
Bay Area Mineralogists

June 2017

Meeting: Wednesday, June 14, 2017; 7 pm
USGS, 345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park
Building 3, 2nd Floor, Rm 3-237

President: Don Windeler, [don.windeler at rms.com](mailto:don.windeler@rms.com)
Editor: Barb Matz, [matz.barb at gmail.com](mailto:matz.barb@gmail.com)
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.

FEN COOPER, 1937 – 2017



Long-time member and former BAM President, Joseph Fenimore "Fen" Cooper, Jr. passed away after a short illness on June 6, at his home in Santa Cruz with his family present.

Fen was an avid collector of western U.S. minerals, especially in California and Nevada, but also visited Oregon, Utah, Colorado and Arizona over the years, all with his good friend and collecting partner of more than 50 years, Gail Dunning. Fen was a co-author of more than 20 mineral-related publications (see his detailed biography on the BAM web site for the full list).

Fen was co-discoverer of pabstite from the Kalkar Quarry in Santa Cruz and was honored with the rare mineral, fencooperite (Canadian Mineralogist, 2001) and the BAM Mineralogical Achievement Award in 2000.

His collecting experiences will be documented by Gail on the new BAM website in the near future, with Fen's detailed account of every rock pile and mine adit that he visited over the years and what he collected. The detailed account contains some unusual and unique stories that only a true mineral collector can appreciate.



Fen in the field at the Alta mine, Del Norte County doing what he did best, writing up the day's field notes on the mineral troilite. Gail says this was a nightly habit on all the trips they took together over the years.

There are no services planned, as he wished, and the family requests no visitation or telephone calls to his home during this time of mourning. Please respect their request. Any inquiries about his mineral collection should be directed to Gail Dunning (408.733.7634); all responses and, at a later time, distribution information will come from him, in accordance with Fen's wishes.

June Program: Myanmar Tour

By John Magnasco & Barb Matz



BAM contingent at the Golden Butterfly Hotel in Mogok (L-R: Barb Matz, Suzanne Ekwall, Leslie Gordon, Bob Kozak, PuTzu, John Magnasco, and Jean Lee.

In November 2016, a group of BAMmies (pictured) attended the 4th mindat conference in Mynmar (Burma). At our June meeting two of us – John Magnasco and Barb Matz – will show a few pictures and talk about the trip.

Myanmar is a beautiful country populated by friendly people and we enjoyed our visit to it! We spent six days in the Mogok Valley area (“Rubyland”) and also visited Mandalay and Yangon along the way. We had government permission to visit the Mogok area, and Myanmar is interested in promoting tourism to their country. (However, shortly after our visit, the Mogok Valley was closed to outsiders again for a few months due to armed robberies!)

At most of the mines we visited, we were allowed to collect in the tailings, and of course there were mineral dealers everywhere, so we were able to acquire minerals and other souvenirs. Fortunately, U.S. sanctions against Myanmar – and against US citizens bringing Burmese minerals and gemstones into the country – were completely lifted about two weeks before the trip started! However, upon arriving in the country, we learned that their government did not really want these materials to leave Myanmar. Luckily for us, one member of our tour possessed an export permit. He was able to transport all of our finds to Hong Kong, and the organizers mailed them to us from there, and we all finally had our treasures again!

Summer Hiatus

As usual, the club and newsletter will be taking a break in July and August so we can all gather more minerals to show off and stories to share!

Summer Picnic

We plan to have a summer picnic, but have not selected a date yet. It will be discussed at the June meeting and details provided by email to members. We hope to see a lot of you there!

San Francisco Gem & Mineral Show

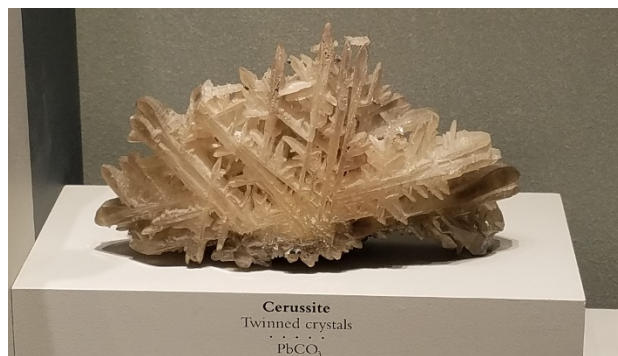
The SFGMS show will be on August 19 & 20 this year. BAM will again have a table to provide mineral and gemstone identification to show attendees. We’ll be looking for members to spend a few hours on Saturday and/or Sunday to assist in our efforts there. BAM members are also invited to put in a display – contact Barb Matz for an entry form.

A Visit to the Smithsonian

BAM member Ed Hamilton shared some photographs from his recent visit to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC. Here are a couple of the editor’s favorites:



Crazy big fluorite group, Cave In Rock IL



Twinned cerussite, (location cut off in photo).

This is one example of something that could be loaded into personal pages on the new website!