
Bay Area Mineralogists

March 2014

March 12, 2014, 7:00 pm
USGS Menlo Park, Bldg 3, Rm 3-237

<http://www.baymin.org>



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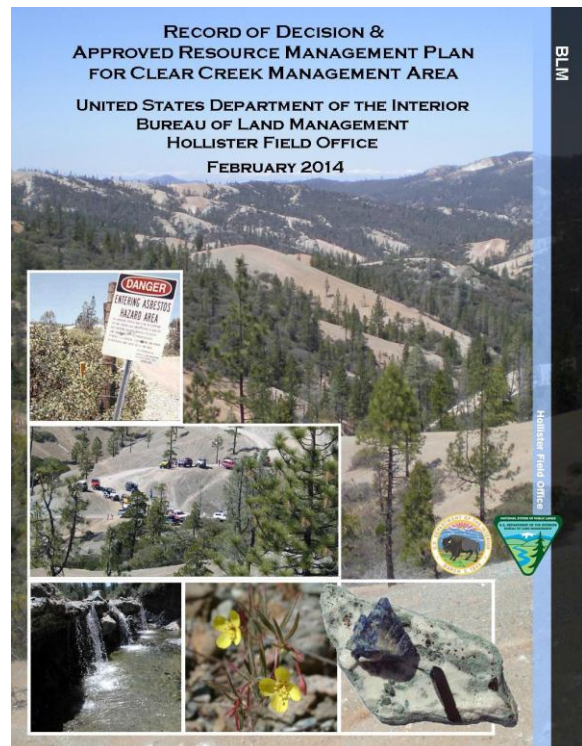
- **March Program:**
Rick Cooper (BLM) on the CCMA
- **The Big Tucson Recap**
- **Some Notes on mindat.org**

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.

BAM March Program: Rick Cooper (BLM) on the CCMA

The March meeting is always a busy one and this year's especially so. The usual Tucson recap (below) will be pre-empted, at least initially, by the availability of this month's special guest speaker. With the publication of the final Record of Decision, the way has been cleared for collecting to begin again in the Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) starting March 15. Rick Cooper (BLM Hollister) and some of his staff have agreed to come to the March meeting and discuss some of the details related to access and the permitting process.

President Spence has created a summary of the key points of interest to mineral collectors about the reopening, which has been published on the BAM website. Check it out on the front page at www.baymin.org.



Rick Cooper has been the main point of contact at the BLM regarding the CCMA during its closure for the past several years. He will give us an overview of the state of affairs at Clear Creek, how you can get a permit, and what limitations are in place. (And, of course, will

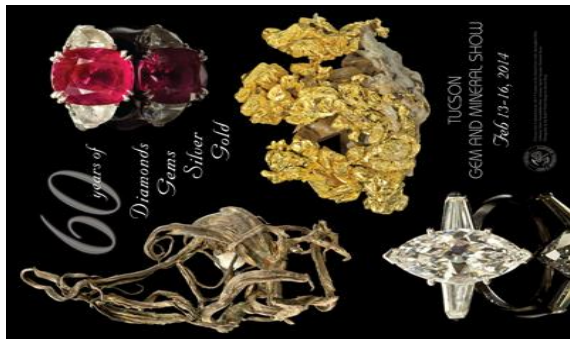
answer questions from the mineral-hungry crowd!)

For those interested in the full BLM Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan (pictured above), see http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/hollister/clear_creek_management_area/CCMA_RMP.html

The Big Tucson Recap

While the special circumstances of CCMA reopening and our speaker's availability call for a slight pre-emption, it is still March, and that means catching up on Tucson. Many have returned from the desert laden with rocks and lighter of wallet, and hopefully we'll have enough time to get to the review and traditional sharing of finds and stories. This year's edition will be MC'ed by Dan Evanich and John Magnasco with, as always, contributions by the peanut gallery of other attendees.

This year's theme was "60 Years of Diamonds, Gems, Silver, and Gold," one that virtually begs for begs for ultra-expensive specimens to come out of the woodwork. And so they did – word is that the displays were pretty over the top.



2014 Tucson poster, courtesy www.tgms.org (yes, it's deliberately sideways here)

Some Notes on mindat.org

At the January meeting, the membership agreed to reduce annual fees to \$5, mostly so it would be easier to make change. At the same time it was voted on to add a voluntary \$5 donation to dues that would be passed along to mindat.org to help with their operating expenses and campaign to reach non-profit status.

Most of us know mindat.org well and use it regularly, but may not all be aware of its structure, how it is sustained, and why we're adding the donation. BAM has previously donated \$1000 to mindat.org, with some members also contributing individually or sponsoring pages. President Spence has put together an outline of some key points, which is attached as an appendix to this month's newsletter. Open for discussion at the March meeting.

All in all, March is sure to be a packed meeting!

Upcoming Shows

March 15-16
Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds, McCormack Hall
900 Fairgrounds Dr., County Bldg
10am-5pm both days
<http://www.vjgems.org/>

March 22-23
Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Calaveras County Fairgrounds
101 Frogtown Rd, Angels Camp
10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun
<http://calaverasgemandmineral.org/show.html>

March 22-23
Roseville Rock Rollers
Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd, Roseville
10am-5pm Sat, 10am-4pm Sun
www.rockrollers.com

April 12-13
Santa Clara Vly Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road, San Jose
Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 10am-5pm
<http://www.scvgms.org/>

Letters to the BAM Editor

Please send your comments, content, compliments, and/or complaints to Don Windeler, don.windeler@rms.com, 650.591.1644.

Appendix:

Mindat.org

Original Structure and Funding

- All volunteer

 - Jolyon does all programming

 - Financially supported by non-Mindat employment

 - Volunteers input data, photos from original sources based on geographic expertise

 - Vetting is an issue

- Mindat computer system based in England

 - Back-ups in Wisconsin, Texas and MSA

 - MSA has right to continue operation if Mindat goes defunct

Goals of Fundraising Campaign

- Permit Jolyon to work on Mindat full time, quit outside employment

- Permit Jolyon to travel to major shows to promote Mindat

- Establish US 501c3

- Interim system upgrades

Jolyon's Vision

- Individual collection catalogs online

- Pocket Mindat

- No limits on photo library

- Specimen "registration"

- No fees - ever

- Independence through large donations

 - Donors cannot have influence on policy

Issues

- Vision requires large endowment to succeed

 - Have big donors been secured?

- Ever increasing photo library size may become impediment to use

- Multiple computer functions increase maintenance workload