nelson, who has been our webmaster and maintained the current BAM web site for so many years.

Launch details

- The new BAM website should be live by sometime in May. The current site will be taken down just prior to launch, and an “under construction” notification will display during that time.
- Once the new site is live, everybody will have a “public” view, allowing you to navigate public areas and view/download all extant content.
- All BAM members are invited to become a “member” of the new site by creating your own account. You must initiate this process by emailing your request to any BAM officer. Please do not email your request to more than one officer!
- BAM officers will email you back a one-time “key.” Once you have this key, you can sign up, create a password (eight characters minimum,

and a mix of numbers *and* letters), and you are in!

- As a member, you will be able to upload documents to your member page, and these documents will then become viewable to anyone who visits the site.
- You are invited to upload any self-authored professional papers as well as any BAM presentations you have given (as PDFs).
- Photo uploading will come soon.
- Several BAM member mineral photos have been “appropriated” from the Crystal Gazers photo shoots to populate our new masthead. Enjoy!

The nearly-ready-for-primetime site will be demoed at the April BAM meeting, and Gawan will walk attendees through the structure, features and most importantly the content and membership management tools.

Once the site is live, if you have any feedback (suggestions, issues, comments, etc.), please submit it to Dan Carlson (dan@dextersinister.com).

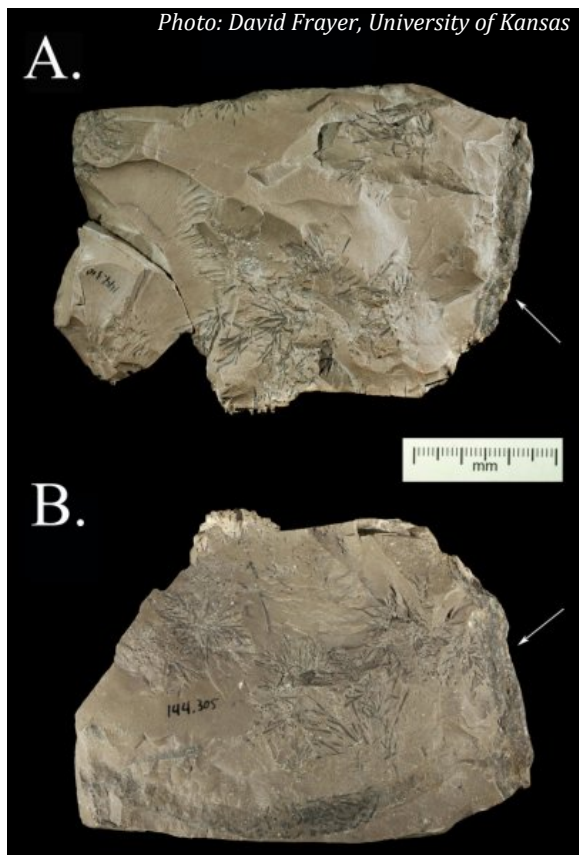
BAM Swag!



Have you ever admired a piece of BAM-logoed clothing at a meeting or field trip and wondered how to get your own? Well, it’s easy! Debbie Hinz, a friend of BAM, runs a small embroidery business and keeps our logo in her files. You supply the item(s) and she adds the logo, at a reasonable price! Contact Debbie at www.stitch-art.net / stitch_art@outlook.com to get started.

Was this Neanderthal a Rockhound?

Researchers discovered a brownish rock in a cave in northern Croatia that suggests Neanderthals collected the rock, which stands out among all other items in the cave.



"Clam-shell" view of Side A and B showing black dendrites against the background of the brown mudstone. Arrows point to a large inclusion visible on Sides A and B. An international research team hypothesized that this rock, recovered from the Krapina Neanderthal site, didn't belong in the cave and was evidence a Neanderthal rockhound collected it 130,000 years ago.

The cave at the Krapina site is in sandstone, so the brown rock [which, in the photograph, resembles chert] stuck out as not deriving from the cave, and did not resemble any of the other rocks found there. They suspect a Neanderthal collected the rock from limestone outcrops a few kilometers north of the Krapina site, or perhaps the Krapinica stream transported it closer to the site.

When the cave was originally excavated between 1899 and 1905, over 1000 lithic items were found, along with Neanderthal bones; however, the original researchers apparently found nothing remarkable about the brown rock. The fact that it hadn't been worked or modified indicated to the current researchers that the stone was brought to the cave for a purpose other than being used as a tool.

The finding is important because it adds to other recent evidence that Neanderthals were capable, on their own, of incorporating symbolic objects into their culture. The researchers published an article in 2015 about a set of eagle talons from the same Neanderthal site that included cut marks and were fashioned into a piece of jewelry. As one current researcher notes: "There's a little bit of evidence out there to suggest that [Neanderthals] weren't the big, dumb creatures that everyone thinks they were."

Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/170117084040.htm>

Upcoming Shows

April 8-9, Mariposa CA

Mariposa County Fairgrounds
5007 Fairgrounds Rd / Hwy 49 South
Hours: Sat 10-6; Sun 10-5
www.camineralmuseum.com

April 29-30, Santa Cruz CA

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Corner of Church and Center Streets
Hours: 10-5 daily
<http://www.scrockngem.org/scrckgem/index.html>
or <https://www.facebook.com/scmgs/> for more information and \$1 discount coupon.



**One of Stanford's solar cars.*

(Google images)